

# The Prairieland Splash

Prairieland Pond and Koi Society

August 2019 Volume 7

**General Meeting Saturday, August 10, 9:00 a.m.**

Our next general meeting will be held at the Kruger residence, 621 N. Hamilton St. in Lincoln, IL.

Directions: Take I-74 East out of Peoria towards Morton. Take the 155 exit, on the right, to Lincoln. 155 merges into I-55 south take the first exit for Lincoln. At the stop light turn left and continue straight, go through 11 stop lights. The last stop light is Kickapoo St. Go 2 more blocks and turn right onto Hamilton St. It's the 3rd house on the right at 621 N. Hamilton.

You can pay your dues anytime and they are still only \$20.00/year. Please give check/cash to our treasurer or send to:

Letriana Cantrell  
311 Arnold Road  
East Peoria, IL 61611





## **Rick and Barb Luick's pond**

News by Jeannie Clarke

The pond tour is over, and we had great fun. We didn't have scads of people but it was just busy enough so we could talk to each one. People were very interested and asked many questions. We did get a few new members and expect a few more.

I want to thank everyone that was on the tour for all their hard work. I know the weather was really hot and I think we all were exhausted after the tour. It was very worth it but couldn't have happened without those who worked so hard to get their pond ready for the tour, the helpers and those that got advertising out there, printed tickets, and drove around on

pond tour day to see if anyone needed help. Thanks again for a job well done!

We also hosted a mini pond tour for Bradley University's Olli for continuing education on the Monday after. About 25 people on two mini buses went to six different ponds and Kullscape's for a talk on building ponds. I rode along on the bus to answer any questions the group had. It was enjoyable for all.

On another note, the IEPA is doubling the amount of chlorine in some water systems to battle water borne bacteria. When this happens, we will have to take much more care when adding water to our ponds. The club does sell a small bottle of water conditioner that not only removes chlorine but also detoxifies heavy metals. it treats 16,000 gallons of water and costs about \$8.00. What a bargain and why take the chance harming our fish.

## **5 Reasons to Aerate**

Reprinted from The Pond Guy® website

Aeration infuses oxygen into the pond. Adding pond water aeration is not only beneficial for your fish, who need oxygen to survive, but will also improve the overall health of your pond's ecosystem. Below are the top five reasons you should consider adding aeration into your pond, and the importance of aeration:

**1. Aeration reduces pond muck.** As a pond ages, nutrients accumulate at the bottom of the pond and become muck. Not only is muck unpleasant to see or feel between your toes, but it can also give ponds a bad odor and provide habitat for leeches. Aeration is important because it combats muck and other decomposing debris by increasing the dissolved oxygen and circulating the water. This pond water aeration encourages the colonization of beneficial aerobic bacteria that consume the nutrients to reduce existing muck build-up and prevent it from accumulating in the future.

**2. Aeration improves water quality.** Nutrients not only accumulate at the bottom of the pond to become muck, but they can also be suspended in the water column causing your pond to look murky. By reducing the muck and excess nutrients, increasing oxygen, and circulating the water, you will improve your water quality and clarity. Additionally, from pond water aeration, you'll see a reduction in algae and weeds since there will not be as many nutrients to fuel their growth.

**3. Aeration boosts dissolved oxygen levels.** Oxygen is needed from pond water aeration to sustain your fish, but it is also needed by your beneficial bacteria. Aeration is important because without oxygen, your pond will go into an anaerobic state. Anaerobic bacteria are not as efficient at breaking down organic material as their aerobic counterparts. Additionally, anaerobic bacteria produce carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide when digesting organic material, giving the pond a rotten egg smell. In contrast, beneficial bacteria produce a harmless gas when breaking down muck and debris. Incorporating aeration into the pond increases the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water keeping your pond functioning as a healthy aerobic system.

**4. Aeration eliminates the thermocline.** The thermocline is the border between the warmer, surface water and the colder, deeper water. Aeration is important because it circulates and mixes the water to eliminate these stratified layers by moving the cooler oxygen-starved water to the pond's surface so it can become infused with oxygen. The warmer, oxygen-rich water then drops to the bottom of the pond to fuel your beneficial bacteria. With all this churning, the water temperature of a properly aerated pond will be no more than a few degrees difference throughout.

**5. Aeration reduces the risk of a fish kill.** Fish perish from time to time, but when many die at one time, it is often linked to low oxygen conditions. In the winter, the gases released when organic debris is decomposing can become trapped when the pond freezes over and reduce the oxygen available for your fish; if enough oxygen is displaced your fish will suffocate. Aeration is important because it will pump fresh oxygen into the pond and help to keep a hole in the ice to allow for gas exchange. In the spring and fall, turnover events due to stratified water can

cause a fish kill. During a turnover event, a stratified pond rapidly mixes, depleting the oxygen from the surface water as it combines with the bottom oxygen-starved water. Pond water aeration will eliminate the thermocline and prevent spring and fall turnover.

## PKPS 2019 MEETING SCHEDULES

### GENERAL MEETINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
August 10	Allen Kruger, Lincoln	Allen and Todd
September 14	Jim & Margy Simmons, Peoria	TBA
October 12	ICC	Genny Gibbs
November 9	Banquet	-----

### BOARD MEETINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
August 3	Deb Palmquist
August 23	Rick Moreland
September 28	Lisa Carter
October 26	Jeannie Clarke
November 23	Rick Moreland



# Prairieland Koi and Pond Society

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