Monster Pond

New Section - POND Sources

- Filter Overview
- Filter Media by Brand

How to Get Those Dreaded Tasks Done

Indepth Tips About Social Media and Your Website
Attention
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Be There—make your voice heard

INTERNATIONAL WATERLILY AND WATER GARDENING SOCIETY
2010 Waterlily Festival and 26th Annual Symposium
SAN ANGELO, TX • SEPTEMBER 16-19

Join us for this year’s International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society Annual Symposium and view over 300 varieties and cultivars of breathtaking waterlilies on display at International Waterlily Collection. The event will be the largest gathering of waterlily enthusiasts to date and may prove to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view hundreds of waterlily cultivars and species in one location!

Highlights of the Symposium include:

• Water gardening seminars by leaders in the industry, including Ken Landon of the International Waterlily Collection
• Pond tours
• Texas style cook-out
• Awards banquet at San Angelo Art Museum
• Fireworks show
• Networking opportunities

Registration includes all meals from Thursday reception through Sunday lunch if staying at host hotel, Staybridge Suites in San Angelo.

Early bird registration fee ($199.00) is available until July 15th.

Request info at www.pondtrademag.com/infocard/ ↓ # 241
9 Web Exclusive Articles
A peek at a few of the articles available exclusively on our website, www.PONDTradeMag.com. Topics like rainwater harvesting, starting a pond shop, critter control and ponding for birds. New articles are posted regularly. Check them out today.

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Jamie Beyer, Midwest Waterscapes
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13 Be Careful of the Plants You Plant Near Your Pond
Chuck Baldwin
Be careful what you plant, especially near liner ponds. Roots can do damage to even thick liner. In this case, a variegated water reed grass that has sharp pencil sized spikes, poked holes through a liner causing the pond to leak.

14 Want More Web Traffic?
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Pam Greiner, The Green Pen
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22 Six Tips for Forcing Yourself to Tackle a Dreaded Task
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24 COVER – MONSTER Pond
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POND Sources – New Section

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Who knew there were so many choices?
Erik Tate, The Water Garden
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35 POND Sources Directory: Filter & Filter Media Manufacturers and Distributors
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40 Your Success. Powered by SCORE.
SCORE- Service Corps Of Retired Executives, has many low cost or even free services for your business. Get help on critical issues companies face every day, from business plans to sales training.

Columns

6 QnA - Staining a Deck
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Photo provided by Mamoru Kodama
Question

Greetings PT. We will need to clean, sand and stain our deck and gazebo this summer. The problem is the deck and gazebo wrap around our fish pond. What are the do’s and don’ts to refinishing the decking and not finishing off my fish? Thanks, Mark

Answer

Knowing what the deck is stained with presently could be important. Keep all sawdust out of the pond, especially if the wood is pressure treated. An oil based stain is probably better than water based because it off gasses more quickly. All prep and stain work should be done when there is no threat of precipitation and the pond should be covered in plastic to keep debris and stain from getting into the pond. Pressure washing is better than sanding. If they cover the pond with plastic be sure to put slats across and aerate well. I would check with the manufacturer before applying the stain.

Vicki Vaughan, Flat Rock Koi, www.flatrockkoi.com
You Have Choices, We Have Info

Pond contractors and retailers have choices to make. A big one is what brands and classes of products to sell and use. The decisions you make can have a profound impact on your day-to-day business.

*POND Sources* is our answer. When you are selecting what products to sell, are you considering all that is available? Take Filtration. How do you decide what kind of filtration to recommend and install for your clients? Do you have a variety of solutions for the different needs and wants of your different prospects, or do you decline the sale for clients whose desires don’t fit the product lines you provide. (There is no right or wrong answer here.)

The point is, do you know your options, and are you okay with your limitations?

In this issue, we are Launching *POND Sources*, a section that focuses on pond equipment and supplies, one category at a time. Included are articles about the products, and contact information for leading manufacturers and distributors that sell those products. This way you know your options. Will this help you bid more jobs, or expand your store inventory? We hope so.

While walking the Hardware Show in Las Vegas recently, we met up with some of the leading manufacturers in our business, so we had to take a moment for a quick snapshot.

Happy selling.
This beautiful 260 page book explores over 50 leading Japanese Koi Farms with information you won’t find anywhere else.

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– Bob Winkler, AKCA Certified Koi Judge

“Koi produced by the various farms are skillfully analyzed to better define what is unique about their characteristics”
– Dick Benbow, 30 Year Koi Hobbyist

“I would highly recommend reading this book.” – Mark Bodycott, USA Koi www.usakoi.com

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Thinking of Starting a Pond Shop?

Chris Moore
Retired Owner of Moorehaven Water Gardens

It’s one thing to open a “pond shop,” but what is important is to have an inviting environment to attract your customers to new areas and new ideas. Learn from a Pond Shop veteran what it is like to have a successful retail outlet.

Predator Control – Otters: Unwanted Visitors

Randy LeFever
Blue Ridge Fish Hatchery
www.blueridgekoi.com

What does over four miles of fencing have to do with koi? Otters: Unwanted Visitors. Read how Blue Ridge Fish Hatchery dealt with their predator problem.

Rainwater Harvesting

Mike Garcia
Enviroponds
www.enviroponds.com

Mike Garcia took that unneeded swimming pool in his backyard and converted it to a Rainwater Harvesting System. Read about the transformation that took place.

The newest website article “Ponding for the Birds and Butterflies”

Pamela J. Stephens Schlett
Stephens Aquatic Service, Inc.
www.sasponds.com

The article includes a how-to on turning your customer’s pond into the “bird mecca of the neighborhood.” There are tips on water, food, shelter and safety. There is a list of recommended plants. Find this article online today.

Helping Those with Water Features to Deal with Drought

Mike Garcia
Enviroponds
www.enviroponds.com

In view of recent serious drought conditions, what can be done to save water if one has a water feature? Here are some of the simple solutions we can do to keep our water features going during a drought. These tips amount to having our cake and eating it too.

Editors note: at the time this was written, the most serious drought conditions, surprisingly, were on the Hawaii’s Big Island. That doesn’t mean we should not be prepared, or take for granted the water in our water features. Please take the time to read Mike Garcia’s article.
A very common question that many clients will ask is “how much evaporation can occur in a water garden?” The client suspects that a leak is occurring, or hoping that, just maybe, it is merely evaporating “fast.”

Leaks in any type of water body can be tough to figure out, not only to identify whether there is a leak, but also, how to find it. This is especially true when the leak is relatively slow. Most people fear that it could be a leak, but want desperately to believe that it is evaporation, so that is the question they ask first. Water costs keep rising and a leak, even a slow one, can create a lot of expense that can be avoided. These expenses can also include wasted pond chemicals, bacterial additions and algal blooms. The importance of identifying and finding a leak has to take priority for clients. I will be discussing leaks in flexible lined ponds in two parts. Both parts will be a step-by-step investigation of leaks. In Part I, our investigation will start with the easily examined causes which are, thankfully, the most likely. In Part II we will then proceed to the more difficult to find causes of leaks. Both parts of the article will deal with techniques for avoiding leaks to start with.

So how fast is evaporation? Depends – of course, this is always the answer but it is especially true with a pond’s evaporation. It depends on how hot it is, how windy it is, the amount of pond surface area, how high and how fast the water is being pumped and even the number of plants in the pond. An increase in any one of these can increase the evaporation rate. When moisture is evaporated through plant leaves it is called transpiration, but the end result is that water is still being lost from the pond at a faster rate than if there were no plants.

Generally speaking a pond level drop of 1” in 24 hours could be a possible very fast evaporation rate. However, I would suspect a pond leak, especially if it was a cool calm spring day without much plant growth in the pond yet. I do like to observe for a few days to make a determination as to whether the drop is consistent over the period. Of course, a rain received during this “test” period could confuse the issue.

Automatic fill valves can really complicate the issue of whether or not a pond is leaking. A pond owner can go for years without noticing a small leak, or even a moderate one, if the automatic fill is always in service. Of course, at the end of the month an exceptionally high water bill can be a clear
indication of a leak. In this case, the leak will have to be large enough to show a noticeable change in the amount of water used for a client to suspect one.

It is important to have the option of isolating the automatic fill with an easily accessible valve. Then periodically throughout the season the auto fill is shut off for a week or so to determine if there is a leak. Tell the client that, whenever the pond needs filling, to open the isolation valve and then close it later. This could be the next day or week, whatever is convenient. The auto fill is still a very necessary accessory for a pond for the simple fact that if the pond is filled with a garden hose, a person will eventually forget and leave the hose running. If left long enough it can be lethal to the fish and to the ecosystem because of chlorinated water. This is a catastrophe to anyone that owns a pond. Eventually this will happen to almost everybody that fills with a simple garden hose. Recognizing this, a lot of smart ponders without an auto fill are utilizing a water timer attached to their garden hose.

Okay, once a leak is strongly suspected, there is a step-by-step locating process to go through next. Some leaks are more obvious than others so we look for the obvious ones first. Leaks are a relatively easy find in flexible liner ponds compared to earth and concrete lined ponds. This is one of the reasons we like to use the flexible stuff.

Always suspect water splashing out of the pond, especially if there is a fountain in the pond or a high waterfall. The water could be wind-blown or is being splashed outside the edge of the pond. So, inspect the entire perimeter of the pond looking for wet areas outside of the pond. Look closely - it does not take much of a splash to create a loss of water. Where there are wet rocks or wet leaves there needs to be liner under them to make sure the water is contained.

Fountains of various types can create conditions where some of the water shooting out into the air is blown out of the pond or water collection area. Not all of the water is returning to the pond, so you have a loss of water. A vertical fountain should be pumped at a maximum height of 1/2 of the width of the pond or water collection area. For a 10’ wide pond, the fountain height should be no higher than 5’. Even this is too high in very windy areas, so a fountain will need to be adjusted for local conditions. Just make sure all the water is returning back to the collection area of the pond or feature, even when the client is not around.

Continuing the investigation, go around the entire perimeter of the pond and stream looking for a leak where three common mistakes could have been made in the construction phase. The liner may have sagged due to settling of the grade. Enough drop may have not been provided along the edge grade to the eventual water level. Finally, the liner could have been cut too short when being trimmed, or simply, the liner was not large enough to begin with.

In the construction phase of streams and ponds where backfill is used to bring the grade up, a huge mistake is commonly made. The soil backfill under the filter falls box, skimmer box and around the edge of the pond or streambed may not be properly packed. This is vital to the proper construction of a pond. In areas of greater than 6” to 12” of backfill a jumping jack packer or heavy piece of equipment should be used to pack the soil in the fill areas. Most do-it-yourselfers and inexperienced installers do not know the importance of this step. It is common for these areas to then settle causing the liner to sag, which often results in a leak. This can occur over a several year period. The freeze/thaw cycle enhances this settling during winters where the ground freezes.
The perimeter leaks can also be caused by not providing enough drop between the water level of the stream or pond and the actual grade of the surrounding soil. To aggravate the situation, a stream can be partially blocked with debris or ice, thereby causing water to back up and overflow the sides of the stream.

Cutting the liner too short or not having enough liner to bring up to the surrounding grade are mistakes that happen with inexperience. A foot or two of excess liner should be left along the edge of the entire water feature and be folded back under itself. This is a very inexpensive technique to insure there is enough liner, even if areas settle or enough drop is not provided. With extra liner available, a fix can easily be made by pulling up the excess and bringing in some fill soil.

Initially, an “investigative cruise” of the edge is done without a lot of moving of rocks to make a quick determination if one of the construction mistakes could be the cause of a leak. In the cruise a lot of poking and some moving of rocks is done where the water is close to the edge. Look for high moisture areas. However, the mulch may not be wet on top but a little digging with a finger may reveal a suspect area. In finding an area like this, do more dismantling of the spot to make a better determination. It is not necessary to dismantle an entire pond’s edge to eventually find a relatively easily found edge overflow.

So far, all investigative techniques have been easy and can be done quickly without many tools using simple observations. We have discussed and eliminated the relatively simple leaks, like wind blown water and edge settling.

In Part II of this article, we will graduate to the next level of leak detection. We will look in detail at all possible leak points in a flexible lined pond, and talk about ways to avoid them.
Sent as a letter to the Editor.

by Chuck Baldwin

I just thought it might be worth mentioning to your readers. I planted a variegated water reed grass (Variegated Phragmites) in my pond a few years ago (obtained from a pond supply place near us). I had it in a submerged pot. It seeded at the edge of my pond, and not knowing any better, thinking it looked great, I left it alone.

After about four years, I decided to clean out the pond and completely drained it. To my dismay I found several holes with sharp points protruding through the liner (30 mil EDPM).

After determining that it was some kind of plant, I pulled up the liner and discovered large (pencil diameter size) runners going completely from one side to the other side of the pond underneath the liner, with these needle sharp protrusions (much like a sharp pencil and just as hard) coming from the runners, pushing up against and through the underside of the liner. I’ve had to remove all these ‘roots’ (hope I’ve gotten them all) and replaced the liner.

Needless to say I won’t allow this in my pond anymore or anywhere around the edge of the pond. You might want to caution your readers about using this grass (or at least find some way of controlling it as I should have). The cost of liner replacement, as well as having to remove and replace the border rock, was high and shouldn’t have been needed.
Want More Web Traffic?
CONTENT IS KING - STILL!

by Pam Greiner
The Green Pen

Words are funny things. Sometimes the way a word sounds isn’t how it is spelled, even if our teachers did say to ‘sound it out’. Sometimes words can have more than one meaning. Sometimes words can be beautiful and poetic, capturing a heart or soul. Sometimes they can be used to inflict pain, the kind that scars the heart and soul.

When it comes to your business, words may be more important than you know and can wield the same powers to capture or harm your customers, or significantly impact their perception of you. You use them as part of your copy or content on your website, on your social media, in your email campaigns, on your signs, commercials, and in your interactions with your (hopeful) customers and clients.

I think of my mother and her voice reminding me to ‘choose my words carefully’, meaning that depending on the situation, I could get myself into big trouble if I speak before I think.

This old saying holds true in developing your Brand and the marketing that supports it. Planning is critical in developing content. In this context, ‘content’ is different than ‘copy’ in that copy refers to elements of advertising such as brochures, ads, commercials, etc... My focus on content is geared towards creating a user friendly experience through the internet which will help users find solutions to what they are looking for and create conversations. Seems simple, right? Not exactly. The job of a copy writer is much different than a content strategist in that the latter has to consider many factors that make the internet truly unique when it comes to its audience and advertising, marketing, and branding all the while being aware of keywords, links, page structure, and so on, and so on...

Whatever element you are working on, there are three important questions you need to answer:

1. What is your goal?
2. What will the reader/visitor want to know?
3. How can you develop & engage in a conversation (create a call-to-action)?

The answers will be different for everyone. You may notice that I didn’t add, ‘What do you want them to know?’ There is a reason for that – the answer to that question really doesn’t matter. You need to provide the reader/visitor with the information THEY want to know and are looking for.

A website developer worth his salt holds true to a phrase often used in the industry, ‘Content is King.’ There is no substitute for sufficient, unique, meaningful, and sought after content (which also includes images and videos). So, I’m now going to give you a few tips in developing your own content for different elements of your online marketing. First let’s tackle email campaigns and Social Media.

Email Campaigns are those mailings that you send out to a targeted group with one, or, several messages or topics. In these communications Don’t:

Be long winded. An email blast should be one topic with a specific purpose & target audience. Try to keep a newsletter to three main topics and keep your paragraphs short, 250 words should be the max. If you need to, link to your website ‘for more information.’ Use the sidebar for quick tidbits, for example, “Come see our new display pond at…,” or “Refer a friend & receive a finny friend (value $50).”

Steal. I hate scraped content. Somehow with the growth of the Internet there is also a growth in plagiarism. Just because you read it on the web doesn’t mean you can take the information (copy and paste) and use it as your own. It is stealing. Period. Don’t do it. It ruins your credibility. At the very least, ask the writer for permission to use it and make sure you cite that person in your newsletter. The best thing to do is write the content yourself (unique content). If you are not comfortable with doing that, work with a content strategist who can take your ideas and information and put them into a meaningful article.

Use bad pictures. Make sure that when your campaign is delivered the image will be clear and not grainy, out of focus, or too small. Oh yeah. Don’t steal those either.

Talk about yourself. That’s great. You just went to a conference and won some award that no one else has ever heard of before. That information really doesn’t do anything for the reader of a newsletter or email blast. Save it for a press release. That’s where it belongs (if it’s actual news).

My last article, in POND Trade Magazine’s May/June issue, tackled how to create email campaigns and avoid ending up in the dreaded SPAM folder, make sure you read that again as all of that information fits in here as well.

Social Media is such a new and constantly evolving part of online interactions and marketing. But when it comes to your business, the approach is much different than your personal endeavors.

Whether you Tweet, Facebook, or get LinkedIn, the first thing you have to do is ask yourself what you are trying to accomplish on these platforms. Define your goals and set parameters for your ‘conversation’. Yes. I said conversation. It is called ‘Social Media’ for a very good reason. The intent is for the users to actually be SOCIAL.
Also, it is nice to have ‘Friends’ and ‘Fans’ (or ‘Like’ now other pages) of your colleagues & peers, but are they really going to make you money? NO. You need to be ‘friends’ with your customers & potential customers. (It is a matter of debate with me as to whether it is better for our industry, not all industries, to have your business set up as a personal page or fan page. I recommend devoting time to both equally and determining which one is more successful for you.) For me & my thoughts for our industry (small business in particular), most likely your ‘fan’ pages will not attract fans the way a celebrity’s page will, or a large restaurant chain, or a local popular hangout and does not have the same comedic appeal as the ‘I don’t know Where Waldo is, nor do I care’ page. It is easier to request ‘friends’ than recommend a page. This is something you have to consider when utilizing these applications. When you do get social, please Don’t:

Advertise. Your Tweets, Status Updates, etc… should not be a constant opportunity to talk about your latest sale or promotion. In our industry, it often also means talking about your latest project or going on a rant about the quality of your work. It just won’t work for the reader and they will tune out.

Bring Jesus to that table. Sounds harsh I know but religion and business are not things that mix well. Remember separation of church and state? The founding fathers knew it too. Which brings me to…

Talk about which way you lean. I don’t care if you are on the far left, far right, or stuck in the middle, politically speaking that is. And your customers shouldn’t care either. And, if they do, you don’t really want them to know in case they are the polar opposite. Politics and religion polarize people and that is not something you want to do when communicating for your business.

Get personal. What I mean is (on Facebook, MySpace, etc…), don’t use your personal page as your business page and vice-versa. Your customers don’t want to know the intimate details of your life and relationships. Have a separate page for each and keep it that way. For both email campaigns and Social Media, Do:

KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid). Don’t get all technical on your audience. Write things in a way they will understand.

Give out valuable information. Talk about things that matter to your customers. Yes, they will OCCASIONALLY want to know what sales you have going on, but really they want to know how to get the most out of your products & services in a non-salesy way. The key to this is really understanding your audience.

Link. Provide links to websites and articles that will be valuable to your fans and friends. Let them know...
that you are constantly on the lookout for information for them and that you are a valuable resource to them.

**Be Brief.** No further explanation needed. This is very, very important in email campaigns.

**Be Consistent.** The hardest thing is making the commitment that once you start, you keep it going. If people start following you in Social Media and like what you have to say, they will look for your posts. The same thing applies to email campaigns. A well done newsletter will be anxiously awaited by its recipients.

**Website Content** is a bit different. In my mind this is truly where ‘Content is King.’ Where there is bad content, there is anarchy.

---

**My secret weapon (and this is top-secret information) for developing website content is (drum roll please…) THE OUTLINE.**

It is something we all learned to do in school. We take information and we put it into outline form so that we can organize the information in a way that makes sense. The same can be applied to developing your website content. Here is an example:

---

**I. Home Page**

a. About Us
   i. Our Company
   ii. Meet Our Staff
   iii. Our Locations

b. Products
   i. Pond Supplies
   ii. Lighting
   iii. Pond Plants

c. Services
   i. Ponds
   ii. Pondless Waterfalls
   iii. Rainwater Harvesting
   iv. Maintenance

d. Resources
   i. Pond Care Tips
   ii. FAQ

e. Contact Us
   i. Contact Us Form

---

When developing a site I firmly believe this is the first step to developing a GREAT website. Forget colors, or logo placement, or font size (although they are important too). To be blunt, if your content sucks, so does your website. It will be a one-time visit. Your visitors will see everything they need to see the first time they go there and then not have much reason to go back.

**What does this mean?** It means your website, your CONTENT, is a constant work-in-progress. It is something you should update at least once a month at a minimum. It is something that should grow with your business, it should be your best salesperson & show room, and it should...
be a valuable resource to your customers and any other visitors. One of the best examples that I know of in the industry is Stone Forest Materials http://stoneforest.net . (Disclaimer: Yes. My company did it and I am biased. But, it really is good.) What makes this site great is that they work on it constantly. Updates, new pages, new content, new pictures, new events, new news, new products, new programs, new features, and lots more.

All of these updates and phases to development also mean that you have to plan. I know I say that in probably every article I write, but that is because it is one thing that is vital to any successful marketing plan and the one thing that small businesses rarely do or do well.

Once you have a general outline, you can start filling in information. Short, descriptive paragraphs are best. You want to be able to say exactly what you want the visitor to know without dragging it out. Remember, the Internet is FAST. People move and navigate quickly through a site doing more skimming than reading in search of exactly what they are looking for and quick to move on to the next site. Also, while filling in the information, you may see gaps in the content, things you haven’t considered and want to let people know about your company. This is good because you can either fill it in now or plan to use that content later in future phases and updates to the site.

Outlining your information can also help determine the navigation of your site which will help the visitor find the information they want and need quickly and easily. Once you have developed the content for your site, it will also help you determine where you want to add information down the road in future phases of your website or in updates.

There is another benefit to good content and updates to your website: organic Search Engine Optimization (SEO). Search Engines love to see relevant and fresh content. Equally important is UNIQUE content. For all of those in the industry who (wrongly) believe that they can take information from a source, change the city, state, and zip or add a couple of words and it will pass as good content, the search engines know it and may penalize you for it. Creating unique content and adding to it will increase your search engine rankings. So before you spend money hiring a SEO professional, first take a look at your site and see what changes you can make yourself over a period of six months and be sure to track your results during that
As I have said before, you MUST update your website regularly if you want to get the best results from it. But, if you have done your updates and are still not getting the results you’re looking for, first speak to your site’s developer for suggestions then go to a SEO professional. (Please note that I hold good, qualified, and reputable SEO professionals in high regard. When you have already optimized your content, they are a valuable resource.) And, don’t forget to promote your website and drive traffic to it.

No matter what you are developing, or who you are talking to, the words you choose can define you in either a good way or a bad way. Remember to choose your words carefully to help build your Brand and your business.

Resources

For more information on Social Media, Read: Social Media Marketing Madness by Pamela Greiner in POND Trade Magazine’s July/August 2009 Issue.
Or visit: www.pondtrademag.com/articles/ar-60
For more information on Search Engine Optimization, visit: www.seomoz.org

About the Author

Pam Greiner founded The Green Pen five years ago as the result of a passion for gardening and the environment.
Focused on providing online, and off, marketing solutions, our active client list includes several contractors, retailers, and distributors across the country. Our advice is regularly sought by many other contractors and businesses in the Green Industry, as well as other industries. Our services have included developing a variety of marketing materials for our clients including brochures, newsletters, as well as logo design, branding initiatives, and Web design & development. Additionally, we help our clients develop cost-effective marketing and e-marketing plans.

Pam can be reached at pam@thegreenpen.com or 215-313-0183
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Seeing is believing as they say and the Kumonryu (koo – mon – roo) variety of koi is probably the most fascinating of them all. If there was ever a fun koi this is it, a magician of sorts in your own backyard.

The most exciting part of the changing pattern of a Kumonryu is that you just never know what you’re going to see the next time you look in your pond.

This doitsu (scaleless) or German type koi exhibits an ever-changing color combination of white and black. Patterns and shades of color vary from solid white or solid black to interesting almost Orca whale type markings.
Legend has it that the Kumonryu name was derived from a dragon transforming into a cloud racing through the sky. Kumonryu means “Nine Crested Dragon.”

Variations of Kumonryu are the Beni Kumonryu (red and black) and the Kikokuryu (metallic Kumonryu). The Beni Kumonryu is a cross of Kumonryu and Kohaku. One train of thought is that breeding a Shusui and Matsukawa Bakke will give you a beautiful Kumonryu.

What you see is not what you get. The unstable sumi (black) provides the basis for the pattern changes. If you like change and surprise this is the koi for you. I like to have a few in my pond to see how each of them progress over the same period of time.

This ever-changing beauty is a unique addition to your pond and will have your friends asking where they can get one. There is nothing typical about this koi. Just when you thought last month’s pattern was fantastic it changes to something even greater.

Snow white and midnight black combinations with unique patterns make this a spectacular koi. The snow white and blue-like colors will astound you (the blue being the up and coming sumi). You end up having a magical surprise each time it changes.

Adding this koi variety to your pond will give you years of fun and pleasure.

Joe Pawlak is the founder of Blackwater Creek Koi Farms Inc., a group of three farms located throughout Florida. He has experience raising over 30 varieties of koi on an annual basis. Butterfly koi production is a passion for Joe. “If it’s a challenge, I really want to do it. Family, Business, and Koi are a combination I truly love.”

Joe is also President NOGGA – National Ornamental Goldfish Growers Association.

Reach him at www.koisale.com or Koiretailer.com

Co-Author Cindi Streb is the Executive Administrator, Blackwater Creek Koi Farm
by Gretchen Rubin
The Happiness Project

It’s a Secret of Adulthood: Happiness doesn’t always make me feel happy. Often, I know I’d be happier if I do something I really don’t feel like doing. Making that phone call. Dealing with tech support. Writing that email. Going to the gym. Those dreaded tasks hang over my head, though; they make me feel drained and uneasy. I’ve learned that I’m much happier, in the long run, if I try to tackle them as soon as possible, rather than allowing myself to push them off.

Here are some strategies I use:

1. Do it first thing in the morning. If you’re dreading doing something, you’re going to be able to think of more creative excuses as the day goes along. One of my Twelve Commandments is “Do it now.” No delay is the best way.

2. If you find yourself putting off a task that you try to do several times a week, do it EVERY day. When I was planning my blog, I envisioned posting two or three times a week. Then a blogging friend convinced me that no, I should post every day. As counter-intuitive as it sounds, I’ve found that it’s easier to do it every day (well, except Sundays) than fewer times each week. There’s no dithering, there’s no juggling. I know I have to post, so I do. If you’re finding it hard to go for a walk four times a week, try going every day.

3. Have someone keep you company. Studies show that we enjoy practically every activity more when we’re with other people. Having a friend along can be a distraction, a source of reassurance, or just moral support.

4. Make preparations, assemble the proper tools. Clean off your desk, get the phone number, find the file. I often find that when I’m dreading a task, it helps me to feel prepared. There’s a wonderful term that chefs use: mis-en-place, French for “everything in its place.” It describes the preparation done before starting to cook: gathering ingredients and implements, chopping, measuring, etc. Mis-en-place is preparation, but it’s also a state of mind; mis-en-place means you have everything at the ready, with no need to run out to the store or begin a frantic search for a sifter. You’re truly ready to begin to work.

5. Commit. We’ve all heard the advice to write down your goals. This really works, so force yourself to do it. Usually this advice relates to long-term goals, but it works with short-term goals, too. On the top of a piece of paper, write, “By the end of today, April 7, I will have _____.” This also gives you the thrill of crossing a task off your list. (See next.)
6. Remind yourself that finishing a dreaded task is tremendously energizing. Studies show that hitting a goal releases chemicals in the brain that give you pleasure. If you’re feeling blue, although the last thing you feel like doing is something you don’t feel like doing, push yourself. You’ll get a big lift from it.

True confession: even as I’m writing this article, at this very minute, I’m putting off two dreaded tasks! I will write no more until I do them.

tick...tick...tick...tick...

Okay, they’re done! It took a total of seven minutes, and I’d been procrastinating for days. Phew. I feel great.

How about you? Have you found any helpful techniques to get yourself to tackle a dreaded task? ❤️

About the Author

I’m Gretchen Rubin. I started out as a lawyer. At Yale Law School, I was editor-in-chief of the Yale Law Journal and won a writing prize. I went on to clerk for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

I had a great experience in law, but I realized that what I really wanted to do was to write. Since making the switch, I’ve published four books. I’m currently working on The Happiness Project. It will hit the shelves in January 2010 (Harper).

Raised in Kansas City, I now live in New York City with my husband and two young daughters.

My only hobbies are reading and writing—and helping other people clean out their closets. I’m left-handed, terrible at sports, tone-deaf, a constant hair-twister, and afraid to drive. I talk to my parents and my sister all the time, and I live around the corner from my in-laws.

EMAIL ME grubin@gretchenrubin.com
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by Vicki Vaughan
Flat Rock Koi

45,000-gal natural pond. The main waterfall rock is 14’ long. The filter vault is underneath the grass with the bonsai tree on top.

Our client has taken a great deal of time and expense to develop his estate and the concealment of the filtration system was paramount. To date we have been commissioned to install a total of seven ponds for this particular client at a single location.

The pond types range from strictly formal to the pond we are elaborating on today – a very natural pond with a large waterfall.

We devised a reinforced masonry filter house that could be located close to the pond and allow for massive filtration without distraction from the beautiful grounds. The filter house is accessed via a doorway that is carefully hidden. The reinforced concrete roof is 2’ underground and is covered with sod.

This pond required massive filtration as the owner planned to stock it with 75 to 80 Japanese koi that range from 20” to 40”. It was also important to the owner that we inflict minimal damage to the grounds as we installed the pond. (Let’s not make things easy!)

The resulting pond required a 50’ by 100’ liner. The sidewalls are reinforced concrete block with a concrete apron. There are five Rhino 2 air dome bottom drains and five Noniche skimmers.
The filter pit has two huge vortexes – each being fed by two bottom drains. The fifth bottom drain goes to a Koi Camp solids separator.

The pond has three 9 cubic foot bead filters. It has a 600-gal fluidized bioreactor. Then to polish things off, the pond is kept gin clear with a 1500-watt stainless steel UV.

There are a total of seven 1/2 horse pumps – four service all the filters and the remaining three provide a 1” laminar flow of water over a 14’ waterfall stone.

Many of the rocks used around the pond exceed two tons. On the property is a well that allows for trickle flow thru 24 hours a day.

The excavation was accomplished with a track hoe and bobcat with careful relocation of the soil to other parts of the property. A crew of eight people completed this project in four weeks.

About the Author

Flat Rock Koi, LLC is located in Watkinsville, GA. The farm produces domestic koi and brings in several shipments every year of high quality Japanese fish. We raise water plants as well as Japanese maples. In addition, there is a bonsai nursery with everything from finished bonsai, pre bonsai, pots and custom soil blends.

Vicki Vaughan
706-769-8951
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When choosing a pond filter media to use in a biological pond filter it is essential to consider the Specific Surface Area (SSA). The higher the biomedia’s SSA, the more effective it will be in colonizing nitrifying bacteria. In essence, the role of any pond biofilter is to convert ammonia, produced by fish waste, excess fish food and decaying vegetation into much less harmful nitrate in a process known as the Nitrogen Cycle. Any biological filter is only as good as the bio media used. The higher the number of beneficial bacteria living on the pond filter media the better quality the pond water will be. By selecting a pond biomedia with a high SSA you will in time save yourself and your clients, a lot of time and $$$.

Choice of Pond Filter Media is Important

When selecting media, the SSA helps you decide how much media volume you will need to process the fish load you are expecting in the pond. If a media has a low SSA, you will need to have more of it. This may not be a bad thing, depending on how much space you have available, and how important ease and frequency of cleaning is to your client. Ease of cleaning is different for every media, so that may be more important to your client than how much space must be set aside to house the media.

It is the bacteria living on the media that do the work. Keeping them healthy is vital.

Look after the beneficial bacteria living on the biomedia, as failure to do so can have very negative effects on the water quality within your pond. Minimize the potential for growing unhealthy or unwanted bacteria in your pond by staying away from anaerobic conditions as far as possible (low oxygen conditions).

Pond water conditions and low oxygen levels easily affect beneficial pond filter bacteria. (Lack of oxygen for eight hours will result in total eradication of the colonies living on the pond filter media.) It can take several weeks or even more for the colonies to reform on your pond filter media. Nitrobacter and Nitrosomonas are pH specific and do best in water with a pH between 7.5 and 8.6. They are further affected by temperature and chemicals added to the pond water.

(Also see box – The Nitrogen Cycle Process.)

Filter Media by Brand

Aqua Ultraviolet 8.5lb White Pond Filter Media

Aqua Ultraviolet Ultra Bio Media is a filtration media with a very high biofilm surface that offers superior bacterial adhesion and colonization. Features ...

Excellent flow-through within the media ...

Patented "Y" shaped media. Aqua Ultraviolet Ultra Pond Filter Material is a premier choice for biological filtration.

Atlantic Filter Falls BioBag Pond Filter Media

Atlantic Filter Falls BioBag comes with 1 cubic foot of Bio Tech Filter Media. Promotes the growth of water filtering bacteria.

Bacti Twist Pond Filter Media

This black, spiral shaped plastic filter media has been designed for filtration in garden ponds and other aquatic systems. Loose fill media will fit into any filter box or pond filter, including up-flow filters, trickling biofilters and pressurized filter systems. This filter media provides a large surface area of 95 square foot of space per cubic foot for beneficial bacteria to colonize. Each cubic foot of Black Bacti Twist Pond Filter Material is packaged in a black nylon mesh bag. Bacti Twist comes in different widths, depending on the water flow desired, as well as the colors black or white.

Bio-Bale

From the large Aquaculture industry to the home hobbyist, Bio-Bale is the filter media of choice for professionals. Simple in concept, Bio-Bale owes its extreme effectiveness to its high surface area versus volume and its unique surface texture. With 250 square feet of surface area per cubic foot and 33 square feet per gallon, Bio-Bale cannot be matched. Bio-Bale is produced from one continuous piece of F.D.A. approved, non-toxic plastic designed specifically for CPR. Bio-Bale is measured precisely by computer to achieve a...
consistent surface area. VERSATILITY Bio-Bale’s unique structure allows it to be used in any size or shape biological filter, making it ideal for custom or commercial filters. Because it is actually a single continuous strip of inert plastic, cleaning and handling it is easy.

**Bio Wave Media**

The Bio Wave Media is high quality, energy efficient, and high performing. They are designed to preserve the delicate useful bacteria during backwash, and to provide a large surface area for the bacteria to live and flourish. Use the Sinking Media to make your own filter or replace the sand in a sand filter. They work well with 2-Speed water pumps. Switch on High Speed for higher pressure filter-cleaning purpose only, and use the Low-Speed for daily operation. For a single Low-Speed pump, use an air blower to help push the air into the water.

**BIO-ACTIVE Stone Media by Matala**

This media is a highly porous stone ceramic media with incredible surface area. Bio-Active contains literally acres of surface area per cubic foot. The stone is ideal for use in trickle aerating towers similar to the BAKI shower or as a submerged bed. The mineral composition will refresh and polish your water. Use it as a final stage after Matala filter pads to stabilize your ponds chemistry and replenish minerals. Available in five different sizes.

**Biomate Solids Biological Media**

**Balls Ceramic Sphere Biomedia**

BioMate Refillable Media Balls provides maximum surface area with the greatest possible mix of air and water. Cultivates nitrifying bacteria. Promotes gas exchange, increases dissolved oxygen levels and removes harmful gases. Will not clog with organic matter. Manufactured from the highest grade of thermoplastic material. Each ball is approximately 1.5” in diameter and is totally inert and non-leaching; containers are 1-gallon size. This ceramic sphere pond filter media is available as ... BioMate Carbon Purify Aerate 75 Piece ... BioMate Foam Clean Aerate 75 Piece ... BioMate Ceramic Biological Aerate 75 Piece ... BioMate Filter Boost Combo Ceramic Carbon Balls ... BioMate Solids Biological Aerate 225 Piece.

**EasyPro Bio Balls Black Plastic Pond Biomedia**

Easy Pro Bio Balls is a loose plastic biofilter media that will form to any shape and is hard, so it will not compact. Ideal media for deep applications where compaction is a concern. Bio Balls are buoyant so trickle filter applications are best. Bio-Balls are 1.5” in diameter. Easy Pro Bio Balls Pond Filter Media is available in the following sizes ... EasyPro Bio Balls 1 CU FT ... EasyPro Bio Balls 4.5 Cubic FT.

**EasyPro Bio Blox Cheap Pond Biomedia**

Easy Pro Bio Blox Pond Filter Media is an ultra high surface area media that is created from a variety of different filter thicknesses and densities. BioTech is a loose fill media that is inexpensive and ideal for filling large filters. Use a mesh bag to hold Bio-Tech for easy handling. Approximately 525 sq. ft. of surface area per cubic foot. Easy Pro Bio Blox available sizes ... Easy Pro Bio Blox 1 CU FT ... Easy Pro Bio Blox 24 CU FT.

**Emperor Aquatics FilterClay Media**

FilterClay Media combines its 4-8 mm size, specific weight and shape to help eliminate media-packing inside the filter. Additionally, FilterClay’s porous skin and core make for ideal bio-filtration conditions.

**Filter Brushes**

Japanese in origin they are suited for both mechanical and biological filtration. As pond water passes through a series of brushes, the bristles filter out suspended solids, while providing ample surface area where the nitrifying bacteria can colonize and thrive. Cleaning of the filter brushes is a simple task of removing them from the filter and shaking them out. Remember not to use tap water to rinse them, as this will only serve to reduce or eliminate the beneficial bacteria, which is growing on the brush.

**Fishmate Supra Pond Filter Media (ALFAGRO in UK)**

A porous inert filter media possessing over 100 times the biological surface area of conventional plastic media and suitable for use with all ponds and aquariums.
GC Tek Alpha ONE Plastic Filter Media Beads

GC Tek Alpha ONE plastic Filter Media Beads float. The more buoyancy that the beads have – the better. To increase buoyancy the manufacturer has added air to each individual bead during the manufacturing process. GC Tek Alpha One Plastic Filter Media Beads will stay as close as possible to the top of the filter during backwash. The surface of the bead is dimpled to add more surface area, on which beneficial bacteria can colonize.

GC Tek BioGems Aquabead Floating Bead Filter Media

These biological floating plastic filter media beads are filled with air during the manufacturing process. These beads will stay as close as possible to the top of the filter during backwash. The surface of the bead is dimpled to add more surface area, on which beneficial bacteria can colonize. GC Tek BioGems Filter Media available Sizes ... BioGems 0.25 CU FT Bead Filter Media ... BioGems 0.50 CU FT Bead Filter Media ... BioGems 0.75 CU FT Bead Filter Media ... BioGems 1 CU FT Bead Filter Media.

Laguna BioMax Pond Filter Media

Laguna BioMax Biological Filter Media provides a large surface area for beneficial nitrifying bacteria to colonize. Helps to maintain healthy, biological conditions by removing toxic ammonia and nitrites. Easy to clean. Laguna BioMax Pond Filter Media is supplied in a 350g Box.

Matala Round 22” Roll Filter Media

Matala Round Roll Filter Media is 22” in diameter and fits most whiskey barrel style biological pond filters. (Seven diameters are available: 22”; 24”; 27”; 30”; 37”; 42” and 48”.) The Black Matala® can be used as a support grate for other layers of media due to its very sturdy and open design. In a settling chamber the Black will slow down and trap very large particles and hair algae. When you use the Black or Green Matala® filter mats for solids’ filtering you may use the garden hose to spray clean them. The dirt falls off very easily. Matala Round Roll Filter Media is available in the following specifications and colors... Black Super Coarse … Green Coarse … Blue Fine … Grey Super Fine.

Matala Pond Filter Media Sheets

Matala Pond Filter Media Sheets are an extremely durable and hardwearing bio-filter media. This versatile pond filter media can be used in bio-filters, settling tanks, and pond pump pre-filters. Simply cut to size using a pair of scissors or serrated kitchen knife. Matala Filter Media Sheets are available in either Half Sheets or Full Sheets and in the following colors ... Black Super Coarse … Green Coarse … Blue Fine ... Grey Super Fine.

Misty Mountain’s Bio-mate

Bio-mate is a long lasting hardy synthetic and affordable. It is easy to clean and works perfectly with our nationally known biological media, fish floss. A full 1.5 inches thick. It is easy to cut to fit most existing filters; i.e. waterfall boxes, enclosed, pressure, up flow, down flow, and side flow. Expect many seasons of easy cleaning with this media. The ease of cleaning is due to the closed cell design that does not allow debris to imbed into the media.

Open Cell Foam

Reticulated polyurethane foam is a versatile material that can be fabricated or combined with other materials into
virtually any configuration. It is used on, in, or around products serving consumers, business, industry, health care, research, and the military. How does polyurethane foam become reticulated? It is subjected to a proprietary process inside a specially designed vessel using heat and pressure to create flexible skeletal foam structures without cell membranes. Open cell foam has a large amount of surface area for beneficial biological capacity.

**Polymat**

White polyester fibers matted into a 2” thick material. Use as a second stage in your pre-filter or as a bio-filter media. An excellent versatile media. Washable for repeated use.

**Savio Springflo Pond Filter Media**

Savio Springflo Bio-filter Media is a polypropylene and calcium carbonate ribbon. The embossed diamond pattern creates millions of dimples to rapidly secure and develop beneficial pond biofilter bacteria. This low filter media is easy to use and maintain. Benefits include:

- Resists channeling...
- Resists clogging and compaction. Each box provides 180 square foot of surface area. Savio Springflo Bio-filter Media fills 2 to 3 cubic ft.

**Savio Springflo Pond Biomedia Mesh Bag**

Savio Springflo Pond Filter Biomedia is available as a mesh bag system that makes it possible to use Savio Springflo hybrid technology in a variety of filters. The Savio Springflo Pond Biomedia Mesh Bag can be used to update any competitive filter that operates with bio balls, lava rock, or filter mat.

**EDITOR's Note:** Momotaro Koi Farm of Japan sells a highly regarded media, known as Bacteria House. It has a very high surface area, popularized for use in their Bakki Shower filter system.

**Conclusion**

When considering a media for a filter system, be sure to look into all the characteristics of the media. Does it float, or sink? What do you need to build into your system to clean it? Air jets, water jets, bottom drains or backflush plumbing.

Every commercially available media will work to some degree for a period of time. How it performs over time is as much about the design of the filter you put it in, as the media itself. Do your homework and it will be time well spent. ⇓

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The following two equations show the chemical process required in order for conversion of ammonia by beneficial bacteria (Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter). Note the large quantities of oxygen needed.

For Nitrosomonas: 55NH4+ + 76O2 + 109HCO3- --- > C5H7O2N + 54NO2- + 57H2O + 104H2CO3

For Nitrobacter: 400NO2- + NH4+ + 4H2CO3 + HC03- + 195O2 --- > C5H7O2N + 3H2O + 400NO3-

An important point to note is the large volumes of oxygen needed. This factor is further compounded in warmer climates, such as those found in the southern states of the USA. As pond water temperatures increase it becomes increasingly more difficult for oxygen to dissolve in the water. 4.3 mg of oxygen is required by Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter beneficial bacteria when converting 1 mg of ammonia into nitrates.

A garden fish pond is a living, breathing system where only a few degrees rise in pond water temperature results in the following sequence of events: Warmer water results in increased koi and pond fish metabolic rates, resulting in a higher need for food, which results in more biological waste, which places a greater load on the biological filtration efforts of your pond filter.

Koi living in warm pond water may excrete between 50 and 100 mg of ammonia per kg of body weight per day. That is an awful lot of NH3 (ammonia). The level of ammonia is further increased by the amount of waste produced by koi as they eat. Koi are extremely ravenous fish and will consume large amounts of food, given a chance. This solid waste will start to decompose on your pond floor, giving off ammonia.

**About the Author**

Sean Roocroft, located in Manchester, England, works as an enquiry analyst for a leading UK – based mailing company and is a part-time water gardening enthusiast and fish geek. Over the past six years he has developed a website that has become a leading source of information to help pondkeepers and water gardeners all over the world, particularly in the USA and UK.

He has a regular newsletter, which you can sign up for by visiting his website at: www.garden-pond-filters.com.
The Key to Any Good Pond is its Filtration
Who knew there were so many choices?

Erik Tate
The Water Garden

When looking for a filter system there are many things to consider. As a builder you want a system that is not too difficult to install but if you want referrals your main concern should be a filter system that works well and makes your client happy. Your client will be happy if their pond water is mostly clear, their fish are healthy, and they don’t have to spend hours maintaining a system when they would rather be spending their time relaxing around the pond. Some builders get into a cookie cutter routine of building water gardens and use the same equipment on every job without considering all their options to make a better pond.

In order to choose the right system you need to know a few things about your client as well as the pond and environment it is going into.

If you are building a waterfall that is mainly to be enjoyed for the sound and beauty of the waterfall itself with no fish and a small pond or disappearing water feature, it would be silly to install a large biological filter. About the only filtration you may need is one to remove particles from the pond. A prefilter or canister filter may be all that is needed. If your project is to build a koi pond then you better make sure to include plenty of biological and mechanical filtration. You may well want to use an ultraviolet sterilizer as well.

Most water features will include a mixture of two or three of the following types of filters for a complete filtration system.

Canister Pressurized Filters

Models include Tetra’s Clear Choice. These canister filters often have foam media functioning as both mechanical and biological filtration, but cleaning of debris may interfere with biological filtration. These are usually used with low to medium flow pumps. Cleaning is typically done manually by removing and washing the filter media. These filters are usually small and require fairly frequent cleaning, but are a suitable add-on to small existing ponds or for very small ponds.

Bead & Similar Pressurized Filters

Models include Aqua Ultraviolet’s Ultima II and AquaDyne. These pressurized filters are often used in koi ponds or heavily stocked water gardens. With both mechanical and biological filtration in one unit this can be the primary filter in most ponds. This is probably the easiest filter to retrofit to an existing pond. They are easy to clean with the turn of a valve and can be placed above or below water level.

Although easy to clean, if they are neglected then problems await as the media can clog and render backwashing ineffective. Pumps need higher pressure in order to adequately backwash the filter media and prevent clogging. Some use built-in blowers to move the media around with a less powerful pump, which will require access to an electrical outlet. Some bead filters are also designed to be self cleaning.

While most bead filters are pressurized, build using a swimming pool style vessel, there are a few exceptions. Most notable is the Nexus by Evolution Aqua. This filter uses media in an open air chamber, that is fluidized instead of packed. The chamber is infused with air to keep the media moving and maintain maximum oxygen for the bacteria.

Waterfall Filters

Models include Atlantic’s FilterFalls and Aquascape’s BioFalls. Placed above water level these units have a smooth weir to help create the waterfall. Water often enters the filter near the bottom and flows up through the filter media. Common media used in waterfall filters include plastic ribbon, bio-balls or filter mats. To clean, the media usually needs to be removed and can be messy. However, with a good pre-filter before the pump an open media like...
ribbon does not need frequent cleaning and can be a very effective biological filter.

**Box Filters**

Models include Matała’s Biosteps and Litek’s multi-chamber systems. Water usually flows through various stages of filter media effectively providing both mechanical and biological filtration in a series configuration. Since mechanical filtration needs more frequent cleaning, it can be cleaned separately from the bio media, leaving the biological pads untouched for stable filtration. In some systems, the media needs to be removed. In others it can be compressed within the filter itself allowing the dirty water to be drained out. These filters need to be placed at the high point of the system and gravity flow out.

**Barrel Filters**

Barrel filters are systems that are usually DIY projects. Often made from a 55 gallon plastic drum or similar container, water is typically pumped into the bottom, then it up-flows through various possible filter materials allowing a mixture of mechanical and biological filtration. Cleaning can be messy unless special blowers and bottom drains are included in the design. These filters are also placed at the high point and rely on gravity to discharge.

**In-Pond Filter**

These filters include those from Pondmaster or may be a homemade bucket filter. While these filters are usually inexpensive and easy to install, maintenance can be a struggle. To clean, you must reach down into the bottom of the pond to retrieve the filter, then pull out the media. In-pond filters are usually installed by the homeowner. Professionals will avoid these except on very small ponds with low fish stocking.

**Skimmer Filters**

Many models are on the market including those by Savio, Aquascapes, and Atlantic. As the name suggests skimmers skim water from the surface of the pond. This suction draws surface debris into the skimmer’s basket or net. Deep ponds would also benefit from a bottom drain to improve circulation. A skimmer greatly reduces pond maintenance and makes submersible pump service easier since the pump is more accessible, when cleaning a skimmer your hands barely get wet. Some skimmers also have a filter mat for increased mechanical filtration.

**Bog Filters**

Also called plant filters, veggie-filters or phyto-filters, bog filters are usually used as supplemental filtration as it would generally take about 25% of the pond size to be adequate as a stand-alone filter. Obviously this depends greatly on the fish stocking level of the pond. The water should flow somewhat slowly though a heavily planted bog. The plants are usually placed in gravel or artificial aquatic soil. A manifold placed under the planting substrate helps ensure sufficient flow through all parts of the bog area. Good flow through entire bog is critical to avoid stagnation. Filtration is slow to take off in the spring as it dependent on the growth of the plants. A bog filter is a great add-on to a koi pond. Not only does it allow the koi keeper to also keep some aquatic plants, but the plants will be using nitrites and minimizing the need for water changes.

**Specialty Koi Pond Systems**

Sophisticated Koi keepers may opt for what could be described as exotic or high end filter systems. Examples are the Bakki Shower, a trickle tower, or fluidized bed filters.

The *Bakki Shower* comes from Momotaro in Japan, and uses their Bacteria House media. The shower consists of long trays of media, with holes on the bottom, stacked one atop the other. There is space between the trays to allow the water to splash and originate, thus the name.
Trickle Towers are an old technology, and usually DIY, where a barrel or tube is set vertically, filled with media, often bio-balls, and the water is sprayed slowly from the top. The water is drained quickly from the bottom so the media is never submerged.

The Fluidized Bed is most often seen in aquarium applications, and is appreciated for its massive surface area. Large and small systems are also common in high density aquaculture, but are rare in koi pond applications.

Conclusion

While most of these filter systems can be scaled to fit most any pond size, they have varied strengths and weaknesses, including footprint required, power requirements, and ease and frequency of cleaning. When advising a client what system to use on their pond, be sure to discuss all the variables, so they have the best possible likelihood of long-term satisfaction with their pond.

About the Author

Erik Tate operates The Water Garden, LLC. The company was started in 1987 by his parents, Randall & Karen. Having grown up in the pond industry, a passion for water gardening became ingrained in who Erik is. Based in Chattanooga, TN, The Water Garden is a distributor of quality pond supplies.
Multi-Segments Mechanical + Biological Fiberglass Koi Pond Filtration System

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InMotion Aquatics is your trade source for serious koi related products. Our offerings include products from Evolution Aqua, JPD, New Vision Productions, MDM Sequence, Matala, PerformancePro Pumps, as well as wholesale distribution of imported Japanese Koi. Our business model extends beyond simple supply to include marketing support, advertising, technical support, design, and referral services.

For a copy of our catalog, or to learn more, call us toll free at 888-920-1944 or email us at Info@InMotionAquatics.com.
With over 20 years of expertise in the design and manufacture of water garden products, the Atlantic name has become synonymous with innovation and value. We are excited about the many new product lines introduced in 2010 including our environmentally friendly BioCuda pond treatments, our incredibly strong one-piece Pro FastFalls, our high power SOL compact spotlights, our Fountain Basins that have been designed for easier water feature installation as well as our new Triton Check Valve - the only universal check valve designed exclusively for the water garden industry. (infocard 215)

Aqua Art
aquart.com

Aquascape, Inc
901 Aqualand Way
St. Charles, IL 60174
866/877-6637 (US)
566/766-3426 (CAN)
www.aquascapeinc.com
emails@aquascapeinc.com
See event ad on page 47.

GC Tek
302 S Sandy Ln, Unit 5
Chandler, OK 74834-9134
866/712-7007
info@gttek.com
www.gttek.com
See ad on page 36.

Matala USA
23132 La Cadena Dr #A
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949-273-8888
info@MatalaUSA.com
www.MatalaUSA.com
See ad on page 28.
SAVIO Engineering, Inc
www.savioeng.com

Seagate Filtration
www.seagatefilters.com

Sicce USA
www.sicceus.com

SkagiTek Inc.
www.koipondcentral.com

Aquaculture Systems Technologies
www.beadfilters.com

Suburban Water Gardens
www.suburbanponds.com

Tetra
800/423-6458
www.tetrapond.com

TotalPond
www.total-pond.com

Filtration Media

Aqua UltaViolet
www.aquaultaviolet.com

Atlantic Watergardens
www.atlanticwatergardens.com
See listing under Filter page 35.

Ani-Mate, Inc.
936/760-4333

Bacti-Twist
www.bactitwist.com

EasyPro Pond Products
4385 East 110th Street
Grant, MI 49327
Sales Manager 231/834-7720 x239
www.easypropondproducts.com
See ad on page 34.

Emperor Aquatics, Inc.
www.emperoraquatics-pond.com

GC Tek
302 S Sandy Ln, Unit 5
Chandler, OK 74834-9134
866/712-7007
info@gctek.com
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Laguna Hagen
www.lagunaponds.com

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Laguna Hills, CA 92653
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www.MatalaUSA.com
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Misty Mountain Aquacultural
www.mistymountainkoi.com

SAVIO Engineering, Inc
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Graystone Industries, Inc.
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Cleveland, GA 30528
954-746-0033
graystoneindustries.com

Horizon
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Koi World Connection
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In-Motion Aquatics
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info@inmotionaquatic.com
www.inmotionaquatics.com
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NC Ponds
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Pondliner.com
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www.pondliner.com
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The Asla Group
www.relaxingdecor.com

The Water Garden LLC
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423/870-2838
www.watergarden.com

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As a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is a volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the success of small businesses by offering free, expert advice and consultation from experienced, highly successful executives and entrepreneurs.

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**WORKSHOPS:** SCORE counselors and representatives from the local business community conduct a variety of regularly scheduled, low-cost educational workshops that provide valuable information and techniques necessary for establishing and managing a successful business.

**WOMEN’S PROGRAMS:** In addition to counseling services and workshops, SCORE provides women business owners and entrepreneurs with an outlet for networking and professional development by coordinating frequent business breakfast programs on timely topics related to small business.

**BUSINESS LIBRARY:** With access to a wide variety of documents, templates, tools and resource links to assist you in starting or growing your business, the information provided here covers a wide range of subjects including initial business planning, capital sources, operating statements, governmental agencies, and much more.

Please visit www.score.org for additional business resources or go to http://www.score.org/findscore to find a counseling location near you. Small business workshops are also available 24/7 online at: www.score.org/online_courses.html.

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**Upcoming Events**

For a complete list see our web site.

**July 22 – 23**
EasyPro Pond Products Open House
Grant, MI

**August 5 – 7**
Pondemonium 2010
St. Charles, IL
www.pondemonium.org
See ad on page 47.

**August 20 – 22**
18th Holland Koi Show
Arcen, The Netherlands
www.hollandkoishow.nl

**September 16 – 19**
IWGS Symposium 2010
San Angelo, TX
The International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS) www.iwgs.org
See ad on page 3.

**September 24 – 26**
Koi America 2010
Westminster, MD • Koi, Goldfish, Vendors, and Speakers • www.makc.com

**September 29 – 30**
Holmes Farm, Inc. Annual Trade Show
Macungie, PA
Water Gardening and Pet Product Lines
To register: 877-412-3276

**October 6 – 7**
AQUA 2010
Telford, UK
AQUA 2010 is the new, stand-alone, dedicated trade show for the water gardening and aquatics industry.
www.aquatelford.co.uk

**October 6 – 8**
3rd WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition
Las Vegas, NV
South Point Hotel and Conference Center
www.WaterSmartInnovations.com

**October 20 – 23**
IPPCA Seminar
Atlanta, GA
IPPCA - International Professional Pond Contractors Association, Annual Seminar.
www.ippca.com

**November 3 – 5**
International Pool|Spa|Patio Expo
Las Vegas, NV
www.poolspapatio.com

For complete listing information and additional events see our web site www.pondtrademag.com.
For more information about The Marketplace go to
www.pondtrademag.com/advertise/marketplace/

Publications

Koi Collector’s Pocket Guide
The Koi Collector’s Pocket Guide, a handy compact fan folded, laminated card, featuring photos and descriptions of the major koi varieties. Sell or great gift. Call 760/451-2255. www.gardensidepubs.com

KOISHI
by Mamoru Kodama
This beautiful 260-page book explores over 50 leading Japanese Koi Farms with information you won’t find anywhere else. Learn about the breeders - creators of Living Jewels - of Japan. Call 760/451-2255. www.gardensidepubs.com

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**Trade News**

**Mini Just-A-Falls Kit**
This new mini kit is perfect for those wanting the sound of water but are short on space!
Kit includes two res-cubes, pond liner, underlayment, waterfall spillway, pump vault, flex pipe, PVC glue, 1500 gph direct drive pump and check valve assembly. List price under $540.00!

*Easy Pro Pond Products 800-448-3873
www.EasyProPondProducts.com*

**New Fish Mate P7000 Fish Feeder**
The NEW FISH MATE P7000 fish feeder (ref. 348), 7 litre food capacity, helps consumers ensure that their fish are fed regular, controlled portions to maximize health and vitality without the risk of over-feeding. Variable feed sizes (sticks or pellets) are dispensed at times programmed by the consumer or on demand at the touch of a button. The feeder is battery operated and has a 3 year guarantee. The Fish Mate P7000 also has a unique unblock feature to ensure constant on time feeding.

*Pet Mate, Ltd. 1-800725-4333 • www.pet-mate.com*

**TetraPond In-Pond Skimmer**
TetraPond In-Pond Skimmer has won the American Pet Products Association’s award for Best Pond Product at the Global Pet Expo in Orlando. The TetraPond In-Pond Skimmer acts as a prefilter for the filtration system and is easy to install by simply placing it directly in the pond (no cutting of liner necessary). Use with flexible liner and preformed ponds up to 1,000 gallons. The In-Pond Skimmer keeps the pond clean by skimming debris off the surface before it sinks and becomes sludge. The TetraPond In-Pond Skimmer is compatible with TetraPond 550, 1000, and 1900 WGP series pumps and the TetraPond Waterfall Filter.

*TetraPond 1-800-526-0650
www.TetraPond.com*

**Fertilizer Company Dives into Aquatics with Acquisition**
Winchester Gardens provides a unique array of alternative fertilizer products. Already offering a variety of fertilizer spikes and tablets, the company is now branching into the world of aquatic gardening. Expanding its line, Winchester Gardens announces the acquisition of aquatic fertilizer product, Highland Rim Aquatic Plant Fertilizer.

This fast acting fertilizer is specially formulated for blooming aquatic plants. Its high phosphorus levels and copper-free formula promote maximum blooming potential.

Unlike other aquatic fertilizers, Highland Rim tablets will not prematurely crumble or dissolve. These tablets also do not promote algae blooms in ponds, and will not harm fish or other aquatic life.

With newly designed packaging it is now available in several sizes. Winchester Gardens is a family owned producer of fertilizers and other outdoor products. The company is proud to add Highland Rim Aquatic Plant Fertilizer to its family of fertilizer products.

*Winchester Gardens
www.highlandrimaquatics.com*

**On the Job Skincare for Men**
On The Job an innovative new skincare line for men who work with their hands. **On The Job Hand Lotion**—antiseptic/moisturizer created to protect and repair hands. **On The Job Hand Cleaner**—This high-performance cleaner removes dirt, grease, paint, and grime without pumice or other highly abrasive ingredients. A residual moisturizer stays on clean skin leaving hands flexible and healthy. **On The Job Hand Armor**—This breathable polymer glove protects hands from dirt, grease, dust, and paint while keeping moisture in. Great for painters, gardeners, landscapers, or mechanics, it makes cleanup from dirt, grime, paint, and lubricants quicker and easier.

*www.OnTheJob.com*

**Aquascape, Inc. Brings New and Improved Fish Food to Pond Market**
Aquascape, Inc. announces its new and improved line of fish foods, ideal for all pond fish including koi and goldfish. Aquascape fish foods are scientifically formulated to provide all pond fish with premium quality nutrition at a great price. Quality ingredients, including multivitamins and stabilized vitamin C, provide superior nutrition and will not pollute pond water. Aquascape fish foods are packaged in thick, re-sealable, foil bags.

Aquascape fish foods include Premium Cold Water Fish Food Pellets, Premium Color Enhancing Fish Food Pellets, Premium Staple Fish Food Pellets, and Premium Flake Fish Food. The new and improved fish foods will not break apart and cloud the water, thereby keeping pond water clean and clear.

*Aquascape, Inc. 866-877-6637 (US) or 866-766-3426 (CAN). www.aquascapeinc.com*
Eco Lab Appoints New Export Manager

David Schwartz graduated from SUNY Stony Brook with a BA degree. He brings a global experience from his employment with Telephonics and has a retail business background. David will be handling the logistics for both air and sea shipments of MICROBE-LIFT orders globally. Eco Lab’s worldwide business is rapidly expanding and currently has catalogues in all major languages.

Peter Kalessis – Microbiologist

Peter is responsible for culture identification utilizing PCR and DNA sequencing technical scientific equipment and skills. He will also be responsible for product quality control, management of stock culture banks and new microbial product development, product improvements and methodologies for determining impacts on environments.

Laura Wiktorek – Manager of Its Freshwater and Marine Aquatics Laboratory

Laura has a lifetime experience working in this environment. Laura has a 125-gal fish tank at home. Her parents started a tropical fish business out of their home and have owned and operated the J & J Tropical Fish Store in Johnson City, NY (near Binghamton) since 1972.

New Regular Strength of MinnFinn

Now available is the regular strength version of MinnFinn which has all of the same treatment characteristics as MinnFinn Max (POND Trade Magazine Overall Champion Product of the Year) but is a non-hazardous material to ship and can thus be sent anywhere, anytime at any speed in the US.

Regular strength MinnFinn is a revolutionary new treatment for your Koi and Goldfish - easy to use, effective at ridding most parasites, including flukes, and external bacterial infections often in one treatment. Imagine being able to treat fish, neutralize the treatment with NeuFinn and not have to worry about water changes.

Regular strength MinnFinn is available in one liter bottles and treats 2240 gallons of water. As with MinnFinn Max, MinnFinn also includes the NeuFinn neutralizer.

Kasco’s New Line of 3 Phase Fountains and Aerators

Kasco Marine’s popular aerators & multiple pattern fountains are now available in 230 Volt, 3-phase to help you provide aeration and display solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial locations. Sizes include 2,3,5 and the new 7.5 horsepower models. The new 3-phase panel includes: phase protection, lightning arrester, 24-hour timer, and fountains include a personnel rated GFCI and lighting circuit.

Matala Water Technology’s “BIO-ACTIVE” Stone Media

Matala Water Technology is proud to announce a new high quality filter media, “Bio-Active” Stone Media. This media is a highly porous stone ceramic media with incredible surface area. Bio-Active contains literally acres of surface area per cubic foot. The star shape of the media internal structure provides excellent attachment sites for aerobic bacteria to complete your biological filtration stage and will also help reduce nitrates. Bacteria will colonize very quickly due to the friendly internal structure.

The stone is ideal for use in trickle aerating towers similar to the BAKI shower or as a submerged bed. The mineral composition will refresh and polish your water. Use it as a final stage after Matala filter pads to stabilize your ponds chemistry and replenish minerals. 5 different sizes.

New Pond Aeration Kit

Ideal as a "back-up" solution for any failed pump. The Small PondBuilder aeration kit comes complete with pump, air stones and a 6-way valve making simple work during clean outs or temporary holding of fish. Medium Aeration Kits are great for ponds up to 4,000 gallons and offer 4 air stones, self-weighted tubing and an air diffuser skid for easy installation.

Aeration Kits offer more diversity than just having a second pump, with uses during pond clean outs, all season long for increased oxygen levels, as well as during the winter for a low cost and effective way to keep ice from forming on ponds. Retailers and contractors alike have an opportunity for an extra sale that truly benefits the pond owner, fish and the entire ecosystem of the pond.
Mars Fishcare Fills Territory Manager Role in North America

Mars Fishcare, North America Inc. is pleased and excited to announce Wayne Yang joining their team as Territory Manager of Arizona and portions of Southern California. Wayne has 20 years experience in fishkeeping and 10 years sales experience. “In his new role Mr. Yang will compliment the existing sales force in North America by bringing his diverse skill set and experiences to the team; we’re excited to fill this vital territory with a talented sales manager like Wayne,” commented Peter Struble Sales Director of North America and Asia Pacific.

Mars Fishcare, North America Inc. has been a leader in the pet industry for more than 40 years, manufacturing hundreds of quality products for aquariums and ponds under the brand names of API®, RENA®, PondCare® and Aquarian®.

www.marsfishcare.com

New Super Duty Plant Support

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Glamos Wire Products 1-800-328-5062
www.GlamosWire.com

Arrow and Omni LED Lamps

Focus Industries, Inc. announces their ARROW and OMNI LED lamps! Not just one or two fixtures, but almost the entire line of FOCUS lights are LED NOW. The S.C. 1.5w Omni LED is comparable in light output and color to a 10w Halogen (also available with color replacement diodes). The Arrow 4w MR16 LED in 12v and 120v is equivalent to a 20w Halogen MR16 in light output and color and comes in flood or spot beam spreads.

Focus Industries 888-882-1350

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To see complete list of trade news go to http://www.pondtrademag.com/tradeneWS/
Mr. Kosaku Seki, circa 1940
Seki Koi Farm
His specialty is Shiro Utsuri. To learn more about Mr. Seki and many other world famous and unknown Japanese koi breeders take a look at the new book KOISHI. Part of the joy of working on this book was seeing pictures like this one and reading about their personal stories. Available at www.gardensidepubs.com
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