



*October 2012 issue*

*Editor: Carol Mathis*

**SOCIAL TO BE HELD FIRST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**

*At Larry & Phyllis Rosen's*

***Hope to see you there!***

**PKWS 2012 OFFICERS:**

President: Don Manus                      VP: Terry McClain  
Secretary: Mary Ann Penix              Treasurer: Allen Lee

**APPOINTED OFFICES:**

Show Chairs: vacant                      Membership: Allen Lee  
Property Manager: Leo Bollinger      Newsletter: Carol Mathis  
Webmaster: Brannon Raines

Treasurer's Report : \$13,293.78



Tips to prevent algae in your ponds!

To keep your ponds clean add some helpful bacteria and natural cleaning agents that feed on fish wastes. They help convert ammonia to nitrites further to nitrates that acts as a natural pond filtering agents. They are absorbed by the aquatic plants to produce oxygen thus forming a nitrogen cycle. This action reduces the phosphorous and organic waste content in pond avoiding algae formation.

### **Fish Pond Winter Maintenance**

As a pond owner you are faced with the massive responsibility of preparing your fish pond for the winter season. Pond winter maintenance is important to protect the pond and pond life during winter months especially if your area receives severe snow. Given below are few easy and effective steps that you can use to prepare your pond for winter.

#### **Remove all debris from your Pond**

Debris accumulated during the summer months can break down during the winter, creating harmful chemicals like hydrogen sulfide that can prove deadly to fish as well as aquatic plants. In order to avert this situation, make sure you keep your pond debris free. Remove your fish pond of dead leaves, algae and fish waste. You can make use of pond filters to do take care of tiny wastes.

Covering your pond with a net near the onset of winter is a great way of keeping falling leaves from entering it. But make sure to constantly clean the net of dry leaves to prevent the net from sinking into the pond.

#### **Cut-off surface growth of underwater plants**

Most underwater plants can survive bitter cold as the bottom level of ponds does not freeze unless the pond is kept extremely shallow. But if your underwater or oxygenated plants are showing above the water surface, be sure to cut the extra growth off. This is because, the outer layer of the water will freeze during winter causing the growth to die, in-turn polluting the water.

#### **Bring surface aquatic plants indoors**

Floating and surface aquatic plants like water hyacinths should be brought indoors for protection. Leaving these plants in water will cause them to die due to frost. This will lead to rotting which will in-turn pollute the water.

All potted aquatic plants should be kept in the deepest level of the pond to prevent freezing. If the plant is inexpensive it is best discarded from the pond.

### **Reduce and eventually stop feeding pond fish**

The metabolism of fish is controlled by the water temperature. During cooler months fish do not require much protein and excess protein consumed is generally excreted in the form of ammonia. Due to the inactivity of beneficial bacteria throughout winter months the ammonia in the water keeps building up causing the fish to die eventually. In order to prevent this situation, make sure you start feeding your fish lesser every day. Stop feeding them when the temperature starts to sour (Below 40 - 45 degrees Fahrenheit).

### **Ensure that your Pond is deep enough**

If you plan to leave the fish in your garden pond during winter months, make sure that your pond is deep enough. Fishes tend to accommodate themselves at the deepest possible level of the pond during winter months as water at a greater depth does not freeze. Having a shallow pond can cause the fish to freeze and die. This is why your pond should at-least be 7 to 8 feet deep for the fish to survive especially if your area experiences harsh winter.

If your pond is not deep enough, you can consider bringing the fish indoors for the winter. Although extreme care should be taken in this case in order to reduce the stress caused to the fish during this exercise. If you decide to bring the fish indoors, make sure that you have proper pumps to ensure oxygenation. Covering the indoor pool with a net is a good idea in-case you have fishes like Koi that can jump to a huge extent.

### **Prevent frost from covering the entire pond surface**

If your pond has aquatic life then it will lead to generation of toxic wastes which will get trapped in, if the pond surface gets frozen. In addition a frozen pond surface will cut off oxygen supply. This can cause aquatic plants and wildlife to perish. In order to avoid this situation, you should ensure that the water surface does not get frozen. This can be achieved by treating the frozen surface with hot water. A better solution to this would be to leave two or three soft balls floating on top of the pond surface. These balls can be removed in winter to keep the air flowing. In addition you can also make use of floating pond headers for keeping small pond areas frost free.

To keep the oxygen supply available at all times, make sure to use air pumps to oxygenate the water. Whatever you do, never try to break the ice on the top as this can send shock waves to the fish causing them to die.

Properly preparing your backyard pond for the winter months will ensure that the aquatic life remains healthy and full of life during the sunny months that follow afterwards.

### **When should I stop feeding my koi in the fall?"**

Stop any feeding of your koi for the entire fall/winter season when your koi pond water drops below 55° F and stays there for ten to fourteen days, day and night. Once you stopped feeding for the fall/winter season, Do Not feed your koi even if your pond water temperature rises. Even if your koi could digest their food at colder pond water temperatures of 55° or below, their waste would produce deadly ammonia in your koi pond water "that's the last thing you want going into a winter shut down". Plus, feeding your koi below 55°F will cause your ammonia levels to rise because the "Good Bacteria" that removes the "ammonia" from your pond water keeps slowing down under these cold water conditions and eventually stops functioning. DO NOT feed any kind of food with pond water temperatures under 55°F.

**October SOCIAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 6th at 5:30 p.m.**

**Home of Larry & Phylis Rose**

**Address:** 4712 Linda Kay Drive, Waxhaw, NC. 28173

**Telephone:** 704-243-1722

**Directions:** Take 485 to Providence Rd and go south about 6 miles [following signs to Waxhaw/Weddington] until you see railroad tracks at the Waxhaw main street area. Cross over the tracks and make a left turn onto Route 75. At the fork in the road by the gas station stay to your right. Travel a few blocks until you come to Linda Kay Dr [on your right across from school] and turn right. Go slowly over 3 speed bumps, and we are the last house on the right. It is a long white ranch house with a 3-car garage in front.

**Upcoming Social Meeting Dates:**

**OCTOBER 6** – Larry & Phyllis Rosen

**(Changed to 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in October.)**

**NOVEMBER 10** – Brannon & Lee Raines

**DECEMBER 8** – Wayne & Cecelia Pritchett

# PIEDMONT KOI AND WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

## Minutes of September 8, 2012 meeting

By Mary Ann Penix

The September 8, 2012 meeting of the PKWS met at the home of Terry and Mary Ellen McClain. Vice President McClain opened the meeting at 7:20 PM. There were fifteen members present.

### Old Business:

The Mauldin's fish and equipment are still for sale.

### New Business:

Carol and Leo Bollinger have all the club equipment stored at their mini barn in Mint Hill. Inventory list passed out to members. If you need to borrow any equipment contact Carol or Leo.

Lisa Warren is having a pond pull at her house September 28. Her cull sale will be the following week-end. Carol Mathis will e-mail Lisa's address.

The Raleigh Koi Show is September 22 and 23.

A pond tour in the spring was discussed. We will need to provide lots of advertising if we decide to do a tour.

Brochures to promote our club will be available for distribution soon.

Paper products from club inventory can be used at out socials.

Questionable sale of our equipment was discussed. No motions were made.

2013 meetings agenda:

- January-Captains Galley in Matthews
- February-Harbor Inn on W.T. Harris
- March-Ken and Barbara Stead
- April-Eleanor Ubry
- May-Don and Mary Ann Penix
- June-Carol Mathis and Leo Bollinger
- July-Brannon Raines
- August-Don and Myrtis Manus
- September-Terry and Mary Ellen McClain
- October-Ralph and Marsha Theroux
- November-Larry and Phyllis Rosen
- December-Wayne Pritchett and Cecelia Smith

**Motion:** To adjourn by Leo Bollinger. Seconded by Brannon Raines. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Ann Penix, Secretary*



**PKWS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

The Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society (PKWS) is a not for profit organization. The membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Annual Membership Dues for a family for the first year is \$55.00 AND INCLUDES UP TO TWO (2) NAME BADGES. Additional nametags may be purchased at a cost of \$15.00 each. For renewing members the dues are \$24.00 Please complete the following form and return it with your membership dues to:

***ALLEN LEE 900 Club Drive Monroe, NC 28112***

Please print clearly (this information will only be used for club records). Please print your names) as you would like them to appear on your name tag(s). You can also find an electronic copy of this form on our website.

Name(Last): \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues: (New member) \$55.00 or (Renewal)

\$24.00(Circle One) Additional Name tags (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



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