

**EASTERN IOWA
POND SOCIETY,
INC**

Visit us at www.eips.org

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Beneath The Surface

A Compendium of Facts, Fancy, Tidbits, Tips

January, 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Help the club out, don't let the club get trapped in a rut like this poor little frog.

What's in store for us in the new year? I know more of our members will be joining their ponding friends on all the different committee's. You, members, have so many good ideas. Don't keep them a secret, let us know. If you have a little stage fright presenting them, send them to me and I'll present it for you. To start you off I'll list some ideas I have and you add to the list, here we go....



Road Trips

Workshop: making stepping stones, table top water fountains, fairy gardens,

Barbeque Night /potluck strictly social

Programs, Koi Handling, How to purchase/select Koi, Easing into spring by having you bring your pond water to test and go over results

You let us know your ideas or what you would like to see this year.

Monica/Chairperson Programs and Community Service
mespringcove@aol.com



Eastern Iowa Pond Society is now on Facebook

Join y our fellow members on facebook.
It's another great way to connect.



“Ponding in the Wintertime”

Ponds are covered in ice and snow. I have open areas in both pond's. In my 5400 gal pond I've 9" air rubber bladder Alita linear air pump AL40 raised off the bottom of the pond 2' to keep as much warm on the bottom as possible. Plus I have my filter waterfall running. 1000 gal pond I have a AL6A Alita liner air pump going a well with two air stones. I have now heaters running. water sitting at between 32 to 36 degrees. Waterfalls and stream running in that pond also. No water changes yet that's on schedule today. With our apt building plowing snow has been a major project. I've three parking lots and side-walks to keep clean.

Donovan & Linda Burke



The pictures were taken on Christmas Eve. So far we have not lost any koi.

Every time I check the skimmer my heart stops in anticipation of seeing a koi caught in the basket dying like last winter. I have an aerator running along with the waterfalls. The Koi count is way down due to the loss I had during last winter and into the spring. Could have been Mother Nature telling me I was overstocked or that I should have been testing and doing water changes.

On Christmas day Santa came to give the koi their present. Two elf's equipped with a sump pump and hose to do aa water change “Yahoo”

Monica & Gil Morley and Elena Murillo

P.S. 1/14/10 one of my koi looks a bit sick. I can see his body streaked with red and one of his eyes looks bad. Nothing to put your hobby to the test but to go thru our winters.

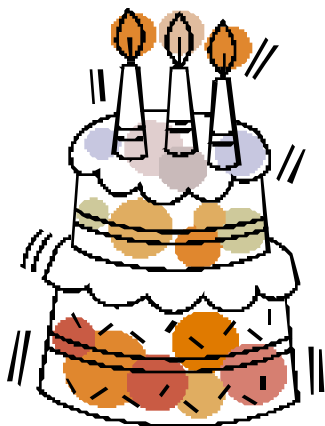


What beautiful photos taken on a frosty morning out in the country.

Photos taken by Josh Spece
owner of
“In The Country Garden and Gifts”
Independence IA



January Birthdays



Jo Hunerdosse
Janice Bell
Kathi Albrecht

13th
15th
26th

New Hosta Treasures

By Josh Spece

Prowling the internet and catalogs for the latest and greatest hostas is like hunting for a treasure...a treasure to grow in your garden! You may not know what the treasure looks like, but you'll definitely know it when you see it. Spring seems like a long way off, but here are four new hostas that are sure to be treasures!

Hosta 'Rhino Hide' ^{PPAF} will be the most sought after hosta in 2010. It has been the desire of every hosta-holic who laid eyes upon it, since photos made their way onto the internet several years ago. The cupped leaves are dimpled and emerge solid blue in the spring, but an irregular golden flare soon develops through the center of the leaves. True to its name, the leaf substance surpasses all other hostas. Slugs will be biting off more than they can chew, if they try to eat this hosta! 'Rhino Hide' ^{PPAF} forms a medium sized, upright mound about 20" tall and 30" across. White flowers are held just above the foliage in early summer. This is one of the most beautiful and exciting hostas to come along in some time!



Hosta 'Rhino Hide' ^{PPAF}
Photo courtesy of Don Rawson

Hosta 'Curly Fries' is a plant I have been lusting after since I first laid eyes on it at the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Davenport, Iowa in 2007! It was the talk of the convention, where it won Best of Show in the Seedling and Sport Competition. It also swept the competition into the compost pile the following year in St. Louis at the National Hosta Convention. The exceptionally long, narrow leaves have incredibly ruffled edges. The leaves emerge chartreuse in the spring, but quickly brighten to gold and finally turn creamy yellow if it is situated in bright light. Superb substance gives this plant unheard of durability among small hostas. Hosta 'Curly Fries' forms a small mound about 6" tall and 16" across. Top this off with red stems of lavender flowers in mid summer and you have one hot hosta!



Hosta 'Curly Fries'



Hosta 'Brutus' is another aptly named hosta. Broad leaves are nicely ruffled around the edge, while the interior of the leaf is prominently veined and puckered. Hosta 'Brutus' will hold its ground with a menacing, upright mound 36" tall and over 5 feet across! Tall scapes hold purple flowers in mid summer.

Hosta 'Brutus'
Photo courtesy of Bev Stegeman

Hosta 'Tropical Storm' ^{PPAF} is the reverse sport of 'Rainforest Sunrise' and is destined to be just as popular as its parent. Rounded, green leaves of excellent substance are cupped and become heavily pebbled at maturity. A unique combination of traits for a small plant. Hosta 'Tropical Storm' forms a vigorous growing mound about 10" tall and 18" across and blooms with lavender flowers in early summer.



Hosta 'Tropical Storm' ^{PPAF}
Photo courtesy of Walter's Gardens

**Winter's Effect
On Koi, Goldfish, and Ponds
Presented By:
Richard E. Carlson**

Water Quality

One of the major points we need to make to pond owners is to check water quality over the winter months routinely as this can tell them how the pond is doing and what needs to be done to head off or fix problems. This should happen whether the filter is running or not. Here are some key points to

water quality in winter:

1. Expect levels of ammonia in the water. Even though the fish are not eating, ammonia is being produced by respiration and with no biological activity to speak of (unless the filters are running), ammonia will accumulate. However, the cold water makes it less toxic and almost harmless during the winter.
2. Expect low levels of nitrites. Low levels of nitrites will not adversely affect the fish due to low uptake potential. However, if there is concern, raising the salt level to .08 to .1% will protect the fish and not affect the water temperature.
3. Test for KH levels routinely. Photosynthesis and other biologic activity in the pond are depleting the KH levels continually and as such, they will need to be replenished during the winter months.
4. Test the pH often, getting both early morning and late afternoon readings for comparison. The goal is hold the pH stable at whatever level is natural for the pond (assuming the KH levels are correct).
5. ORP readings can quickly tell us the overall condition of the pond and from those readings we can react accordingly, including water changes.
6. Do not be afraid to change water in the dead of winter. Remember that significant evaporation has occurred (especially if there is an ice layer) and the water levels need to be replenished and refreshed. Add the water more slowly than usual to allow for temperature changes and use dechlorinators as needed.
7. Significant thawing and heavy snow will have the same effect on a pond as heavy rain. Typically, snow (like rain) is acidic and can affect the pH of the pond unless the KH levels are properly maintained.
8. Use a good in-water digital water thermometer to keep track of the water temperatures at the bottom of the pond.
9. Aerate and circulate the water to help release the gases in the pond and refresh the water.

Snow, Ice and Photosynthesis

Once our fish have settled in for the winter and the pond ices over, owners tend to unintentionally forget about their friends under the ice. Actually most of us don't want to think about them because we think they are suffering. And while we know they really are not suffering, what we do not know is what is happening under the ice.

So, let's consider what happens under the ice: if there is a heavy layer of snow on the ice, certainly this will restrict the photosynthesis processes and an abundance of CO₂ and consumption of O₂ will occur. Additionally, the algae, which need sunlight, will die off and this will up the ammonia levels and reduce the O₂ levels as well. So, collectively a number of bad things are occurring, including the reduction of the carbonate (KH) levels.

If there is significant algae in the pond, a common pond feature, there is a photosynthesis process that contributes to the O₂ levels in the water. As you know, during daylight hours, plants through photo-synthesis produce O₂ (by consuming CO₂) in the water and during the nighttime, the process reverses and CO₂ is produced (by consuming O₂). In ponds with grossly unbalanced ecosystems (plants vs. animals)... the consumption of O₂ becomes a real problem and will kill the fish. For those of us who have seen it, we can confirm that it happens very early in the morning and starts with the larger fish.

Oddly enough, the same process exists on very cloudy days and becomes a real problem when we have a number of cloudy days in a row. The lack of sunlight inhibits the photosynthesis process and everything in the pond thinks it is nighttime and so all of the O₂ is being eaten up and CO₂ levels become dangerous. The simple solution of course is increased aeration.

Now, the problem with CO₂ is that it is highly acidic and will dump the pH to hazardous levels quickly. So you get a combination of low O₂ (suffocating) and a high acid (low pH) environment. This causes acidosis in fish that no amount of Tums or Zantac will help.

You can confirm all of this by a couple of quick tests. First, check the pH early in the morning and if it is on the low end of the scale or unacceptably acid, then there is the makings of a CO₂ problem. Next, check the KH. The same thing if it is too low. Low KH also causes an additional problem in preventing pH swings. Always watch the fish. If they are near the surface, either near the air hole or near the ice, then chances are that they are piping and looking for O₂ and not getting warm or watching the TV. This is an indication that low O₂ exists in the bottom of the pond. And finally, monitor ammonia levels always, just in case...

The simple remedy for all of this is aerating the pond in the winter. Some ponds will do just fine with an air hole while others, especially those with good algae growths, may need an air stone or pump breaking the surface.

One more test if you are wondering about the ecosystem of the pond.... if there is some open water, fire up a pump and splash it for 48 hours and see if foam (DOC) appears on the surface. If it does, then the pond has a high organic load and evidence that potentially you may have a low O₂/high CO₂ problem. In some ponds, you may also get foam forming around the air hole heater. This is not a casual coincidence, but evidence that you have the potential for problems. Using an ORP meter routinely throughout the winter can give an excellent indication of the water's condition

**Read the whole article of Richard E. Carlson
Winter's Effect On Koi, Goldfish, and Ponds**

at

Richdeer3pondsupplies web site

2010 Meeting Schedule

																		
	Saturday, February 27th		Hugh & Kathi Albrecht		Speaker Hugh Albrecht		5:30											
	Saturday, March 27th		Open															
	Thursday, April 8th		Open															
	Saturday, April 24th		Ed & Connie Railsback				6:00											
	Thursday, May 13		Open															
	Saturday, May 22		Larry & Erma Thompson		Speaker Larry Thompson		5:00											
	Thursday, June 10th		Jeff Garner & Kerry Shaner				6:00											
	Saturday, June 26th		Pre Pond Tour		Hugh & Kathi Albrecht													
	Sunday, July 11th		2010 Pond & Garden Tour															
	Saturday, July 24th		Ron & Lois Jungers															
	Thursday, August 12th		Gary & Jo Hunerdosse				6:30											
	Saturday, August 28th		Bob & Stephanie Geers															
	Thursday, September 9th		Tom Coyle & Daryl Stout				6:00											
	Saturday, September 25th		Paul & Gerry Dickerson															
	Saturday, October 23rd		Monica & Gil Morley & Elena Murillo															
	November TBD		Elections & Recognition Night															
																		

**E-mail Monica/Editor if you are interested in hosting
mespringcove@aol.com**



***Renew your
Membership before April 1st***

Eastern Iowa Pond Society—Membership Application 2010

To become a member of the Eastern Iowa Pond Society, complete this form and mail it along with your dues to :

Eastern Iowa Pond Society
206 n. 3rd ST
PO BOX 148
QUASQUETON IA

Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year. Make checks payable to: Eastern Iowa Pond Society
_____ New membership _____ Renewal

Name: _____

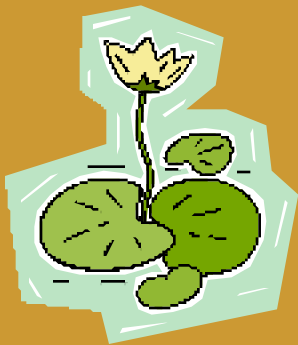
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Dues will be \$10.00 per family, payable November of previous year and delinquent April 1st of each year. These dues entitle a member to participation in all activities and receive a monthly newsletter.

**Eastern Iowa Pond
Society Inc.**

WWW.EIPS.ORG



Visions

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.

History

The Eastern Iowa Pond Society was established by Sharon Weiss in 1996 to encourage and promote water gardening and ponds.

Meetings

Meetings are held at different members homes the second Thursday at 7:00PM and the fourth Saturday in April, May, June, July, August and September. During Feb., March, October and Nov.

meetings are held once a month on a Saturday. No meetings are held in Dec & Jan.

Yearly Planning

A plan-the-year meeting is held on a February afternoon at a central location to hammer out strategies on how the club will conduct business and to plan activities for the upcoming year.

Activities

A yearly Pond Tour event involves selected members opening their ponds to the public. Speakers, demonstrations, field trips, plant and fish swap, pot luck, and club projects are all activities that happen during the year.

Dues

Dues will be \$10.00 per family, payable November of previous year and delinquent April 1st of each year. These dues entitle a member to participation in all activities and receive a monthly newsletter.



Non profit organization

Eastern Iowa Pond Society Inc.
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