



Pondering & Gardening

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Brand New Technology in the War on String Algae

We know that string algae can be the bane of a pond owner's existence, especially after the crazy season we had this year.

That is why we are so excited to tell you about the newest

innovation from AquaScape® designed to take the stress out of battling this eyesore.

The just released IonGen™ Electronic Clarifier for Ponds and Pondless® Waterfall Systems drastically reduces pond maintenance and provides crystal clear water without the use of algae-fighting chemicals.

The IonGen™ works by

releasing a mixture of copper, silver and zinc ions into the path of flowing water. This is my

simplified version—there is a lot more science behind the IonGen™, which I would be happy to share in more detail if you would like.

The IonGen™ Probe is self-cleaning using reverse polarity to prevent scale and debris build-up on the Probe's bars, and the metal alloys in the Probe are scientifically blended and tested to produce maximum results.

This system has been extensively tested. It is safe for fish and plants and does not pose toxicity concerns to

animals that may drink from the pond.

The IonGen™ is energy efficient at less than \$1.00 per month in electricity cost, and the unit weighs about four pounds.

Order your IonGen™ before the spring rush and take advantage of our introductory special. Get your IonGen™ installed before March 15, 2010 and receive 10 percent off. Call 303-660-5015 for more information



String algae—finally a thing of the past?

Winter's Beauty—Ice Sculptures

Winter provides great site-seeing in the form of ice sculptures on the pond's waterfalls. Enjoy them to the fullest by being aware of the following items.

1. Ice dams can divert water out of the pond. Melt them with a

garden hose or pan of water. Don't pound on the ice; it could kill your fish.

2. Add water regularly. If a lot of ice builds-up, you will see a drop in water level. This is normal and does not

indicate a leak.

3. Keep a hole in the ice so gases can exchange. Your fish will suffocate otherwise.
4. Pipes won't crack as long as there is a constant flow of water.

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Special points of interest:

- Fall cleaning/winterization is just around the corner. Call now to reserve a spot.
- Plan ahead for your spring pond cleaning. The schedule fills up fast, so call now to get on the list. It's not too early.
- Don't forget that our pond service technicians are here to help if problems arise or you need pond advice.

Fish Facts As Winter Approaches

If winter isn't your favorite season, just try being a koi or goldfish. It can be a tough season on them, so here are some things you need to know.

- During the winter, your fish's immune system goes into hibernation, making them more vulnerable to infection.
- Parasites and pathogens do not take the winter off. Certain species of flukes are more active in icy water, and some forms of ich, trichodina and costia also prefer winter water. This is why it is so important to thoroughly inspect your fish on a regular basis.
- Your fish won't freeze. They will go to the bottom of the pond where



I would like to see you next spring, so please read these tips carefully.

the water is a bit warmer, and they will stay there through the winter. Don't try to feed your fish. Their metabolism isn't awake.

- Before the mercury drops, remove leaves and other dead plant material.

These things won't immediately harm fish, but a whole winter of rotting combined with the warming of spring can cause problems. Illness is common in ponds that have a layer of composting leaves on the bottom.

- Keep a hole in the ice. Without proper oxygenation, your fish will suffocate. If you turn your pump off during the winter, use a bubbler, heater or smaller pump, such as an AquaForce™ to keep the water moving.
- Call our Pond Service division at 303-660-5015 with questions or service requests. We operate year-round.

Plants Need Attention, Too

With fall knocking on the door, it's time to start getting plants ready for the winter months.

Stop fertilizing hardy marginals as they begin to yellow and brown. Be sure to trim dying foliage to 2" above the water level. Remove excess plant material if needed.

Treat tropical marginals as you would

any annual plant and replace them each season. Another option is to bring them inside for the winter. Potted in a sealed clay pot with no drainage holes and kept wet, these plants like a sunny window or sunroom.

Water lilies will also indicate the change of season with yellowing leaves and fewer flowers. Trim off mature leaves a few inches above the crown and drop the

pot to the lowest depth of the pond. Don't overwinter inside as these plants need a period of dormancy brought on by the cold.

After dying back and turning brown, trim the foliage of lotus plants. Don't cut leaves that are still green; the hollow stems are susceptible to disease which could spread to the plant's tuber. Move plants to the lowest part of the pond.

Start Thinking About Next Year's Garden

According to *Gardening HOW-TO*, more than 90 percent of all home gardeners grow tomatoes, making them the most popular garden plant. There are hundreds of tomato varieties, and depending on your favorite, you may already have next year's crop.

Heirloom tomatoes are delicious, and unlike hybrids, their seeds breed true from one generation to



the next. An heirloom is generally considered to be a variety that has been passed down through several generations of a family because of its valued characteristics.

Saving some seeds now means no tomato plants to buy next year.

Heirlooms come in

different colors with names like *German Green, Cherokee Purple, Brandywine, Green Zebra* and dozens more.

While making dinner the other night, my daughter has set aside red, yellow and green pepper seeds. She's also got some watermelon ones, and I'm sure come next month we will have pumpkin seeds, too.

Send me your gardening tips. I'll need them come spring!

Spend Time Now, Reap the Rewards Later

Just because the season is ending doesn't mean spending time in the flower garden has to end. There are plenty of things to do in preparation for next spring.

Dig up and store summer bulbs that won't survive in the colder weather. Store them inside during the colder months.

Cut back perennials that won't make it through the season and pull annuals. One caveat is that seed-dropping perennials such as black-eyed Susans and sunflowers should be left. If you can still catch Columbine seed pods before they open, consider capturing the seeds and planting them in another part of your garden.

Plant spring-blooming bulbs in the fall to enjoy daffodils, tulips and others next year.

Cover the garden and flower beds with a



Signs of new life. Who doesn't feel uplifted at the sight of spring's first offering?

new layer of mulch; it will protect the soil and feed it in preparation for spring planting.

Clean your gardening tools and then wipe them down with a coat of mineral or olive oil so they won't rust over the winter.

Pull all weeds now so you don't have to (or have as many) next year.

Keep, or continue, your gardening journal. This way you will know what worked and what didn't, placement, colors and all sorts of other tidbits that will come in handy next spring. Make a wish list or start laying out next year's flower beds.

Read up over the winter to learn new techniques or ideas for next year.

2009 Parade of Ponds Swimmingly Successful

Some last minute publicity and fantastic weather contributed to a very successful *Parade of Ponds*. We got some airtime on *Colorado & Co.* on Channel 9, as well as Channel 31's *Good Day Colorado*. Mentions in *The Denver Post* and several community publications were extremely helpful.

We had 45 ponds on this year's tour. Thanks again to all of our homeowners.

Froggy Awards went to:

Best Overall Pond-A3
Best Overall Landscape-C3
Best Backyard Therapy-B6
Best Water Quality-F5
Best Small Pond/Pondless-C8
Best Fish-C9
Best Aquatic Plants-F1

Each of these homeowners won a \$50 gift

"I look forward to the tour every year, and request days off from work months in advance."

-Denny F.

certificate from BR&D. Congratulations!

The 2010 Parade of Ponds tour is set for August 28-29. We have some good

changes in store for our homeowner's next year. Invitations go out in February.

Seasonal Decorations Not Just for Front Porch

As you pull out all of your seasonal decorations, remember that you can also include your pond in the festivities.

Imagine what a fun setting scarecrows and pumpkins around the pond would make for a Halloween party. Add to the scene by creating luminaries. Download Halloween patterns from microsoft.com.



For the full effect, add a fogger to the pond. Yours will be the coolest house around.

While summer annuals begin to fade, plant mums and kale in the garden. They add color and texture.

Thanksgiving decorations can keep your yard full of color even after all of the plants have gone to

sleep for the season.

For Christmas string lights, or decorate a little tree by the pond. Icicle pansies can tough out winter winds. Plant them now and they'll bloom until the snow flies.

Of course, in order to do this, you may have to go shopping for more decorations. Sorry honey.....



Now Is a Great Time to Enhance Your Pond

With “stay-cations” on the rise, people are getting more enjoyment from their ponds than ever. If there are changes you would like to make, get ahead of the pack and consider having that work done now.

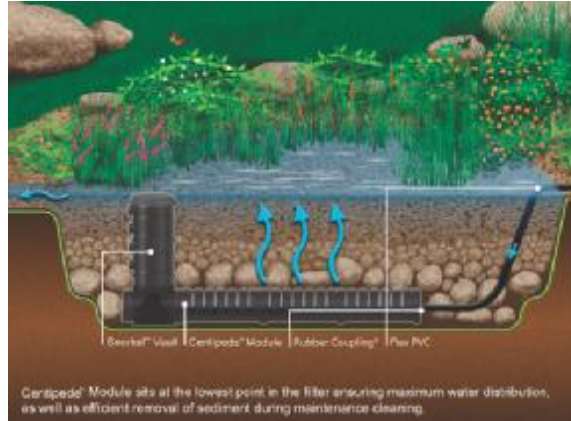
MECHANICAL FILTRATION

Also known as skimmers, play a huge part of your pond’s ecosystem. They help remove a lot of the debris that could harm your pump or turn your waterfall green. Skimmers house and protect your pump, ridding ponds of larger particles, waste and sediment.

Good skimmers, like the ones BR&D uses, also have an overflow hole in the back to keep your pond from flooding after heavy rains or other watery disasters. Skimmers are also equipped

with a decorative lid.

You will be amazed at how much your pond improves with the addition of a skimmer. It is definitely worthy of



serious consideration.

ADD A WETLAND

A wetland, or bog, is also a good idea. Designed to mirror the operation of a natural wetland area, the bog contains plants which trap particulate and consume nutrients that would otherwise flow into the water and cause algae. Plants are terrific filterers. The water is pumped up to the wetland, which looks like a small pool. Unlike your waterfall, water in the wetland may not appear to move much. This allows the plants to do their job.

The wetland should be cleaned out yearly, which is something our pond service division can help you with.

Fire and Water-A Beautifully Relaxing Combination

Fire, water, earth and air comprise the classic elements of ancient Greek philosophy, and two in particular are the top landscaping picks.

The popularity of ponds has increased significantly in the last several years, and now people wanting to add to the ambience are adding fire.

Fire pits are an easy addition to outdoor

living spaces. Cuddle up for the warmth on a cold night, or make S’mores. When was the last time you did that? Trust me and ask our Parade of Ponds Homeowners, roasting ‘mallows over the fire will bring back memories.

We customize each fire pit to your preferences and budget. You will be the envy of your neighbors!



Water Features for Any Budget-Decorative Fountains

If a traditional pond isn’t on your wish list or in your budget, you can still enjoy the sound of running water. Consider a decorative fountain, like these cored water columns on the right.

Fountain rocks, bubbling urns and spitters sit atop an underground reservoir that recirculates the water. Like a pondless water feature, the water in a fountain spills over the top and

disappears into the ground into the basin. A pump then repeats the cycle.

Add lighting and other enhancements around the base and surrounding area, and you’re sure to create a unique, peaceful area.

There are several fountain styles and colors available, so feel free to call if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.

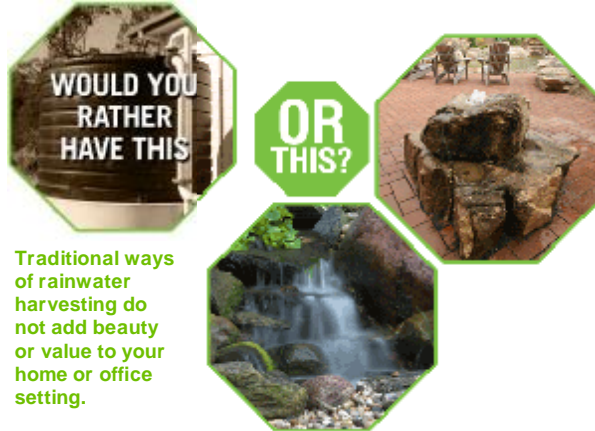


Rainwater Harvesting Project

As a little girl, I remember my Grandma Ella capturing rainwater for her house plants. She said it was the best.

Now, thanks to a recent change in Colorado law, you can reuse water on a larger scale. The RainXchange™ system by Aquascape® makes collecting the rainwater a lot easier to capture, filter and reuse. The systems also come in a variety of decorative styles, so no more unattractive barrels.

How can you use the RainXchange™? Water your lawn and flowerbeds, wash your car, patio or deck, top off water features, swimming pools or hot tubs or use it for your toilet and laundry water supply. Storage capacities range from 500 gallons to 3,000 gallons.



Traditional ways of rainwater harvesting do not add beauty or value to your home or office setting.

RainXchange™ by Aquascape Inc. adds the beauty of a water feature to a revolutionary system for capturing and reusing our most precious resource, water.

How fast does the water add up?

- One inch of rainfall on a 2,000 sq. ft. residential roof generates 1,250 gallons of water.
- In a region that gets 30" of rain annually, that same roof generates 41,000 gallons of reusable water.
- Two hours of sprinkler use can equal 500 gallons of water.
- The average household with a 10,000 sq. ft. lot uses up to 3,000 gallons of water weekly for landscape irrigation.
- Seventy percent of home water use is for outdoor purposes.

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Perfect Spring Additions, Plus Reformulated Products!

GO AHEAD-LIGHT UP!

If you are looking for ambience-or romance-low voltage lighting is the perfect option. Add it in and/or around the pond to make everything glow.

FISH TUNNELS

Is your fish garage big enough now that your finned friends are getting bigger, or do you need to expand those valuable

hiding places? Take the worry out of the equation by adding tunnels. Black corrugated drain pipe is used, then concealed with rocks.

REFORMULATED PRODUCTS

Check out Aquascape's new line of water treatment products. They are reformulated with easier dosing systems and application rates. More concentrated

formulas and higher grade ingredients are also part of the change.



NAWGS, Watergardening.com and CWGS

The 2010 NAWGS schedule is set. Things kick off on March 20, 2010 with a "field trip" and pot luck with members of the Rocky Mountain Koi Club.

There are then monthly activities/meetings through the month of September.

NAWGS is, "An organization of pond lovers dedicated to the **enjoyment,**



education, promotion and protection of the water garden hobby."

Contact nawgs1@mho.com for more information.

Network and share pond photos, stories and a whole lot more by joining the group at

www.watergardening.com. You can blog and will have your own home

page when you register. There is no fee to become a member.

You're proud of your pond, so go toot your own horn.

Check out the Colorado Water Garden Society's new look! Last year the club decided to bite the bullet with a new web site—www.colowatergardensociety.org. It looks great and is full of information.

Rainwater Harvesting Project

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- 66,175 gallons of water are used outdoors per household per year.

The RainXchange™ System filters stored water to prevent stagnation and growth of unhealthy bacteria.

There are some provisions in the new state law to be aware of. As of July 1,

2009, homeowners on well water can apply to harvest rainwater. There is no fee for this permit, and you will only be allowed to use the water for the reasons stated on your permit.

This is very exciting news as concerns grow regarding water supplies. Why let a good thing go to waste? Think about how much reusable water you would have saved this year!

So far, people on municipal water supplies are still prohibited from saving rainwater.

You can learn more about the new law at <http://water.state.co.us/pubs/pdf/RainWaterBills.pdf>.

Get Rid of Fungus Gnats

The laws of physics absolutely do not apply to insects. If they did, then those pesky tiny black bugs flying around your face when you're trying to read or watch TV would be dead in a swipe.

These fungus gnats like to spend part of their lifecycle in potting soil, specifically soil that is too wet. This is one reason it's important not to overwater plants.

To control fungus gnats, follow this homemade remedy to catch them in the larval stage. Combine the following:

1. One quart warm water
2. 5-6 drops liquid dish soap (no moisturizing lotions)
3. 3 drops of sudsy ammonia
4. 1 tsp. rubbing alcohol

Pour ¼ cup to ½ cup around the top of the houseplant's soil.

Control adult gnats by placing a large mixing bowl of sudsy water under a light at night. The light above a kitchen sink works best. You can also place fly paper around the plants.

Or you could just try swatting them and get your upper arm exercise.

Seasonal Special and Pond Service

Don't get left behind! For a limited time, BR&D is offering a **10% discount** on new projects starting in November.

Take those items off your wish list and put them into action. In addition to special pricing, starting your project in November means you will be ahead of the spring rush.

Take advantage of this special offer and call or email to schedule an appointment.

Call 303-660-5015 or email info@brdlandscape.com.

Did you know that BR&D's pond service division operates year-round?

Our dedicated technicians are ready to

help you with questions, concerns or problems.

Winter is an important time to continue or start your regular maintenance services as the season has many challenges to the table. We also offer vacation service.

Call 303-660-5015 for more information or email info@brdlandscape.com.

I Have "Grandpoles!"

That's right, I'm a grand-pole-ma of 14. My daughter's African Dwarf frogs—Tank (boy) and Gigantor (girl, named by my son, Jack, 12—don't even go there) - got cozy earlier this month and we were able to remove some of the eggs from their fishbowl. What a fabulous science experiment! Ella, 10, journals everyday about the latest developments.

That got me to thinking about how cool a pond is for kids. Fish spawn in the spring—can you see the eggs? Koi don't lay them in one area, so it might be a bit tougher. If you find them, what do you do next? Will mom and dad eat the eggs if you don't remove them? Was your fish fat but is now slimmer? How many eggs do fish lay at one time? How long before the babies emerge?

There are so many things to learn from a pond, and the natural curiosity of a child can unleash or reopen the inquiring us all.

BR&D is Proud to be a Member of and Affiliated With:

