

BENEATH THE SURFACE

NEWSLETTER FOR EIPS MEMBERS

April 2012

FROM THE EDITOR



Hello EIPS Members, April 2012!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Is that possible? This year is really starting to fly by and before you know it our ponds will just be full of life and lush with plants. We can dream at least correct? ☺ It is amazing how green everything is already this early in the year. Hopefully Mother Nature will continue to be nice to us and keep any cold weather away.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



April 1st, 2012

Well another month down and another EIPS Newsletter needs to be written, and sent along its merry way.

I want to start this Newsletter by first thanking Vice President Bob Geers for handling the most recent meeting in my absence. I know he did not have the official "EIPS PODIUM" but heard he got through it just fine. Thank you Bob

I am sure you are all busy with your ponds as the weather has been wonderful. Even a mild winter can cause spring problems, so be sure to keep doing the water changes, water testing and watch your fish for any possible spots, diseases and pox that might arise. Larry Thompson is great with water quality questions and remember Jackie Allsup is here to answer koi health problems. These two are invaluable members of our club and both are "go to" people with almost any question you might have.

With the coming of April we are at the time when we need to pay our annual dues. Jackie will accept dues at any meeting and you can also send them to her at

EIPS
206 N 3rd St
PO BOX 148
Quasqueton, Iowa 52326

MEETING MINUTES.

MEETING MINUTES EIPS MARCH 24, 2012

Meeting was held at the home of Gary and Jo Hunerdosse at 7pm with 25 members in attendance. At 6pm a wonderful potluck was enjoyed and then Joy Seyfer from Skogman Realty spoke to us regarding "How Do I Sell My House If I Have a Pond?"

Jo gave a brief explanation of their pond.

Treasurer's Report: Jackie 2/24/12 to 3/19/12

Income: Memberships 200.00
Savings Interest .56
Club Donation (Hunerdosse) 25.00
Spece Donation -50.00 (will come back out)
Total Income: 275.56

Expenses: Check to Josh for web site domain expenses 105.00
Total Expenses 105.00

Total Savings as of 3/19/12 2825.58
Total Checking as of 3/19/12 929.80
Total in bank as of 3/19/12 3755.38

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion was heard regarding the Josh Spece home donations. Jo made a motion for EIPS members to offer a matching gift that the club would match up to a total of 500.00 for the Spece home. This was seconded and voted upon and rejected with 10 in favor and 12 opposed.

Connie Railsback then suggested that the 2012 Pond tour not charge admission and ask for donations with the proceeds to benefit the Spece family with discussion following. Discussion will continue next meeting.

April 12 meeting Deb Walser will speak on new plants for 2012. Jackie will check into having the meeting at Pecks as Deb works there.

April 28 meeting will be at the home of Bob and Stephanie Geers

August 9 meeting possibly at a winery.

October 27 still needs a host/hostess with meeting place.

Jeff reports no door prizes yet received and he is going to send another letter this week as a reminder.

Reminder of Koi Acres Open House May 12 and 13 in Minnesota.

Pond Tour: Tom Coyle and Pam and Curt Moore are now on board for the 2012 Pond Tour committee.

Ed Railsback did agree to contact advertisers as per last year but it was suggested that Ed wait on that to see if pond proceeds will be benefitting the Spece family. Jeff is on the committee as well for the ads part again as he has saved all the contacts and can just re email them all.

Bus Trip to St Louis: July 27, 28, 29. An email will be sent out to all members per Jackie with a cutoff date for signing up.

17 members from Waterloo have signed up to date to attend.

Cost is estimated at 57.00 per person if 40 people sign up. A head count is needed so arrangements can be made for the bus asap.

Speakers: Jackie and Lou Ann mentioned no word yet on Prairie Creek. They will check with Jamie Byer as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne and Tammy Waters
2575 Clark Avenue
Marion, Iowa
319-929-8665

Mark Mueller
MuellerM@Trinity CR.org

Bob and Connie VanGinkel
twotows@hotmail.com
West Branch

These folks have contacted Jeff to have their pond on the tour. Jeff encouraged them to submit a picture of their pond, come to our meeting and we would need to visit their pond.

Bruce more: August 24. EIPS will have a table there. Volunteers are needed for this. Discussion was heard regarding changing the meeting date as it could be difficult for volunteers to travel to the meeting timely after volunteering but it was decided no need to change meeting date.

Happy 39th Anniversary to Harry and Jackie!

Mechanicsville Pond Tour in June to benefit their library contacted Jackie regarding borrowing our Pond Tour signs to use. Discussion was heard and it was decided not to allow them to borrow our signs.

Per Jackie, a lady in Cedar Rapids is looking to have her pond cleaned for 75.00 along with the possibility of a 20 inch KOI. Bob Bisenius offered to take care of this. Thanks Bob. Ed Railsback has 6-8 water lilies for sale with the proceeds to go toward the pond tour.

Discussion was shared on using pond vacs to clean ponds.

Meeting adjourned. A big thank you to Jo and Gary for hosting our meeting and sharing their home and pond with us.

Notes submitted per Stephanie Geers

THANK YOU STEPHANIE FOR TAKING NOTES AT THE MEETING.

Next Meeting Details

The next meeting is Thursday April 12th at Lowe Park in Marion. Thank you LouAnn Jayne for securing this place for our meeting. The Meeting will start at 7pm and Deb Walser will be speaking.

Address is

4500 10st Marion Iowa which is approximately a mile North of Linn Mar High School.

I hope to see many of you there for Deb is a wonderful speaker. We will be having a short meeting also with discussion on the St Louis trip on the main docket. Jackie has done some good leg work on this and has some numbers for us all to look over. Thank you Jackie.

POND TOUR

We have a few members that have expressed interest in having their ponds on the pond tour and we really need to know if anyone else might be interested in that also. We also need some members for the pond tour

committee itself and please contact myself, Jackie or Tom if you are at all interested in that.

BUY/SELL/TRADE

Member David Kunkle has some equipment he is interested in selling and has provided this information about them.

For Sale: Zapp Pure ZP10 UV Sterilizer. Bought this new about 8 years ago. Rated for up to 12,000 gal pond and 4,000 gph flow rate. Stainless steel construction using 60 watt UV bulb. 2" inlet/ outlet. The ballast was just replaced last summer and the bulb has about 3 mos. use on it. Selling because it's too small for my pond- it can't keep up with my algae production. My pond is in direct sun with a large fish load in 9,000 gal. of water. Should work very well on a pond up to 6000 gal. New ones are right at \$1,000.00. Asking \$250 or best offer. Want to see if any club members are interested before it goes on ebay. The address below takes you right to a seller with all the specs and prices of new ones. Dave Kunkle 319-560-8625.

http://macarthurwatergardens.com/Zap-Pure-UV-Sterilizers/Zap_Pure_UV_Sterilizers.htm

A couple of articles I found interesting and wanted to pass on.

Don't Feed your Koi Fish too Early in the Spring

Early Spring is the time of year that we, as fish keepers, can do a lot of damage just because we see our fish up and moving around. They look like they are hungry, eating algae from the pond walls and scrounging around on the pond bottom looking for something to eat. That's a good sign that things in your pond are going well. So if they are hungry and eating then why shouldn't we feed them?

What they are eating is plant material that is very low in protein and they are eating very little. They are cold blooded animals and their bodily functions are very limited and not very efficient at these cold water temperatures. In a nut shell they are not digesting what they eat very well and just recycling it right back into the water.

If you feed them fish food (protein) they cannot digest and absorb the proteins and then they'll just poop it into your pond water. Well, what's so bad about that? Remember that the beneficial bacteria in our biological filters are not converting anything until our pond water temperatures get above 58 degrees and then it's barely converting ammonia. Then you'll have to deal with nitrites. Nitrites will not be converted until the water temp rises to the low 60's.

Also remember that it takes time to reestablish a useable colony of beneficial bacteria. The only thing that you will accomplish by feeding too much too early is that you will provide harmful bacteria (flesh eating) the environment that it needs to flourish. Don't forget that the fish have no immune system until water temps rise above 58 degrees and stay there.

Feeding too early will also likely cause redness, raised scales, ulcers and death, months later. Feeding early might seem like the humane thing to do but nothing could be further from the truth. They are living off stored fat reserves and are expending very little energy. They're just fine.

When you do start to feed, do not use food left over from last year unless it's been vacuumed packed and stored in the dark. Air and light destroy the food in a few weeks, so be safe and start fresh.

If you need to do something on a warm sunny weekend clean up your pond and filter system. Do a major water change and some pump and filter maintenance. As the water temperature continues to rise, add some salt (thickens the slime coat) to help the fish deal with any parasites. It's also a good time to start monitoring water parameters (ammonia, nitrites, etc.).

Dave Smieja
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Spring Pond Care

The importance of Spring Pond Care

How you treat your koi and pond fish when they come out of their long “winters nap” , will determine how healthy your koi and pond fish will be the rest of the koi pond season. Plus, it will greatly reduce any koi and pond fish losses you might have in the spring.

Six Quick Tips for Checking Your Pond Water in the Early Spring

1. Know the temperature of your pond water. A water thermometer is priceless for proper pond care.
2. Test your pond water for ammonia, KH (carbonate hardness) and pH. Pond water below 50° F should be brought inside and warmed to room temperature before taking a test. (One of the best test kits on the market are API made by Mars.) Using [Arctic Blend](#) will eliminate ammonia build up during the winter and help reduce the sludge.
3. Never feed your fish any type of food, no matter how much they beg for food until pond water temperature reaches 55 to 60°F for two weeks day and night. Your fish’s metabolic rate is very low in the spring and their digestive system is slow. Their very first food must be very easy for them to digest. Cheerios® or a good wheat germ food is the best.
4. How much do I feed? Very little the first week. Here’s why, some pond keepers forget the number one little “bug” everyone needs in their pond the “good bacteria” that keeps your pond free from ammonia and nitrites. These little “bugs” are just waking up in the spring and it takes them weeks to grow and become strong enough to be able to remove the ammonia from your pond water.

If you feed your koi and pond fish too much in the early spring they will produce more waste and the “bugs” can not process all the ammonia from their waste. They have enough problems just trying to process the ammonia produced from your fish’s respiration.

Base your feeding on your ammonia and nitrite tests. If they are high, reduce your feedings and do water changes using a good [water conditioner](#) that REMOVES ammonia, to bring your readings down.

5. Two of the biggest causes of sick koi and pond fish deaths in the spring are parasites on your koi and pond fish and the bad bacteria in your koi pond water. As your pond water warms up they attack your koi and pond fish when their immune system is at its weakest.

Every year thousands of beautiful koi and pond fish are lost in the spring. As soon as your pond water reaches 40 F start treating your pond with [Aqua MedZyme](#) reduce the number of deadly bacteria in your koi pond water.

Your pond fish should be treated for the deadly parasites and bacterial problems as soon as the temperature reaches 55 to 60° F. Please view our [Complete Health Care Kit](#), it includes everything you

need to treat your koi pond fish for parasites and bacterial infections including step by step instructions.

6. Don't forget those important pond water changes. At least a ten percent water change once a week will keep your koi and pond fish happy and healthy. Make sure you use a good water conditioner that removes ammonia and make sure the temperature of the water you are adding back to your pond matches the temperature of your pond water.

Note: You must know the exact amount of gallons of water your pond holds in order to do any kind of proper treatments. If you are just guessing, you are either over treating your fish, which can lead to sickness or even death. OR you're not using enough treatment, which will not solve your fish or pond problems and the parasites and bacteria could build resistance to your treatments.

Well that is a wrap. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Below is a list of future meeting dates and speakers.

April 12 - Lowe Park Speaker: Deb Walser - New plants for 2012

April 28th Geers - potluck 5:00 speaker -
Karla McGrail - hands on, making Kinetic yard art

May 10th Greg Bickal Koi Farm- speaker Greg

May 26th In the Country - Speaker Josh Spece
June 14 OPEN

June 23 Kloubec's Koi Speaker-Ellen Kloubec -
dinner in Amana to follow

TBA - Pre pond tour??

July 8th Pond Tour - Post pond tour party

July 27,28,29 - Club trip to St. Louis - pond tour
and MO Botanical Gardens

Aug 9 - Meeting at local Winery??? Not confirmed

Aug 25 Ron Jungers - Tour of the farm

Sept 13 Nolan's speaker Jamie Beyer

Setp22 Railsback's - (topic-Overwintering plants)

Oct 27 OPEN

Nov Recognition Night/elections