



# wetwork News

A Publication of the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club

**July 2014**

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### **RAFFLES & PROMOTIONS**

Chris Wilkolaski  
662-9429



Our 2014 Koi Show at Masterson's is now behind us, and from all appearances it was a huge success. Kudos goes out to novice chairwoman Dawn Domagala and her assistant Chris Wilkolaski for an excellent event. Dawn has only been a member of the NPKPC for a little over a year, but when the call went out for someone to chair the event Dawn took the challenge and really ran with it. We should all thank her for her time and effort that went into arranging the show. Thanks also goes out to everyone who helped with the set-up and tear-down, the donations for the basket raffle, those who solicited donations from area businesses, and our resident auctioneer Audrey Behlau.



Now it's time to turn our attention to the 2014 Pond Tour on Saturday, July 26th. This year it centers around the Southtowns, with our first stop at Elderwood at 580 Orchard Park Road at 10 AM. Packets for the entire day will be distributed at this location with stops on the hour. Tickets are \$10 per person for those who wish to attend the picnic at our final stop - Angie and Jerry Cyrek's. Dinner will be catered and will include beef on weck, fried chicken and assorted salads. Anyone wishing to bring a dessert can sign up at the July meeting. Final call for tickets will be July 18, 2014.

And speaking of our July meeting, I'm pleased to announce that Greg Young will be presenting part 2 of his world famous pond series (!?!?) - water quality and filtration.

We are also continuing the dollar-and-a-dream raffle table for the foreseeable future. And we will be having our monthly plant and pond items auction this month.

Voting will also take place for Koi Person of the Year.

*LORRI*





## Ribbits From Froggy

Soon it will be a bright warm day in March... and you may notice a loud "peeping" from a nearby pond or marsh... The breeding season has begun and is announced by the calls of the Spring Peepers. ("Peepers" will be highlighted in the next "Ribbits From Froggy" post.)

The Romans named them "rana". They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. They were and are used for food, their songs are thought by a few cultures to indicate weather change, the toxins of some are used in medical research, and they are a natural form of pest control.

Frogs can be found from north of the arctic circle to the southern tips of South America and Africa. They live in swamps, ponds, streams, in the mountain mists of rain forests (where they leave their spawn in temporary puddles cupped in fallen leaves) and in deserts around the world. But the most enjoyment I have is seeing them in my own backyard. Remember, "if you build it, they will come."

### From Egg to Frog

During the first phase of the frog's life cycle, eggs are laid in a gelatinous mass. (Frogs lay "sheets" of egg masses, while toads lay eggs in "strings".) When breeding, female frogs secrete egg jelly, which looks like uncooked egg white. The eggs within the jelly look like black tapioca dots, and are fertilized by one or more males in close proximity (they may be riding on the female's back or sitting nearby).

During the second phase, as the eggs hatch, they release the baby frogs in a larval form known as "tadpoles" or "pollywogs". At this time the larvae have fully functioning gills, no hind or fore-legs, and seem to be no more than a bulbous head with a long, vertical-flat tail. They feed on algae and plants. In my terrariums, fish food flakes substitute for some of the plants found in nature.



A gelled mass of frog spawn.

Now in the third phase of a frog's life (metamorphosis) in time-frames ranging from a few weeks to two

years, tadpoles begin to develop their hind legs. They swim to the surface more often as their lungs begin to develop, and their tails start to be absorbed. During this transition, they eat nothing as their digestive system alters in preparation for a carnivorous life. Soon they will have all four legs, jaw and mouth will reform into the familiar frog face, their gills will have vanished, and they will climb onto the shore with their tails dragging behind them.



Eventually their tails are absorbed entirely and they enter Phase IV of their lives as juvenile frogs... with very healthy appetites. Look out bugs! I just watched this change in a 40 gal aquarium. I took tadpoles from my water garden when we closed up in October. I've watched them change into Green Frogs. I have five now, and they are between one and two inches in length. Their primary food is mealworms. They sit in their feeding tray (Jiff peanut butter lid) and in a very short time... I'm having to reload it.



As adults, frogs will eat insects, fish, and small animals (including birds, rodents, and other frogs). I'll toss chicken liver pieces around the edge of our ponds to attract flies, and the frogs will camp out right next to the raw meat and pick off a mouthful of them with a quick lunge forward, a sweep of a forelimb across their face for cleaning, and a blink of the eyes to help them swallow. In some cases, the tossed liver is grabbed by a frog before it can come to rest and act as bait. I also have a number of bullfrogs that take food from my fingers. On one occasion, one of our ducklings was swallowed by a frog while swimming in the water-garden. My husband managed to rescue the poor thing before any damage was done, but the look of "WHAT THE HECK do you call **THAT?!**" was written all over her face for quite a while afterwards.

So now, as you peer down into your pond or some other marsh or stream, you'll be able to recognize what I've learned to look for. I watch **everywhere** that has water, hoping to see this amazing part of nature. I hope you're lucky enough to experience this as well.

**Happy frog watching!**

**~Audrey (Froggy) Behlau**

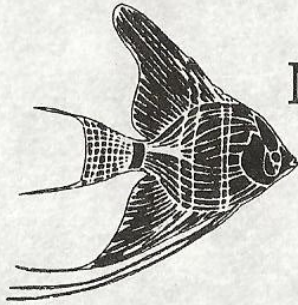


Audrey "Froggy" Behlau raises koi, catfish, ducks, frogs, and turtles in her three backyard ponds in upstate New York.



HOURS: Mon.- Fri. 11-8  
Sat. 10-8 pm, Sun. 12-5

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**Sunshine**  
**Ed Schaefer is recovering from surgery**

## Refreshments for 2014

If you would like to bring refreshments to a meeting, you will be reimbursed for expenses for up to \$25.00 (receipts must be turned into Nancy)

General info: 8-9 bottles of pop, some diet

Any refreshments or snacks of your choice: Cheese & Crackers, veggies, fruit, chips, dip, pepperoni, salad, jello, cookies, cake, brownies, etc.

We do not have use of any kitchen supplies, so you may need to bring serving utensils, trays, bowls, baskets, knives, or whatever is needed to serve your type of refreshments

The club will provide: Coffee, hot cups, creamer, sugar, small plates, paper cups, plastic silverware, napkins

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Barbara Weber 688-7924

**Jan.:** Potluck, please bring a dish to pass  
**Feb.:** Sandy Crawford & Diane Young  
**Mar.:** Mary O'Connor  
**Apr.:** Carol Krajewski  
**May:** Nancy Wojnowski  
**June:**  
**July:** Ann Marshall & Rob Smith  
**Aug.:**  
**Sep.:**  
**Oct.:** Carol Filipski, Elaine Starek, Rose Schaeffer  
**Nov.:**

Next Board of  
Directors Meeting  
7:30 PM  
Wednesday, July 23rd  
At the home of  
Nancy Wojnowski  
3885 Clinton Rd.  
West Seneca, NY

All members are welcome to  
attend RSVP to 675-3017