POND or POOL?
The fierce and divisive swim pond debate

POND Trade Magazine
January/February 2014

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To many pond owners, frogs and toads are about as different as creeks and cricks. In reality, these two amphibians vary greatly in diet, anatomy and habitat. If you’d like to know a bit more about the noisy, four-legged hoppers in your pond, read Benjamin Timmermans’ comprehensive overview and see these fascinating creatures in a whole new light!

30 COVER – Pond or Pool?
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While mammals have a plethora of techniques for surviving single-digit temperatures, fish, frogs and turtles are stuck with just two: changing their eating habits and moving to a new part of your pond. In this important article, Justin Larson offers information and tips to help your pond pets survive the winter months. Take close notes and they’ll thank you when the ice thaws!

46 The Best and the Brightest
Ever wonder what the most beautiful waterlily in the world would look like? Well, wonder no more, the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society recently held its annual New Waterlily Competition, and POND Trade has the photos! See the best in each breathtaking category, from intersubgeneric waterlily to day-blooming tropical and everything in between.

 Ludwigia palustris

Coming in March —
- The Koi Whisperer tells her tale
- The “hidden gold mine”
- Plus much more!
Publisher’s Perspective

D o you hear that, readers? No, it’s not the splashing of playful koi or the soothing whoosh of a waterfall. That’s the sound of my teeth chattering! Brrrrr… it is COLD outside! There’s nothing quite like snowy Chicagoland in the dead of winter. As a relatively new pond owner, I am really beginning to miss my tranquill (and unfrozen) water garden. While it’s enjoyable to look out there each day and see the landscape changing, I also feel a bit like a kid looking through the window of the toy store. “You can look, but don’t touch!” Is it almost spring? I’m putting my order in for a good forecast from the groundhog this year.

While the deep freeze outside means it’s off season for ponds in cold climates, don’t worry — it’s definitely off season for POND Trade. This issue is full of hot articles to keep your interest warm — and some that might even get your blood boiling!

Last month I promised you a mind-bending story on the swim pond debate, and boy did we deliver. Should you be swimming with your koi? Our very own editor, Peter Celauro, tracked down experts on both sides of the debate to find out, and the results may shock you. Our goal with this story was to accurately present the opinions of knowledgeable pond people and allow our readers to decide for themselves, so turn to Page 30 and dive right in! There’s already a lively discussion on this subject happening on LinkedIn’s Water Features Forum, and you can always visit POND Trade’s Facebook page to sound off and share your thoughts.

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How to Build an Elephant
Conceiving and constructing a large-scale project
by Jason Lenox,
Ponds Inc. of Illinois

Any pond builder can tell you that the pond construction business is rife with choices. What you may not know, though, is that those choices become even more pressing — and sometimes more difficult to answer — when you’re tackling larger projects. Liner or no liner? Rocks and gravel or just bare liner? Do you use bentonite or clay? Filtration, aeration or both?

Tough questions, all. What do the experts say? Wait ... I’m a pond expert! Perhaps I’ll just tell you what worked for us on a recent large pond project.

The call for this particular project was referred to us by Greg Wittstock and Ed Beauliers of Aquascape Inc. We at Ponds Inc. have been involved with Aquascape and their team for many years and have built many of their large water features and landscapes as a subcontractor in the past. Having good relationships and experience with like-minded contractors in your region is always beneficial in the pond industry.

When I spoke with the potential client over the phone, he mentioned that he had visited the large pond at the Aquascape headquarters in St. Charles, Ill. and wanted something similar in size installed at his farm in Galena, Ill. Some of you may know Aquascape’s elaborate pond, a third of an acre in size with a cost well into the six-figure range. We at Ponds Inc. had a major role in its construction.

Of course, I wasn’t quite sure what to think of this gentleman’s request and was hesitant to imagine a pond of that magnitude installed on a farm! I quickly decided to shelve my assumptions and set up a meeting at the farm.

A trip to the Country

Galena is a magical little town nestled in the sprawling hills of northwest Illinois. Unfortunately, it is three hours from the home of Ponds Inc., which is based in Gilberts, Ill. There are no fast ways to Galena and the drive is mostly hilly, two-lane roads.

Three and a half hours after parting ways with my cell phone’s navigation, I arrived onsite. The farm was not a wide-open, sprawling area as one might expect on a farm set into a hillside. A beautiful valley opened up to what looked like a dam. The very bottom was holding about two feet of water with an incredibly large tree stump lying sideways, mostly out of the water.

Pulling into the narrow gravel drive, there was a decently sloped hill on my left and a nicely refurbished farmhouse on my right. I could see a large pole barn off in the distance, built into another hillside. A beautiful valley opened up to what looked like a dam. The very bottom was holding about two feet of water with an incredibly large tree stump lying sideways, mostly out of the water.

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“Tough questions, all. What do the experts say? Wait ... I’m a pond expert! Perhaps I’ll just tell you what worked for us on a recent large pond project.”

The client intended this property to be a second home to visit and enjoy when he and his family were not in the Chicago suburbs, where they normally reside. He also said that he wanted a home large enough to hold several people and still

and they want a pond that is clean and interesting.

So far, the current pond was none of those things! The hillsides that formed two sides of this retention area leveled out into a large, sloping bottom. The gravel road was built on an embankment that appeared to be like a dam. The very bottom was holding about two feet of water with an incredibly large tree stump lying sideways, mostly out of the water. The rest was overgrown weeds.

The client explained that he had hired a local excavating company that was very reputable for building ponds. That excavator had built the road and formed this area that was supposed to be a pond. It

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was supposed to be 18 feet deep, and the stump served as a fish habitat because the client enjoyed fishing. He also said that even when the pond was full, it had murky water and his wife and kids didn’t really like it. However, the pond was rarely full!

“It never held water and continued to drain completely,” he explained. After several unfruitful repeat visits for repairs, he had parted ways with the local farm pond builder.

“I’m very frustrated,” the client told me. “I’ve wasted a lot of money already and what you see is the result. But that’s where you come in! I want a large, natural pond that looks like a quarry. I don’t want it to look anything like the one in St. Charles. I want this one much larger and it has to take up this area here,” he said, pointing to the retention area. “Can you handle that?” I gazed over the area and said, “Absolutely!”

Then I realized that I had just blurted out that we could build his massive project as if it were a normal backyard water feature. There was nothing normal about this! I felt like I had decided to bring home an elephant as if it were a puppy!

A Plan Begins to Form

I knew this was a tall order, but I thought that if we stuck with what we know about small water gardens, it could also work on a large scale.

I explained to the client that we could reshape the area and use a liner. We could make shelves in the pond and install rocks and cover the entire liner with gravel. I told him that we would need to use large stones if he wanted it to appear like a quarry and that we could make it look very pleasing, with a beach area and cliff-like walls to jump off of.

I also said that we could build beautiful waterfalls that were fed by a massive filtration system and have a creek that came from the hills! My excitement was overloading my logic again, but I am passionate about ponds and just love forming the vision and natural painting in my mind!

His expression was a mix of interest and skepticism.

“So,” he said. “You’re telling me that you can build a pond that looks like a quarry; has a liner, stream and waterfalls; uses a filter and has big rocks ... and I’m supposed to trust that it will hold water? I don’t want to end up with the same problems I had before.”

“I understand and can appreciate your concerns,” I replied. “But we came highly recommended and have the experience to do this. We can build your pond … and it will hold water if you have the budget for it.”

He nodded, then took off on his four-wheeler so I could begin measuring. The space was about 50,000 square feet! A big elephant indeed!

Objectives and Concerns

After measuring, I flagged down the potential client on his ATV and we discussed our project objectives and concerns. Ponds Inc. does this with all of our projects, large or small. Some of the key objectives are:

- Owner priorities and requirements
- Entertainment, family and guest experiences
- Environmental concerns and aquatic life expectations
- Maintenance objectives
- Sustainability options and goals
- Time frame and budget requirements

The information gathered from these discussions is the key to having

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I told the client that I felt 18 feet was far too deep and wasn’t necessary to have a beautiful pond. I figured a majority depth of six feet with a deeper section dropping to eight feet would suffice. He said he preferred 10 feet, and that wasn’t an issue. The shelves would be at three-, six-, eight- and 10-foot elevations throughout the entire pond. I figured that we could obtain six-foot clarity throughout the pond with a decent wetlands bog filter. I asked him to have the local excavator fill in the pond to a depth of six feet. I also requested that they create a compacted, 15-foot ledge around the entire perimeter from the soils that would need to be excavated from the hillside during the construction of the new home. I said that he could stockpile any ledge rock from the hill excavation to be used in the pond. Galena is known for its dramatic rock cliffs jutting from the hills, and I was well-informed, satisfied clients. On large projects like this one, you may need to gather more information and discuss design options and logistics prior to submitting your final proposal.

POND Trade Magazine
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THE PARACHUTE SKIMMER™ COLLECTION NET
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The Parachute Skimmer™ nets skim, capture and clean algae, watermeal, duckweed, leaves, and debris from the surface and below the surface as they are pulled through the water. US Patent 7,972,504

The Parachute Skimmer™ is available at several locations, including: EasyPro Pond Products, Natural Waterscapes, Aquatic Eco-Systems and The Pond Guy (as the PondSkim™) and other retailers.

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The team used a large, telescoping gravel slinger to place gravel over the entire pond area.

The Parachute Skimmer™ nets skim, capture and clean algae, watermeal, duckweed, leaves, and debris from the surface and below the surface as they are pulled through the water. US Patent 7,972,504

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sure that this hill wasn’t much different than any other beneath the surface. These options solved great obstacles for both of us. He would have had to haul soil and stones a long distance to disperse them elsewhere on the 1,400-acre farm, and we needed a platform to work from with ledges of soil that didn’t have bedrock to deal with. I figured that if the 18-foot depth of the original pond was filled in to six feet, we could excavate the soils to 10-foot depth and place the excavated soils where we wanted. This would make the instructions very simple for the excavator who would dig the hillside during the new house construction. I wouldn’t need to be there showing him exactly how to form a pond when I wasn’t exactly sure of its final design anyway.

This is why discussing objectives is important for any size project prior to your proposal. Because of the cost and time savings in hauling the materials, money saved from one job could now be used to build our pond to its fullest potential, which makes both client and contractor happy!

Driving home, I began to brainstorm ideas and put them on my voice recorder to be retrieved later when I was in the office. We had a location. We had the enthusiasm of builder and client. We had the beginnings of a plan. Now it was time to go to work.

Editor’s Note — This is part one of a two-part article. Be sure to check the March/April issue of POND Trade to see how Jason and the Ponds Inc. team tackled this massive project!

About the Author

Jason Lenox
and his brother
Tony Lenox
are owners of
Ponds Inc. of
Illinois in Gilberts, IL. The company has been serving the Chicagoland area for 23 years and has built some of the state’s largest water features. They specialize in ponds of all types and sizes and are leaders of their industry in water gardens and koi ponds. Ponds Inc. of Illinois is available for consulting, design and installation locally and anywhere a project takes them. Visit them at www.ponds-inc.com

The Water Treatment Plant in Your Backyard

What sophisticated bioreactors can teach us about anaerobic pond filtration

by Mark J. Krupka,
VP of Technology, Ecological Laboratories, Inc.
Carolyn Weise,
Consumer Relations, Technical Pond Support, Ecological Laboratories, Inc.

Imagine that two busy newlyweds who are holding down two to three jobs (each) want a koi pond. They have a new home, spacious land and a clean slate to work with. Yes, they have dreams and plans. They would appreciate a pond that doesn’t require a lot of water changes. They are also into the Green Movement, so they don’t believe in waste. They have called you because you are the expert; you are the best in the business! How do you create a pond that offers them all the beauty they are looking for but doesn’t create a lot of hard work and maintenance?

The answer can be found in an unlikely place: wastewater treatment plants.

When designing and building a new pond for a customer, the first thought a pond builder has is typically the design. But there’s an equally important thought that any good builder should consider before tackling a new project: “How is this pond going to work for the customer in the long haul?”
From Plant to Pond

Wastewater filtration plants solved the problem of removing organic pollutants and ammonia cost-effectively by using biological processes. This discovery lead the way to bigger and better technologies. Once they had tackled pollutants and ammonia, they targeted nutrients — primarily nitrates, due to their propensity to encourage unwanted algal growth that produce noxious odors.

Indeed, one of the primary reasons for frequent pond water changes is nitrate buildup. But now, taking a cue from the wastewater facilities, many pond builders are already taking advantage of the various types of anoxic filtration to reduce nitrates, saving water and labor for their customers. This method allows pond owners to reduce the frequency of water changes while still maintaining water in their ponds that is healthy and aesthetically pleasing.

Anoxic vs. Anaerobic

In discussing the technology behind this nitrate reduction, it is important to understand the difference between anoxic and anaerobic conditions because there are other factors affecting your customers’ ponds — and the success or failure of their filtration systems.

Anoxic conditions exist when the water does not contain elemental oxygen (usually in the form of dissolved oxygen), but there is oxygen in the form of oxygen-bearing inorganic compounds like nitrates (NO₃⁻) or sulfates (SO₄²⁻). This oxygen can be used in the oxidation of organics in the pond. As in most oxidation-reduction reactions, when one species is oxidized another has to be reduced. It’s kind of a zero-sum game.

In order to establish an anoxic or anaerobic environment, there are two factors that have to be addressed: oxygen transfer rate and oxygen utilization rate (OUR). This is true whether you are looking to achieve the anoxic condition in a liquid medium or a biofilm. Oxygen can be transferred passively through the air/water interface, or actively through the use of aerators, waterfalls, fountains and the like.

The oxygen consumption rate will be related to the organic load, which is determined by a few factors:

- How many fish will this pond hold and how many can the bioexchange really support?
- How much work will the new

A microscopic view of biofilm activity.
owner have to do to maintain the pond? How easily is this system cleaned?

• Will the mechanical filter remove sufficient waste to allow the bio-reaction to occur naturally?

The organic load in the pond creates oxygen demand, and the bacteria convert it to carbon dioxide, water and (additional) bacterial cells. In most cases, in a pond filter it is most desirable to have anoxic rather than true anaerobic activity. The reason for this is that many anaerobic metabolites are malodorous and, in some extreme cases, can be toxic. A pond can even become “too anoxic,” as measured by something called oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), when sulfates are chemically reduced to hydrogen sulfide (the source of that notorious rotten egg smell). If this occurs in the pond in high enough concentrations, it could be harmful to the fish.

The Solution

Fortunately, it is relatively easy to get into the “sweet spot” where water is anoxic enough to reduce nitrates, but not so anoxic that hydrogen sulfide generation occurs. You also avoid true anaerobic metabolism, where a lot of ponds, the biomass grows on a fixed film on the media in the filter. While this biofilm may seem just like a slimy layer on the media, even a thin biofilm contains millions of bacteria per square inch, many layers deep.

The biofilm is an often misunderstood and vaguely accepted terminology in pond lore. In a biofilm (see diagram 1) you will generally have a thin film of water that clings to the outside of the biofilm due to the adhesive and cohesive properties of water. It is these same properties of water that provide for capillary action in plants and help water get to the top of the tallest of trees. Soluble organics and some inorganics, like ammonia, diffuse into the biofilm through this layer of water.

In the first layer of the biofilm, there is an aerobic zone. The depth of the aerobic zone is determined by the strength of the water in terms of oxygen demand and loading per unit area of the media, and the dissolved oxygen content in the water. As the oxygen is consumed as it diffuses through the biofilm, and organic and inorganic compounds are still present, an anoxic section develops.

For most anaerobic biofilters for ponds, the biomass grows on a fixed film on the media in the filter. While this biofilm may seem just like a slimy layer on the media, even a thin biofilm contains millions of bacteria per square inch, many layers deep.

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If a filter is oversized and the loading is too light per unit area of surface area, there will not be enough oxygen demand to create an anoxic zone. However, if the loading per unit of surface area is too great, the film may grow too thick and create a true anaerobic zone, which can lead to undesirable results. So, an oversized or undersized filter may give less than the desired results.

In our experience, more people err on the side of the filter being undersized to try to save money.

It is fairly easy to track the efficiency of your ponds’ anaerobic filters simply by monitoring the nitrate levels. A well-functioning anaerobic filter should keep your nitrate levels below 20 mg/L nitrate. If you find that the nitrate levels are not going down, or even going up if you have installed an anoxic filter, it may be helpful to add a bacterial product that contains effective denitrifiers to quickly establish the population. We have had customers report that their ponds went from 160 mg/L of nitrate to less than 20 mg/L of nitrate after applying a bacterial denitrifying product.

Global Popularity

While anoxic/anaerobic filtration is relatively new in the U.S. market, it has been popular in Europe for over 10 years. One of the main reasons for this is that it is generally much more expensive to do...
The calendar model we have created flows with the calendar and is designed to keep us on the right path to success through efficiency. We stay disciplined and consistent. The model flows with the calendar and the weather. We are in Maryland, so your business model may be slightly different, but the theory remains the same: do the right work for the season of the year that you’re in.

At Premier Ponds, we don’t bounce from one focus to the next and back again. I recommend you do the same. You will lose efficiency if you’re trying to do multiple things at once. Loading the trucks for cleaning is vastly different than loading for building, for example. Thus, we follow each segment in order. Every month brings something different that is designed to keep us on the right path to success through efficiency. We stay disciplined and consistent.

This is “nuts and bolts stuff,” not rocket science. It has worked every year since I founded the company. It will work for you, too — but you have to take action and do it. Now that you have your 20 percent business model in place, you can tackle the other 80 percent. For us, the “80 percent” is “nuts and bolts stuff,” not rocket science. It has worked every year since I founded the company. It will work for you, too — but you have to take action and do it. Now that you have your 20 percent business model in place, you can tackle the other 80 percent. For us, the “80 percent” is

by Steve Shinholser, Premier Ponds

Although I call myself a “pond builder,” the truth is, I’m actually a businessman. I run a business first and a pond company second! And in my experience, I’ve found that running a successful business is 80 percent attitude and 20 percent business model. But you have to have the right 20 percent, or there will be nothing to have a great attitude about!

The calendar model we have created is designed to help you strengthen that 20 percent. It is easily repeatable; in fact, we repeat it year after year. It yields great, consistent results year in and year out. We have never had a down year. Never!

In this model, the year is broken down into six periods:

1. Marketing
2. Spring Cleaning
3. Summer Building
4. Fall Maintenance
5. Winter Building
6. Business Improvement

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believe we are the “Nordstrom” of the pond business. We deliver a first-class product and charge accordingly. If you are also a “Nordstrom” company, then don’t charge “Kmart” prices. Charge what you are worth!

When you combine the “Nordstrom” attitude with a sound, proven business model, you have a “100 percent” strategy that will produce amazing results. Stick to this plan and you’ll find yourself healthy, wealthy and wise!

Steve Shinholser, owner of Premier Ponds in Burtonsville, Md., has been in the water business for 33 years. He founded Premier Ponds in 2001. It is now one of the largest independent pond companies in the Washington/Baltimore Metropolitan area and has built over 400 water features.

In 2004, Premier Ponds was named one of the top 40 pond builders in the country by Aquascape Inc. In 2013, Steve delivered the first keynote address ever given by a contractor at Pondemonium and was awarded the “businessman of the year” award.

Photos by Benjamin Timmermans

**It’s Toadally a Frog!**
Cutting away the confusion about amphibians

by Benjamin Timmermans, Liquid Landscapes

There’s a special time every year when the phones at Liquid Landscapes start ringing with callers who all have the same question. People are noticing something different happening in their ponds. No, it’s not pea-green soup water or the telltale signs of visits from predators. This change is
Tiny eggs are beginning to appear! And while the callers’ ponds are all different, the answer on our end is always the same: “It’s frog breeding season!”

There always seems to be confusion when it comes to identifying and conversing about these little amphibians. A majority of the callers know what they are looking at, but we still get a few who have no idea if the eggs they’re looking at are from frogs or toads.

My first question to these confused callers: “What do the eggs look like?” This is the easiest way for me to identify what kind of animals may be breeding in their ponds.

Once they know what they’re working with, these people fall into two categories: either they want us to remove the frogs as soon as possible, or they are overly excited and want to know how to facilitate the survival of their new pond residents!

I find that people either love the sound of frogs and toads or it drives them up the wall. I have been enjoying frogs since my childhood, when my brother and I would go down to the creek to see what we could discover. I was fortunate enough to grow up during the heyday of the Muppet Show and Sesame Street, which furthered my fascination with frogs. “Kermit the Frog here!”

There is something about frogs that is mysterious and magical. Perhaps it’s their reclusiveness, with their ability to be everywhere and nowhere at the same time. Or maybe it’s their spectacular life cycle. Here you have an animal that can live in and out of water. Their offspring start off as eggs and quickly develop tails. At this stage, they’re still considered tadpoles and live off their guts until they form tiny teeth, turning food into oxygenated particles.

Once they develop legs and arms, they begin digesting insects and larger plant material. After they shed their tails and develop lungs, the transformation is complete and the process starts all over again.

Toads

Toads are actually frogs, but they fall into a category of “true toads,” which are members of the family Bufonidae. Frogs and toads are both part of the order Anura, which takes its name from two Greek words that together mean “without a tail.”

Toads are characterized by their stubby shape and short hind legs. The skin of toads tends to be warty and dry with prominent ridges (cranial crests) between and in back of their eyes. There is also an elongated, raised glandular area behind the eyes, which is called the parotoid gland. Toads are often brownish and grayish in color with vivid, jewel-like eyes.

While these physical distinctions between toads and frogs can help to identify them, the differences can get hazy sometimes because features may appear mixed or less obvious. Additional confusion stems from the fact that certain species can fall into both categories.

What They Eat

A toad’s primary diet consists of insects, grubs, worms, slugs and other invertebrates that most other
amphibians eat. As tadpoles they will consume plant material. Toads are excellent at pest control around gardens and ponds when it comes to insects. Their tongues are hinged at the front of their mouths, which allows them to snatch up their prey.

Where They Live
Toads tend to live in drier places than frogs, as their lungs are better developed for breathing air and their skin doesn’t dry out as easily. On land, toads tend to walk rather than leap. They can live farther from water sources than frogs can. Optimal nesting locations are in burrows and trees and under leaves during the day, as they are mostly nocturnal.

Frogs
True frogs have long, powerful hind legs. Their waists are relatively narrow and they tend to have very large mouths. Unlike toads, true frogs mostly have smooth skin and ridges that run along the sides of the back, which are called dorsolateral ridges.

What They Eat
The appetite of true frogs is similar to that of toads. They consume insects, grubs, worms, slugs and other invertebrates. However, it’s also not uncommon for true frogs to eat fish, other frogs, mice, birds and even an occasional reptile. One of the characteristics that separate true frogs from toads is that they have teeth (although Kermit the Frog, interestingly enough, does not).

Where They Live
Most true frogs tend to find water or moist environments the most inviting places to call home. True frogs’ preferred habitats are bogs, streams, ponds and steep ravines. They are not limited to these locations, however, as they have been found in other environments as well.

From what little knowledge I have about frogs, I am not aware of any hybridized breeding of these amphibians. I wish frogs would have received as much attention over the past 100-plus years as koi have. Could you imagine a Kohaku Leopard Frog or a Tancho Green Frog? Or how about a Sanke Bullfrog? If this type of breeding existed, I think I would get fewer calls for frog removals; indeed, a whole new market for frog sales would open up!

While they haven’t received the glory and respect that koi enjoy, frogs and toads can still be intriguing and appealing additions to your water feature. So the next time you see mysterious eggs popping up in your pond, get excited: the singing and hopping of amphibians are not far behind!

About the Author
Benjamin Timmermans is the President/Lead Designer for Liquid Landscapes, Inc. located in Asheville, N.C. and has 22 years’ in the landscape and water feature industry. Benjamin focuses on a dedication to customer satisfaction through an emphasis on quality, workmanship, professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. He has great passion for the water feature industry and is consistently looking for ways to contribute to its betterment.

Liquid Landscapes Inc.
828/231-1050
www.LiquidLandscapesInc.com
6 Hidden Features

The Axiom skimmer from EasyPro provides the pond installer with an easy to install and versatile pond skimmer at an excellent value. Creating and maintaining water gardens is made significantly easier with the installation of an Axiom pond skimmer.

Axiom

All black tubes that skim pond water are not the same. Let’s take a look at six hidden features of the Axiom skimmers that set these units apart.

1 Fast and secure liner attachment. With most skimmers multiple steps are required to ensure the liner hole is cut and lined up properly to finish pond liner attachment. With the Axiom skimmer the faceplate is secured to the unit first and then the liner hole is cut out. No additional realignment of liner and faceplate is necessary.

2 Integrated UV option. The 5000 gallon Axiom skimmer model can be fitted with an integrated UV option. This UV option installs inside the skimmer to provide a convenient way of implementing copper-free algae control.

3 Extended inlet flange. Concealing the inlet at the pond edge is made easier with the extended flange. Rocks can be stacked along and on top of the flange to create a more natural looking connection at the pond edge. BONUS: Axiom skimmers are compatible with EasyPro’s patented 24” extension tubes. This allows the skimmer to be set back as far as desired from the pond edge for creating natural looking ponds.

4 Adjustable overflow. Axiom skimmers come with pre-installed “spinweld” fittings that create a sealed tub. This allows the overflow to be adjustable with an elbow fitting. Ponds with extensive stream systems can use this feature for accommodating the “water in transition” these systems must account for.

5 All-in-One option. The All-in-One Axiom skimmer and filter combo is an excellent way to provide filtration without the need for a typical waterfall filter box. With a biological media chamber filled with EasyPro ultimate tube media, this Axiom unit can provide biological filtration for ponds up to 4000 gallons.

6 Compatible with submersible or external pumps. Submersible or external style pumps can be used with the Axiom skimmers. With larger pump settings chambers a single or dual submersible pump set up can be used. External pumps can be used in a suction lift or a flooded suction configuration.

Additional information on the six hidden features of the Axiom skimmers can be found at our website: easypropondproducts.com/axiom

New items for 2014

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Italian engineering, reliable and energy efficient with a unique design

- Double bearings and triple seals for maximum life span
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Visit our website to view our new items and 2014 catalog — www.easypropondproducts.com

Seasonal Boost Cold Weather Bacteria

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- Works in water as low as 36˚ F
- Available individually in pints or quarts, and also in a kit with dry bacteria
- Enriched with barley

Tranquil Décor

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Ideal for formal water features

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The story seemed harmless enough at first. “Imagine, if you will, a one-of-a-kind retreat,” Jerry Romano wrote, detailing a water feature his New Jersey-based Liquid Designz team built. “Huge boulders form breathtaking water-falls and rushing streams. A pristine body of water emulates a serene, natural mountain spring. Arched water spouts grace the exterior, and a flat boulder serves as a table with crystal clear water bubbling up through a hole in the center. It is a refreshing and safe bathing experience that must be seen to be believed … a truly one-of-a-kind, functioning pond ecosystem that also [serves] as a recreational pool.”

Oh, the drama in that last sentence. When POND Trade published Romano’s story in its May/June 2013 issue, reader feedback was immediate and incendiary. Critics called and emailed to voice their concerns. Internet forums ignited as biology experts and pond professionals argued about pathogens and electrical circuits. Some touted installations like the one Romano described — often referred to as “swim ponds” — as a safe and natural way to interact with beloved water features. Others condemned them as hazardous bacterial breeding grounds. Still others called the entire idea a Pandora’s Box of legal and political issues that threatened to destroy the pond industry as we know it.

While the arguments were as diverse as their authors, one thing was clear: swim ponds have sparked perhaps the most heated and contentious debate in the history of ponding.

Swimming with the Enemy

In May of 2012, 24-year-old college student Aimee Copeland was whizzing across a Georgia river on a homemade zip line when the cable snapped, sending her careening into the rocks below. The fall carved a giant gash in her leg that required 22 staples to close. Cheerful and optimistic, Aimee assured her parents that her injury was nothing to worry about. Her parents’ concern was justified, however, when Aimee’s leg began to disintegrate before their very eyes. Three days after her accident, she lost consciousness and was put on life support. By the time she regained the ability to breathe without assistance 17 days later, both of her feet and hands and much of both forearms had been amputated. Doctors say she was lucky to escape the incident with her life.

Tests revealed that Aimee suffered necrotizing fasciitis, a rare but fast-spreading skin infection in which bacteria literally eats away a patient’s flesh. The infection can stem from contact with many different strains of bacteria, but Aimee’s was caused by Aeromonas hydrophila — a bacterium found primarily in the fresh or brackish water of warm climates, such as rivers (like the one Aimee fell into), lakes … and potentially, man-made ponds.

“The world is more polluted than most people realize or are willing to accept,” Jordan said. “The EPA recently stated that 90 percent of all inland bodies of water, including streams, were polluted. Taking into account the ubiquitous nature of many aquatic pathogens, no swimming venue, constructed or natural, can be considered absolutely safe for human immersion. Levels have been established that, if observed, reduce the risk of infection for the general public to an acceptable level. These levels, however, can only be maintained through a proven mode of disinfection. At present, as relates to constructed, closed-system swim facilities, the only accepted effective modes of disinfection are the use of chlorine, UV and/or ozone. Others
According to Jordan, there are a plethora of pathogens (infectious agents such as harmful bacteria, protozoa and other microorganisms) that can lurk in a non-chemically treated pond. However, he claims that some, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, are more troublesome than others. "Both are more tolerant of disinfecting treatments than the other pathogens," he said. "So vigilance is a must in any swimming venue."

Jordan isn’t the only one who thinks swim ponds pose a high risk of infection. "There are super streptococcus bacteria out there that are immune to antibiotic treatments," said David Jones, owner of The Pond Professional in Georgia. Jones is also the executive director and chairman of the board of the International Professional Pond Companies Association (IPPCA). "They’re potentially lethal. E. coli bacteria, on a warm summer day, triples its colony every hour. These things harbor and multiply in these water features."

Jordan suspects that many cases of infection are misdiagnosed because the onset of symptoms can take anywhere from a few hours to two or three weeks. "It would be very understandable for one who develops symptoms after a couple of weeks to blame it on Taco Bell or some other source, when the true source is the swimming venue," he said.

Much Ado About Nothing?

While many critics echo Jordan’s sentiments, not all pond professionals are as concerned about pathogens as he and Jones are. "I have absolutely no concern over the [bacteria] side of it, because our ponds are healthier than a normal, stagnant pond you might encounter in the woods," said Fred Pape, specialty projects manager at Aquascape Inc. in St. Charles, Ill. "The system uses a naturally balanced ecosystem approach … you’re coming up with a pond system that is based on what Mother Nature does to do exist but are not practical for use in swim venues."

A Type III single-chamber NSP in Germany. The regeneration zone surrounds the perimeter of the swimming area to add to this pool’s naturalistic appearance. Photo Courtesy of BioNova Natural Pools.
clean her water systems. We can’t do better than that. We think we can with chlorination and UV and all those other things. But if you’re mimicking what Mother Nature does, it really doesn’t get any better than that. I personally don’t have any issue with [swimming in a swim pond], and have no problem with my kids swimming in it.”

Pape is not the only pond professional who feels this way. Raymond Campbell of Lost Eden Ponds in Clearwater, Minn. says his company has built over a dozen “eco-balanced ponds for birds and wildlife … that people can swim in.” Campbell asserts that the key to a pond that’s safe for swimming is in the materials.

“Rock, plants, bacteria, bottom aeration, circulation with filtration and fish,” Campbell said. “These are the necessary ingredients for an eco-balanced pond, the pump or pump intake line, and an up-flow bog at the other end of the plumbing. One- to three-inch river rock is applied at three to five inches deep and acts as the medium for beneficial bacteria to colonize. The bottom aerator keeps this beneficial bacteria alive and healthy. Healthy bacteria colonies will keep the pond bottom clean and the water clear. You will never see suspended algae in a pond built this way.”

As for the pathogens, Campbell says those are easily managed.

“Pathogens are a health concern in any body of water that is used for swimming. Lakes have little streams from farm fields and often drainage from adjoining neighborhoods running into them. Our swimming ponds are constructed with a heavily planted dry stream utilizing 1.5-inch river rock at a depth of five inches. This helps to clear the water of lawn debris and other possible contaminants prior to reaching the pond. After a hard rain the water may get a bit tan and the new introduction of nutrients may result in an algae bloom, but the ingredients needed for E. coli and similar are not present.”

A Shocking Possibility

According to critics, swim ponds present another danger that has nothing to do with bacteria: risk of electric shock.

“I come from the swimming pool industry and am familiar with the electrical codes and access/exit requirements,” Taylor said. “Most pond builders do not have a clue what the National Electrical Code requires for pools, especially the bonding and grounding of the basin, pumps, lighting. For instance, the pond lights we all use are not approved. There is no submersible pump that is UL approved for use in any vessel which is used for swimming or wading. They are not grounded. Using a GFIC (ground fault interrupter circuit) is not grounding a pump. Period.”

Jones agrees.

“Literally none of the pond industry equipment is rated for swimming pool stuff,” he said. “Electricity and water should really be an influencing factor in a design. There are some people who claim their pond equipment is UL rated, but when you get down to the UL rating, it’s not for human contact.

“There was another outfit [that was] using a 12-volt submersible pump,” Jones continued. ‘I know a lot of people with high-dollar koi fish who won’t even put 12-volt lighting in their pond. The biggest risk, even with low voltage, is that usually you’ve run a copper wire into the water for...
your voltage. And if by some accident, you were to get a lightning strike, it could possibly follow that copper wire into the pond.”

**What’s in a Name?**

Some pond professionals assert that as long as the pond is built and maintained properly, the difference between a decorative pond and a pond fit for swimming is little more than semantics.

“Anything we build that we know people are going to swim in, we refer to as a recreational pond rather than a swim pond,” Pape said. “We always sort of put a disclaimer that this is not approved by certain aspects as a swimming pond, although we [Aquascape employees] all swim in all of our ponds all the time. It’s one of those things where we’re totally comfortable in it, but legally we probably shouldn’t say that it’s a swim pond because we do use submersible pumps and such that aren’t rated for swimming pool applications.”

“I am neither an attorney nor a politician,” Campbell said, “but I do know from experience that when approaching the city for permits, wording used can be an important factor. We don’t build swimming ponds! We build highly artistic and naturalistic, eco-balanced ponds for birds and wildlife … that people can swim in. Our wording can play a great role in the issues that we may or may not face.”

Not everyone sees the name distinction that way, however.

“Changing the name to something other than ‘swim’ pond does not alleviate our culpability as professionals in the realm of true customer safety,” Taylor said. “When a customer asks us to build something, knowing the associated problems, code violations and lack of proper liability coverage, changing the name to remove the word ‘swim’ to make a buck is shady at best. If we are in fact professionals, shouldn’t we be more concerned about the safety and well-being of the consumer than we are about being able to have a swim pond feather in our cap or a check in the bank?”

As the preeminent executive at the IPPCA, Jones is particularly adamant about this point. In fact, the only official statement the IPPCA ever released addressed this issue specifically, declaring that any body of water built with the “intention or anticipation of human immersion” was not a pond at all, but rather a pool — and should therefore be subject to the codes inherent in that distinction.

“To me, in the ideal world, swim and pond don’t go together,” Jones said. “Swimming pools is a whole different industry than ponds. If you’re going to promote these things, you’re adhering to U.S. national building codes on pools. They would have to be a swimming pool.”

Taylor agrees.

“Swim ponds fall under codes for swimming pools,” he said. “Call them what you want, they are vessels for which people will be immersed and will be required to meet the swimming pool codes.”

**Natural Swimming Pools**

To Alan Weene and his colleagues, that small distinction holds a world of importance. Weene is the head of marketing and technical support at the North American branch of BioNova® Natural Pools.

According to the company’s website, BioNova® is “a global network of landscape professionals, contractors, and pool builders who work synergistically to promote the state-of-the-art of Natural Swimming Pool (NSP) design, construction, aesthetics and maintenance.” Weene said that the New Jersey-based company and its global partners — there are 94 of them in 44 countries — have constructed hundreds of residential and commercial NSPs around the world and are actively building a number of them in residential settings across the U.S.

“We don’t call them swimming ponds because they’re not ponds,” Weene said of the BioNova NSPs. “They are swimming pools, and therefore they are permitted as such, and therefore they are also subject to all of the codes and regulations for safety and accessibility.”

**Pool Codes: A Formidable Obstacle**

According to Weene, BioNova has not encountered prohibitively specific codes governing residential pools in North America that would prevent them from building NSPs.

“When we’re approaching a municipality, we’re telling them that we’re building a swimming pool. From what we’ve encountered, they don’t really care how you’re treating the water, whether it’s with chemicals or otherwise. An alternative sanitation system using UV or ozone … a natural swimming pool is...
neither of those things. By definition, a natural swimming pool is not sterile or disinfected in any way. But that doesn’t really matter to the municipality from a residential standpoint. In the residential sphere, there really isn’t any regulation or local jurisdiction that dictates how a swimming pool can be treated, as long as it’s for private use on your own personal property.

Commercial pools, however, are a different animal. Most states impose formidable standards of mechanical and chemical function on commercial pools that few conventional ponds could meet. In the state where POND Trade is located, for instance, the General Assembly’s Illinois Administrative Code lists detailed requirements for protective enclosure walls, self-closing gates and barriers load (the minimum amount of water surface area required per bather). It dictates the allowable slope of the pool floor, the radius of junctions between walls and the placement of depth markers. It requires the presence of a four-foot deck surrounding the pool and dictates the materials with which the deck may be covered. It requires a certain number of ladders, steps and ramps and specifies their dimensions. It even mandates the installation of a drinking fountain. These are but a few of the specific specifications listed in Section 820.200 of the code — and that’s without mentioning the extensive rules regarding electricity and chemical water treatment, which critics say are some of the most pressing points against swim ponds.

Perhaps due to this exhaustive legislation, until recently there was zero precedent for public natural pools on this continent. But that changed in August of this year, when BioNova began building the first commercial, public natural swimming pool in North America. Crews are currently working on the massive project at Webber Park in Minneapolis.

"[The pool will be] 100% chemical-free using BioNova proprietary biological filtration technology," Weene said of the groundbreaking installation. "It is going to be over 21,000 square feet of swimming area with an additional 16,000 square feet of planted regeneration zone and will support over 1,000 bathers per day.

But how did BioNova crack the code, so to speak, and gain municipal approval for a non-sterile public pool? Like Illinois, Minnesota has extensive and specific laws governing public pools. Some sections of the Minnesota Administrative Rules even appear to prohibit non-chemically disinfected pools. Section 4717.1750 Subpart 3, for instance, sets guidelines for water condition with regards to chlorine or other chemicals.

"When in use, a pool must be continuously disinfected with a chemical that imparts an easily measured, free available residual," the rules read. (The Minnesota Administrative Rules can be found on the website of Minnesota’s Office of the Revisor of Statutes.)

According to Weene, BioNova meets or exceeds the legislative standards imposed upon swimming pools simply by adhering to German FLL guidelines — which, he claims, are as much as twice as stringent as U.S. EPA guidelines. Over 20,000 NSPs have been installed in Europe, he says, providing plenty of opportunities for study.

"Once you get to the commercial sector, there are very strict regulations in terms of bather health and safety [and] microbiological content."
A hybrid NSP in Princeton, N.J. with gunite construction, pebble finish, and beach entry. Aquatic plants include cattails, American Lotus and pickerel weed. Photo courtesy of Bi-oNova Dealer Partner Rin Robyn Pools.

providing water that is safe and healthy for bathing. Specifically, citing analysis reports where the microbiological bacterial indicator limits were never reached or exceeded over the complete season of use in these swimming pools.

“Was that really a very challenging hurdle to get over,” Weene continued. “However, BioNova — specifically our [president and CEO], James Robyn — is the only person in North America who’s qualified to have that kind of a conversation with a municipality or a health department, in terms of working on getting new legislation drafted for one of these public natural swimming pools to be permitted.”

BioNova is no stranger to overcoming hurdles; the company holds the only U.S. and Canada patent for the biologicallypurely biological processes is capable of controlling directed flow through our biological fine filters, the planted regeneration zone, and recirculation of that water between the regeneration zone, mechanical equipment and the swimming area,” Weene explained. “All of our natural swimming pool installations adhere to that patent.”

Whatever the specifics of the system may be, the results were enough to satisfy the city of Minneapolis. The grand opening of the pool is scheduled for August 2014.

A High-Profile Test Case

Not everyone considers the matter settled, however — particularly pond professionals.

“This project will be the test case for NSPs,” Meyer Jordan said of the Webber project. “I am afraid that there will be an incident. No way to tell the magnitude of the incident. I am really amazed that, considering all of the scientific data against such an operation, it was even approved. Surely, the health professionals were asked to weigh in. BioNova has been fighting for years to get established in the U.S. and this is definitely a make-or-break project for them and NSPs in general.

“Let me clarify one thing,” he added. “I am not denying that all NSPs are unsafe. It is that I have yet to see any scientific proof offered by BioNova … to prove that they are safe.”

If Legislation could Kill

To some, a third potential impact of the swim pond trend is the most concerning of all: unnecessary, crippling legislation of non-swim ponds. If swim ponds continue to gain popularity, the same kind of rules that regulate pools could be brought to bear on all pond installations … with catastrophic results.

“The more we push the envelope, the more exposure we have to call in the governing bodies for increased regulation,” Taylor said. “If [swim ponds] are not built according to swimming pool codes, then they will bring more and more scrutiny into our midst.”

Jones agreed.

“Basically, you’re going to end up with ponds that aren’t going to be over 12 inches deep,” he said. “They’re going to have to be qualified as ‘wading pools.’ We don’t need that kind of crap shoved down our throats building ponds.”

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“We don’t need that kind of crap shove...
Most of you do not have to be told that the weather now is much different than it was a few months ago. Those of us in the northern climates are huddled around inside, looking out the window at a blanket of snow on the ground and ice on the ponds. This gives us an opportunity to engage in outdoor activities such as ice skating, ice fishing, sled riding or snowball fights. It’s easy for us to know that we have to be careful outside in freezing temperatures and dress warmer to make sure that we don’t freeze to death. But you may not think about what cold-blooded animals such as fish, frogs and turtles need when the water they are living in gets a sheet of ice on top.

Mammals and other warm-blooded animals transition differently than cold-blooded animals when the weather changes from mild to downright cold. Some mammals get ready for the cold by growing a denser and heavier winter coat. Others stash food in a hideaway for future use, and still others ball up and hibernate for a few weeks to a few months at a time.

The cold-blooded animals, including the fish in your ponds, do not have the ability to make these bodily changes due to physiological differences. Instead of having the luxury of growing a heavier coat, stashing food away or hibernating, they must adjust by changing their habits and changing the location of their home within their environment.

A Change in Metabolism

In early fall, when the weather begins to cool down, the water also cools, resulting in a slower metabolic rate in the fish. A slowing metabolism means they will need less food and process food more slowly. At this point many pond owners will usually do one of a few things with their fish food: cut back on the feeding rate; change from a floating to a sinking food; change the nutrients, minerals or additives of their food and/or decrease the protein and fat content of the food. As the pond owner makes changes to the feed, the fish’s body automatically transitions from a growth phase to a maintenance phase. This means that they will need little or no feed to maintain a relatively even body weight. In a growth phase, they will consume more than their body needs for maintenance, allowing the excess food to be converted to muscle or fat.

At the fish farm here in south-central Pennsylvania, the fish begin their transition to a slower lifestyle at the bottom of the pond when the leaves begin their color change, so our feeding rates begin to get gradually lower. By the time you are reading this article, our ponds are probably frozen and there will be no feeding of the fish in the outside ponds. Winter feeding, or the lack thereof, has been the subject of many discussions between pond owners and fish farmers as to what the proper method might be.

In my opinion, your fish will give you subtle hints to tell you what they need. I have seen fish looking for food on a sunny, 50-degree day on the first...
To Change or Not to Change: The impact of raising and lowering prices

Care Beyond Feeding

Although fish are not always being fed actively during the winter, ponds still need to be monitored to make sure the fish are maintaining their health and staying stress-free. A simple bubbler, fountain or stream running into the pond should keep an area of the water from freezing. Oddly enough, when fish get sick or stressed, they will seek out this area and you will know something is wrong.

Keep alert for signs of parasites or fungus such as flashing, red spots or fuzzy spots. You will also want to keep stressors to a minimum, including predators and steep changes in water temperature or chemistry. Since the fish are just resting and have not taken in any feed, their stress responses are lessened and their immune systems may be more easily compromised.

Those of you in the northern climates need to remember that your fish are not ignoring you during this time of year; they are merely resting on the bottom. Keep in mind that they have gone through a transition from an active feeding mode to a maintenance mode and they are just thinking about warmer weather. Observe your pond daily and correct problems as they arise so that your fish continue to rest comfortably. When the warm weather does come, they will be “looking for love,” so make sure you condition them properly by gradually increasing feeding to bring them through another season. Enjoy the winter! ⚫

About the Author

Justin Larson is a biologist at Mt. Parnell Fisheries, Inc. in Mercersburg, Pa. He has carried out the spawning of the fancy goldfish, koi, longfin koi and rosy reds at the farm for the past six years. In his free time he enjoys coaching wrestling, hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his wife and three children.

The Round Table

by Rick Smith, EasyPro Pond Products

After 24 years of rapid and very successful growth in the water features industry, many contractors who specialize solely in water features have been faced with a very challenging economy in recent years. Since the economy has, historically, been a cyclical beast, we can be confident that this too shall pass over into better times. The unknown is when. Still, a lot of discussion these days focuses on the question, “How do I grow my business now?”

Although there are numerous books that outline marketing practices, tools to use and specific individual business conditions to take into consideration, I still hear the question, “Should I consider raising or lowering my prices on products and services?” So, let’s briefly take a look at the pros and cons of these two options.

The Impact of Raising or Lowering Prices

There are times when a pricing adjustment may be the correct course of action. Before you decide to cut prices, ask yourself, “Do I feel I can increase my sales volume by these amounts? What steps need to be put in place to make that happen?” The same precautions are necessary for price increases. Before you decide to increase prices, ask yourself, “Do I feel the market demand, clientele or quality of project will support these prices?” Some services you provide may support the change, but others services may not.

Before the price was lowered:

- Did you know that a 20 percent cut in prices and/or services means that a 400 percent increase in volume by these amounts? What steps need to be put in place to make that happen?

Before you decide to cut prices, ask yourself, “Do I feel I can increase my sales volume by these amounts? What steps need to be put in place to make that happen?”

Cut your prices by this much and you’ll have to sell this percentage more volume!

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A price increase of this percentage means...

- The same profit on this original volume?
  - 3%: 90%
  - 5%: 83.3%
  - 10%: 71.5%
  - 15%: 72.6%
  - 20%: 55.5%

There are numerous new opportunities out there today, and I would suggest that diversification and extension of your services are much more powerful than pricing actions. Wishing you the best in 2014, and I look forward to your feedback. ⚫

Rick Smith serves as Director of Sales with EasyPro Pond Products and has over 30 years of organizational leadership and sales and marketing experience in the Lawn & Garden Nursery and Water Features Industries. Water gardening has been one of Rick’s passions, while enjoying his own ponds and fish. Rick has had a focus on contributing to the enjoyment of other pond owners, as well as the success of business owners, by developing customized business plans, sales support material, and numerous power point training seminars.
The Best and the Brightest
2013 New Waterlily Competition results

by Tamara Kilbane,
Denver Botanic Gardens

Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver, Colo. served as the growing site for the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society’s annual New Waterlily Competition, which drew 19 entries from hybridizers around the world this year. These entries were divided into the following categories: Hardy, Day-Blooming Tropical, Intersubgeneric and Anecephya.

Photos were taken of each entry’s first-, second- and third-day blooms, a side shot of the bloom, as well as each second-day bloom with a ruler and each plant with a yardstick. Grower’s notes were maintained throughout the season to record growth characteristics that were not clearly visible in the photos, such as duration of bloom, average height of blooms above the water’s surface, rate of growth and any issues or abnormalities noted in any entry.
Away With Geese Announces New Sports Cage

The Sports Cage protects the Sports Unit, a unit designed to avert theft in public spaces, from vandalism. The two together get rid of Canada Geese from any public area, while also averting theft and vandalism of the unit. All Away With Geese products feature a solar-powered light that is scarcely noticeable to humans but is very disruptive to the sleep of the geese, causing them to find another habitat after just a few restless nights.

The Away With Geese Sports Cage completely protects the Sports Unit with six pounds of heavy-duty steel and an auger that securely twists into the ground to avert theft. Like all Away With Geese units, they are maintenance-free; once placed and secured, they require no upkeep and are guaranteed to rid the area of Canada Geese.

Away With Geese has an entire line of satisfaction-guaranteed products which get rid of geese from every type of landscape, including ponds and lakes, private yards, public areas and parks and flat rooftops.

Away With Geese

BioSafe Systems Announces New Branding

BioSafe Systems is excited about the recent unveiling of their new branding at this year’s fall tradeshow. The new look is designed to stand out on store shelves while maintaining a cohesive, sustainable image. Additionally, new product names speak to customers’ gardening problems, making their decisions much simpler. With the introduction of the new image and names, BioSafe is looking to increase brand recognition while continuing to provide customers with the same great eco-friendly products they are looking for.

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POND Trade Magazine January/February 2014

Official winners in each category:

- Best New Waterlily of 2013: “Plum Crazy” — Hybridized by Florida Aquatic Nurseries, Fla., USA
- Second Best New Waterlily of 2013: “Purple Fantasy” — Hybridized by Florida Aquatic Nurseries, Fla., USA
- First Place Hardy Waterlily: “Fuschia Pom Pom” — Hybridized by Tony Moore, Ohio, USA
- Second Place Hardy Waterlily: “Awesome” — Hybridized by Tony Moore, Ohio, USA
- First Place Day-Blooming Tropical: “Plum Crazy” — Hybridized by Florida Aquatic Nurseries, Fla., USA
- Second Place Day-Blooming Tropical: “Tawanok” — Hybridized by Nopchai Chansilpa, Thailand
- First Place Intersubgeneric Waterlily: “Purple Fantasy” — Hybridized by Florida Aquatic Nurseries, Fla., USA
- Second Place Intersubgeneric Waterlily: Unnamed — Hybridized by Mike Giles, W.Va., USA
- First Place Anechhya Waterlily: “Mayaranee” — Hybridized by Nopchai Chansilpa, Thailand
- Second Place Anechhya Waterlily: “Yaowalak” — Hybridized by Nopchai Chansilpa, Thailand

After taking the photos and growers’ notes under careful consideration, an international panel of 13 judges provided scores for each new hybrid in the following categories: Flower, Foliage, General Impression, and Unique Characteristics. The judges’ scores were then combined and the hybrid receiving the highest number of points in each category was awarded first place for that category. The entry receiving the highest overall number of points was named the Best New Waterlily of 2013, and the Second Best New Waterlily of 2013 went to the entry with the second-highest number of points overall.

The IWGS would like to congratulate Florida Aquatic Nurseries for their winning entry, “Plum Crazy.” This tropical day-blooming waterlily boasts vibrant, plum-colored blooms and striking pads mottled with bright green and deep purple. Its compact growth habit and high-petal-count flowers add to the overall beauty of this new hybrid.

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Unnamed
Mayaranee
Yaowalak

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Aquascape, Inc. Announces New Algaecide Product for Ornamental Water Features

Aquascape is proud to announce its new Algaecide to help pond and water-fall owners combat string algae and green water. Aquascape Algaecide is a liquid algaecide control product ideal for use in ornamental fish ponds, water gardens, fountains and container water gardens. Benefits and features of Aquascape’s Algaecide include:

- Stops algae growth
- Eliminates green water
- Fast-acting and easy to use
- Can be used in ponds and fountains with fish and plants

Aquascape Algaecide is available in four different sizes ranging from an 8.5-oz bottle treating up to 2,500 gallons of water to a one-gallon container treating up to 60,000 gallons of water. To check for availability of Aquascape Algaecide in your area, call 866/877-6637.

Aquatic Life Introduces New KDF Catalytic Granular Activated Carbon Cartridge

Aquatic Life, LLC has introduced a KDF 85/ Catalytic Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) cartridge designed to reduce and remove iron and hydrogen sulfide from municipal or other water supplies. Effective in controlling the buildup of bacteria, algae, fungi and scale, the KDF 85/GAC Catalytic GAC cartridge is ideal for use as an inline carbon filter.

The high-quality media, consisting of a mix of KDF 85 and granular activated carbon, reduces the taste, odor and dissolved organic chemicals from water supplies resulting in the removal of 99% of dissolved metals including lead, mercury, nickel and chromiuim. Additionally, the high surface area of the cartridge results in an exceptionally high capacity and efficiency.

“The KDF 85/ Catalytic GAC cartridge is a great compliment to the RO Buddie and other reverse osmosis systems where there are high levels of chlorine, chloramines and water-soluble heavy metals in the tap water,” said Justin Bunton, Aquatic Life’s customer support manager. “The KDF 85/Catalytic GAC cartridge will provide aquarium and hydroponics hobbyists an affordable and effective water purification option.”

Aquatic Life
888/548-3480
dealersupport@aquaticlife.com
www.aquaticlife.com

Update from the Philippines

On Friday, November 8th, 2013 at 5:02 a.m., Super Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Visayas Region of the Philippine Islands. The devastation was horrific, the damage was unbelievable, and the death toll still continues to rise in the largest, most catastrophic typhoon to ever make landfall in the history of the world! Sustained winds of 235 mph completely annihilated the modern city of Tacloban, Leyte. High-rise buildings, shopping malls and entire subdivisions are completely gone, wiped clean from their existence, leaving this city in complete ruins.

Rick Bartel of the PONDS for PLACE Program at the WTER for the WORLD Initiative took a team of volunteers into the epicenter of this devastated region, setting up water purification systems that will clean and purify the contaminated water supplies there, providing much-needed safe drinking water to more than 200,000 people. More than 20 water stations were installed fromOrmoc City to the ruins of Tacloban during their two-week stay.

This organization believes that the correct way to focus on these natural disasters is not to always just simply supply bottled water, because after the water is consumed, the survivors are right back where they started: without water. WTER for the WORLD provides water purification systems that will not only give the survivors much needed immediate water supplies but will continue to provide water for many years to come.

Kloubec Koi Farm Honored with Iowa Venture Award

Kloubec Koi Farm of Amana, Iowa, received the 2013 Venture Award recognizing the company for its expansion and contributions to Iowa’s economy. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Bill Northey presented the award on behalf of the Iowa Area Development Group L.C., (IADG).

Kloubec Koi Farm consists of 55 mud ponds located on the terraced hills of an 80-acre century farm near Amana. The combination of good water, good clay, good blood lines of the koi fish and much hard work have enabled the Kloubec Koi Farm to become the largest koi farm in the United States. The Kloubec family produce and distribute healthy koi that can live up to 60 years.
Airmax Inc Now Offering the CrystalClear Brand of Water Garden Treatments

In early 2013, Airmax Inc bought the popular CrystalClear brand of water garden treatments, adding to their line of Pond, Lake and Water Garden aeration and PondLogic Pond & Lake treatments. For 2014 they have re-introduced the line with new sizes and packaging, but more importantly, new products.

Along with a completely revamped Fish Food line, they have also introduced several items that are unique and exciting. Airmax is most excited about their new MuckOFF pond sludge and muck remover. This all-natural, highly potent muck remover is unique in the fact that the treatments come in the form of dissolvable tablets that quickly sink to the bottom of a pond to start working directly on the buildup of muck that most, if not all, ponds experience. They’re easy to use, highly effective at removing muck and carry a satisfaction guarantee. MuckOFF comes in sizes ranging from 24-count to 384-count with MAP-protected MSRP’s from $16.99 to $139.99.

Airmax® Inc 
866/424-7629
www.airmaxeco.com

Ecological Laboratories Gets Involved in the Community

In a continuing effort to embrace the community, Ecological Laboratories paid a visit to All-Superstars Preschool.

The administrator, Kate Sroka, had started a native plant and hydroponic garden for the students to visit, expanding their horizons beyond the basic ABCs and 1-2-3s. Linda Hernandez, the company’s marketing manager, and Carolyn Weise of customer relations and technical pond support spoke with the five-year-old students, as well as interacting with them in the garden to encourage them to care for the plants. They discussed cultivation with the assistance of their teacher, and use of the Microbe Life products that were donated to the school from Ecological Laboratories.

We are most proud of this school’s foresight, elevating these youngsters to another level, beyond academics only, by instilling an interest and respect for the earth.

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FINAL THOUGHT...

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YAMATO
JAPAN PET DESIGN

COLOR ENHANCER

The Yamato color enhancing diet is part of the JPD family of koi foods that also includes: Fujiyama staple diet, Fujizakura health diet, Puyufuji all weather diet, and Shori high growth champion diet. All available in 4.4lb, 11lb, and 22lb bags in medium or large pellet sizes.

JPD has a rich and proud 200 year history of koi and goldfish breeding and fish food production in Japan. Yamato color enhancing koi food is a nutritionally based diet that has been carefully formulated with Astaxanthin (8 mg/kg) and Vitamin C (300 mg/kg) for brilliant colors and vivid whites of koi and contains high grade, essential ingredients that are fortified with vitamins and minerals for proper nutrition and easy digestion.

Photo courtesy of The Koi Whisperer Sanctuary & Japanese Gardens © M Malinowski

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