

Woodland Water Gardens Newsletter

woodlandwatergardens.com



April, 2006

1950 S. 500 E. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-0050

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00am - 5:00pm Thur 10:00am - 7:00pm Sat 9:00am - 4:00pm Sun closed

Hey, isn't this an incredible time of year! Everyday the trees are fuller, the wild flowers are sprouting, the ponds are awakening, the fish are now active, and the Lord is making "all things new". Springtime is just awesome!

Lots of things here at Woodland are new too. Our new building is up, and the construction crew will be moving into their new facility this weekend. We will start construction on the retail area expansion, seminar room, and Barbara's Fish Shack in another week.

Cris's greenhouse will also be undergoing some changes so we can provide easier access to more and better aquatic plant material. Our new plant display system is designed to induce stronger and deeper root growth, while providing a cleaner, more compact plant for your pond. The propagation bins will now be separate from the retail plant displays, allowing us to focus better on the customer side of things so we can give you a superb plant that can be easily transferred to your pond.



Expansion project at Woodland

If you missed the Opening the Pond Seminar, I do have the handouts available at the nursery if anyone wants them. If you are doing your own pond clean out, these hand outs are full of helpful information about handling plants and fish, and maintaining your pond throughout the season. The hand outs are pretty thorough, so you may want to file them away for future reference.

April 29th is our Build A Pond Day here at Woodland. We will be building about a 25'x16' pond with dual waterfalls. This is a full hands-on teaching event that will be a lot of fun as well as educational. If you are thinking about installing a pond yourself, this day is an absolute must. This event along with the Build A Pondless Waterfall Day are the only events you must register and pay for. All other seminars and events are free. The Build A Pond Day event is \$50.00 or \$75.00 for a couple. Lunch is provided and there are discounts on pond kits for attendees from \$50.00 to \$250.00 depending on the size. This will be a fun, as well as educational day, so come join us and bring your shovel!

Saturday May the 13th is Barb's Fish Health 201 seminar. This will be an exceptionally good seminar for anyone who has fish in their pond. (That's almost all of us!) She just received a

shipment of over 300 small Koi, and all the Moms who attend will receive a free Koi for mother's day. That's pretty cool, since they are all premium select grade fish!

Cory, Jared and crew are finishing up the spring clean outs and pond start ups. We hope to get to the construction schedule the first week of May. I think they are ready to build rather than clean :)

Well, I hope everyone had a blessed Easter and got to enjoy good food and family as we did. This is a great time of year to watch nature come alive and make "all things new". It's also a good time to let Jesus into our hearts and make us new too. Oh yea ... you can feed your fish now. They'll feel like new too.

Gary

Barb's Koi Korner

We at Woodland are proud to be one of the few suppliers of Golden Orfe. For those of you who do not know what a Golden Orfe is, it is a long, carrot-colored, mosquito eating fish. Yes they are insectivores by nature and consume a large amount of mosquito larva if they are able. "Dead" or stagnant areas of ponds may contain some of this Orfe delicacy. They are natives of German and Russian waters. The Orfes are sensitive to pollution and require high levels of oxygen and good water quality in your pond. The Golden Orfes are a schooling fish so we recommend three or more in your pond. We have found that they tend to be quite extroverted, and can be utilized to bring out other fish in your pond that tend to be more reclusive. If they are put in your pond without a mate, they usually dart frantically around the pond searching for another Orfe. That is why we recommend at the time of purchase you obtain at least two Orfes. They get along well with the other pond fish so don't hesitate to introduce them into your pond. They grow rapidly up to 12" - 16" in length. The maximum life expectancy is about 18 years. They do winter over quite well in our zone 5 climate.



Golden Orfe

Fish have come in and will be ready to go out after May 5th. We have small to large Koi, Golden Orfes, Calico Fantails, Blue Orandas and Red & Black Fantail. I will be getting Shubunkins and Sarasas in mid May. Now that the water temperatures are up you can begin feeding your fish once a day if you wish. Use a Spring, wheat germ food. Once the water temps get above 70 degrees you can switch to the Summer food which is higher in protein.

Greetings From The Greenhouse!



Plant Material Ready To Go

Spring is in the air and I have lots of exciting news for you. I have NEW Giant Marsh Marigolds, Velvet Red Iris, Pink Iris, Deep Rose Iris, Marble Queen (Looks like a water hosta), Black Flowering Sedge, Watercress and Yellow Monkey Flower. Still to arrive are the Primula, Yerba-Yerba, Achillea, Swamp Cabbage, Hardy Ground Orchids, Water Violets and Variegated Japanese Aster. Remember . . . floaters (Water lettuce and Hyacinth) are tropical and are scheduled to arrive in May. It is way to cold for them to survive right now. Lilies are ready to be planted but give me about a week

more for some of the other plants so I can get them a little more fully developed and the root systems better established. Happy Ponding - Cris

Starting Up Your Pond

BACTERIA, BACTERIA, BACTERIA - I can not stress enough the importance of the bacteria to start your ponds off right in the spring. Bacteria seeds and starts up the biological filter while the plants are still struggling to get established in the spring. If you are not seeding your filter yet - **START RIGHT NOW!!!** Bacteria is also a maintenance product. When you add water or we get rain, nutrients are being added to your pond, so add some bacteria to help consume those excess nutrients. I use bacteria at least weekly on new ponds. Older, more mature ponds tend to use less and less product to where they naturally balance, but initially you need to help mother nature out with some bacteria. Aerobic bacteria is a crucial part of the nitrogen cycle as it also contributes to breaking down fish waste and debris in the pond. (Does not work on string algae) With this being a natural lake bacteria **YOU CAN NOT OVERDO THIS PRODUCT!!!** I would prefer you add extra versus not enough. We also carry faster acting liquid versions of bacteria as well. Okay - enough said.

ECO-BLAST - This product is to be used in conjunction with S.A.B. Eco-blast is a natural contact killer of string-like and mossy algae. I recommend you turn off your pump if you apply it in the stream or waterfall area so it settles right on the algae. You sprinkle this directly on the algae and it will crystalize it and break it up within 24 hours. You only need to leave your pump off for a few minutes so it can cling to the area you are trying to treat.

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1950 S. 500 E.
Columbia City, IN 46725

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Creating a little piece of paradise, one pond at a time!

More Pond Product Info

S.A.B. - String Algae Buster - You will want to use this about 24 hours after you have applied the Ecoblast and this will disrupt the growth cycle of string algae. String algae is a filamentous chain and the S.A.B. breaks the chain. Be sure to check your skimmer net after using S.A.B. for several days as it will start to collect the strands of algae as they will float into the skimmer. S.A.B. is mixed in a bucket with some of your pond water, then disbursed around the perimeter of your pond. You may notice your water turning milky-white. Your pond will clear up within 24 hours. (Most of the time, within a few hours)



CLARITY MAX PLUS & ECO-BALANCE - Are basically the same thing. They both help break down organic material at the bottom of the pond and acts as a flocculent to get rid of suspended particles floating around in the water. (A very powerful version of the Bacteria)

DE-CHLORINATOR - ONLY FOR PONDS THAT HAVE TREATED WATER - This removes chloramines that are harmful to the fish. Our de-chlorinator works instantly and only needs to be used when a pond clean out is performed or if you did more than a 20% water exchange.