

## Fall Shutdown 2011

It is soon time to close down your pond(less) for the winter. There are some things that you might need to know in order to have all of your fish smiling at you again in the spring. With fall approaching, the leaves will soon start to fall in abundance (for those of you that have a skimmer box I bet you're glad now). Anyways, here are some common practices that we do at DreamScapes when winter starts to approach:

1. First we shut off the pump, pull it out, wind up cord, and wash it off (please put pump in a bucket of water over the winter. The bucket only needs to be filled half way, also store bucket in garage that does not drop below 32 degrees).
2. Next we remove all debris from the pond, biofalls and skimmer. This debris can include items such as leaves, food, dead plants, etc. **Remember it is very important to remove all debris from the pond because methane gas can build up to toxic levels below the ice causing a fish kill.** You can remove filter pads, and lava rock/bioballs if you choose. We find it easier to take care of this in the Spring when we are able to pressure wash them.
3. Then we cut back all plants for the winter. (Plants should be cut back 1 inch above water surface). Throw away water hyacinths/lettuce. They will die at the first frost.
4. After the plants are cut back, it is time to put the pond heater/de-icer in the pond. **(We feel that this is also a necessity because if there is no hole in the ice, the methane gas from organic matter will build to toxic levels and your fish can die).**
5. Finally, it is time to put a net over the pond. For those that have never used a net, they really save a lot of maintenance for the upcoming spring season. We attach the net to the ground with sod staples.
6. For ponds that have koi 10 inches or larger, we recommend that you put in at least a 1000 gallon/hr pump or an air pump and air stones. Koi this size need extra oxygen during the winter to survive.

Just so you know...DreamScapes Watergardens does also have a fall maintenance plan. If you wish not to mess with your pond just let the experts take care of it for you. Do this by returning the form below in the enclosed addressed envelope. On the average, it usually takes about 2 hours of labor to shut the pond down for the winter. (Maintenance labor cost is \$69/ man hour, there is also a service fee and we divide the driving time between whomever is on the list for that day according to geographical location).

**For those that have a pondless waterfall: only steps 1, 2, and 3 apply.**

### Things to remember:

- ✂ We will be doing fall maintenances in late October, early November time-frame.
- ✂ Never pound on the ice with a hammer!!! This could potentially cause your fish to go into shock and die.
- ✂ Also if you love to feed your fish, once water temperatures are 55 degrees and below you should be feeding them low temperature food that has Wheatgerm in it.
- ✂ Do not forget to check your pond net regularly in the fall since some leaves come down at a rapid rate. This can make it very difficult to remove the net from your pond.
- ✂ A beach ball is a great way to keep the pond netting up off the water's surface.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please Do My Fall Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred time frame for maintenance to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 14'X14' net @ \$19.98      \_\_\_ pack of 15 pins @ \$3.00

\_\_\_ Low Temp Food (16 oz) @ \$13.99      \_\_\_ Low Temp Food (3 lb) @ \$31.99

\_\_\_ 1000gph pump @\$209.98      \_\_\_ Pond Thermometer @ \$9.98

\_\_\_ Custom Cut Bulk netting for fall shutdown (will last much longer than packaged netting) @\$.24/sqft.

\_\_\_ 1250 Watt Pond Heater @ \$64.99

\_\_\_ 36" Beach Ball @ \$5.00

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