
The Prairieland Splash

**Prairieland Koi And Pond Society Meeting:
9 November 6:00 PM
Annual Banquet, Knight of Columbus Hall, 715N
11th ST Pekin, IL.**

WOW, It is November already and time to get serious about getting your pond ready for winter. I know my truck said it was 25F this morning as I was heading out to work on deer stands this morning. I just don't know if I am ready for the colder weather that is to be coming.

November also means it is time for the annual banquet we hope to see all of you there, I suspect that we will all have a good time and you know the food is good.

I would like to thank the Swanson's for hosting the October meeting and also a big thank you to Mike White for his excellent talk on the different type of filters and for making the trip from Batavia.

And one more big thank you to the board and officers for their continued support and hard work which often goes on behind the scenes.

The board will be working on the members guide over the next several months, I am providing a copy of the page inventory for the membership guide in this newsletter so when you are sitting by a nice warm fire this winter you can do a page inventory, we will provide pages for you to pick-up at the meeting starting in February.

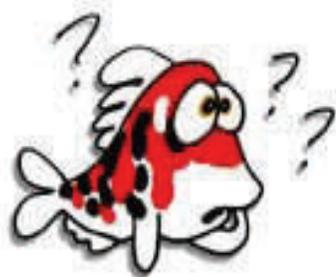
And finally I would like thank all of you for making this another great year for the pond club, from the meetings, to the tour, to the Luau and finally the up coming banquet it has been fun.

Todd

PS: A big thank you to the members for re-electing the slate of officers for 2014.

Prairieland Koi
& Pond Society

November, 2013
Volume 17 Issue 10



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$ 4257.09
Income	\$ 1050.50
Expenses	\$ 00
End Balance	\$ 5307.59

Don't Forget to check
the website:

www.pkps1.com

Membership Guide Page Checklist

ü	Section	Page #'s	Description of page grouping
	1	1 - 12	Seasonal Care
	1	13 - 18	Spring is Here!
	1	19 - 20	Summer has arrived!
	1	21 - 22	Fish in the Summer
	2	1 - 6	Fish & Frogs
	2	7 - 12	Goldfish
	2	13 - 16	Frogs & Toads
	2	17 - 28	Salinity
	2	29 - 35	Nutrition: Storage of Food
	3	1 - 14	Plants in your Pond
	3	15 - 18	Ponds in Part Shade
	3	19 - 24	A True Acidic Bog garden
	3	25 - 28	Ponds in 6 or more hours of Sunlight
	4	1 - 2	Problems & Solutions
	5	1 - 26	By-laws
	5	27 - 28	Ordinances & Web sites
	6	1 - 8	Pond Quality
	6	9 - 10	The Perfect Pond
	7	1 - 12	Predators
	8	1 - 4	Landscaping
	8	5 - 6	Biological Controls
	8	7 - 8	Pond edges
	9	1 - 10	Glossary

Cold Weather

Just a few tips or reminders for cold weather prep

Debris cleaned up

Decide if you will keep a pump running (good luck)

Remove unused pumps and store according to manufacturers directions

Drain unused filters

Don't forget to drain your UV filter if you have one installed

Install heater, it is recommended that you also use an air stone just below the surface to help with keeping a hole in the ice open

Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

October 12, 2013

The October 12, 2013, club meeting was held at Loren and Margaret Swanson's house. President Todd Bong called the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were 37 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker

Mike White, of White Water Filters, gave a presentation on using the Helix Filtration System to remove biological and mechanical debris from our ponds. Instead of a door it has a weir that sits inside a basket which creates a cyclone effect and packs leaves tightly. This allows more debris to gather and less emptying. He stated how important it is to remove leaves before they sink to the bottom. Once this happens they begin to decompose, debris begins to build. Since decomposed leaves hold heat, water temperatures at the bottom of the pond will warm up during the winter months, which will produce toxic gases including, carbon dioxide.

Other topics were discussed as well such as: Helix Systems with a bottom drain, plates that sit on skimmers for external pumps, and how to increase or decrease ph levels in the water. For more information go to White Water Filters website or contact Mike if a specific question needs answering.

Club Business

Elections were held and all positions will remain the same. Karen Hoffstetter is treasurer Letriana Cantrell is secretary, Vince Smith is Vice President and Todd Bong is President. This was our last club meeting of the year. Our annual banquet will be held on November 9, 2013. Please turn in your reservation form by October 31, 2013. The club meetings for the 2014 season will be announced in future newsletters. If anyone is interested in holding a club meeting for next year please contact Rick Moreland, or any other board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Letriana Cantrell, Secretary

Pond Closing Information from the membership Guide Section 1 Seasonal Care

- Store submersible pumps in a container of water and place it where it will not freeze. Most pumps have seals that need to be kept wet, otherwise if they dry out they crack. Clean filters and store them in a dry location.
 - If you have a bio-fall, empty and blow out your lines with air. If you have a skimmer you can use a shop vacuum to suck out the water in the tubing going to the bio-fall. The skimmer cannot be emptied. Some books state draining down your pond several inches, if it rains or snows your water level will raise back to the fill line. Cover bio-fall with a plastic covered frame. Clean filters and store dry, wash lava rock, curlers, clay pieces, or what ever else you use for bacteria filter media also in a dry location or drop to the bottom of your pond.
 - Automatic water fill valves are disconnected and the valve assembly can be left in place as long as it is above the water freeze line. Blow out water from the line and any in the automatic fill devise it self.
1. Follow the manufactures instructions on purchased systems.
 - External Biomechanical Filters are drained and covered as to prevent water building up in the chamber thus freezing and cracking your unit, leave the drain port open to allow an empty basin. Blow out your water lines as described in the Aquascapes and Other manufactured pond component units.
 - Raise submersible pumps off the bottom, turn the pump to its minimum out put, place on a shelf 6-9 inches below water level. Water is a poor conductor of heat, cold water and ice form an insulating layer that keeps warmer water below it. The depth of your pond aids in temperature stability of the warmer water below the ice, and the water will also absorb heat from the ground. You won't want to circulate your bottom water with a pump.
 - UV lights will be turned off, drained, cleaned with bleach, rinsed and stored indoors.
 - Disconnect spitters, fountains and other water features, store indoors.
 - Restrict the air flow on Venturis, bypass water falls should be turned off.

Extra Insurance

- A non-submersible pump, with an air stone, purchased at any store, enclosed in a Tupperware type container, can be used to create water movement, thus preventing water from freezing. This works well for your skimmer or other areas you may have concerns with freezing. The air stone must be kept close to the surface. I would not depend totally on this system for the entire pond though, an added benefit is oxygen being added to the pond, a bonus for the fish.
- Thermostatically controlled Water heaters are a dependable way to keep your pond from freezing over completely. They can be purchased at any farm store or landscape company. Plug them into a circuit with a ground fault interrupter. They float and only keep a small space from freezing over, you are not heating your pond. I would not let them float freely though, anchor them with a piece of lumber or tie them in place, you don't want to burn your rubber, or pay the electric bill as your heater freely floats around thawing out the entire pond. The reason you have an opening in your pond is for exchange of gases. This also allows oxygen availability which is important for your fish to survive.
- A big no no, do not break the ice in your pond by striking it. This is very hard on your fish! The shock waves stun the fish as well as the possibility of killing them.
- You can also float Styrofoam, logs, tennis balls etc to help to prevent your pond from freezing over, this should be in addition to a tank heater and air pump.

One thing to be extra careful of is snow developing on the ice that is covering part of your pond, sweep it off as it accumulates so that light is allowed through. Don't step onto the ice, you cannot hibernate with your fish at the bottom of the pond.

To Pump or not to Pump!

Winterizing your pond can be quite painless, skipping this simple procedure can create irreversible long-term problems for your fish and water quality. How your pond goes to bed in the fall is how it will wake up in the spring. The only BIG decision you will have to make is whether or not to continue to run your waterfall and biological filter thru the winter. Listed below is pros and cons, please read carefully.

When deciding to run your pump all winter take in to consideration checking it on a twice daily schedule, so as to correct any ice developing in water ways and to remove the ice so you don't direct your water flow out of your pond. If indeed you have a water fall of any significance, be sure ice sickles don't develop that can fall and puncture your liner.

When your pump cycles the water in your pond each hour through the water fall, your water temperature drops each time it is exposed to the freezing air, this will create a cold pond. Your pump should be in the top third of your pond to avoid cycling warm water into the colder, the fish will be hibernating in the warmer water. This also prevents debris from being stirred up and clouding the water.

When you do your daily checks, if you notice a slush effect developing, shut down your pump and add a tank heater. (this can occur if temperatures dip down drastically) Please see fish health section on effects of slush on your fish.

As you can see there are disadvantages to running the waterfall during the winter months, you can use a tank heater and a supplement air pump to carry your pond thru the winter without running your waterfall. .



Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

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