



October 2009

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Individual.....\$20.00  
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**POND SQUAD**

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**RAFFLES & PROMOTIONS**

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**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

Good news everyone,

I think I've found a way to beat the droughts due to Global Warming. Every time I go to build a pond...it rains and the temperatures seem to drop. This year is no exception. Our old pond is now demolished and leveled out; so we began digging our new pond. Jerry Cyrek from Cloverbank Construction reminded me of a master surgeon the way he handled his Digger. He made it look so effortless.

We have the forms and re-bar in place and scheduled Lakeside Concrete to make a visit this past Saturday. It took 3 and a half yards of concrete to fill the forms and the Filter pit. Soon Jerry will teach me how to mortar in concrete block for a 4' wall that will encompass the entire perimeter.

Now; this is where I might sound like an old nagging hen. It's also the time we have to give some serious consideration for prepping our ponds for the winter season. Lin sent me a link to an article that says it all. Mary got in touch with them and got permission to reprint it in this month's Newsletter. Be sure to read the article and take action to protect your investment.

I know it's early, but Elections will soon be upon us. It's never too early to start thinking about being a part of the leadership team that keeps this club running smoothly. Never underestimate your abilities. You might surprise yourself.

If you missed last month's meeting at our new location, you missed one of the most concise presentations I've ever seen. Thanks Henk for sharing your project with us. Having our first meeting in Hamburg was like moving into our new home. With some adjustment it worked out pretty good. Join us in October when Joel from the SPCA will give a presentation of some of the things they do with animal rescue. He will also be bringing some Raptors so you might want to bring your kids or grandchildren.

This year our membership has reached or tied an all time high and we owe it all to you. This is the best group of people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. I've been proud of how everyone pulls together on projects and events, not to mention their willingness to share their knowledge in ponding and maintenance. Good job everyone!

Best regards,

*Walt*



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## 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	Bev Jarmuz
<b>July</b>	<b>Pot Luck - bring a dish to pass. The July Meeting is at 61 Richfield Rd, Williamsville</b>
August	Felicia & Tom Kolacz
September	Lorri & John Porter
October	Jenny Kaeselau & Mary O'Connor
<b>November</b>	
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 **one more month** 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.

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## Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be at the home of John & Lorrie Porter on October 28 at 7pm. They are located at 1312 Tanglewood Dr, North Tonawanda. If you are planning on attending or require driving directions you may contact them at 694-6652.

# Reinstein Woods Fall Festival

By Mary O'Connor

While Lin and Walt were busy with their move, old pond demolition, and building their new pond, Nancy Wojnowski organized the group display at the Reinstein Woods Fall Festival. She was assisted by Bev & Nate Jarmuz, Carol Krajewski, Chris & Dennis Wilkolaski, Mary O'Connor, and Allyson Kaeselau. Roy Seiders was there, but he was busy helping out the group from Reinstein Woods.

If you have never been to the Fall Festival you missed a great treat. It is all about education and fun for kids, and more than one adult learned something about our environment and the critters in it. Some of the activities included a practice course for snow shoeing, exploring the wildlife in the ponds with boots and nets, face painting, and making recyclable head gear and walking sticks. There were turtles, tortoises, snakes, frogs, and tarantulas to see and pet. There was also a demonstration put on by the DEC on the "Duties of a Detector Dog", these are German Shepherds that along with their human partners patrol the State Parks.



Every group that had a booth at the festival had something for the children to do. At our booth there were ornaments to paint and fish to color. We also distributed many copies of the newsletter and information on ponds, fish food, feeding times and temperatures, and how to deter herons. Our youngest member also had hand-outs on how to de-skunk your dog. She was dressed up as a skunk of course.



We were also visited by several of our members and their families that came to enjoy a marvelous Fall day in the woods. If you missed it this year you may want to mark your calendar for next September and check the Reinstein Woods website at [www.dec.ny.gov/education/1837.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1837.html)

# JUST PONDERING. . . .

By Lin Oldenburg

A lot of people ask me what they should do with their Umbrella Palms during the winter. They grow so beautiful over the summer and it is such a shame to let these mild weather tropicals die as the season in Buffalo grows cold. Granted, we can pick up a new one each season at very reasonable cost, and they grow so quickly that most seasons I don't want to bother with trying to save my beauties. Yet the plant can thrive and add a touch of tropical to your home over the long, cold winter.

If you want to take a stab at saving your Umbrella Palm (which is really not a palm, it's actually a member of the papyrus family) it's pretty simple. Pull it out of your pond; remove all the roots that have grown out of the pot, clean off the pot, cut off all dead leaves and stems. You can use beautiful ceramic pots or simply put it in a large plastic bucket and fill the container with water. Keep the plant in a bright, warm area and make sure the water doesn't completely evaporate. With very little care your plant should continue to grow until spring when it is warm enough to put it back in the pond. The key is to remember these plants are tropicals and need warmth, light and humidity.

Here's another option if you don't want to bring the big plant in but would like to save a bit of your plant. You can actually propagate new plants by cuttings. Propagating umbrella palms is easy. Collect mature leaf heads. Trim them down to an inch or so all the way around leaving a small portion of the stem intact, 1/2-1 inch. After manicuring the parasol into this form, place it into a small pot filled with potting soil and place it in a deep tray. Fill the tray with water to just below the soil line, and keep it at 70-75 F (21-24 C). This is a good way to keep a smaller, easy to manage plant going over the winter and it will be ready for your pond in late spring.



What a nice way to keep your ponding experience going on through the long, cold winter.

Happy Ponding . . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

Reprinted from [koimarket.com](http://koimarket.com) with permission of Shawn Rosen

## Winterization Tips

By Shawn Rosen of Koi Market

Koi and Goldfish are very hardy; they can survive water temperatures as low as 0 degrees C, which means they can survive in the pond over the winter as long as it doesn't freeze solid. To help ensure healthy fish in the spring, follow these steps:

**1. KOI FEEDING:** As the temperatures drop below 70 degrees F, reduce the amount of food you feed your fish as well as gradually switching them to a lower protein feed so that by the time temperatures drop below 60 degrees F, they are being fed a wheat-germ based food exclusively. Use foods such as [Blackwater Creek Cool Season](#), [Chengro Spring and Fall Wheat Germ](#), [Hikari Wheat Germ](#), [Microbe Lift Legacy Cold Weather](#). At temperatures below 50 degrees F, the bacteria in their digestive tract can no longer effectively process

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## Sunshine Club

By Lorri Porter

Congratulations to Bev & Nate Jarmuz on the birth of a grandson.


Mary McKee took a terrible fall on vacation and then had some planned foot surgery on her return to Buffalo.

Don Butterworth is continuing with his treatment and seemed to be his old self when he was seen at a recent Bonsai Club Meeting.

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.  
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food. At this point, some experts state that feeding should be stopped entirely until temperatures climb back above 50 degrees F. If you live in a climate where winter temperatures stay below 50 degrees F for longer than 10-12 weeks, it may be best to house your fish indoors over winter.

**2. POND NETTING:** Before the leaves start to fall, it's important to add a leaf net. Before putting on, make sure all debris is removed from the pond. Use the tightest weave net you can find, the less holes, the less debris that can get through. Like [KW Premium Netting](#), 1/8" tight weave tear resistant polyethylene fiber. It has metal grommets every 2 feet. And a thin sewn edge to hold the net place. There are many other choices for pond netting including [EasyPro Pond Netting](#), [Nycon Pond Netting](#) and [Nycon Big Top Pond Covers](#).

**3. BENEFICIAL BACTERIA:** Add [Michrobe Lift Autumn Prep](#) or [Strata Autumn Leaves Digester](#), they contain beneficial bacteria and enzymes to break down any residual sludge and organic matter and sustain biological activity in the cold water through the winter to help maintain good water quality and keep your fish healthy until spring.

**4. POND AERATION AND DE-ICER's:** It is very, very important to maintain a hole in the ice to allow oxygen into the pond and noxious gasses out of the pond. This can be done using a pond [De-Icer](#) or [Air pump/Aerator](#). Koi Market carries the top of the line Aeration units like [Hakko](#), [Hiblow](#) and [Evolution Aqua](#), all with Free Shipping. Checkout the [Hakko Combo Deal](#) as well.

**5. POND HEATERS:** Another option is to heat the entire pond, Koi are very hardy and can often survive for years in poor conditions. However, young small and weak fish can perish in the Spring as a direct result of a lengthy exposure to frigid water temperatures. Ultimately, a shorter period of dormancy (2-3 months maximum) and less frigid water temperatures (8-12 Celsius) are recommended. This will reset a Koi's biological clock and perhaps increase its life span as opposed to heating year round. Koi Market currently sells the two top Inline Pond Heaters, [Aqualogic](#) and [Thermakoi](#). Koi Market will also be carrying a new Radiant Heat heater from one of the largest brands in Koi Products.

**6. ADDING SALT:** Adding Pond Salt is also beneficial to fish. A concentration between 0.1 and 0.3% is ideal (approximately 1 lb to 3 lb of salt per 100 gallons of pond water.) The salt concentration can be easily measured using a PondCare Salt Level Test Kit. See our "Salt in the Pond" page for more information.

Water temperature guide for winterizing	
70°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divide and repot plants</li> <li>• 50% water change</li> <li>• Add wheat germ to diet</li> </ul>
60°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change food to wheat germ</li> <li>• Move tropical plants inside</li> <li>• Place net over pond when leaves start to fall</li> </ul>
50°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop feeding fish</li> </ul>
45°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trim remaining plants and place on bottom of pond</li> </ul>
40°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move or remove pump and filters</li> <li>• Add pond heater</li> </ul>

### Some of the Benefits of Pond Heating:

**Fish Health and Growth!** If you have any plans to grow jumbo Koi, then heating is essential. There also comes a point in time when it becomes foolish not to heat. You've invested a lot of time and money accumulating your Koi collection and it has likely appreciated in value. It seems short sighted not to set up a heating system to eliminate the real danger to our fish of prolonged exposure to cold water.

**Mature Filter!** Your filter system can be operated year round and you will avoid the lengthy Spring seeding process. Better water quality is the result.

**Personal Enjoyment!** You will enjoy your fish for a much longer season. In a heated pond, the fish will be much more active.

### POND PREPARATION FOR PLANTS

**1. HARDY WATER LILIES:** Hardy Water Lilies are easily wintered, just cut back the yellowing leaves and submerge the lilies to a depth where they will not freeze, usually 2 feet is sufficient. Lotus can be wintered in the same manner as water lilies. Lotus will survive the winter as long as the tubers do not freeze solid.

**2. HARDY MARGINAL PLANTS:** Hardy Marginal Plants can survive even if they freeze solid, as long as they stay in the pond. These plants include irises, sweet flag, rushes, reeds and horsetails. They can be submerged to deeper depths, but they will also do well if left near the surface. Marginally Hardy Plants can survive the winter cold, but will die if their crown becomes frozen. These plants include: pickerael plant, hardy water canna, parrot feather, water clover, water parsley, and cardinal flower. To winter these plants submerge them below the ice line.

**3. TROPICAL PLANTS:** Tropical Plants will not survive the winter outdoors. But many of these plants will grow easily in the house if brought inside before the first frost, placed in a container of water and given plenty of light. Plants such as Umbrella palm, papyrus, cannas, taro, bog lily, etc. can be brought inside and make great house plants.

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



## Up-Coming Events

- October 9 Joel from the SPCA Wildlife Division and some special guests. Bring the kids!
- November 13 Kim from Land Masters - Hardscapes
- December 11 Christmas Party

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