

THE PRAIRIELAND SPLASH

Meeting Date: Saturday February 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Location I.C.C.

Directions to I.C.C. : From Peoria, take War Memorial Dr. across the river east towards Washington, and I.C.C is on the right at the top of the hill. From Pekin, go north on Rt. 29 thru East Peoria, where it changes into Rt. 116 and take Rt. 24 east into Washington and I.C.C. is again on the right at the top of the hill. Turn right into the campus as the road starts to curve to the right, take an immediate left into the Horticulture Lab Facility. The meeting will be inside the building.

Here we are in the middle of winter, hope everyone is staying warm and dry.

I hope everyone put their ponds to sleep for the winter in good fashion this past fall. The tough part about winter is, now we need to continually check our ponds to make sure we still have an opening in the ice. As we all know this is for the exchange of gases, to release carbon dioxide exhaled by the fish and from the breakdown of organic matter still in the pond, and the entrance of new oxygen for the fish to breath. We also have to try to clean at least some of the snow off the ice so sunlight can enter into the pond. This sunlight helps keep any of the organic matter still in the pond from breaking down and using up the oxygen we are trying to keep in the water for the fish.

Hopefully everyone has a least one heater or deicer unit to keep this opening in the ice. I use a deicer unit tub over the deep end of my pond and in the shallow end of our pond we use an air stone. Our air stone usually keeps a second opening in the ice until it gets really cold and it freezes over. This is where we are trying a new idea of Jeannie's to use a couple of basement window well covers to see if it will keep an opening over the air stone in colder weather. It's important not to put an air stone in deep water because it will cool the water thru the rise of air bubbles to the surface. Your fish will hibernate for the winter by hovering on the bottom at the deep end of your pond, usually right under the opening in the ice. That's about all you can do in the winter to make sure you keep an opening in the ice and try to keep the snow off the ice.

If you have a lot of big rocks around the edge of your pond and a two foot fence so your dog won't get on the ice, I don't recommend trying to sweep much of the snow. This I know from my own experience, and no one wants any of us falling into their ponds.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance: \$3,312.08
Income: 564.00
Expenses 42.83
Balance \$3,433.22

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

Prairieland Koi
& Pond Society

February, 14 2015
Volume 19 Issue 01



Don't Forget to check
the website;
www.pkps1.com

If you find that your heater or deicer isn't working and your opening in the ice has frozen over, don't take a hammer to the ice as the shock waves from the hammer blows are harmful to your fish. Try using buckets of hot water. This might take several buckets, but it's much better for your fish. Also make sure the ice is thick enough to support you, we don't want you in the water with your fish. I have also tried using a battery powered drill, to drill holes to help start the opening. Don't use an electric one, if you drop it in the water you'll have more problems than no hole in the ice.

Stock tank heater versus the utility tub deicer

The use of a utility tub deicer like the one that was demonstrated a couple of years ago at I.C.C. days is a great way to save money on your electric bill. The normal stock tank heater uses anywhere from 1000 to 1500 watts of electricity every hour. Our tub deicer uses 80 watts of electricity an hour.

A stock tank heater keeps a small opening in the ice, our tub deicer keeps an opening, about 16 inches by 24 inches.

So if you figure the stock tank heater is working 12 hours a day, that's 1000 watts an hour times, 12 hours, times 30 days in a month for a total of 360,000 watts in a month. We pay for electricity by kilowatt hour, 1000 watts an hour is equal to a kwh. So the total for the tank heater was 360,000 divided by 1000 which equals 360, we pay about .09 cts. per kwh for our electricity. So that gives us 360 kwh's, times .09 cts. For a total of \$32.00 a month. And that's only if the heater is working 12 hours a day when it's colder they run 24 hours a day. You can double this cost if your using two stock tank heats.

Now our neat little utility tub deicer uses 80 watts an hour by using two 40 watt light bulbs. It runs 24 hrs a day for a month, we have 80 watts, times 24 hrs., times 30 days for a total of 57,600. So that works out to 57,600 divided by 1000 equals 57.6 kwh's, times .09cts per hour, are you ready for this: it's only \$5.18 for the month.

Now the up front cost are different, the stock tank or pond heaters are priced from \$25.00 to \$45.00 or more if you buy from a pond supplier. The parts to assemble our deicer run about 75.00. And it takes a few hours to assemble. So if you compare purchase price and the first month's cost to run each your pretty close to the same. So all you do is save money for the next couple of months that our ponds a frozen over.

I do change the light bulbs each year just so they don't burn out in the middle of the winter, they don't cost too much.

So if the only reason you aren't using one of these utility tub deicers is because of the few of hours of assembly time to build one, I have an answer. You pay for the materials, and agree to donate \$10.00 to the club, for my time, I will build one for you. Just let me know if you want a utility tub deicer built for your pond.

The club now has decals with the club mascot on them for your car or truck. Members will receive a free decal when they renew their membership for 2015. Additional decals maybe purchased for \$ 3.00.

Board Meetings

January 24th Smith Residence

February 28th Clarke Residence

March 28th Hoffstetter Residence

April 25th Kruger Residence

May 23th Cantrell Residence

June 27th Smith Residence

July 25th Cantrell Residence

August 22nd Kruger Residence

September 26th Hoffstetter Residence

October 24th Moreland Residence

November 21st Clarke Residence

Club Meetings

February 14th I.C.C. Ginny Gibbs

March 14th Luthy Gardens

Lily Show afterwards

April 11th Kullscape

Zoo pond (weather permitting)

May 9th Malta's Residence (cookout)

Visit Hornbaker's

June 13th TBA

July 11th TBA

August 8th Kruger Residence

September 12th I.C.C.'s Day

(possible night tour)

October 10th Bong Residence

November 14th Banquet



Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

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