

Land and Water

THE MAGAZINE OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

2012 BUYER'S GUIDE

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Best Pond Management Products

Best Pond Management Products

Thirty-plus years ago, if a rural landowner wanted a pond, it was a simple process for a simple reason. He probably needed water for livestock or a retention pond for irrigation. He'd just call the local earthmover, be put on a short waiting list and then, presto-chango, a big machine showed up, rearranged some dirt and a pond was born.

It's not like that nowadays, folks.

Ponds are built with a different purpose...often several purposes. Sure, livestock ponds are still an important part of country life, but in today's rural world, many ponds and lakes are built for recreation...from fishing to kayaking to swimming to attracting wildlife...or just for aesthetic appeal, the soothing, refreshing need for water as we enjoy that first cup of coffee each morning.

Along the way, the pond management industry was born. It started simply, by stocking some fish, maybe feeding them by hand. Some areas of the country needed (and still does) practical, healthy ways to deal with runaway vegetation.

Today, there are so many pond tools, toys and gadgets, Santa had to open a special factory at the North Pole just to appease America's pond owners.

Here are some of the best products in today's pond management world.

Start with Pond Boss magazine. Pond Boss is the "go to" resource for recreational ponds. With timely information and an extensive resource guide, you can learn

most everything you need to know. www.pondboss.com has a wide variety of information and the world's leading discussion forum of experts in "Ask the Boss". You'll find questions and answers from Pond Boss that will help you make the best decisions.

Aeration systems—give your pond a breath of fresh air. There are several ways to aerate your pond. There are bottom diffusers, circulators and fountains. Fountains

are mainly for aesthetic appeal, but some are designed to move deeper water to aerate a bigger percentage of the water column. Circulators can be adjusted to move water from the depths or to just keep your dock from freezing over winter. Bottom diffuser systems are designed to minimize risk of your pond stratifying and to keep water moving vertically, to contact the atmosphere for wholesale cleansing. Do

you have electricity near the pond? If so, you have a variety of choices. If you don't, wind-driven aeration may be your best tool. There are some solar powered systems on the market, too. Look at Kasco Marine, Inc, Otterbine, Vertex Water Features and Outdoor Water Solutions. Those companies specialize in their types of aeration. They'll help guide you to the appropriate product for your situation. Or, check in with Aquatic Ecosystems, Stoney Creek or The Pond Guy, who will use their range of vendors to help solve aeration opportunities or guide you to an extensive source of pond toys and tools.

Need a dock? Local dock builders can often be easily located, but if you want another choice, take a look at EZ Dock or Connect-A-Dock. These neat pre-fab units snap together, giving you many options to design your own system. Plus, you can buy added features such as storage boxes, rod holders, rails and benches.

Want to feed your fish? There are a variety of different automatic, battery-operated feeders on today's mar-



Different fountains serve different purposes. Some are designed to move water, all are designed for beauty and esthetic appeal.

many fish foods for that. Looking to grow giant bluegills? Special, high proteins feeds are targeted for that market, too. Are you into the feed-trained largemouth bass trend? Yes, there is AquaMax Largemouth, by Purina Mills.

Want to attract your fish to your favorite part of the pond? Look at Porcupine Fish Attractors or Fishhiding. Want to see your fish at night? Explore Bojo Fish Light, Bug Lite from FreshFlo or Deep Glow lights. These devices serve a variety of purposes from feeding fish to attracting them to catch or to be able to see your precious finned friends as they swim in and out of beautiful lights.

Got a leaky pond? Liners and soil amendments are available in today's market.

Need to manage water flow? Piping companies are out there; ready to help design the best system to suit your needs. Want a pond where you can raise or lower the water level? How about a system to remove stagnant bottom water when the rains come?

Are geese using your dock as a spa? There are ways to promote their migration away from your pond. Look at Away With Geese as a good choice.



Chris Blood, with Texas Hunter, explains the workings of their fish feeder.

ket to allow you choices to design your own fish feeding program. Prices range from \$200 to beyond \$1,000, depending on the quality of the product you choose. Texas Hunter is a leader in the industry, Sweeney Feeders is a long-standing company and there are other feeders you can buy in box

stores. Those include Moultrie, All-Seasons and Aqua-Pro.

Speaking of feeding programs, Purina Mills has developed a number of specialty feeds over the last few years just to meet a pondowner's discerning needs. Want to grow catfish to feed the family? There are



- Display Aerators & Fountains
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PONDS & LAKES

In today's world, our ponds are much more than storage units for water. They are a source of peace, fun and serenity. And, the marketplace has answered the need with a variety of new products to enhance the experience of your very own pond. **L&W**

by *Bob Lusk*

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Gerry Jackson (rt) of Southeastern Pipe and Drain Systems, shows the different pipe systems often used on new pond construction.

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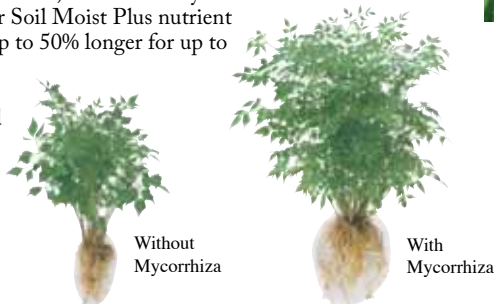
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Bob Lusk,
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