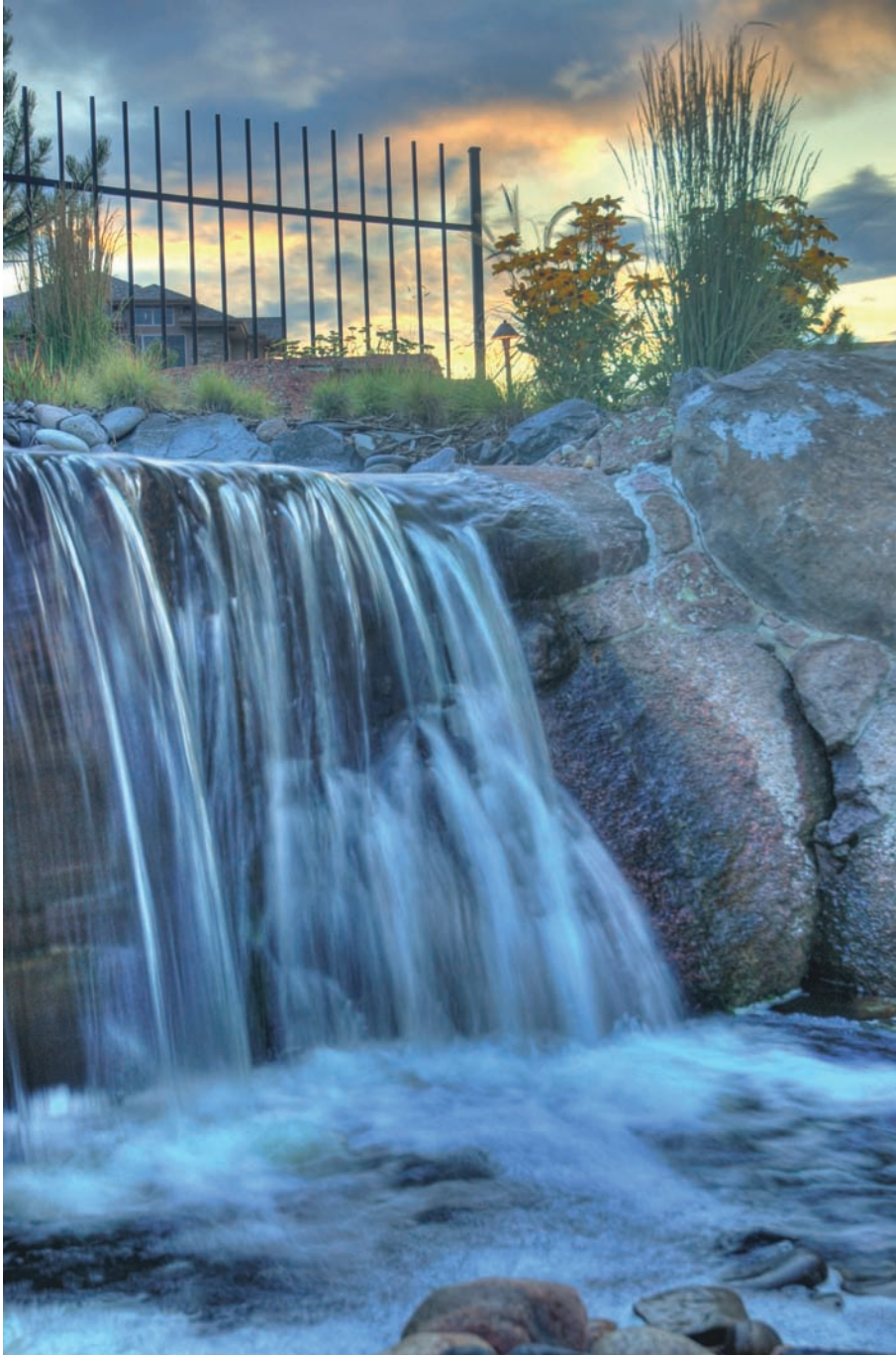


# RMPW Newsletter

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PONDS & WATERFALLS, INC.

Autumn 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 3



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Our redesigned website is now live!

Project images

Landscaping blog

Online construction and maintenance requests

<http://www.rmpw.com>

Catch us on the 'net



RMPW was in the Denver Post with an article written by client Marni Jameson.

<http://bit.ly/2oGAWP>

twitter  
[twitter.com/rmpw](http://twitter.com/rmpw)

facebook

<http://bit.ly/1zvKpu>

RMPW was recently featured on Denver Channel 5 –CET.

Watch the segment online!

<http://bit.ly/SrBje>





## Fall Lawn Care

Fall is finally here and along with it is an endless list of to do things to your landscape, such as aeration, fertilization, and sprinkler blow outs. RMPW offers assistance with all of these services to hundreds of our clients.

Every year we are asked the same questions. “Why should I aerate my lawn? Why should I fertilize my sod if I am going to shut off my sprinklers soon? Should I blow out my sprinklers this year?” This is why; we will talk about the benefits of all of these services and give you a better idea of why they should be done.

Aeration is an important service to have performed on your lawn. We recommend it should be done at least twice a year, one time in early spring and the second in early fall.

There are many benefits of aerating your lawn. Aeration reduces the compaction of soil. This stresses the roots and the overall health of your sod. A well aerated lawn allows water, oxygen, and nutrients to seep down into the roots. This allows a healthier underground root system, translating in to a healthier lawn. If you aerate your lawn it will actually save you money as well. Compacted soil contributes to runoff. When soil is tough, most of the water is washed into the drain. Valuable minerals and nutrients go along with the water. Aerating gives you direct access the roots system allowing you to put in nutrients that would other wise be washed away. This is also why we recommend that you fertilize right after you aerate. Also, over time thatch builds up. Aeration speeds up decomposition, allowing oxygen and nutrients to permeate down quicker in the ground.

Autumnal fertilization is also extremely important. There are many different kinds of fertilizer formulas made for different uses. For example, there are different blends for each season. Winterize is not a fertilizer, but is more of a stimulator to promote root growth. All seasons require different

levels of nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and potassium. A comparison is to think of your lawn as an athlete. In order for athletes to perform optimally, they must supplement their diet accordingly. The supplements they take help give more energy, endurance, and stronger leaner muscles. Rocky Mountain Ponds and Waterfalls keeps a good supply of different fertilizers to assist your needs.

## Featured Client Testimonial

We are THRILLED with our entire landscaping project! RMPW had a vision for our yard and brought it to life! The vision, combined with a hard-working team and excellent customer service, transformed our yard into our own private nature preserve.



Whether we're sitting on the patio, enjoying the many varieties of birds cooling off in the ponds, walking thru the yard discovering newly bloomed flowers, or enjoying the cozy fire on a cool Colorado evening, we are surrounded by nature at its best.

RMPW assured us the water feature would be “the focal point of the backyard” – and they were right. We are hypnotized by the sound of cascading water and spend a little time every day enjoying its musical sounds.

RMPW has enlarged our living space by giving us an outdoor paradise we can call our own!

- Jim and Beth

## Quick Tips to Keep Your Fish Happy in the Fall and Winter

- Once the temperature drops below 50 degrees, stop feeding fish.
- Keep a small area free of ice that toxic gases can escape from the water. An installed pond de-icer can assist with this.
- Never break your ice. The shockwaves can injure or kill the fish.
- Installing a leaf net will keep debris from collecting and decaying in you water. It also prevents fish predators from capturing your pets.
- It is dangerous to keep your fish in a pond with freezing temperatures with a depth of less than two and a half feet.
- Install an aerator to oxygenate your water.
- Have a fall pond cleaning to remove debris that causes poisonous hydrogen sulfide. Clean water makes fish happy.

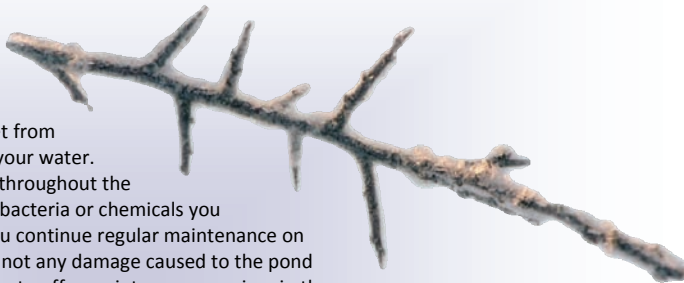


Pond nets keep predators of fish out of your pond.  
Credit: pdphoto.org

## Don't Skate Past Your Opportunity to Winterize Your Pond

As our warm summer months come to an end, our most common question is, "What do I do with my pond now?" Winterizing your pond is an important step to ensure a safe and healthy start-up next spring. Here are some easy tips to help you on your way.

- 1. Netting** – As the leaves fall it is important to make sure they don't accumulate in the bottom of your pond. You could skim them by hand every day, but to make things easier, RMPW can place a large net over the entire pond. Clean it weekly to prevent the net from falling or from leaves slipping through and discoloring your water.
- 2. Bacteria/Chemicals** – If you chose to run your pond throughout the winter it is important that you continue the use of any bacteria or chemicals you were using in the summer. Equally important is that you continue regular maintenance on your ponds filtration system and pump so that there is not any damage caused to the pond system through the winter months. RMPW will continue to offer maintenance services in the winter if you choose not to do these things on your own.
- 3. Oxygen Exchange** – As organics, such as leaves, fish waists, and plant material, decompose they produce toxic gases. Normally these gases will escape out the pond's surface, but if your pond freezes over in the winter, they will stay in the water column and could eventually kill your fish. It is important to keep a hole in the ice so these toxic gases may escape. RMPW can do this by either running a pond aerator, or floating a pond de-icer. In some cases it is necessary to have both a pond aerator and a de-icer.
- 5. Equipment Maintenance** – You may choose to run your system all winter, but be aware that circulating large amounts of water in the cold months can super cool the water. Water in motion can reach temperatures well below 32 degrees Fahrenheit without freezing. Although colder water has more oxygen, your fish may not handle the freezing temperatures and therefore, perish. If you choose to shut down your pond, RMPW will come out and winterize the system, making sure to drain all water from your pipes, skimmers, and waterfall boxes and/or filters. We will remove your pump and place it in a tub full of water (this keeps the seals moist), where you can then store it in your garage or basement to prevent freezing.
- 6. Plant Maintenance** – Every type of plant needs to be taken care of in a different way. To keep it simple, trim all hardy and submerged plants to 2-3 inches above the root system and submerge into the deepest part of the pond.
- 7. Fall Cleaning** – A good way to keep the costs of a spring cleaning down by removing all the sediment and debris that would normally decay throughout the summer and cause muck and staining in the bottom of the pond. RMPW can provide these services late into the fall season up until the first freeze.



### e-Newsletter

We would like to do our part to become eco-friendly. The RMPW Newsletter will now be available in an e-format. To be added to our mailing list, please send a message to:

RMPWnews@rmpw.com

### Thank You Contributors

We would like to offer our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has contributed content, their time, and their support to make this 2009 Autumn issue possible.

Ami Bello

Eric Whittlesey

Jacob Humm

Zach Humm

## Sprinkler Blow-outs

Blowing out sprinklers is where a professional, such as RMPW, will attach an air compressor to the system and literally "blow out" the water from the lines, pipes and other parts.

A professional knows how much volume and pressure to use when blowing out sprinklers. Many do-it-yourselfers typically use an insufficient volume of air and after having forced some water out, the air will ride over the top of the remaining water. This results in the remaining water draining into low spots and subjecting the system to freeze damage. In addition to damaging the sprinkler system, frozen and broken pipes can cause extensive water damage to your home and property if the water supply isn't shut off. Many times the damage or flooding isn't apparent until late into the spring when the ice begins to melt and water starts to flow freely again.

Sprinkler pipes and backflow assemblies are at risk of freezing and breaking when temperatures drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Immediate damage can occur to exposed pipes and the sprinkler backflow and valves with the first freeze of winter. Further damage can result as extended freezing temperatures and wind chill conditions cause the soil to freeze down to the same depth as the underground sprinkler pipes, typically 6-12 inches. In many cases, homeowners are not aware that their pipes have sustained damage until they begin watering in the spring and discover leaks in their yards!

In addition to blowing out your sprinkler system it is a good idea to wrap your sprinkler's backflow and exposed pipes to prevent any unwanted damage. RMPW carries a Velcro Kevlar pouch that easily installs over your backflow and insulates it from any winter damage. Additionally, RMPW will wrap your pipes with a insulated foam wrap to prevent any damage to the pipes between the exit point of the house down to where the pipe enters the ground. Purchasing these insulating items in addition to blowing out your sprinkler system is the best way to prevent any harmful damage to your sprinklers during the winter months.

## Tree Wrapping

Protect your trees from animals and the harsh winter conditions. Call the office to have your trees scheduled to be wrapped.

## Aeration and Fertilization

We are currently scheduling autumnal aeration and fertilizations. We recommend quarterly fertilizations to keep your lawn healthy and green. We would be happy to assist you.

<b>Design &amp; Construction</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>
 <p><b>\$500 OFF</b></p>	 <p><b>20% Off Cover</b></p>	 <p><b>\$45 Autumn Fertilization</b></p>
<p>\$500 Off any new construction project priced \$5000 or more.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">303-237-9919 Expiration Date: 10-31-09</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Not valid with any other offer.</p>	<p>Receive 20% off a new sprinkler backflow cover when purchased during a sprinkler blowout.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">303-237-9919 Expiration Date: 10-31-09</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Not valid with any other offer.</p>	<p>Have your lawn fertilized for \$45 per bag. Free fertilization spreading is included.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">303-237-9919 Expiration Date: 10-31-09</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Not valid with any other offer.</p>

## Credit Cards Accepted

Our maintenance department is able to accept Visa, Master Card, and American Express. Our office staff will be happy to assist you. Please contact the office for assistance.



**Office**  
**(303)-237-9919**

**Construction/Design**  
**Ext. 7013**

**Maintenance**  
**Ext. 7015**

**Accounting**  
**Ext. 7020**

**[www.rmpw.com](http://www.rmpw.com)**



*We bring the mountains to you*  
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