



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 04

April, 2008

Russ A. of Spencerport, NY from 2007 Pond Tour



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

**“Wet –n– Dry”
“News –n– Views”**

News From Norm (Acting Editor)

Our thoughts and prayers are with Larry as he battles back from surgery and complications from chemotherapy. He is receiving physical therapy and resting to regain his strength at the Episcopal SeniorLife Communities at 505 Mt. Hope Ave. He appreciates visits from friends and family, so feel welcome to stop by and see him.

While Larry is recovering, Bob Wheeler will take the helm as Acting President, and Norm James will try to keep the newsletter coming to you. Both are asking for your support keeping things going until Larry is feeling able to resume his leadership.

There was a good turnout for the meeting in March. Bob took us on an interesting and informative trip through 1000 years of breeding goldfish. He traced the development of fancy goldfish from the wild Crucian Carp through the Wakin (double tailed goldfish) and Ryukin (humpbacked fantail), to later varieties including Ranchu, Comet, Shubunkin, Pearlscale, Lionhead, Bubbleye and others. He showed how early mutations were along body types and special features, while later breeding also sought coloration, as in the Comets and Shubunkins.

Nice job!

We apologize for not getting the March Newsletter to you. It was not published in March, because Larry realized only days before the newsletter was to be printed, that he would be unable to create it. Until he returns, Norm will try to maintain the general format, but will be taking this opportunity to add two new features, starting this month. “Pond Bugs” will give you an opportunity to get answers to questions about your pond/watergarden that have been bugging you. So get ready to ask your questions. By getting answers through the newsletters, you’ll be able to reach more ponders who might have solutions for you. You can submit questions at regular club meetings, by email to gvpakc@rochester.rr.com, or by calling 334-3536. The second feature, “Member of the Month” will give us an opportunity to make new members feel welcome and to help all us share our unique experiences. You might receive a call from Norm to allow the club to feature your pond experiences. □



“POND BUGS”

Is something bugging you?
Get an answer to your problem!

[Q] I have a pond with a liner and have noticed the water level dropping. How can I locate the leak and repair it?

[A] While some water loss in a water garden is normal due

to evaporation and sometimes splash out, significant loss can be a problem. The first, and usually most difficult, step in fixing a leak in a pond is to actually find the leak.

Finding a Pond Leak

Step A – Initial Check

Turn off the pump for waterfalls or any pumps that pump water outside the main pond. If the water level continues to drop skip to Step C to continue the search for your pond leak. If the water level stays the same see Step B.

Step B – Checking the Plumbing and Waterfall

You have now determined that the leak is not in the main basin of the pond. Now you need to narrow it down a bit further. The pond leak is either in the plumbing or in the waterfall / stream.

Closely inspect your plumbing, particularly at any joints, making sure there is no leakage there. Next, inspect your waterfall and stream for leaks. Most of the time, the problem is caused by plant matter or other obstructions raising the water level behind the weir and causing an overflow over the liner. Perhaps a stone has settled or your pond liner has slipped below water level in an area. If it hasn't rained in a few days, check around the perimeter for a wet spot. If you find one, you have a good idea of where to look

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closer for the source of the leak. If you still have not found the problem use the ideas in Step C to check the streambed, just as you would check the liner in the main basin.

Step C – Checking the Main Basin

At this point, you have determined that the leak is in the pond itself. Leave the pump off and allow the pond to continue to leak until it stops. If it does not stop before reaching a level dangerous to fish and plants, you will need to temporarily remove them from the pond. While the water level is dropping, check around the edges to make sure that the pond liner has not sunk or that rocks have not been displaced. When the water reaches the point where it is no longer dropping, it will be necessary to closely inspect the liner all along this water level to find the source of the leak. You should be looking for any irregularities in the pond liner from a large gash to a tiny pinprick. For fast leaks, you can try using a squirt bottle to spray milk into the water at the edges of the pond. The milk will cloud the water where there is no hole. It will flow toward the hole, if there is one. This method will not work for slow leaks.

Once you have found the source of your pond leak it

is time to make repairs. If it was just a displaced liner, move everything back into place. If a hole was found in the pond liner, you can patch it by splicing and patching.

Patching Small Holes or Tears

Use 6" single sided tape. Thoroughly clean the liner area using a QuickPrime product for liners or similar product, and an abrasive pad. Wipe clean with a paper towel. Remove the paper backing and apply the tape, being careful to provide a smooth cover. Roll to provide pressure to all areas of the tape. Apply a lap sealant to the taped edges for the final step and allow drying for several hours before contact with water.

Tips:

- If you don't have a roller, you can use a section of 1-1/2" or 2" PVC pipe to apply pressure.
- If necessary Naptha can be used as a Quick-Prime product.
- For a proper tape adhesion, the liner must be clean and dry. Also firm pressure is required.

[Q] We have had problem with string algae, so we used a commercial product on a hot summer day, to help get rid of it. Shortly afterwards our fish where

gulping at the surface. That is wrong?

[A] Fish breathe dissolved oxygen in the water through their gills, but on hot summer days, the oxygen levels in the water can be low. To add to the problem, some commercial products use oxygen when they work. One thing you can try to do is to spray the pond surface with a mist of water. This can help cool and aerate the water. Also, if possible, add additional aeration with an air pump, waterfalls or fountains. In the future try to add additional aeration before adding a commercial product designed to rid your pond of algae.

If something has been bugging you, we'll try to get an answer. Please send your questions to Norm at gvpakc@rochester.rr.com or phone 334-3536. Then check out future issues of the newsletter to read what our "experts" have to say.



Member of the month

Norm & Jo Anne's Pond Question:

[Q] Can you give us general picture of what your pond is like?

[A] Our pond is a converted 16' x 32' in-ground Gunite swimming pool. The pond has 2 fountains and a venturie. Next

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to the pond is a rock garden with a waterfall that flows into the pond.

[Q] What got you interested in creating your pond?

[A] Our pool was old and not getting used. It needed a lot of work, but we could not find any one to help us. In 1998, we left the winter cover on, well into early summer. Water collected in it and created a beautiful little natural pond, complete with several varieties of tadpoles and frogs. We enjoyed it so much, that it seemed natural to convert the pool to a real water garden.

[Q] How did you create your pond?

[A] After doing some research and talking to several contractors, I decided that there wasn't anything that I couldn't do myself. I began working in the fall of 1998 and completed the work in the spring of 1999.

[Q] Are you using any filtration?

[A] We started out using the pool sand filter for the first year but it clogged up about once a week and needed frequent backwashing. The second year I switched from using sand to using pea gravel. Recently I have added a layer of cut up filter mats.

[Q] What kind of pump are you using?

[A] I started out using our 3/4hp pool pump, but am now using a 3/4hp Wave Dragon Pump.

[Q] Can you recommend any plants that you have found particularly interesting or successful in our area?

[A] Hardy waterlilies: Attrac-

tion, Virginia, Chromatella, Gladstone, Comanche, and Pink Heaven. We've also enjoyed Lizard Trail, Purple Pickerel, White Rush, and Taro.

[Q] Are there fish in your pond?

[A] We have about 10 Koi and 12 golden orfes. The orfes spawn each year and their number keeps increasing.

[Q] How many years have you had your pond?

[A] This summer will be our 10th season. We began filling it in the spring of 1999.

[Q] Would you share some of your favorite memories?

[A] Discovering that our koi and orfes are able to spawn in the pond and that some of the baby fish have survived. Also seeing how other people have enjoyed our pond.

[Q] What are some of your worst moments?

[A] We were unable to save a fish with impacted eggs, and we've never had one of our own baby koi make it through the winter.

[Q] Can you share one sure-fire tip with us?

[A] One of the most useful tools I have is a long pole, like a clothespole, with a hook at one end. I use it for moving plants around the pond. The other I find really handy is a plastic leaf rake that works well to remove string algae.

April 19 Special Presentation:

The Lotus Odyssey - Special Saturday April 19th presentation at 1:00 at the Henrietta Public

Library Community Room. Warner Orazco shares his passion for this fascinating aquatic plant as he shows how lotus are grown, utilized and displayed for ornamental enjoyment. Journey through Thailand, China and many other destinations as Warner unlocks the secrets of the magnificent, sacred lotus. See attached flyer for details.

Upcoming Local Events:

April 5 & 6: Orchid Show & Sale, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Saturday 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm, sponsored by the Genesee Region Orchid Society. There will be spectacular orchids on display and for sale, plus potting demonstrations, raffles and more. \$5; children 10 and under free. Geneseeorchid.org.

May 9 – 18: Lilac Festival, Highland Park. In addition to the lilacs, visit the Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Ave., and the Ellwanger Garden, 625 Mt. Hope Ave.

May 11 – June 8: Flower City Days at the Market, Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union St., Sundays and the Friday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend, 8 am – 1 pm.

May 17: Native Plant Sale, Brighton Memorial Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave, 8:30 am – 2 pm. Start your garden while giving to a great cause! This annual fundraiser for the Genesee Land Trust features the donations of over 12 nurseries and includes native plants, shrubs and trees. genesee-landtrust.org.

May 24: Annual Proud Market Plant Sale, 8 am 'til the plants run out. A great opportunity to buy all manner of plants, many of them unusual or hard to find, at really great prices. Go early—plants sell out fast. **Rochester Civic Gar-**

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den Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester, NY 14620.
rcgc.org.



Board Members 2007

President: Larry Hursh
Vice President: Bob Wheeler
Secretary: Kathy Hursh
Treasurer: John Roguski/Les Saiers
Pond Tour Chairperson: Norm James/Les Saiers
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler and Kathy Hursh
Newsletter Editors: Hursh, James, and Nau families
Webmaster: Norm James - gvpakc@attglobal.net

Purpose of the Club

- To promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting Koi and goldfish.
- To promote and appreciate the hobby of Water Gardening.
- To disseminate information about Koi, goldfish and Water Gardening.
- To socialize and have fun.

We meet in a very friendly atmosphere at 7:00 pm, the first Friday of every month, at the Rochester Civic Garden Center (the Castle), 5 Castle Park, off Reservoir Ave., in Highland Park. Parking is free. Anyone interested in water gardening and/or Koi is welcome to join us. We ask that you consider joining the club after your third visit. For more information call Larry H. (585) 473-6276 or e-mail lkhursh@aol.com or visit the club website at <http://www.gvpakc.org>

Calendar of Events

April 4, 2008: GVPAKC meeting at 7:00PM: Presentation from Al Pfeiffer of Oriental Garden Supply on incorporating Oriental garden design elements around your water garden

April 11, 2008: NFKPC monthly meeting

April 19, 2008: The Lotus Odyssey - Special Saturday April 19th presentation at 1:00 at the Henrietta Public Library Community Room.

May 9, 2008: NFKPC monthly meeting

Save the dates:

June 6-8, 2008: LilyFest with GVPAKC plant and product auction on June 8. We are also trying to find a speaker for a presentation prior to the auction.

July 12, 2008: Summer Garden Tour; 10am - 4pm RCGC's annual Summer Garden Tour - a popular event, not to be missed!

August 2, 2008: Our Pond Tour will be changed to the first Saturday in August instead of the last Saturday of July.

“Naturally Green” - A live gardening show every Saturday from **9-10 am** on **WYSL 1040 AM**.