

## Mike's Minutes

Just 54 more days until Spring they said, then the bottom dropped out again and it was below freezing for three days with wind chills in the teens. Our poor fish don't know whether to hibernate or beg for food. I know all of you are suffering the same thing with your ponds and fish. It's too cold to work out there, trimming any dead foliage that escaped the knife earlier but I don't want it getting heavy with ice and falling into the water either. Maybe



that's another note to self..."Cut everything in the Fall" instead of selectively pruning. We had some recent moisture that froze on the nets we have covering three of our ponds to protect from leaves and predators. The weight became too much and the supports collapsed. Getting them out and back up was a frigid chore.

Had a great Home and Garden Show in OKC this past week. Got to see a lot of new things for outside, met some really nice people who were excited to learn about our classes and best of all, got to reconnect with current and former customers we hadn't seen since last Summer. Two more shows to do in March and then we kick off the season. We'll be in Tulsa 7-10 and back in OKC 22-24. Catch de-

tails on our Facebook page.

We got a call today for fish, not the first time either. I guess some people just don't get the seasonal nature of acclimating fish to an outdoor pond, especially around here. A five degree temperature difference is a big deal to fish. If they were already in the pond, they have acclimated as the water slowly became colder but to move them from inside to outside would be a certain death sentence. We won't have any fish for sale until May 15th. Or plants either. We have to wait until the last freeze and that has come as late as first week in May. If you've picked up one of our new class schedules, the class in May, "Plants, Fish and Algae" is the first weekend to purchase fish or plants. That gives you something to look forward to for the rest of these freezing days.

We're gearing up for the annual Water Garden Expo here in Shawnee the third week of February. A couple hundred vendors, wholesalers and contractors from all over will be here for three days of training, networking and learning. This will be my thirteenth one. When I started at WGE 2006, it was to be a three day a week part time Summer job after retirement to stay active, my how time flies.

Always be humble and kind~~~Mike



### TIPS and TRICKS

*For the next 50 days at least you need to watch your pond for water loss. Even though we usually associate evaporation with heat, just as much can evaporate in the Winter due to the wind and relative humidity. Also watch out for ice dams, they can cause rocks to shift and allow water to go somewhere it has never gone before. When the Sun shines, go check your pond.*

## 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.

**Classes** - SPRING/SUMMER 2019 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 U.S.

**March 2  
2019  
10:00am**

### Spring Startup

For those of you with a pond, are you aware of what needs to happen in the Spring to get it ready for the season? If not, come to class.

Many of you may have moved into a home with a pond in the yard and feel a little lost. This is a common occurrence and one we've dealt with on a number of occasions. Take pictures of the equipment and the pond, make note of any chemicals you've inherited and come talk to us. We'll be able to answer questions and help you figure out treatment protocols based on your pond situation.

Remember, you earn ten Pond Dollars for class attendance. Limit 20 per family.

**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**

We still have two of these beautiful 5-piece dining sets for your patio or outdoor living area. Made of HDPE to look like wicker, they'll last forever. Special pricing on the remaining sets.



We only have this one curved sectional for your outdoor living room or patio. The aircraft aluminum frame will stand up to years of use and the HDPE wicker look covering is weather-proof, bug resistant, mold resistant and looks real. The Sunbrella covered cushions will last forever. Want to save a thousand dollars on your wife's Valentine's present?? Come see me.



Get the latest information on our FACEBOOK page. Facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop Please note: We will go to **Summer hours March 5th: Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday, Monday.** Phone 405-273-8363.

### 15% Autumn/Winter Prep 15%

A two-part system of liquid and dry bacteria that is key to accelerating the breakdown of organic sediment. Provides sustained bio activity even in water temps under 40 degrees. 15% off any size. Coupon Required.



### You Should See These!!!



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

### 15% off OASE PondoVacs

"The best tool for your pond" so says many of our customers. It soon will be a good time to use one too. Come see us and find out how easy it is. Three models available.

