

August 2011

Beneath The Surface EIPS Newsletter

President
Jeff Garner

Vice
President
Tom Coyle

Secretary
Kathi Albrecht

Treasurer
Jackie Allsup

Our website

www.eips.org

Well here is my first attempt....

As the above statement says, this is my first attempt at publishing the newsletter. Monica and Maria have done it the last few years and I am going to attempt to take it over for at least the rest of the year. I can never do the job they did with it and I am very grateful they have given me some pointers and some resources to try this. Josh is our publisher and web master and he is going to

help me too. So basically I am asking all of you to "bear with me" and together we can all hope this turns out not to horribly bad.

I would first like to say that as the new editor I would like to maybe change this newsletter up a tad and make it more of a resource type newsletter for our membership. Meaning I would like you

all to have input and submit articles that you might find interesting to others. Give me stories about your pond, fish, plants etc

. If some of you even want to go a step further and be on the "staff" of the newsletter, well just send me and email or call me and we can get that going.

This will be and should be a forum for all to use and contribute too.

Recent meetings and minutes:

E.I.P.S. Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 23, 2011

President Jeff Garner called the Saturday, July 23rd meeting to order at the home of Jackie and Harry Allsup. The dinner was provided by Jackie and Harry who not only provided wonderful food but provided a covered shelter with lots of places to sit and enjoy conversation.

Jackie and Harry have worked hard this year on their new above ground pond and it showed. It was fabulous and I'm sure others are now planning how they can incorporate some of Jackie and Harry's ideas into their landscape.

There were over 70 attendees at the bar-b-que and meeting. This included the St. Louis club that visited Iowa on a bus trip that weekend and

made Saturday night part of their agenda. Also in attendance were new members who had joined our membership from the pond tour weekend.

Treasurer Report:

Jackie Allsup presented a Treasurer's Report. Jackie reported as of July 21, 2011, a balance of \$249.62 in checking and \$4,320.12 in savings for a total in the bank of \$4,569.74.

Old Business

Pre-Pond Tour for Members:

The Pre-Pond Tour was held at the home of Sharon and Doug Knutson beginning on Saturday, June 25th. We toured four of the Cedar Rapids ponds and return back to the Knutson's where delicious "Aunt Betty's Tacos" were served. The

committee used this time to pass out the necessary materials for the pond tour participants. Thanks to Sharon and Doug for hosting this event that allowed those with ponds on the tour to get a look at some of the other ponds on the tour.

Pond Tour:

Another successful year for the Pond Tour!

Thanks to all who participated in any way to this again very successful event for our organization.

At the end of the very hot and humid day, Jeff and Kerry hosted a celebration of the Pond Tour. It was a great time to relax and share the day's events with friends. Thanks again to all that attended and brought food to share.



"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

The Post Tour Committee met at Ed and Connie Railsback's, July 22, for their final post event review. The committee captured all the Pros and Cons of the 2011 event and made suggestions for ways to make the 2012 event even better. The committee decided that the advertising, both

print and computer/online, were done to a very a successful degree this year and that using family members and friends as volunteers this year was a great idea. The committee felt if opened up our event to many more people. The committee also decided that while the number of ponds were

large this year, it did seem to really create interest over a greater area.

The cons of the event were lack of true maps and of course the heat, one we can work on the other we can just hope for the best and realized, at least it did not rain.

July 23rd Meeting Allsup's

July 23rd had our EIPS members meeting at Jackie and Harry Allsup's house for a BBQ and hoot-n-nanny with the St Louis Water Gardner's.

Jackie shared with us how to safely put your fish to

sleep so that you can examine or "work on" your fish to make them better. It is important not to remove the fish's slime coating and to avoid germs by wearing gloves when handling your fish. This not only protects

you, but the fish from you as well. Jackie always makes it so easy to understand not only why you need to care for your fish but the "how" in lay terms. Thanks Jackie!

The St. Louis club blessed us with their willingness to share their personal experiences and participate in our get together. Rick Jokerst presented "Foam Fractionators: What they are and Why they are used". He had a great power point presentation and answered questions following his presentation. Thanks for sharing this valuable information with our club!

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Railsback, backup
for Kathi Albrecht,
Secretary

PERSONAL NOTE FROM PRESIDENT

Thank you Jackie and Harry for hosting that event. It was tons of fun and I know many people had a great time and the St Louis group is a good fun mix of individuals. Thank you from me and the EIPS members.

Pond Showcase

I asked members to write something about their ponds and our hobby for the newsletter. The following is from member Donovan Burke.

"While I've been working outside the last several days in this heat I started wondering why I was doing such a thing. I am sure many have asked that crazy question in this hobby. Needless to say my wife Linda thinks I'm nuts also.

It all started when I was about 5 years old. I was at my uncle's photography studio when I saw an aquarium and asked about it.

My uncle then proceeded to show me his basement which was below his studio and lo and behold there we 100 aquariums. That's when this hobby began.

While I was growing up in my early years and then my teen years I was building water tanks out of anything from old wash tubs to old refrigerators. I was building these indoors and then put them in the ground and started raising goldfish.

I went into the service for the next three years. While in the service I noticed that in the Asian cultures there were different styles of fish

keeping. I also took a look at the culture of S.E. Asia and really began to like and admire the style.

After I came home from the service I dabbled in our fish hobby again. I met and married Linda and brought her into this life of koi and ponds. She looked at me through her eyes and I could see her trying to figure this fish world out that had me so intrigued. We went to California several times in our lives and I noticed the world of Koi and all of the aspects of it.

I really admired the koi at Knott Berry farm & Japanese Deer Farm.

"This is to see if anyone is reading, What number was this year's pond tour 13, 11, or 15th?"

August Birthdays
 Herman Michel 5
 Linda Bruke 7
 Clarence Serbousek 21
 Lavonne Isard 23
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY

I knew that I had to have koi in my ponds. I built several ponds over the years of our marriage. Each time when I built one, going bigger and bigger of course. I built my largest pond to date in 2002 and continued that pond into 2003. It has 5400 gallons and is 5 foot deep and 12 foot by 12 foot in width and length. I built it with an overall Asian theme.

In 2007 I built my second pond 13 foot in diameter with a 3 foot depth and it has 1000 gallons. I built a stream from my larger first pond to the smaller pond so it looks like they are connected. It also has an Asian theme. I have 24 Koi in the larger pond and none in the small pond. The fish must have been happy for they got so large that I had to give some away to a friend of

mine in Cedar Falls who had a larger pond of 13,000 gallons. They have a very happy home and good people to take care of them.

I also have fountains all over the place and around both ponds and I am still trying to get them all up and going as of this date."

Business Partner Prairie Creek

Prairie Creek Nursery
 EIPS member since 2000

Founded in 1985, by Kevin & Shirley Bailey. Their son, Bryce also works for the business. PCN is a full service landscape company specializing in the creation of unique garden environments with an emphasis in water. PCN is one of the most experienced pond builders in eastern Iowa.

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 PCN has one of the largest selections of pond supplies in

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Kevin or Shirley Bailey
 4100 Bowling St SW
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
 Phone 319/365-1406 Fax
 319/861-3406
 Email

prairiecreeknursery@hotmail.com

Next Meeting Details

August 11th Thursday
 LouAnn & Larry Jaynes

plants with informal discussion to follow.

Ellen Skripsky

3350 24th Ave., Marion
 373-11348
 Social Time: 5:30 *
 Dinner: 6:15

We'll furnish the meat, drinks and tablewear
 Please bring a dish to share and your lawnchairs

September 24th Saturday
 Pat & Wayne Beuter

Come help us break-in our gazebo
 Hawaiian wear encouraged

August 27th Saturday
 Linda & Donovan Burke
 Jamie Beyer

October 22nd Saturday
 Paul and Gerry Dickerson

Program: Come and hear Rose Milden share her knowledge about water

September 8th Thursday
 Ed & Connie Railsback

November
 Recognition Night. TBD

Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.



The following is an article I found online about fall prep. It is from www.pondtrademag.com

Fall prep of ponds.

Understanding how to transition the pond through the seasons is very important for pondkeeper customers to understand. With the right techniques and products, it can be done smoothly and seamlessly. Follow the guidelines below to better understand the process.

Fall Feeding – Planning Ahead

In most parts of North America, water temperatures start to dip in early fall (September/October). Make sure your pondkeepers have a thermometer so they can monitor the water temperature as the fall weather progresses. Wheat-germ-based food is ideal to transition fish in (and out) of winter because it is highly digestible at low temperatures. This is especially important because in the colder months, fishes' metabolism and the pond's ammonia-reducing biological activity are greatly diminished.

Scoop up fall leaves from the surface with a fine net. Your pondkeepers may want to pump some of the water out of the pond to expose the planting shelves around the pond periphery. This will make it easier to hand remove leaves that have adhered themselves to the pond edges and shelves. Using a hose nozzle, blast off the accumulated debris and sludge around the pond shelves and edges, and then remove remaining debris with a net or pond vacuum. When replacing the water after cleaning, remind customers to add a water conditioner to remove harmful contaminants like chlorine, chloramines and heavy metals.

Once the pond is clean, this is a good time to add a pond net if there are trees nearby to protect it from falling and blowing debris. Advise customers to suspend it at least 18" above the surface. Securely fasten the net around the edges to prevent leaves from finding their way underneath it. However, if your pond owner has frog inhabitants, it is helpful to leave a small opening or two to provide them access to and from the pond. Avoid letting the net sag into the water. Not only will it create a hazard for your fish, but leaves will collect in the submerged area and decay.

Don't forget the plants...

Plant life can also be a source of debris. As marginal and deep-water aquatic plants begin to die back, prune dead stems and leaves to prevent decay in the water during the winter.

In late fall, recommend removing non-hardy aquatic plants like Water Hyacinths or tropical lilies from the water. Customers can store their plants in warm, frost-free conditions, like indoors, until next year.

For marginal plants in baskets around the perimeter of the pond, move them to deeper water to prevent them from freezing in pond ice. Hardy water lilies can be left in deep end of the pond over the winter. Bog plants can be insulated with straw or a commercial insulating material.

PO Box 148
206 N 3rd St
Quasqueton, IA
52326

ABOUT US:

Our Mission Statement

We are committed to providing a social atmosphere for members dedicated to sharing and learning the pleasure of water gardening. We are a

non-profit organization. Membership of this association shall be open to any individual without regard to race, creed, national origin or Sex, who shall render membership dues as specified in the

governing documents

We're on the Web!

See us at:

WWW.EIPS.ORG

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