



# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 07

July 2010

## 2010 GVPAKC Plant Auction



Top: Ray Lucas and Audrey Behlau, our auctioneers.



Above: Emilie Monefeldt keeps tracks of bids on her computer.

# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

## “News From Norm”

**Important: There will be no club meeting on July 2nd. Please plan on attending the next meeting, scheduled on Friday, July 9th.** □

### GVPAKC Plant Auction

**From:** Bob Wheeler, President  
GVPAKC

I want to say thank you to everyone who came out and supported the club with donations and/or purchases at our annual plant auction at Bergen Water Gardens on June 6th. This was the 10th anniversary for Larry Nau having Lilyfest at BWG and the 10th time he has graciously hosted our club's plant auction. His support, and your support, allow GVPAKC to continue to provide information of interest to our members through this newsletter and at our monthly meetings.

Thanks also to the members of the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club who came to the auction and supported our club with their auction purchases. We certainly appreciate your efforts to make the drive and support GVPAKC's auction.

A huge thank you once again goes out to Ray "Kingfish" Lucas and the pet industry sponsors he represented at the auction. His auctioning services and the sponsors' donations are a big part of the success of our annual fund raiser. This year Ray's sponsors were:

- Aquarium Technology Inc.
- Easter Aquatics  
Blackworms
- The Fish Factory
- Cichlid News Magazine
- Diskus Brief Magazine
- Swiss Tropicals Inc.
- BlueZooRadio.com
- E.G. Danner Mfg. Inc.
- Mars Fishcare North America, Inc.
- Aquarian Flake Foods
- Aquarium  
Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Rena
- Pond Care Products
- Cichlid Press Books
- Finley Aquatic Books
- Discus Hans USA
- Ken's Fish
- Sounds Fish To Me

Lastly, a special thank you to GVPAKC club member Audrey Behlau who again was willing to be the auctioneer for our plant and product material donated by club members.

Thanks again to everyone for their participation and support.

□



Thank you to Cliff and Joann, who live on Long Island, for their email on iVillage GardenWeb. They offer a tip on how to handle a clogged bottom drain.

We have had a pond since 1997, and Cliff only discovered this trick about 3 years ago -- by accident. We have a bottom drain with a 90-degree angle and two 45-degree angles. The bottom drain gets clogged several times

during the season with leaves, rocks, and pebbles (especially pebbles from the koi foraging in the lily pots). Cliff would put two hoses together on the shop vac and force it down past the two 45 degree angles and the 90 degree angle - not an easy task, to push, turn, and twist a hose past these angles. Then he would both vacuum and blow out the line.

One day he forced in the wrong end of the hose down the line by mistake. Once the hose got past the 45-degree angles the fitting at the end of the hose got stuck, and would not budge.

Well, we were in big trouble, with a stuck hose that wouldn't budge...

After several attempts to get the hose out, a light bulb went on in his head. He tied a rag (boy scout knot) in the center of a very long strong nylon line. He dropped the line down from inside the first filter tub all the way through. Once it got all the way through, he tied the one end of the line to the dock. Then he began pulling the rag through the line from inside the tub, and then he tied the end of the line to a crate just outside the first tub. Then pulled the line attached to the dock, again pulling the rag through all the way. He alternated pulling both ends of the nylon line until the vacuum hose loosened and he was able to be pulled out the stuck hose.

The nylon line is now part of his regular maintenance. It is now so easy to keep the drain line free from any debris. The long nylon line (with the rag in the center) is now permanently attached in our pond --- the nylon line is attached

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on one end to the dock and on the other end to a crate (just outside the filter tub). He pulls on it to loosen and remove leaves, pebbles, etc...as part of his normal maintenance. There is no longer a need to drag out the shop vac and vacuum out the drain line when it gets clogged. Also, the clean drain line helps keep the pond running more effectively, thus, there is less filter maintenance as the clogged lines always slow down the flow of water in the filter tubs. He cleans the tubs a lot less since discovering this trick.

BTW... he initially used a snake to get the line all the way through the drain line.

One more thing, Cliff took the dome off the BD and just has a black milk crate over the BD. This way he can tug on his nylon cords frequently without having to uncover the BD. It's all about -- making the maintenance easier. □



## Town Codes Regulating the Installation and Maintenance of

### Ponds/Watergardens in Monroe County

Generally speaking, if you are planning to put in a new pond or watergarden, or to expand your current pond, you should contact your local town and /or village to get the most up to date local codes and requirements. You should also call your homeowner's insurance company to review your policy as it relates to your plan. If you will be removing soil from your property, it's a good idea to check with your town and the DEC to see if a permit is required. All towns will require electrical and/or plumbing water

lines from a local water source to be inspected by the town.

In June, I called each town in Monroe County to find out what codes are in place now that regulate ponds/watergardens within their jurisdiction.

Brighton, Clarkson, Gates, Greece, Irondequoit, Ogden, Penfield,

Rush, and Sweden: These towns had no codes or requirements for ponds that are not used for swimming.

Chili: A building permit is required.

City of Rochester: The only requirement is that the pond must be in the backyard.

Hamlin: Codes 125-9 and 125-52 cover ponds. The following is a summary. Ponds require an application, and a review body shall be responsible for determining the proper size and location of the pond, requirements for slope, and the necessity of fencing or warning signage, given the specific lot and the character of the surrounding residential areas. The pond must have a minimum setback of 40 feet from any property line to the edge of the pond. Ponds are subject to proper care and maintenance by the property owner.

Henrietta: The town has no code for building or installing ponds. But code 205-7H states that, "All decorative pools and similar devices shall be maintained free of litter and operated as intended."

Mendon: The town has no requirements for ponds less than 24 inches. For ponds greater than 24 inches, the town requires a permit with an engineering design drawing. The pond must be set back 50 feet from lot line.

Parma: The only requirements for

ponds are a 10-foot set back from lot line and an inspection of the electrical system.

Penfield: The town has no code requirements for small ponds. For large ponds where more than 50 cubic yards of soil would be removed, a digging permit is required.

Perinton: The town has no code requirements for ponds less than 24 inches. Ponds greater than 24 inches are treated like swimming pools that require fencing of 48 inches or higher, with self-locking gates.

Pittsford: Code requirement 185-131 covers ponds. The following is a summary. All ponds must be maintained to assure they do not become offensive to neighboring properties by reason of stagnation, algae, mosquito-breeding, and similar conditions. No pond can interfere with or impede the natural flow of water nor adversely impact any floodplain or wetland area.

Pittsford defines the following ponds:

**Decorative Pond** - Any man-made body of water with a surface area no greater than 100 square feet and a maximum depth of 18 inches.

These ponds may be constructed on any residential property subject to the applicable setback requirements and without the necessity of obtaining a building permit or landscape alteration permit.

**Garden Pond** - Any man-made body of water with a surface area no greater than 500 square feet and/or with a depth greater than 18 inches but no more than 36 inches. These garden ponds may be constructed on any residential property subject to all of the provisions of § 185-119A of this

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chapter regulating swimming pools, including obtaining a building permit.

**Open-Water Pond** - Any man-made body of water with a surface area no greater than 12,000 square feet and/or with a depth more than 36 inches. The property on which the pond is to be constructed must be five acres or more in size. The pond is at least 100 feet from all property. The pond shall conform to the requirements of and be approved by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture or its successor agency; and a landscape alteration permit has been issued there for it.

**Riga:** The only requirement for ponds – a pond covering one-half acre or more must be on a piece of property that is 10 acres or more.

**Wheatland:** The town follows the Department of State and has no requirements for ponds. No fencing is required.

**Webster:** I was unable to contact the town.

Again, these regulations are presented as a reminder of some of the considerations when planning a pond. To avoid expensive mistakes, you need to call your own town and insurance company prior to installing or expanding a pond on your property. □



### “Dead Fish” Act

Submitted by: Norm James

Maybe someone else has had this happen in their pond. I have no explanation. When I went out to feed our fish on Wednesday, June

16th I found a large 11-year-old koi lying flat and motionless on the bottom. It did not appear to have anything else wrong and water tests revealed no problems. As the next two days passed, the 7 other equally large koi began showing signs of stress, resting on the bottom with their fins clamped to their sides, coming up only to feed or occasionally swim a bit. By the third day, two light-colored koi began to look flushed, with their fins and scales turning pink. By the end of the fourth day, I was beginning to think about what I was going to do with 8 very large dead fish. To my surprise, on the fifth day, I found most of the koi to be remarkably improved. They continued to recover quickly and in two or three days, there were no signs of ever having had a problem. The most unexplainable piece of the story is that the 15 golden orfes, from as young as this year’s fry to 7 or 8 years old, never showed any signs of stress. I first called Larry Nau and then Willow Pond, and what I learned from both sources was, there was no explanation for the koi being stressed when the orfes, which are indicator fish seemed fine. I decided to do nothing rather than risk doing the wrong thing. This is the first problem I’ve had in 11 years of keeping fish, and to avoid letting this happen again, I would like to find the cause. If you’ve had an experience like this, I’d love to hear from you (nwj629@rochester.com). Thanks, in advance for your response.

Background:

You can visit <http://home.roadrunner.com/~normspond/> to see the pond as it has looked over the years.

There had been a thunderstorm with a heavy downpour the previous night, following a rainy week.

We had recently added two lilies and two tiny koi. The new koi did not show signs of stress, but disappeared at about the same time the other fish were recovering. We found one that appeared to have been attacked by a predator. □



If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or have an idea you would like to have researched, please send your article or your ideas to Norm James at [gvpakc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gvpakc@rochester.rr.com)

If your mailing address or email change or you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your change to: [newsletter@gvpakc.org](mailto:newsletter@gvpakc.org), or call Norm James at 334-3536.

**Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club**  
140 Winslow Ave,  
Rochester NY 14620

### **Board Members 2009**

President: Bob Wheeler  
Vice President: Larry Hursh  
Secretary: Jo Anne James  
Treasurer: Les Saiers  
Pond Tour Chairperson: Les Saiers & Norm James  
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler  
Newsletter Editors: N James, B Wheeler and L Hursh,  
Webmaster: Norm James - [gvpakc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gvpakc@rochester.rr.com)

### **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](mailto:BobWheeler58@gmail.com) or visit the club website at <http://www.gvpakc.org>

### **Calendar of Events**

#### **July is National Water Garden Month**

**July 2 2010, No GVPAKC meeting.** Meeting date change to July 9.

**July 9 2010, Meeting:** Friday 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle. Dennis Burns will speaker on "Oriental Garden Design"

**August 6 2010,** No GVPAKC meeting. See Pond Tour below.

**August 7 2010,** GVPAKC Pond Tour and Picnic.

**September 3, 2010, Meeting:** Friday 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle.

**October 1, 2010, Meeting:** Friday 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle.

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