

## Mike's Minutes



Ah, yes, tornado season is upon us. Does that have an impact on your pond? Of course if a tornado touches down near it. There may be other ways this season can impact on your pond though. For instance, our Spring usually brings large hail and damaging winds even if there are no tornadoes. While I've never heard of a fish being struck and killed by a hail stone, I can believe that a large amount of hail could cause other chemicals and particles to be introduced to your pond. Remember your 7th grade science class? Hail is formed when a tiny particle is surrounded by moisture in the atmosphere, carried up into the stratosphere where it is frozen, becomes too heavy and falls where it gathers more moisture and is again taken



back up by the strong winds and the process is repeated over and over. That's why hail stones have rings when you crack one open. What is in the moisture that has accumulated on that particle? No one knows. Could be industrial gases, could be any number of things. Same with heavy rains that wash the 'stuff' out of the atmosphere and deposit it in your pond. I recommend always doing a big partial water change after one of these events to offset whatever has been dropped unexpectedly in your pond.

The good news is that we have fish and plants in house as of the first. The bad news is I won't sell fish until May 15th due to quarantine processes. You can come get plants now though. Water and ambient temps are high enough you should be able to get away with planting anything right now without fear of loss.



We've been getting a lot of calls about string algae, especially on waterfalls and streams. My take on it is, "leave it alone." I believe this is Mother Nature's way of using up excess nutrient in the water generated by the fish becoming more active, a low bacteria count coming out of cold weather and bright, sunny days. Without the string algae, excessive ammonia buildup could be detrimental to your fish. Remove it manually if you must but don't apply algicides yet.

Always be humble and kind~~~Mike

### TIPS and TRICKS

*There are many different ways of defining how many koi is too many for a pond. I've said for a few years 4" per 100 gallons. The Mid Atlantic Koi Club looks at it differently. They have calculated a factor for 12" equivalents which might be a little more accurate providing there is good biological filtration, circulation and good aeration. They believe doubling the length of the fish causes roughly a ten-fold increase in pollution which explains why your pond may have reached its 'tipping point' and begun a downward spiral of problems you've never experienced before. We'll discuss this at length during the May 19th class in the fish section.*

## Water Garden Club Meetings

Tulsa 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm Tulsa Garden Ctr  
www.gcwgs.com for more info  
OKC 1st Tuesday @ 7:00pm (New Location)  
Grace UMC, 6316 N. Tulsa, OKC  
www.wgso.org for more info  
Stillwater Meetings on hold until further notice  
www.stillwaterwatergardens.org for more info  
Duncan 1st Tuesday @ 7:00pm Red River Tech  
580-595-0842 for more info  
If you have a water garden club let us know so we  
can advertise it here for you.

**Military (Active or Retired) and Water  
Garden Club members**

**receive a  
10% discount**

**(If you remember to tell us up front!  
Not after you've already paid.)**

**Valid for Pond Pro Shop purchases only**

**Classes** - SPRING/SUMMER 2018 SCHEDULE Check the  
schedule for start times. All classes are free and open to the public. No advance  
registration required. More classes added each month. Ten Pond Dollars awarded  
for each class. We train rain or shine in the only indoor pond training facility in the

**May 5  
2018  
10:00am** **Pondless Build**  
Want the sound of a waterfall but don't care  
about the fish or water plants? A pondless  
feature gives you all the beauty and sounds of  
the waterfall but there is no pond at the bot-  
tom, so it's 'pond less'. Get it?

**May 19  
2018  
10:00am** **Plants, Fish and Algae**  
Here's the one you've been waiting for. We'll  
discuss your plants and fish and how to com-  
bat that pesky algae that is starting to appear  
for the season. Fish and plants for sale too.

**June 9  
2018  
10:00am** **Pond Build**  
If you missed the first pond build, don't miss  
this one. John and the crew will build a hybrid  
pond with an ecosystem filter and an external  
pressure filter using two pumps for efficiency  
and great filtration. Come see how it's done.

Here are a  
few pics from  
my recent trip  
to our fish  
supplier. It's a  
big operation  
and really in-  
teresting to  
see. From the  
tanks to how  
they package  
them for ship-  
ment.



Get the latest information on our FACEBOOK page. Facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop **Please  
note: We are on Summer hours as of March 1st: Wednesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Sat-  
urday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.** Phone 405-273-8363.

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nia through a pro-  
cess called nitrifica-  
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around plants and  
animals. 16 and 32  
oz available. **15%**



**You Should See  
These!!!**



Build a pond today  
We'll show you how  
Free !!!!  
See the Class Schedule  
above for more infor-  
mation

### OASE PondoVacs

Come in and let  
Jay give you a  
demo on the  
newest Pondo-  
vac, the model 5.  
I'm sure he  
would let you  
clean a pond  
with it. Take 10% off all Pondo-  
Vacs after your demo.

