

MICROBE-LIFT NEWSLETTER

IN THE NORTH



Think spring! I know it doesn't look like it, but before you know, winter will be over. The biggest concern now, in January, is being on guard for pond leaks that could leave your fish high and dry. Next to that is keeping the leaves out of the pond. Winter winds do several things, and they are all bad for ponds. The winds are icy cold, super-cooling the water, so having built the pond in a sheltered area, away from winds and weather will be a plus for your pets. If you did not build the pond with winter in mind then it would be wise to put up some protective barrier, such as storm fencing, burlap, or even pile the discarded Christmas trees among sand bags to block the wind. The purpose is not so much to keep the pond "warm" as it is to maintain a more stable water temperature through this unpredictable season. Heavy snows will blanket the pond and protect it, but using an aerator or de-icer can maintain an opening in the surface for gas exchange. Hail storms have been dangerous to koi, so a cover (net, floating Styrofoam or tarp) can be a life saver when needed. If you are leaving for a winter vacation, get a knowledgeable pond caretaker to watch your home. Water changes, when weather permits, should still be done, although less frequently and new water (using Dechlorinator Plus) added very slowly to prevent abrupt temperature changes. If you need other help, call me! Autumn Winter Prep is working in your pond.

IN THE SOUTH

Time to get back on the old treadmill! Hope the holidays were beautiful for you. Now is the time to prepare your pond for the abbreviated winter—in Florida, Texas and South California, we can stop feeding our fish for a month, even though the water temperatures are still above 55F. That will give the fish a chance to reabsorb eggs, not to become egg-bound if they did not drop them last summer. The month rest is healthful to the fish. It's time to check our pond equipment, too. If you buy the UV bulbs now, you will have them when needed. If you do the little things you didn't have time for in summer, the fish will thank you. Autumn Winter Prep isn't just for northern ponds and leaves. It contains good bacteria to work in colder water. If you have a vegetable filter (even the Tropical Lilies!) it will help biodegrade the dead leaves and stems before they begin to sprout again. "A clean pond is next to Godliness..." or something like that. When you resume feeding, feed the lower protein, Legacy Cold Weather Wheat Germ food. In spring, the fish will put all their energy and reserves into reproduction. Unless you want a big spawn, feed lightly until after that's all over. Once they have spawned, it's time to pile on the protein! If your pond water remains above 45F in your area, you can continue adding PL all year!



- Upcoming Events**
- **Feb 12-14**
Koi Club of San Diego's 23rd Annual Koi Show at Del Mar Fairgrounds
koiclubsandiego.org
 - **March 12-14**
Central Florida Koi Show
Holiday Inn Resort
Orlando, Florida
Michael McMahon
www.orlandokoishow.org
 - **May 19-23**
AKCA Seminar
Millennium Maxwell
House Hotel
Nashville, TN
Wanda at dorwrichardson@comcast.net
or Kay Rice at kay.rice07@comcast.net
 - July 24-25**
Minnesota Water Garden Society's 13th Annual Pond Tour
Twin Cities, Minnesota
612-803-POND
<http://www.mwgs.org/>
 - **Sept. 24-26**
Mid-Atlantic Koi Club's Koi America
Carroll County Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD
www.makc.com

Send info to Carolyn to display your show here.
**The shows with asterisks are where you will find me. Please introduce yourself. I'd love to meet you! And, if you'd like me to come to your koi show, send me an email with the information as soon as possible, carolynw@microbelift.com

DID YOU KNOW?

MICROBE-LIFT/LICE & ANCHOR WORM treatment is now available! Lice & Anchor Worm is the most effective treatment for this problem and will not harm the biological filtration. It can be used in ANY WATER TEMPERATURES ABOVE 40F.



We also have introduced **ML/DRY AMMONIA REMOVER with CLORAM-X**. 1 oz will remove 1 mg/L of total ammonia for 72+ hours and treat 235 gallons of water! It is available now! Ask for it by name.



The new **ML/PONDLESS WATERFALL KIT** has been added to our list of conveniences to pond owners!



Meet Carolyn ("MicrobeliftLady") at www.KoiFace.com. We may be starting a Microbe-Lift Q&A chat room, for anybody who's interested.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



The much-sought-after online: **MICROBE-LIFT WATERGARDENER MAGAZINE**

can be found at <http://www.microbelift.com/>. This is the Spring/Summer issue- better late than never! You will find more helpful information in caring for your pond, plants and fish in this issue. Since Carolyn went on a self-guided pond tour earlier this spring, the photography was selected from various areas, with many of the ponds in the Bradenton/Sarasota area of Florida. You might even see your own pond in there!

LOW REZ LINK (for viewing on computer screen; quick loading):

http://www.microbelift.com/uploadme/93MLSprSum_Mag_LoRes.pdf

HIGH REZ LINK (for high quality printing; longer loading time):

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