



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 08

September 2008

2008 GVPAKC Pond Tour



John & Toni Burr's Pond



Billy Page & Cheryl Micciche's Pond

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"News From Norm" (Acting Editor)

Larry Update

We received the good news we've all been waiting to hear from Kathy Hursh. Larry will be coming home on Friday, August 22nd. He is currently able to walk a bit with the assistance of a walker and can climb a few steps. Their house will offer comfortable accommodations for him on the first floor until he can climb more steps. You might want to call ahead if you are planning to visit Larry. To give him some time to adjust, the family will be gathering shortly after Labor Day to welcome him home. After a long stay at the Episcopal Home, where he received wonderful care, this is thrilling news! □

July Meeting

At the July meeting, Vice President Bob Wheeler broadened our understanding of algae and presented a plan to help keep it under control.

There is a lot more to algae than one might think. Although algae are usually looked upon as a problem by pond owners, algae have been a powerful life force on earth for over 3 billion years. From microscopic single cells to giant kelp, thousands of algal species are now being identified and valued for food, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals, fertilizers and industrial uses. But what is a pond owner to do, when confronted with an algae bloom or

an infestation of string algae? The goal is to establish a healthy balance in the pond.

- (1) Keep the organic load down by keeping runoff out of the pond and the sludge to a minimum. Vacuum sludge that has already accumulated. Less than 1/4 of an inch of sludge on the bottom should not be a problem.
- (2) Don't over feed or keep more fish than your pond will support.
- (3) Install a large biological filter and give it time to work, this could take several months.
- (4) Use enough, and the right type of, aquatic plants. This means surface plants for shade and floaters and underwater plants to remove excess nutrients.
- (5) Use biological treatments and give them time to work. Microbe-Lift will help but this is an ongoing process and takes time along with the methods outlined above for balancing your pond.
- (6) Use AlgaeFix to eliminate existing problems more quickly. Barley Straw Extract can be used in ponds less than 3000 gallons.
- (7) Install an ultraviolet sterilizer for the most effective control of single-cell (green water) algae.

In closing, welcome the appearance of hair algae, the 1/4 inch, velvet-like covering that grows on rocks and the sides of ponds. It offers a place where good bacteria will grow, and gives a pond a pleasing, natural look. And take heart in knowing that pa-

tience will pay off. Controlling unwanted algae takes time. □

GVPAKC 2008 Pond Tour

On Saturday, August 2, members of the club and their guests visited seven unique and beautifully landscaped ponds. Rumbles of thunder threatened off and on all day, but pleasant weather prevailed.

The first stop was John and Toni's pond in Chili, where we strolled around several acres of imaginative border gardens, an enchanted woodland, and a pond featuring a waterfall. Part park and part sanctuary, the garden spaces showcase a large collection of perennials, works of art, and whimsical pieces. Occasional stone walkways entice passersby to venture deeper into the gardens, and benches abound, offering places to rest and take in the beauty. A group of hummingbirds entertained as they contested each bird's right to sip from a feeder.

The next stop on the tour was Norm and Jo Anne's converted swimming pool, now water garden, in Rush. The kidney shape of the pond, stone coping, dark walls and gravel bottom give the pond a natural look. Because the project was completed ten years ago, the plants in and around the pond have matured and created a quiet retreat.

We traveled to West Irondequoit to visit Mike and Kathy's ponds. Confronted with a very steep back yard, they created a spec-

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tacular cascading stream that flows into two ponds at its base. The second pond was added this year and is connected to the first pond by a short stream that passes under a wooden bridge. The upper deck at the back of the house, and the tropical seaside mural painted on the lower wall of the house create an at-home vacation setting. Lighting in the woods below the stream extends enjoyment of the landscape into the evening.

The fourth stop, Walt and Gail's pond and waterfalls in Webster, is a masterpiece of beauty and perfection. A beautifully landscaped hill at the back of the property provides privacy and screens the view of the neighbors' yard. The garden design includes a waterfalls and pond with a rock and gravel beach, and a unique collection of Walt and Gail's favorite plants. Thriving grasses, ornamental evergreens, perennials and pond plants create an eye-catching natural vista.

Billy and Cheryl, in Webster, surprised and delighted us with their creative vision, inspired by the lakeshore. By incorporating fascinating pieces of driftwood and rocks they created a beautiful watergarden under the shade of a London Plane Tree. The centerpiece of their garden is a spectacular driftwood bridge over a waterfalls. Magnificent perennials, a collection of bright koi, and Billy's original rock and wood creations add points of interest throughout the garden.

At our sixth stop, we enjoyed visiting Al and Mary's pond, located in a country setting in Ontario. This seven-year-old pond surely boasts the most fish, with one hundred koi, an infinite number of hungry fry, and one eighteen-inch bass whose appetite is most likely always satisfied. Water for the pond is pumped from a well, with nine hundred to one thousand gallons needed daily, to replace water lost by evaporation. Of interest, is the one-piece liner that required a forklift and a crew of fifteen to help install it in the sixty by one hundred by six-foot pond.

Les and Karen, in Ontario, hosted the annual picnic around their new pond that features two waterfalls. Before beginning the construction of his dream pond, Les spent a couple years learning all he could from both the GVPAKC and Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club. His efforts and patience paid off, and he now has a beautiful pond with an efficient filtration system that may some day support some fancy koi. We wish to thank all the hosts who shared their ponds and everyone who helped make the 2008 Pond Tour a success.



“POND BUGS”

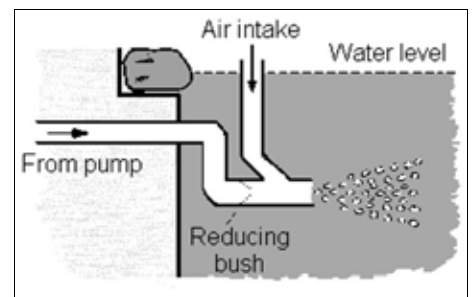
Is something bugging you?
Get an answer to your problem!

[Q] *At the pond in Rush, I noticed a tube poking out of*

the water and a lot of bubbles apparently coming out of the side of the pond near the tube. What are they?

And how do they function?

[A] The tube is an air tube that is part of a venturi. The venturi is a device that injects air into your pond water to ensure adequate pond aeration. It is made very simply from pipework. It has a restrictor inside and an air tube which extends above water level (you can see a diagram below). When water is pumped through the venturi, the restrictor creates a vacuum that sucks air in through the tube above water level, and mixes it with water inside the venturi, making bubbles that aerate the pond water. It is used to improve pond aeration and movement of water in the pond and increase the oxygen level in the water. The faster the flow rate, the more air is sucked in. It is a great way to get oxygen into your pond using nothing other than the flow rate of water in the pond return pipe. The downside to a venturi is that it can reduce the water flow. Adding fountains in



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the pond can add beauty and help compensate for the reduction in flow.

[Q] Why are aeration and oxygen important for a fish pond?

[A] Oxygen is everything in a fish pond. Without oxygen, filter bacteria cannot oxidize (and detoxify) ammonia into nitrite and then into nitrate. If a pond or filter is allowed to become oxygen deficient for any period of time, anaerobic conditions will prevail causing unstable water conditions and the tell-tale bad-egg smell.

Koi require an absolute minimum of between 3 to 5 milligrams per litre of oxygen which is easily maintainable. However the dissolved oxygen content is temperature dependant. The saturation point can vary from 12mg/litre at 41 degrees F to a mere 7.5mg/litre at 86 degrees F. In simple terms this means that the colder the water the more the saturation of oxygen and the hotter the water the less the saturation. Hot summer time temperatures cause the water to hold less and less oxygen. Unfortunately the warmer the water is, the more oxygen the fish will need which is an inverse ratio to demand.

It is very important to keep as much oxygen as possible in ponds during summer

night time hours. At night time, oxygen levels drop off dramatically. While plants give off oxygen during the day, they absorb oxygen at night and give off carbon dioxide. Oxygen levels are lowest just before dawn. Many fish deaths occur overnight. Warm nights combined with low atmospheric conditions can cause oxygen levels to fall in a pond to the point that a Koi's gills cannot extract enough oxygen and the fish will therefore suffocate - normally the largest first. It is not uncommon to hear that entire pond stocks have been lost in this way due to a combination of inadequate air supply or air pump failure. Introduction of air via waterfall, fountain, venturi or return cascade are essential ways to aerate the water. The oxygen is taken up from the air within the turbulence created from the splashing that occurs. Keeping a fountain or venturi running at night can add extra oxygen to the pond.

Aerobic filter bacteria thrive on oxygen levels and are a major consumer of the supply. A constant supply of air is important for the Aerobic filter bacteria to carry out the nitrifying process. A lack of dissolved oxygen in the water will affect the water clarity and will lead to fish's death.

The presence of other

solutes in the pond will also have a negative effect on achievable dissolved oxygen levels. This would include salt, as well as liquid pond treatments. All the more reason to aerate vigorously under treatment conditions.

Air is without doubt an absolute essential part to any Koi pond. Without provisions for air you will be heading for trouble!

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. □



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Board Members 2008

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 Wheeler
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 Bob Wheeler. (585) 461-5315 or e-mail BobWheeler58@gmail.com or visit the club website at

<http://www.gvpakc.org>

Calendar of Events

Sept 2, 2008: Friday, 7:00 PM club meeting at Warner Castle; Presentation by Loren Prucnal on Rebuilding a Pond

Oct 3, 2008: Friday, 7:00 PM club meeting at Warner Castle

Nov 7, 2008: Friday, 7:00 PM club meeting at Warner Castle

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