
The Prairieland Splash

Prairieland Koi And Pond Society Meeting: **10:00 AM 8 June at Hornbaker's,**
Directions From Peoria: Take Route 29 North. It turns into I-180. Continue north to the Route 26 Princeton exit. Turn left and go just a quarter mile and take the first left where you see a blue tourist activities sign indicating Hornbaker Gardens and a large sign on the hillside. Follow this winding road for 2 miles to the top of a steep hill and you'll see our sign and entrance on the right.

Prairieland Koi
& Pond Society
June 2013
Volume 17 Issue 5

May is over and June is here it is hard to believe that the year is almost half gone already. I suspect that most of you are tired of the rain, what a difference a year makes, hopefully we will get to see the sun for a while.

This month meeting will be held at Hornbaker Gardens, while it is a bit of a drive I think it is worth the drive. As you all know next month is the Pond Tour and we are still in need of help with pond sitters, please give us a hand.

I would also like to Thank the members who volunteered to show their ponds this year and they are:

Jeannie Clarke	Terry & Karen Ray
Mary Hiller	Ray & Bonnie Routley
Ron & Patty Krammer	Fred & Mary Zimmerman
Tom & Cheryl Ivey	Kurt & Julie Schrock
Greg & Letriana Cantrell	William & Pat Davis
Helga Phillips	

Again a big Thank You!!!!

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Todd



I am looking for suggestions/topics for the newsletter. I would also like to have members submit information on their ponds so we can showcase them in the newsletter.



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Club Meeting Dates and Location

- June 8 Hornbakers (Start time 10 AM)
- July 13-14 Pond Tour
- Aug 10 Zimmerman's (near Congerville)
- Aug 24 Luau @ Krammer's
- Sep 14 ICC (ICC Day at Horticulture bldg area)
- Oct 12 Terry & Deb Hess's
- Nov 9 Banquet Kof C Hall Pekin.

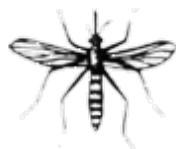
Board Meeting Dates

- 22 Jun Kruger
- 27 July Cantrell
- 24 Aug Clark
- 28 Sep Hofstetter
- 26 Oct Bong
- 23 Nov Moreland



Pond Tour Help

We still are in need of help for the pond tour, so think about volunteering as a pond sitter, I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting



How to Control Mosquitoes

Don't let mosquitoes prevent you from enjoying your backyard and pond. Here are a few tips to help control mosquitoes

Decrease the amount of standing water by including a waterfall or a fountain in your pond.

Consider using pond insecticides

Purchase a few bat houses - a single bat can eat as many as 1,000 mosquitoes in a single night and they're fun to watch dart around.

Don't forget Allen/Greg will have your food and supplies that you ordered, please be sure to get your's at the meeting.



Summer Tips

As the temperature of your pond water increases, the ability of the water to 'hold' dissolved oxygen decreases. Any time the water temperature is above 85° F, you'll want to feed fish sparingly.

To help keep your pond cool and well oxygenated, consider adding a waterfall, fountain, or aerator. Higher oxygen levels also help control algae. Adding lilies, parrots feather, water lettuce, and water hyacinths will also help provide shade to keep water cooler.

Weekly: Trim and test.

Trim plant stems close to the soil or crown as they die back. Remove trimmings, as they will decay and can clog pumps and filters. Weekly testing for nitrites and pH is recommended since early detection and action can help you avoid problems.

Monthly: Clean filters and pumps; add mosquito control.

Monthly filter cleaning involves rinsing out the pump and mechanical filtration (sponges or pads) in the filter. If biological filtration needs cleaning, make sure the rinse water does not contain chlorine, and the media is not left out to dry. A filter that needs cleaning more often is either a symptom of a dirty pond or too small of a filter.

When planning to go away for vacation, it's wise to clean all filters and find someone willing to check in on your pond every 2-3 days. You can install automatic feeders to provide your fish with food, but they won't help if the pump shuts off.

Plants become more vibrant with fertilizer, but blooming ones are more prolific if they get fed monthly. Usually 3 plant food tablets per lily or lotus is recommended, less for bog plants. Mosquito control, such as Mosquito Dunks, is recommended if the surface is stagnant in some areas of your pond

Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

May 11, 2013

The May 11, 2013 meeting was held at the Cantrell's house in East Peoria. President Todd Bong called the meeting at 9:15 a.m. There were 48 members in attendance.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker, Ginny Gibbs, gave a PowerPoint presentation on night gardening. Some of the topics she mentioned were: designing the project, lighting arrangements, and night blooming flowers.

When designing a night garden one needs to follow a few objectives. The first thing that should take place is to investigate the property and look for the following details: the power availability, identifying focal points, the difficulty of the installation, safety and security concerns. Another aspect is to define the purpose of the night garden. Before one creates a night garden it should be determined if it will be a more functional to high-light stairs and walkways or ornamental to enhance holiday décor and plant displays.

When incorporating lighting take advantage of natural light, the moon. The blending of natural and artificial lighting can add a tranquil effect. Placing lighting in water can enhance the waterfall and it attracts frogs because the light attracts bugs. Another added feature is the layering of lights. This gives a far away look which can give a mysterious or intimate effect.

When adding plant life, keep in mind white or silver isn't the only colors that can be incorporated into the evening gardens. Good examples to use in a night garden are: moonflowers, night blooming day lilies, flowering tobacco, evening primrose and night blooming tropical water lilies. For more information on night blooming gardening please go to http://www.ahs.org/publications/the_american_gardener/pdf/0109/afterdark.pdf

Depending on the design and landscape one has, night gardening can be a very subtle or elaborate addition to a landscape.

Club Business

President Todd Bong handed out application forms to those who will be on the pond tour in July. If a participant did not receive one, please contact him as soon as possible so the pond committee can get it added to the brochure. Vince has fish, if interested please call him. The next pond meeting will be at Hornbakers in Princeton on June 8, 2013. The meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. and after shopping a gathering will be at the Maltas'.

Respectfully,
Letriana Cantrell, Secretary



Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

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