

Mike's Minutes

Below is my view this morning. As you can tell, I'm a little late with your newsletter this month. I'd like to blame it on the weather but that isn't true. I've just been scatter-brained and doing other things. We have about four inches of that white stuff that fell overnight. Traffic was a little slow this morning but most of us made it.



What does the snow do to your pond? Really, not much. The fish are already pretty much dormant and down at or near the bottom, your plants have all died, at least the ones that are going to, your bacteria colony is asleep if your water temps are below 45 degrees (which they probably are. I'd go out and check the thermometer but it's too cold) and your waterfalls may be close to freezing. None of the ponds in our yard are frozen over and all pond waterfalls are



still running, I did check those. The biggest concern we have is a waterfall freezing over and creating an ice dam that allows water to run off the side instead of under the ice to the pond.

Ah yes you say, but what about the dreaded algae? I've had a few calls from people complaining about their string algae growing so much. My recommendation is to leave it alone. I believe it is a sign of a buildup of nutrient in the water caused by increased fish activity due to the warm days we've been having and is necessary to keep the water quality from going toxic. It will go away as the temps drop or early in the Spring.



We will be **closed February 20th and the morning of the 21st** for training. It is time for the annual Water Garden Expo for professional water shapers presented by Pondliner.com. Three days of training, a trade show, a lot of networking and a look at the winners of the *Pond Trade* magazine 2019 Artisans of the Year. We'll have more than 200 people from all over the U.S. gather here for some training Wednesday the 19th then move to the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center for Thursday and Friday. I wish you all could come but it is only for trade professionals.

Always be humble and kind~~~Mike

TIPS and TRICKS

If you didn't trim your perennial plants before Winter, you'll want to do that as soon as the weather warms up enough for you to work outside. Try to get as much of the organic material out of your pond as soon as you can to keep it from decomposing any more than it already has. Any dead leaves that made it in through or before you net was in place need to be retrieved by hand or vacuum. The quicker you do this the better off your pond will be once the biofilter gets back in action. As a side note, if you have any of the large grasses like Miscanthus or fountain grass in your yard, they need to be cut back as soon as possible too.

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) Lake-view Nazarene, 3500 NW 50th, 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

Closed February 20/21 for training

Classes - SPRING/SUMMER 2020 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. One Pond Dollar awarded for each class. Attendees receive a 10% discount on all purchases that day. We train rain or shine in the only indoor pond training facility in the U.S.*

**March
14
2020
10am**

Spring Startup

I had a long time customer tell me today that she had learned something at every class. You might too. This is the class where we talk about how to get your equipment, plants and fish ready for a new season.

**March
28
2020
10am**

Pond Filtration

The secret to a happy healthy pond is good filtration. If you've had problems keeping your water clear, come to this class and learn how filtration might be the solution you've been looking for.

There is no advanced registration required and we do not charge for our classes. We will have 12 classes each year, 4 pond builds, 4 pondless waterfall classes and 4 that are general in nature and cover everything from startup to shut down, plants fish and algae, your worst enemy, next to a blue heron.

Hunkered down for the winter. These fish will live off their fat during the winter, just grazing on the algae from the sides of the pond if they get hungry. Do not feed at temps below 55.



Get the latest information on our FACEBOOK page. [Facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop](https://www.facebook.com/Pond-Pro-Shop) Please note: No more Winter hours!!!! We will remain open Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday, Monday. Phone 405-273-8363.

MicrobeLift Autumn Winter

Helps maintain a healthy system for your pond. Contains a hydrophilic bacteria specifically for cold water. Good at water temps under 40 degrees.



Still Good for Your Pond



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

Crystal Clear Muck Off

Helps reduce muck, leaves and other organic matter in the bottom of your pond with regular use. Does not replace the need for a net or manual removal of organics.

