

Mike's Minutes

Do you realize Summer is almost over? For many children it ended the day they had to return to school in whatever form that was. Many of us of a different generation remember when school didn't start until after Labor Day. That was the end of our Summers. Here at the store we've had an unusually wet Summer for our area which has pluses and minuses. The grass is really pretty and green (+); the grass is growing like weeds (-); the ponds are full, oops, the heat and wind and humidity are causing much evaporation (+/-). I hope you all are watching your water levels carefully. Nothing worse then replacing a pump through our own negligence.



It is time to start planning for your Fall prep. For those with trees nearby, you might want to install your nets this early to keep the pond as clean as possible. Of course, you should clean

out any debris that has accumulated over the Summer before you cover it otherwise you'll have big time problems next Spring when you open it. If you haven't netted your pond before, you'll have to figure out how you're going to keep the net from sagging into the water when it accumulates leaves. A PVC pipe frame, wooden beams across, bows of pipe, something. Atlantic/Oase has a pond protector with shock corded fiberglass poles similar to a



camping tent that support the net over small and medium ponds with enough extra net to cover a short waterfall and stream.

I know it's a pain but you're going to have to remove your net later to trim your marginal plants unless you do it this early so you can net. If you leave them until Spring, you run the risk that they will fall over during the Winter and began to decompose in the pond adding problems to your Spring startup. Oh, what to do, what to do.

That's what I mean about planning now. Along with netting the pond, think about your fish food. They need a good cold weather food as water temps began to drop, right now they're high but soon the cooler nights and days will began to lower the temp. Cold weather

bacteria is also available to help keep your bacteria colony growing during the colder weather. That's an important consideration to keep from having such a steep climb in the Spring. Your plants are still dormant, the fish are waking up and becoming active but unless you've been feeding the right kind of bacteria, your colony is way behind the power curve and unable to begin the nitrification process. That's why you have algae early.

Always be humble and kind~~~Mike

TIPS and TRICKS

Many of you have heard me say to place your heater in the water now but don't plug it in. Place the plug somewhere you can easily reach it. That way, when the North winds blow you'll be prepared and all you have to do is reach down and plug it up. If you wait, you're going to have to find the heater, lift the net, put it in and plug it up. Winds at 30, temps at 20 degrees. Your choice. I'd do it now.

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) Lakeview 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.

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.

**SORRY ALL CLASSES ARE
CANCELLED**

Although we can't hold classes, we will do our best to give you the instruction you need to be successful at building your water feature. Whether you plan a pond or a waterfall, we're glad to provide you with the materials and knowledge you need.

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

**May be time to begin to add
MuckOff**

If you've allowed muck to build up in the bottom of your pond, now would be a good time to add MuckOff pellets to reduce the muck through biological action. MuckOff tablets are a blend of natural bacteria and enzymes that help create and maintain clear pond water by removing excess nutrients and reducing sediment.



Get the latest information on our FACEBOOK page. [Facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop). Stay in touch with us there. Please note: Our hours are *Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday, Monday.* Phone 405-273-8363.



One of the reasons for choosing to celebrate this on the first Monday in September, and not on May 1, which is common in the rest of the world, was to add a holiday in the long gap between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.