



April 2009

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Family.....\$25.00

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RAFFLES & PROMOTIONS

Carol Krajewski 937-9810

CLUB PURPOSE

Share ideas on building & maintaining ponds & filter systems

CLUB LIBRARY

Mary McKee 876-0210

Pond related books & tapes available for loan to members

PROGRAMS

Guest speakers; Raffle of pond related goods; Auction of pond related goods; Member sharing pond experience

ACTIVITIES

Pond tour; Koi show; Photo contest; Hands on hobby related projects

Wetwork News

A monthly publication of the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club

Greetings Everyone,

Oh, don't they make you feel so guilty? What am I talking about? You know...those beady little eyes peering out of the water. You know; those little rascals with that pathetic look on their faces crying out "it's ok to feed them." They make you feel a little guilty...don't they? Well next time they try that little trick, simply walk over to your thermometer and check the water temperature. If the water is above 50 degrees; then go ahead and give them a snack. Preferably a wheat germ based food. Remember, don't give them a lot. They aren't ready for a full stomach just yet.



Not too long ago some of you had found out that I changed my cell phone #. The new number is 716-633-7663. This was my old business line and I really liked the number, so I had it ported over to my cell phone. On another note: Lin and I are heading south for a few days so we won't be at the next meeting. Not to worry, I left you in good hands. So if you see something silver...ZIPNBYOU...That will be us on our way to warmer waters.

Brace yourselves folks...May is on the way and what a busy month it will be. We'll start out the season with working at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens, draining out the pond and giving it a long overdue cleaning on the 8th. We will also be thinning out the herd there and bringing some of them to the meeting that evening, where we will start our auction season selling some of these fish as well as some you may want to get rid of.

Also at that very same meeting is our yearly photo contest. It never ceases to amaze me the skills our members have when they are out and about snapping off some of those great images. Again we will hold on to them till after the Koi show in August so we can display them to the world. May is also the kickoff for two of our favorite supporters. Hahn's is having their spring opening on May 16th and Windy Acres will have theirs on May 30th. Mark your calendars and make it a point to give them both a visit. Each will have guest speakers from the club, giving tips on the great joy of ponds.

Are you familiar with group buys? I asked Carol our newest board member to start researching the cost of Sodium ThioSulfate. In case you're not familiar with this stuff, it's basically de-chlorinator in its raw form...Crystals. You can either mix it with distilled water or do what I do...just throw a handful into the pond. Hopefully we will have it by the May meeting, so keep your eyes and ears open for when it arrives.

See you in May

Walt

Order Floating Plants Now

By Beverly Wojtaszczyk

Water hyacinths, water lettuce and parrot's feather are available for \$3.00 each. They will be delivered at the June



12 meeting or you may take a nice ride in the country to pick them up after May



15. Sign up sheets will be passed around at the April 10 meeting or call Beverly at Windy Acres at 941-3122 to order."

REFRESHMENTS FOR 2009

January	Bob Colling & Mary Waddington
February	Bev Jarmuz
March	Tracy Prucnal & Sandy Crawford
April	Ann Marshall & Chris Wilkolaski
May	Lin Oldenburg & Carol Krajewski
June	
July	
August	Felicia & Tom Kolacz
September	Jenny Kaeselau & Mary O'Connor
October	Lorri & John Porter
November	
December	Christmas Party

As you can see many of our members have already offered to host a meeting for 2009. Are you on the List? We have **three more months** to fill. Please contact Barb Weber at 688-7924 if you are interested or sign-up at the next meeting.

The club will reimburse you up to **\$45.00** each month for expenses. You can do it alone or with a friend or two. This is always an enjoyable part of the meeting when we are able to visit with each other.

Also, please remember to make a donation when partaking of the refreshments to help the club break even for the evening.

Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be at the home of Walt & Lin Oldenburg on Wednesday April 22 at 7:30pm. They are located at 61 Richfield Rd, Williamsville, 14221. If you are planning on attending or require driving directions you may contact them at 633-7663 or 523-7944.

Speakers at Windy Acres

By Beverly Wojtaszczyk

Windy Acres Greenhouse will be hosting two speakers from the NFKPC on Saturday, May 30 at 2:00. They will be speaking on the topics of different water features for your garden, pond building, maintenance and fish care with question and answer period. There will be sales on watergardening items and other garden items. Refreshments will be served. Please join us for a fun day! Call 941-3122 to reserve a seat.



POND TOUR – July 18, 2009

By Lin Oldenburg

You don't want to miss it and you WANT to show off your pond! Now is the time to sign up to show off your backyard oasis. If you live in Buffalo or areas to the north, including Niagara County its time to make that commitment to show us your pond on July 18.

The morning will begin with a great gathering at a host home where a delicious spread of breakfast morsels and beverages will be provided. We will then head out on our journey. Car pooling is highly recommended as we cover many, many miles (last year about 80), and it is fun to share the drive time with fellow ponders. We will take a break in some restaurant populated area for lunch, and then continue on for the second half of the tour. When the tour is over we will be meeting at another host home for a BBQ and social time.

Its early, but all of our thoughts are toward summer so make sure you add this event to your schedule now so you don't miss it! At the April meeting a sign up sheet will be passed around so you can enter your ponds. We want to see your pond, no matter how large or small. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email at songarden4@gmail.com or see me at a meeting. Start thinking summer – its almost here!

KOI SHOW 2009

By Lin Oldenburg

The first meeting for this years Koi Show was held on March 24 and the turnout was incredible! 13 members crowded into our very tiny living room and began the planning for our show on August 15 and 16. It was great to see new faces and hear new ideas.

For those of you, who were not able to join us, there will be plenty of opportunity to get involved and if you never have been involved with a Koi Show you are missing out on a great time.

If you want to show your koi please contact Walt or myself to make sure your tank is reserved. This year we are making a small change to the fish categories. We used to have several goldfish category's but his year these will be combined to one new category called "Pond Fish – other". Basically this will cover any fish you may have in your pond that is NOT a koi. If you are entering this category please let us know. We will need to evaluate the type and size tank you will need for the show.

Also, we are adding something new this year for our younger members. It is the Koi-Keeper of Tomorrow and more details of how this will work are coming soon.

As always, we will have a large auction of "Pond Related Items" on Sunday August 16th at 1:00pm. We also hope to have some koi from the Kodama Koi Farm in Hawaii to be auctioned at the show.

At our May meeting I will give you many more details of the exciting, new plans for this years show. There is much to do, much to see, and much fun to be had so save the weekend and make sure you volunteer to help out. You won't regret it!



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By Chris Wilkolaski

Don't forget to buy at ticket and "add" to your Pond.

May I say it was a conversation piece at the Pond Tour last year. I heard more than one person say: "I don't believe it till I see it with my own eyes". Well my one Koi obliged and showed off for all to see.

The sphere comes with its own stand. I did add height to it by placing it on an upside down flowerpot. It does not take long to set up, as the video on their website shows. I got into the water and half filled the sphere then set it on its stand. You then stick the PVC pipe that comes with the kit underwater up into the sphere and connect a shop vac to the other end. You vacuum out the air and the water takes its place. You are done.

When I clean mine I use vinegar and a Mr. Clean eraser. You want to be careful not to scratch the globe. It is a great magnifying glass. This allows you to check the physical appearance of your fish.

What is the Pond Squad?

By Walt Oldenburg

When we implemented the Pond Squad Teams, we had in mind that this program would be made available to help those in need who are no longer capable of opening or closing their ponds. In some instances we would reach out to help them repair leaks or trouble shoot their setups. There have been times when a club member notices their fish are sick or dying. We have at times made arrangements to go out and diagnose or help resolve those sick little fellows.

Occasionally our club is solicited by an organization to build or help design a pond for their specific purpose. This falls under the special category of "Club Projects". We don't get them often, but when we do I'm proud how the Club members pull together as a team. I mention this because the Pond Squad wasn't really assembled to build ponds. So if you get the notion and you would like to be part of the team of assisting others; contact Chris or Dennis Wilkolaski at 662-9429.

Sunshine Club

By Lorri Porter

Trisha Buchwald is recuperating from some health scares in the past few months. We wish her continued good health.

If you are aware of a member experiencing a "Life Event" in their family such as weddings, birth announcements, illness, surgery or death, please contact me at 694-6652 with the details.

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 11-8
Sat. 10-8 pm, Sun. 12-4:30

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Just Pondering . . .

By Lin Oldenburg

. . . The Good and the bad about Chlorine. Chlorine has long been added to our municipal water. When chlorine is added to water it kills bacteria, viruses and many other microorganisms that cause disease. That's the good!

Unfortunately for all that necessary good, there are some drawbacks to its use. One of the most obvious is the odor and taste. I can't live without the filter on my tap. Although chlorine is said to be safe for human consumption, water tastes oh so much better when you remove it before drinking.

Chlorine also kills fish! And it kills in very small concentrations. Chlorine is usually added to municipal water at a concentration of 0.5 to 3.0 ppm (parts per million). Although this seems to be such a small amount, fish are very sensitive to chlorine and concentrations of as little as 0.05ppm are deadly. Believe it or not, larger fish are far more sensitive than smaller fish and are affected by smaller concentrations.

Chlorine not only affects the gills of the fish but it also kills the good nitrifying bacteria in the bio-filter. This causes spikes of ammonia and nitrite together in your pond...Now combine that with the initial damage done to the fish after the introduction of chlorine; soon results in the death of the fish in 3-5 days.

So how do you remove chlorine from water when adding it to your pond or fish tank? Chlorine dissipates into air relatively easily. By simply spraying the tap water into the pond about half of the chlorine will have dissipated into the air. Therefore never stick the end of the hose into the water when adding chlorinated water to

a pond or aquarium. The problem with this is that you are still left with chlorine in your water. And even at that small amount it is very harmful!

A de-chlorinator is needed to make sure that your water is completely safe for your fish. There are many types and most are pretty pricey. One that is probably the most effective and inexpensive to use is Sodium Thiosulfate (ST) crystals.

The Officers and Board decided at our April meeting to do a bulk purchase of ST which will be made available to all club members for a very small cost. Following is a basic recipe for mixing and using ST. We hope you will all take advantage of this great cost saving, fish saving product when it is available, which should be very shortly.

To make and use de-chlor:

Measure 125 grams (4.4 ounces) of ST and place it in a 1 quart plastic container or, measure 500 grams (17.6 ounces) of ST into a 1 gallon plastic container. Add distilled or tap water to fill the container (1 quart or 1 gallon). Mix the crystals into the water; they should readily dissolve. Use one liquid ounce of the de-chlor for each 295 gallons of tap water to be de-chlorinated

Your quart of de-chlorinator should handle ~ 9,463 gallons of tap water. A gallon of the de-chlorinator should handle ~37,850 gallons of tap water. Store any unused ST crystals or de-chlorinator solution in a cool dark spot. Neither the crystals nor solution needs refrigeration. The shelf life of the crystals is many years long. Naturally keep the ST crystals and de-chlorinator solution out of the reach of children and dry pets.

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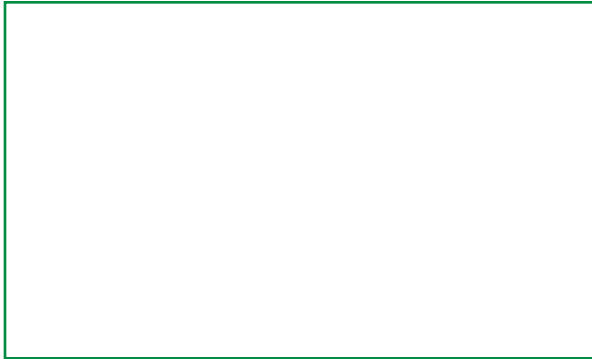
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Niagara Frontier Koi & Pond Club
23 Crystal Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14220



Up-Coming Events

- April 10** Greg Young - Fundamentals or Ponding - Part 2
- May 8** **Photo Contest** - photos can not be larger than 4x6 and must have a return address label on the reverse to be judged. We will also have a small auction including fish.
- June 12** Mega Auction

Club Project Plants will be coming soon. Come to the April Meeting for more info on the type of plants and how to order.

In this issue:	Page
Add A Sphere	4
Advertising Prices	5
Board Meeting	2
Just Pondering	6
Koi Show	3
Order Floating Plants	2
Pond Squad	4
Pond Tour	3
Refreshments	2
Speakers at Windy Acres	2
Spring to Our Sponsors	5
Sunshine Club	5
Up-Coming Events	8