



The Prairieland Splash

PKPS FEBRUARY MEETING 2/14/09 9:00 AM

KULL SCAPE LANDSCAPING

The address for Kullscapes 1401 Meadows Ave., East Peoria. (PLEASE PARK AT THE CHURCH OF NAZARENE) Its just a short distance away.

The meeting will be about opening your ponds in an open forum format , also some pros and cons one should be aware of, and some cautions a pond owner should know about. Other subject matter will be about our up and

coming POND TOUR 2009. Also some open discussion on how all of our ponds did during this winter, which I might add: IS STILL HERE!!!



www.pkps1.com

With the new web address, Allan is going to put together a lot of changes to our new web site. Please don't be discouraged by finding the

web site under construction, it really does take a lot of time to construct and organize this big task which he has chosen to accept. It will be

- BIRTHDAYS:
 DECEMBER:
 Lori Kruger
 Nora Heruth
 Bev Thompson
- JANUARY:
 Patty Kramer
 Peter Barclay
 Cathy Collins
 Jay Sauer
 Mark Schatsiek
- FEBRUARY:
 Steve Depew
 Denese Bevard
 Nadine Sauer
 Pat Gay

Volume 13, Issue 1
February, 2009

Special points of interest:

- *Bring Lawn Chairs*
- *Dues in April \$20 per year are due*
- *Another take on Oxygenators*
- *Allan Has our new web address*

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neat when done, providing lots more information and past newsletters Also will be more up to date on time sensitive material.

Through the Fish Eye

by Larry Zehr

TO POND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE:

I read the article about oxygenators. I don't know about Biosphere or how to figure Biomass, but I do know about oxygenators. He's probably never seen a stream full of "corkscrew vallisneria" with 1000's of plants in a couple of square yards that constantly give off bubbles.

Giant Vallisneria is great in deeper water. It can grow to the surface from 5 feet below. I recently tore out 4 sq. yds. of a water lily in a system with green water. I planted 10 large Vallisneria plants in the fine gravel and mud on the bottom. I saw the water clear substantially in 2 days. It continued to clear even though it hadn't changed in years.

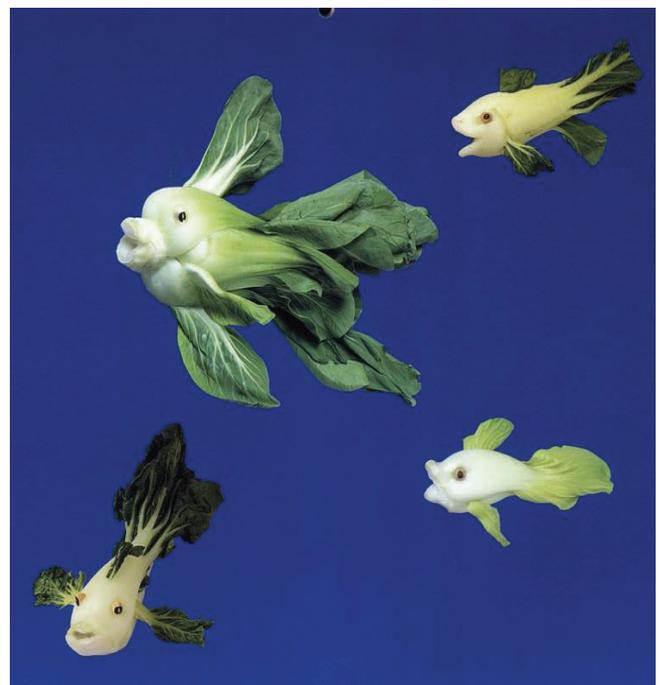
I have 1 system in balance enough to have fairly clear water year-round. The upper pond (12 x 17) flows 35 ft down a stream planted in 3 sections. The first area is 6" deep and is less than 1 sq. yd. It is planted in dwarf Sagittarius with 300-400 plants in the small area in a mat. The second area is 8 ft. long and 18" deep planted in Giant Vallisneria. It, too, spreads in runners and spreads quickly, covering the surface in 1/2' wide ribbons. Lots of solid wastes collect here and the plants love it. A couple times a year I pump this much to my compost keep, but it's not necessary.

The nest area about 6 ft. long, is planted in "corkscrew" Vallisneria covering most of the area. The last 15ft. is just string moss along with other wild oxygenators. I have to thin it occasionally but it really eats up waste. It is not really finished but it'll get done someday.

The final pond (10' x 20') is a mixture of milfoil and string algae. There are also 100+ KOI (yearlings). I catch a lot of fish here, so I tear things up/ The water clears quickly and the milfoil and string algae quickly recover.

My upper pool has only the string algae growing on the liner as far as oxygenators, but it never forms mats and it's only about 1" long. This 1 system has stringy algae, green water algae, and all the oxygenators in the stream. The point is, on one type of oxygenating plant takes over and you end up with a system that has fairly clear water year-round without spending any money. Also, I've never had any fish losses in that system, except a heron. I had a lot of people come by my house to buy Koi and the #1 question was "How do you keep your pond so clear?" Also, my system runs year-round. Oh, and my filter system is a tall Rubbermaid container with filter gravel in it.

Larry Zehr.



POND & WATER FEATURE OF THE MONTH

by Ron Kramer

Requirements for Pond Tour 2009

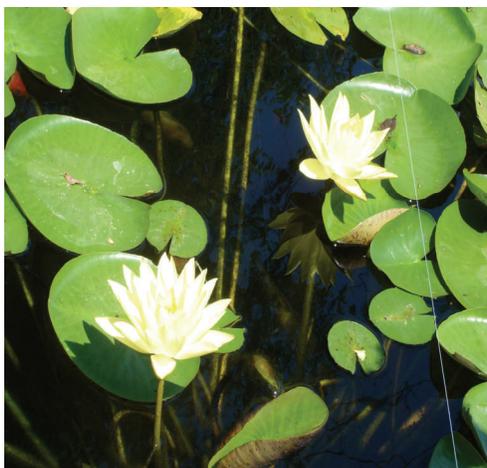
1. Adequate Parking, on street or off street.
2. A safe environment for your pond viewers.
3. A pond that is pleasant to look at and has features that would be of interest as a Koi pond or as a water garden to the viewing public.
4. The owners must be available at their pond during all pond tour hours to answer questions and to greet the ticket holders.
5. Supply a description of their pond with driving directions to the pond's location for the Pond Ticket Booklet.
6. Must have home owners insurance.
7. The final selection of ponds will be made by the Pond Tour Selection Committee.

THE POND TOUR 2009

Will be our biggest event of the 2009 season.

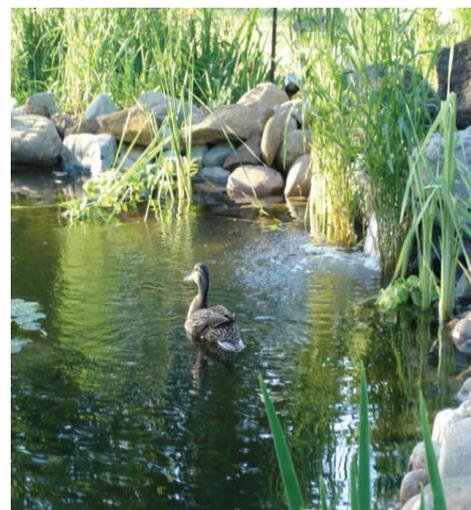
It takes a great amount of effort from the committee's selected to do the job required of them to be able to provide the function to the public.

Please be helpful !!!



Pond Members wanting to be on the Pond Tour 2009:

- Rick & Lisa Moreland
- Joyce & Jin Getty
- Mark & Edie Larson
- Don & Marianne Brubaker
- Leonard Clark
- Sheldon & Denese Bevard
- Ron & Patty Kramer
- Larry & Karen Dickerson
- Tom & Cheryl Ivey
- Steve & Mary Depew
- Bryan Blevins
- Nora Heruth
- Sandy Svob
- Vincent Smith
- Ralph Nelson
- Steve & Kathy Wakeman
- Dr. Phil Immesoete





WAYS AND MEANS

By Lori Kruger

The beginning of a new year to start thinking about opening your ponds and being ready for it. For February's meeting I will be sending around an order form so I can get an idea of what my first order will be, or have the one on the bottom of this sheet filled out. The more I order the cheaper the cost, so everyone please take in consideration what you need for the year or at least the first three months of it. I will put my first order in so it will be here in April, remember water temperature 50 degrees or higher, for bacteria and feeding your fish.

Bacteria: Bacta pur sludge buster \$50

Bacta pur klear \$50

Microbe-lift \$60

Super bugs \$42

Algae fix \$38

Lily tabs \$12

Filter media \$15 a ft.

Fish food \$ no price yet, will still be more cost affective in bulk through me.

Prices will vary depending on what I order, could be cheaper or more.

I will be doing a raffle at February's meeting, and will be giving out door prizes.

I am looking forward to having a good time this year with everyone, and remembering the announcement that our New President made at the end of last year, lets talk and take pictures of our ponds so we can do articles on club members for our news letter. If you would like to have a meeting at your house. Let's all share what we have created. FUN!!!

For those who unfortunately cannot make it to February. Meeting. ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE# _____

BACTERIA _____ QTY. _____

ALGAE FIX QTY. _____

SPRING FISH FOOD QTY. _____

SUMMER FOOD QTY. _____

PLATINUM FOOD QTY. _____

LILY TABS QTY. _____

FILTER MEDIA QTY. _____

Total for the order\$ _____

Make checks payable to PKPS

Checks for filter media should be

Made to Lori Kruger

These are last years prices: (PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



TID BITS OF INFORMATION

Mary, our librarian, has an assortment of books to help you with your pond maintenance and assorted planting in which you may have questions about. See her about checking them out .

5 Months and Counting until
Pond Tour 2009

Prices on the ways and means table are always subject to change, it all depends on what we as a club can get the products for. Lori does try to get the biggest bang for our buck.

Please let Ron Kramer know if you have not gotten your Members guide from the club.

We have filter media for your Bio Falls if you need some. Sheldon has it and is selling it by the foot.

Share your Pond Problems with others in the club, they might have had the same issue and found a way to correct or fix it.

Come on spring!!!!!!!!!!!!

Water Quality :

Water Quality defines all the conditions in the water which contribute or compromise fish health. Fish “pee” and “poop” in the water and their waste products are mostly nitrogen.

Nitrogen has to be reduced to harmless compounds by naturally occurring bacteria. This is called the nitrogen “CYCLE”.

Test for all important water quality parameters.

Fish wastes / a.k.a. Ammonia are converted into-

Nitrites– which

are converted into-

Nitrates-- which

are converted into-

Food for water plants, green water and algae.

pH is a measurement of acidity and alkalinity in the water. Ideally, it'd be about 7.4 or higher.

What holds the pH in its safe range is none other than the Total, or Carbonate Alkalinity.

If you understand these ideas, you will be well suited to fish keeping.

Among the first things you should do when setting up a Koi pond, or if the fish ever seem “sick” to you—is test for Ammonia.

Ammonia is the primary waste product of fish, excreted primarily through the gill tissue, but to a lesser extent via the kidney. Ammonia can also accumulate from the decay of fish tissues, food and other organic debris derived from

protein. Ammonia accumulations cause reddening of the skin and disability of the gills by its direct caustic effect on these surfaces. Fish suffering in water with high ammonia accumulations will isolate themselves lie on the bottom, clamp their fins, secrete excess slime, and are much more susceptible to parasitic and bacterial infection.

Ammonia is a big problem in new systems because the bacteria that would naturally dissolve ammonia are not established. As well, even in established systems, ammonia may accumulate in springtime when the water is cold but fish are eating, because filter bacteria have not emerged usefully from hibernation.

Ammonia is capable of ionization below pH 7.4 and so in its ionized state is less toxic to fish.

Above pH8.0 most ammonia is NOT ionized, and so becomes more toxic. Care should be taken not to increase the pH of a system if ammonia is present but the need to drop the pH or restrict oxygenation to tanks of fish to keep pH down is an overrated aberration in the literature.

Treatment: Water changes and management of the pH near neutral will go a long way to cutting losses from Ammonias, ancillary, less useful modes of Ammonia management include the use of the various water conditioners* that bind ammonia, and the application of rechargeable Zeolites to the system filter. I am still going to tell you that time and water changes are the two mainstays, however.



PrairieLand Koi & Pond Society

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We're on the web!!!

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It's All For the Hobby



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