

Illiana Garden Pond Society

POND PAGES

OCTOBER 2010



*We're
having a
spooktacular
Halloween
Party!
Create your
best costume
for prizes
& fun!!*

OCTOBER MEETING • SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2010 • 6:00 PM

To get to the Party from the intersection of US 30 and US 41, go east approx. 2 miles to Cline Ave. in Schererville, go north on Cline until you reach the top of a small hill and make a left on Sandi Lane, then an immediate left on Terri Lane, then an immediate right on Kathleen Dr. 718 will be the third house on the right. Lost? Call us at 322-1516.

October Meeting Halloween Party!

Come join us for spooky fun and goulish festivities at the Peterson's Haunted House. There will be plenty of good food and beverages brewing and tales by the fire. A short business meeting will be held. Feel free to bring a dessert if you wish.

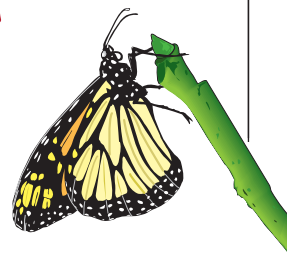
Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, so be creative show us what you've got! The spookier the better!

Hope to see you all there!

Monarch Watch

For anyone that really enjoyed the presentation last month on the Monarch butterflies by Dolly Foster, her blog address is listed below. You can follow her progress and the migration of the Monarchs.

<http://hort4u.blogspot.com/2010/09/still-going-strong.html>



2010 EVENT SCHEDULE

2010 SCHEDULE

October

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

October 9, 2010
Saturday, 6:00 pm
Peterson Home
718 Kathleen Dr.
Schererville, IN

November ELECTIONS!

November 13, 2010
Saturday, 10:00 am
St. John Library
St. John, Indiana



Illiana Garden Pond
Society
P.O. Box 448
St. John, Indiana 46373

Illianagardenpond.org



How can I keep leaves out of my pond?

This Tent's Not for Camping

You may not want to admit it yet, but the summer season is coming to a close. While we love the mild weather and the changing colors of the trees, us water garden owners have to turn our attention to the falling leaves. No worries however, we have one simple tool that you can use to avoid having to deal with leaves falling into your water garden.

We are of course talking about [pond netting](#). If you dealt with Herons in the summer you may already have a pond net on hand. While they are great for keeping unwanted predators out of your pond they are more commonly used for keeping leaves and other blowing debris from falling in. There are two basic styles of pond netting you can purchase. The most simplistic version of this being a pre cut piece of mesh netting. This netting is available in an [Economy Grade](#) which is ideal for single season use or a [Heavy Duty](#) version. You can pull this mesh tight across the surface of your pond and secure it using stakes or rocks. This application works well for water gardens that may receive minimal amounts of debris. If you are in a heavily wooded area or are prone to massive amounts of debris you will be better off utilizing a [Pond Protector Net Kit](#) that implements a domed design to better protect your pond. The netting included with the kit extends beyond the tent-style frame allowing you to pull netting along the contours of your pond so there are no gaps left open for debris to enter.

Keeping leaves out of your pond in the fall will help keep the pond clean and manageable going into the colder seasons and will ensure a faster, easier cleanout and start up next season. Leaves left in the pond to decompose tend to create "tea-colored" water due to the tannins they release in the decomposition process.

How can I get rid of the discoloration in my pond? It looks like a tea pot.

Tea colored water is a common issue that typically comes up later in the year as the weather cools and the trees start to drop their leaves. The ponding season may be coming to an end in a couple of months but you still want your pond looking its very best. Where is this tea colored water coming from and how can you make it go away?

Water discoloration can occur for a couple of reasons both pertaining to organic debris having a significant presence in your pond. If you have a lot of floating organic particulates in your water they will cause turbid or colored water and is usually stirred into the water column via your pump or aeration system. The other cause of water discoloration, and the most common cause of tea colored water, is the presence of an abundance of organic debris. Leaves are the main contributor to the problem as they release tannins into the water which, like you said, leaves your pond looking like a tea kettle. The best way to determine if your pond suffers from floating particulate or an abundance of tannins is by filling a clear jar with pond water and placing it in a still area. Floating debris will eventually sink to the bottom of the jar leaving the water clear looking. If the water is tinted by tannins the water will remain discolored. Once you pinpoint the culprit you can effectively treat the problem.

Since an abundance of organics is to blame in either scenario you will want to start by cleaning the bottom of the pond to remove any muck, leaves and any other remaining debris. The easiest way to do so is to use a [Pond Vacuum](#) but if you do not have one yet a [Skimmer Net](#), [Gloves](#) and elbow grease will do the trick. Once you have the majority of debris cleaned out of the pond you will want to do a partial water change. Physically scoop or pump out 10 to 25% of the contents of your pond and fill it with clean fresh water. If you have fish in the pond you will want to add [Pond & Fish Conditioner](#) to detoxify the harmful components of tap and well water. If you are fortunate enough to be enjoying warmer weather still and your water temps are above 50° add [Beneficial Bacteria](#) to digest remaining organic debris and to keep them from accumulating again. Using [Muck Defense](#) goes a long way in removing hard to reach bottom dwelling muck from between your rocks as well. If your water temps are below 50° substitute your beneficial bacteria products with [Seasonal Defense](#). To remove tannins from the water place a media bag filled with [Activated Carbon](#) in your biological filter. While the bacteria and activated carbon are going to work you may want to consider covering your water garden with a [Pond Protector Net Kit](#) or some [Pond Netting](#) to keep new leaves and debris from making their way into to pond. A cleaner pond going into the Winter is much easier to maintain come Spring time so a little work now will go a long way later.

Submit Your Questions



Have Questions?

Ask
The Pond Guy®

I've heard a lot about snapping turtles. Are they good for a pond or should just remove them? George – Duck, NC

Ponds tend to attract all types of creatures to your yard, some more desirable than others. With their large claws and strong jaws, snapping turtles may make the list of animals you don't want in your pond. It all really boils down to why you dug your pond in the first place and how you spend your time enjoying it.

The snapping turtle is the largest turtle in the United States, living 30 years on average, their shells growing to around 15 inches, and normally reaching weights of 10 to 35 pounds. The largest common snapping turtle on record being nearly 20 inches long and weighing 86 pounds. It is believed some species of snapping turtles can live up to 150 years with some reports of snappers have been found with musket rounds lodged inside them from the American Civil War.

Snapping turtles tend to inhabit the shallow areas of your pond and will feed off of both plants and animals limited only to what they can fit in their mouths. If you have prized fish or encourage Geese and Ducks to raise hatchlings in your pond you may find snapping turtles to be a major inconvenience. These turtles rarely surface in the pond to bask in the sun and instead are commonly found buried at the bottom of the pond with only their head exposed. Because they are too big to actually hide inside their shell the snapping turtle relies on his sharp beak-like mouth for protection. Their neck is extremely flexible and is able to reach over their shells to protect their hind legs and tail. While their size and power may be intimidating they are not usually aggressive in the water. Rather than attack and bite potential threats they prefer to swim away and hide. That being said, there is no guarantee that you won't accidentally provoke one of these snappers. If you swim in your pond you may not want to keep the snappers around.



If you have a natural pond and have no intentions of swimming or any special attachment to particular fish or frogs in the water there is no reason why these turtles can't be a part of the scenery. They can help balance fish populations and are absolutely amazing to look at if you can spot a large one moving around your pond. If you decide that they need to find a new home you can remove them by installing a [Turtle Trap](#). You can bait the trap with fish or meat from your home and place the trap in the shallow areas of your pond. You don't want the turtle to drown so keep the top of the cage exposed and out of the water. When you catch a turtle be sure to use thick working gloves to protect your hands from potential bites or scratches. Pull the cage from the pond and transport the turtle to another location. As they are known to travel far distances over land you will want to relocate them a few miles away from your pond or they may find their way back. Never try to catch snapping turtles using hooks as they tend to swallow food whole. If they ingest a hook you will be unable to remove it and possibly injure the turtle.

*Stop by, or Stay for a Song
While...*

Dress or come as yourself.

Peterson's

Saturday October 09, 2010

718 Kathleen Drive

Schererville, In



Eat some dogs or Dine on Delicacies.



*Warm yourself by the Fire and Listen for
Creatures of the Night.*



Tour our Haunted House at 6:00 P.M.



Share a cup of Brew with the Spirits.

But Most of all... COME!

Boy: Noise with dust on it.
Chickens: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.
Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.
Raisin: A grape with a sunburn.
Chemicals: Noxious substances from which modern foods are made.

A perfect summer day is when
the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing,
and the lawn mower is broken.
- James Dent

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Simple Taffy Apple Dip

1 package (8 oz Cream Cheese)
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 tbs vanilla
1/2 cup chopped peanuts
6 apples, cut into wedges
a few drops of lemon juice

In small bowl, beat cream cheese, brown sugar, vanilla, and chopped nuts until smooth
toss apple wedges with lemon juice to prevent browning
Serve dip with apple wedges

