

MICROBE-LIFT
NEWSLETTER

IN THE NORTH

I hear it's going to snow tomorrow... Really? Blame it on Puxatawny Phil, I guess. There's been a heck of a lot of precipitation in the northeast. However, that doesn't mean your pond is not subject to evaporation and it still needs to be monitored. While we have done well at imitating nature, our ponds are still not "natural ponds". That leaves you and me in charge. Do the water tests (scoop out the water, bring it indoors to warm to room temperature, and then test it). And do the water ex-change as often as humanly possible. Although the fish are in torpor, they are still emitting waste, still breathing, and still need fresh water to survive. Clear water is not necessarily "healthy" water. I could be clearly toxic.



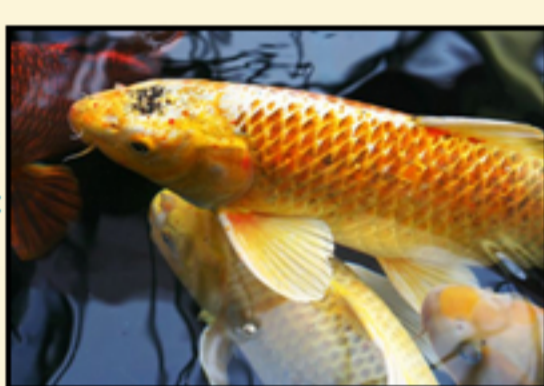
WHAT'S NEW?

For Aquarium enthusiasts, we have Soy-based Aquarium ORNAMENT & ROCK CLEANER. You don't have to bleach the ornaments anymore. Bleach is difficult to rinse safely, in order to re-use in the tank. Also for aquarium keepers, we have a line of pH Buffers (6.5 to 8.5 and everything in between!) to suit the needs of fresh and saltwater fish from all over the world, from Discus which are native to the Amazon river basin to the Glowlight Tetra found in the wild in the Essequibo River, Guyana, South America, and the Mandarin Goby (reef fish) from the Philippine area and westward to Australia—water quality and pH are integral to maintaining healthy livestock. The Soy-based Aquarium ORNAMENT & ROCK CLEANER is safe enough to use on SALTWATER aquarium ornamental rocks, too.



IN THE SOUTH

It isn't spring yet, but hopefully, soon. It's time to stock up on Legacy Cold Weather Wheat Germ food. It won't be time to start feeding until your pond water (you do have a pond thermometer, don't you??) is consistently above 55F. Since nights are still pretty cool, check your water temperature in the early morning and late afternoon for an average temperature range. But it's important to be ready with fresh food on hand. Last year's food has lost its nutritional value. Don't use it. Nutritional deficiencies can mimic many diseases and deformities that will drive you nuts trying to figure out. It's simply not worth it to you or your fish.



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):

http://www.microbelift.com/uploadme/94MLSprSum_Mag_HiRes5.pdf

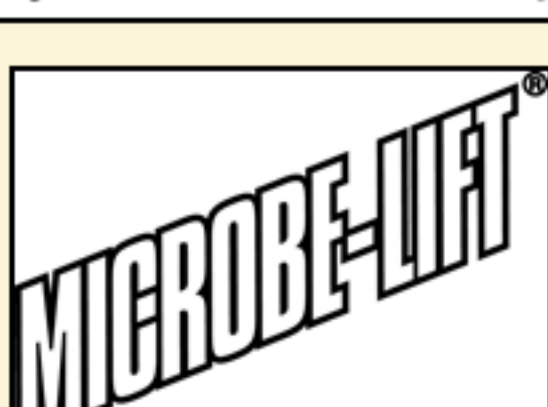
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Upcoming Events

**March 12-14
Central Florida Koi Show
Holiday Inn Resort
Orlando, Florida
contact Michael McMahon
michael.mcmahon@akerman.com or go to
www.orlandokoiishow.org

March 26-28
Koi Health Seminar
www.koihealthseminar.com

or contact Vicki Vaughan
vicki@flatrockkoi.com

**May 8 from 9am-4pm
Backyard Getaway's 5th
Annual Parade of Ponds
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2qnc6ysd2ecfa6b>

**May 19-23
AKCA Seminar
Millennium Maxwell House
Hotel
Nashville, TN

contact Wanda at
dorwrichardson@comcast.net or Kay Rice at
kay.rice07@comcast.net

July 10-11
Water Gardens Society of
Greater Kansas City Annual
Water Garden Tour
contact Esther Ryan
tour@kcwatergardens.com
www.KCWaterGardens.com

July 24-25
Minnesota Water Garden
Society's 13th Annual Pond
Tour, Twin Cities, Minnesota
1-612-803-POND
<http://www.mwgs.org/>

July 30 - Aug 1
30th Annual Northwest Koi &
Goldfish Show at the World
Forestry Center
Portland, OR- Contact Larry
Christensen @ 503-531-3303

For more info:
www.nwkg.org

**Sept. 24-26
Mid-Atlantic Koi Club's Koi
America
Carroll County Agriculture
Center
Westminster, MD
www.makc.com

Oct. 1-3
South Carolina Koi & Water
Garden Society's Annual Koi
Show
for info contact Jim Suerth
bevjim@bellsouth.net

Oct 9-10
Nature's Coast Koi &
Watergarden Club's 10th
Annual Koi & Goldfish Show
"Pelican Bay Island"
Old Town, FL
for info contact Johnny Foster
at 352-542-8925 or
pellbay@bellsouth.net

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?

Koi flash and jump for many reasons, but not for "joy". When the fish are "jumping" it doesn't mean they are happy. They are trying to get away from something that is not good in the pond. In spring, it may be ammonia spikes. It could also be parasites. It could simply be changes in pH. So, before you start adding harsh chemicals, do some research. Do water testing, scrape the fish and check with a microscope (or have a friend or veterinarian help you). It is the old adage carpenters use: "measure twice, cut once" that will work for koi ponds, too.

If one fish is flashing, don't worry. If all the fish are flashing, it's time to worry. Feeding prematurely in spring will create ammonia problems when the bio-filter is not fully operational yet. First things first.



Algae is coming! But it isn't a sign of bad housekeeping. It's a sign of a healthy pond. Use PL's bacteria to balance the pond instead of reaching for the algacides now.

*Follow Carolyn on TWITTER:
<https://twitter.com/EcologicalLady>

*Come see Carolyn in person at
the Orlando Koi Show this
month!

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