

BENEATH THE SURFACE

NEWSLETTER FOR EIPS MEMBERS

January/February 2012

FROM THE EDITOR



Hello EIPS Members, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and your ponds surviving the winter. I am quite happy that this has been one of the warmest winters on record as I am sure most of our fish are too.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well there is so much to catch up so let's just dive right in. First of all our last meeting was held in November and new officers were elected for the 2012 year.

President Jeff Garner

Vice President Bob Greers

Treasurer Jackie Allsup

Secretary, this position was not claimed by anyone so it was decided that it would be a "floating" position and we will hopefully have members take notes at meetings.

In December our club had a Holiday Party at Kerry Shaner's and Jeff Garner's home. It was a very nice event and thank you to all that attended and brought out their ugly ornaments. Lord there was some ugly ones.

January had no meetings.

That brings us to February and some things for our club need to be looked at and meetings need places and committees need members.

BELOW ARE TENTATIVE MEETING DATES. THESE DATES NEED SOME MEMBERS TO HOST. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT EMAIL ME (eipspres2011@yahoo.com) or Jackie (cedarserviceja@aol.com) if you interested in hosting a meeting. It would be nice to have some new members to volunteer so we can see your ponds.

Meetings:

Feb 25 Kerry Shaner and Jeff Garner 6:00 pm Potluck

March 24

April 12 & 28

May 10 & 26 (Memorial weekend)

June 14 & 30 Pre Pond Tour

July 8 POND TOUR

July 28-29 St. Louis Tour.

Aug 9 & 25

Sept 13 & 22

Oct. 27

Nov Recognition meeting

COMMITTEES

WE have a few committees that will need members. Below are a few of them and we will be discussing them at the Meeting February 25th. Please think about volunteering for some committees. We need members to help make these committees viable and positive for our club.

Speaker Committee,
Pond Tour Committee,
Recognition Committee,
Door Prize Committee.

THIS YEAR WE WILL BE LOOKING TO ADD A ST LOUIS BUS TRIP PLANNING COMMITTEE.

NEXT MEETING DETAILS FEBRUARY 25TH

First meeting of the year will be at Kerry Shaner's and Jeff Garner's home on Saturday February 25th at 6:00pm and will be a pot luck. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

We will be discussing the years coming events, meeting dates, speaker ideas and two trips that the club has shown some interest in. In May Mike Swanson of Koi Acres has asked our club and Northern Iowa Pond Society if we would have interest in attending another open house weekend. We will be discussing this.

In July there has been some interest in a bus trip to our friends in St Louis and we will need some people to be on that planning committee.

Please try to RSVP to me if you can attend our February meeting. Hope to see you all there.

Internet Article on Spring Cleaning.

Koi Pond Spring Cleaning

After the winter season, it is time for some spring cleaning action to be put in place. Firstly, make sure that all your equipments, pumps and filters are in working condition. If they are not, get them changed immediately or else your Koi might be faced with undesirable consequences.

Once you have finished checking them, it is time to start checking on the quality of the water. Since these fishes live in water, it is our responsibility to make sure that the quality of the water is top-grade. No one would like to live in a dirty place, would you? So, starting off with the water quality check would be a wise thing to do. Each and every pond owner or fish breeder should have their own test kit. This is because there might be some problems with the water that only a test kit can show.

Run some test on your water (kh, ph, gh, nitrite, ammonia and salinity; that is if you happen to have added salt in your pond). If any of the readings are incorrect and you do not know how to make it right, there are a few solutions to help you solve them.

If there are signs of a Nitrite build-up in your pond, there are several steps which you can follow to make it right again. Change part of your pond water to rid it of excess Nitrates. Remember to add some aquarium salt into the pond water after you have changed it. Also, clean your filters in water that has aquarium salt added to it. It is

good to leave some of the good bacteria untouched in order for it to fight the bad bacteria that have built up during the winter season.

If the test shows that your pond water has insufficient minerals, it might be due to the fact that the water being in an enclosed area for a long time would make it lose its minerals. To address this problem, you can add a clay substrate to your water. This will help revitalize the water and also bring the mineral count in the water back to its normal state. Changing the water partially during summer would also help in replacing lost minerals.

Having a low oxygen rate in the pond water is something which every fish breeder should avoid, especially Koi breeders; if you want to breed good quality Koi, you should watch out for this problem. When the temperature starts rising during spring, organisms in your pond will start to metabolize at a faster speed. And because of this, organisms will require more oxygen. It is extremely important to keep your pond from having insufficient oxygen as it will have negative effect for both the fishes and the plants. Constantly aerate your pond to sustain fish and plant life, doing this will also encourage the good bacteria to consume debris and sludge in your pond. Though there are many aeration devices in the market, the best ones are those that are able to aerate the bottom of your pond.

Growth of algae in a pond is not uncommon. Many breeders have trouble preventing algae from growing or cleaning them up. There are several factors that contribute to the growth of algae which include excessive sunlight, overfeeding of your fish and not clearing the debris from the filter or at the bottom of the pond. If your pond is in a location where it receives excessive amount of sunlight, try adding some plants in the pond to reduce the amount of sunlight received by your pond. If overfeeding is a problem, try to reduce the amount of food given or make sure that it is consumed within five minutes.

It is of extreme importance to clean the filter and vacuum the bottom of your pond. This is because debris might get too much and clog your filter, making it unable to function well. When this happens, the good bacteria will also stop working allowing the bad bacteria to grow rapidly. When too much bad bacteria are present, algae growth is encouraged. I would discourage the use of algaecides since UV sterilizers have proven to be a better way of getting rid of algae. Recent studies have also shown that barley straw can help to destroy algae.

It is extremely important for you to clean your pond once in a while to allow your Koi and fishes to live in a nice environment, hence allowing you to produce great quality Koi and fishes.

Hope to see you all on the 25th. Jeff