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I’ve noticed these past few years how technology has become a part of all our lives. I try to stay up to date with the use of these tools in my home and work life. These tools are always changing and improving so I do my best. I incorporated the use of a blog to get the information to you more quickly. There are many times I get information that needs to get into your hands. Since I only do a newsletter a few times a year, the blog is a great tool that I can put information out there to you.

A blog is a personal or work website in the form of an online journal. I consider my blog (http://fishfitnessfamily.blogspot.com/) a newsletter with that fancy “blog” name. Check it out if you haven’t done so already. You may subscribe to my blog using either an e-mail subscription or a Really Simple Syndication (RSS).

Most everyone is familiar with e-mail, but what is RSS? Really Simple Syndication is a news feed. With RSS, content from websites is syndicated and delivered to your computer through a news reader. This is a time saver. Instead of visiting sites on a regular basis, the news feed tells you what is “new.” For example, if I don’t post something for two weeks on my blog, you don’t waste your time continually looking at my blog. But the minute I post something new, you are informed through your news reader. You can read the post through the reader, or click the story headline and go to my blog directly to read it.

Some websites like news websites (CNN, MSNBC, etc.) allow you to choose which categories of stories you want. If you only want the sports stories from MSNBC, you can subscribe to that RSS feed. There are different readers out there, such as Google “news reader.” I use Google Reader. Pick a few, try them out, and use the one you like best. News readers are free. Just like we prefer reading our e-mail with one program or another, news readers are a personal preference. Many times, the website will have “subscribe using RSS” in a corner on the website. For Fish, Fitness, Family Blog, the RSS subscription button is in the upper right-hand corner, and looks like this:

Believe me, I did not quite understand it at first. I tried it, and now I check my “reader” to see if any new posts were done. I look through the list of posts, and then read the ones that interest me and ignore the ones that don’t. I rarely visit the actual website where the original posts are, instead getting the information “fed” to me.
Pond Management Tip

If you haven’t added lime this year or late last year, it is recommended. You never know when you have to use a copper-based compound for treatment. The higher the alkalinity the less toxic copper is to fish. Don’t wait until you have to treat. Be prepared, add lime now.

Dissolved Oxygen in Short

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is oxygen gas (O₂) dissolved in water.

Most oxygen is produced in the pond during photosynthesis with planktonic algae and other aquatic plants.

DO increases during the daylight hours and falls at night. DO is the lowest right before daybreak.

DO concentrations below 5ppm may be harmful to fish. Piping or gasping at the surface may be observed when DO is ~2ppm or below.

Low DO is associated with a period of hot, cloudy days, heavy thunderstorms, algae/plankton die-offs.

DO can be tested using a DO meter or a chemical test kit.

Emergency aeration should be used when DO falls to 4ppm or below; or environmental conditions like periods of cloudy days are observed.

Blue-Green Algae Problems

There is a relatively new solution for your blue-green algae problems--GreenClean, Pak27, or Phycomycin. These are sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate based herbicides. These are pelleted contact herbicides for control of blue-green algae. Hydrogen peroxide is the active agent in this algacide. It is not effective on the macroalgae, Chara or Nitella, or on any higher plants.

I have heard positive results with the use of this product. This is a non-copper based compound, and an alternative for copper based herbicides. There have been some instances when the copper-based herbicides did not work well on some algae.
The use of trade named products is with the understanding that no endorsement is made to the exclusion of other equally effective products.

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