



# Pondering & Gardening

BR & D LANDSCAPE, INC.

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## Fall Maintenance—Make Your Reservations Now

With 80-plus degree days, it's tough to think about putting your pond and yard to bed, but alas that time is upon us. Let's start with ponds.

Call now to make your fall cleaning reservation. This time of year can pose serious health risks to your fish without proper care.

You know all that sludge you discover in the spring? That comes from the leaves that get into your pond in the fall and are not removed. When those leaves rot they allow toxins to build up in the bottom of the pond that could spell trouble.

Netting your pond can help prevent much of that debris from making its way into the pond. While a net may not be your favorite aesthetically, it will save you

money when it comes to the cost of the cleaning and may save you money next year if you have to replace any fish



that have died.

When our technicians clean your pond they will remove as much of the debris as possible, trim back all hardy marginal plants like lilies and place them in the pond for winter. They will also dispose of any tropical plants such as hyacinth.

The techs will inform you about transitioning to a cold

water formula bacteria and how barley extract can help with string algae growth come spring.

As your water temperature drops, it's also time to reduce and halt fish feeding. Their digestive systems are just about nil in the winter, so adding food to your pond will only add to the sludge layer, algae growth and more frustration in spring.

We recommend keeping your pond running year-round. It's good for your pond, your fish and believe it or not, your pump.

Call or email the office today to get on the list for your fall cleaning. We can be reached at 303-660-5015 or via email [kelly@brdlandscape.com](mailto:kelly@brdlandscape.com).

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## Shorter Days? Brighten Them Up With New LED Lights

Even though we don't "fall back" until late next month, it's already getting darker earlier. I can honestly say that I am not ready for the shorter days. However, it is the perfect time to add to the ambience of your yard.

This year Aquascape launched its new line of

landscape and pond lighting with beautifully designed LED lights in an architectural bronze finish. They are durable and are as heavy as a good paper weight.

Traditionally used 20-watt and 10-watt halogen lights are quickly being replaced by LED's that last longer

require less maintenance.

Add a new dimension to your pond or yard this fall by bringing it to life with Aquascape's LED lighting options.

[Check out this video](#) showcasing the benefits and features of Aquascape's new lights.

1-watt LED bullet spotlight



3-watt LED bullet spotlight

## Pondering & Gardening

### Is Landscaping a Seasonal Industry? Not at BR&D!



Our crews work through all kinds of weather no matter the season.

In what many would consider a seasonal industry, we at BR&D do everything possible to keep our employees working year-round. This begs the question, “How can you build ponds in the winter?” BR&D owner Bud Kiebler sheds some light on this very topic.

“The ground is only frozen about six inches deep. Once we jack hammer below that depth it’s just like working with the ground during

warmer months. We put a tarp over the work area at the end of the day in case it snows so we can continue the project the next day.”

Many people choose to enhance their pond or make it bigger during the off months, but fish are a concern. BR&D takes the utmost care when transferring fish during construction.

Kiebler adds, “If we add a waterfall or wetland, we don’t have to drain the pond

and move the fish. If the project is big enough and necessitates that, we keep the fish in an insulated container using their own pond water, which keeps the temperature constant. We ensure proper aeration, and because the fish are moving slower, it’s not quite as stressful on them. For fish safety—and customer peace of mind, we won’t move any fish in freezing or below freezing temperatures.”

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David—Hard at Work

### The Folks Who Create and Keep Your Ponds Beautiful

At BR&D we spend a lot of time searching for people we trust to take care of our clients. Some you may know—others you may not, so we thought this was the perfect place to introduce you to our BR&D family.

David is one of our construction supervisors and BR&D’s longest standing employee having joined our

staff in 1998. David is a master pond builder and stone mason who has built hundreds of ponds for BR&D. Clients always comment about David’s design artistry and how many different pitches they hear from their waterfalls. David is a workhorse and one of the nicest people you will ever meet.

Eleno joined BR&D’s construction crew in 2004 and is our other stone mason. If you have a beautiful walkway, patio, retaining wall or any other brick/stone structure, chances are Eleno literally had a hand in the project. Eleno keeps his head down and his hands busy, and he is a tremendous asset

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### Divide and Conquer: Spreading the Wealth of Your Plants

This is the time of year to divide both land and water plants such as iris, daylilies, water lilies, and any established perennials.

When dividing, plants should also be cut back. Dividing in early fall is OK, but if you would rather wait, make sure to complete the task and give

the plant time to adjust to the “haircut” before the ground freezes. Replant them around your yard and enjoy the additional color next spring.

New plants will bloom better their second year.

Achieve bigger, better foliage next year by pruning

in the fall.

Lilac bushes should have the five to seven largest branches cut to the ground to create air circulation in the middle of the bush.

Cut peonies to the ground as leaves mature and look dry.



Cutting back peonies in the fall is a must if you want this beautiful flower to come back next year.

### The Magic of the IonGen—Clearing Up Some Confusion

“My pond has never looked so good!” “A godsend.” These are just a two of the comments we have received about this “magic bullet” in the war against algae.

Aquascape’s IonGen Electronic Water Clarifier made such a splash this year that backorders piled up nationwide almost immediately.

Like any new thing, though, there has been a learning

curve.

The IonGen is a **self-calibrating** unit. This means that the ionized probes “read” your pond water and guide you to the correct amount of ions to release into the water.

Don’t confuse this with **self-adjusting**. The unit will not automatically increase or decrease the ion level. This is something you have to keep an eye on during the season.

If you don’t have any algae, you don’t need to do anything. If you see algae starting to grow, simply use the push pad to increase the level of ions. It is also important to keep the probes clean during the summer, so clean off any built up algae.

The IonGen unit should be stored inside during the winter to ensure it ready to fight algae next year. For more on the IonGen, [check out this video](#).



The IonGen has eliminated more than just string algae. Pond owner frustration also disappeared this summer.

### New From Aquascape—Reuse What Mother Nature Provides

R and R isn’t just for military use these days. Another R&R is the latest catch phrase—Reuse and Recycle.

When it comes to rainwater, Aquascape is once again on the cutting edge offering two systems to store and reuse Mother Nature’s watery gift.

The RainXchange™ Rain Barrel has a 75-gallon

capacity and doubles as a planter. It requires no electricity, and the brass spigot provides for easy garden hose connection. [See the video to learn more.](#)

Aquascape’s rainwater harvesting capabilities can be used on a larger scale, too, making your water feature completely self-sustaining. The system also

allows you to reduce water bills because the stored water can be used to irrigate your lawn. With all the talk of water conservation, this system may be perfect for you. [Click here to learn more.](#)

BR&D can install each of these systems. Make sure state laws allow you to capture and reuse rainwater.



RainXchange™ Rain Barrel by Aquascape

### Composting Made Easy—And it Doesn’t Have to Be Stinky

Continue the reuse and recycle theme by composting this winter. Not only is it beneficial for your house plants and gardens, composting keeps tons of garbage out of landfills.

Successful composters know that air, water and food are the key ingredients.

Newspaper, grass clippings, hay, kitchen wastes, leaves, straw, weeds, wood chips and sawdust are good food sources. Don’t use chemically treated wood, diseased plants, human or pet waste, meat, bones, fatty food waste, or pernicious weeds.

The least expensive way to

get started is to use a plain old garbage can.

1. Punch holes in the garbage can for aeration.
2. Add 50 percent chopped green material and 50 percent dry (newspapers are a good source.) No

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FINISHED COMPOST IS DARK IN COLOR AND HAS AN EARTHY SMELL. IT IS USUALLY HARD TO RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE ORIGINAL INGREDIENTS.

## Pondering & Gardening



What happened to my pump?

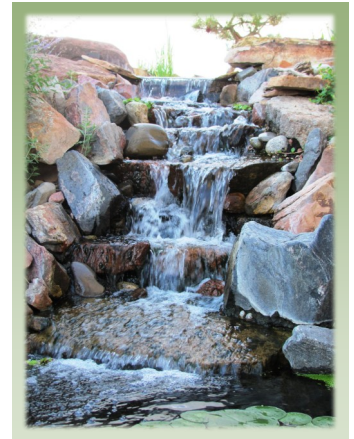
### Why Won't My Pump Work?

Yep, everything's going along just fine. You enjoy a nice evening by the pond. Maybe indulge in a glass of wine or other after-hours favorite. Turn in...and wake up to the sound of absolutely nothing.

What happened? Why isn't the pond working? What about the fish? Are they going to die? Why won't the pump work? What do I do? WHY WON'T MY PUMP WORK?

You might be panicked, you're most definitely frustrated and you are probably saying words I can't print in my newsletter.

When your pump quits, it doesn't mean it's caput. At BR&D, we want to help you be educated about the parts and pieces of your water feature. We think [this video](#) will answer some pump maintenance questions to get your water feature back up and running.



### Never Fear—BR&D's Pond Service Division is Here!



As Dave mentioned in the pump maintenance video, clogs are a big culprit when it comes to decreased water flow or a complete stoppage.

People are usually OK removing a piece of mulch or a pinecone, but when the clog is caused by "icky" things many folks call us.

BR&D's pond service

technicians are trained to help with a variety of items such as regular maintenance, vacation service, fall cleanings, winterization, spring start-up, leaks, light fixture maintenance or replacement, water treatment products—and yes, they will even get that bloated frog or disfigured snake out of your pump.

Our techs are also trained to use Aquascape's new water treatment products.

The [new line](#) features easy application rates, a simple dosing system and scientifically formulated ingredients.

[Rapid Clear](#) is great for helping get the gunk out of your water.

THIS PAST SPRING,  
BR&D'S POND  
SERVICE  
TECHNICIANS  
CLEANED NEARLY  
200 PONDS—AND  
WE STILL COULDN'T  
FULFILL ALL OF THE  
REQUESTS..

### It's Never Too Early—Call Now For Spring Cleanings

It seems like every time you take one thing off your to-do list, there's another thing waiting in the wings.

Well, I'm that "other" thing. Our techs will be in high demand come spring as everyone wants to get their ponds cleaned. Call me now to get on that list, and if you

think you're already on my list, call or email to double-check.

If you aren't sure you will want or want a cleaning next year, I still recommend you call. If you decide against a cleaning, no harm no foul, but at least you have a place. Otherwise, be prepared for

a long wait while the algae builds up.

I try to start cleaning ponds in March or as the weather allows. This year it was weird—remember our snow in May?

Don't forget to call now—303-660-5015 or email [kelly@brdlandscape.com](mailto:kelly@brdlandscape.com).

## Compost to Reduce Waste

- need to fill the can. Just use what you have on hand.
3. Spray water on the material until it is damp but not soggy.
  4. Put the lid on the can.
  5. Put the can on bricks or several 2"x4" pieces of lumber to keep it off the ground.
  6. Turn the can daily or at least weekly by putting it on its side and rolling it around to mix up the contents.
  7. Add "food" as you create waste.
  8. Keep the material about as damp as a wrung-out sponge by spraying it with water when it begins to feel dry.
  9. Harvest your compost after one month. Use a wire screen or piece of chicken wire to strain out the unfinished compost.
- You can compost in winter. If the temperatures dip, it will slow down the decomposition process; however. Keeping things damp and aerated will prevent having a garbage can full of stinky gunk.
- More elaborate composting bins are available, of course, but this might be a good way to start for those on a budget or uncertain if continued composting is for them.



An inexpensive and easy introduction to composting.

## Another Successful Parade of Ponds is in the Books

This year's Parade of Ponds was another success. Hopefully, you saw live coverage of the event on Channel 9's Colorado & Company, and Channel 31's Good Day Colorado.

There were 40 locations on the tour and for the first time since our Froggy Awards were introduced, we had a tie for "Best Overall Pond."

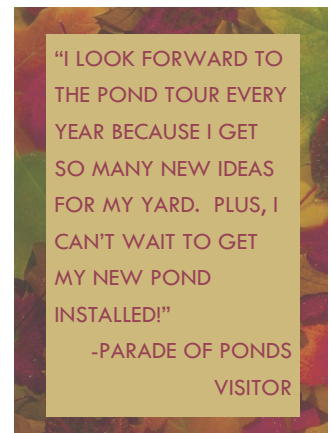
Here is a list of all of this year's winners:

- "Best Overall Pond": tie A2, B1
- "Best Overall Landscape": B7
- "Best Backyard Therapy": C1
- "Best Water Quality": B2
- Best Small Pond/Pondless": A7
- "Best Fish": D1
- Best Aquatic Plants": A3

Congratulations to all of our award winners who received a \$50 gift certificate from BR&D.

The 13th Annual Colorado Parade of Ponds tour is set for August 26-27, 2011.

We hope you will join us for another spectacular summer event.



## BR&D At the Ready Year-Round

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Adding fish and plants will have to wait for spring.

For the yard, winter is a great time to have BR&D tackle your hardscape items such as retaining walls, walkways, patios, stone planters etc.

Trees, shrubs, sod and plants

will have to wait a few months for installation.

BR&D provides all reasonable warranties for products and labor, and you would be hard pressed to find a company that provides the level of customer care that we do.

We work exceptionally hard

to do what is right for our clients, which isn't necessarily the most profitable thing for the company. We are friendly and get to know our clients. That's why people call us back to add different elements to their yard. Your referrals are the best compliment we could receive, and we are very grateful.



## The Folks Who Create and Keep Your Ponds Beautiful

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Eleno doing what he does best.

to our company.

Ryan just joined BR&D this year and arrived on our doorstep via Maryland. With a desire to move to Colorado, Ryan began Searching for a company similar to the one he was working for: a pond builder who was also a Certified Aquascape Contractor. Research and several referrals from pond industry experts put him in contact with owner Bud Kiebler. With built-in experience is BR&D's pond building formula, Ryan is off the ground and running.



Lisa has no problem keeping up with the guys.

Chris started with BR&D in 2009 as a seasonal employee, and we liked him so much we rehired in 2010. Chris is one of the hardest working young men you will come across, and his versatility within our company is highly valued. Chris started in our pond service division then crossed over into construction. These days Chris works wherever we need his talents and it is a real benefit to know that we can call on him to lend a hand in either division of BR&D.

Steve is new to BR&D this year and works full-time in our

construction department.

Steve brought with him what I would call an "old-school" work ethic that blends elbow grease and a git-er-done attitude with a personable demeanor. Steve genuinely cares about each project he works on, and that is exactly the type of person we look for. His muscles don't hurt, either.

Lisa came to BR&D in 2007 as part of our construction department. In 2008 she was promoted to our pond service division. Her forte is residential pond maintenance. Lisa has nearly 25 years of landscape experience and an extensive horticulture background. This time of year she especially loves planting spring bulbs for clients. When it comes to plant questions Lisa is our go-to girl, and if you have ever witnessed Lisa working you know she is not afraid to get her hands dirty. As a single parent, Lisa is setting a good example for her children about how to be a hard worker and a good employee. BR&D is truly blessed to have Lisa on our staff.

Tyler contacted BR&D in 2009 with no pond experience per

se but a wealth of plumbing and mechanical ability. Tyler services residential clients and our commercial accounts. He also plays an integral part in the expansion of our lake maintenance services. His knowledge, attitude, demeanor, work ethic (and muscles) make him a valued part of our team. Tyler's claim to fame is an article many years ago in People magazine when he worked for a company called Carpenters in Kilts. In the background is a teenaged Tyler in full kilt attire holding a drill and looking very serious. I am sure he will be happy I shared this with you.

Bev joined BR&D just this year and is that "voice on the phone." Bev sets appointments, arranges for your utility lines to be located prior to construction beginning and keeps you informed of whatever you need to be informed about. It is a good thing Bev likes to talk because she gets to do a lot of it in her job. Friendly and upbeat, this is a lady other employers would be lucky to have – but they can't because we told Bev she can't go anywhere.

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

