



A HALF-ACRE OASIS



Pictured is Hummelstown half-acre pond

Admiring water in nature is something everyone can relate to even if only viewing through a picture. Visualizing sand beneath blue water establishes the thought of a relaxing island. This was what C.E. Pontz Sons had in mind when they checked out Craig B.'s half-acre pond located in Hummelstown, PA.

This pond is positioned as a main focal point. Situated at the entrance to the property, the pond ushers visitors into the home. Additionally, the house sits on a hill overlooking this large body of water. Craig's pond needed some care as it contained areas of stagnant water and, thus, was overloaded with algae. Visibility into the

pond was reduced to only inches. C.E. Pontz Sons were called in to examine the situation and prescribe a remedy! To remedy the ills, Pontz installed an aeration system that pumps oxygen into the pond from six different areas. Aquatic plant material including lilies and grasses were planted as well. Pontz's owner, Adrian K. says,

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RETREAT SPOT COMPLETE

What else can I say, it's our favorite project to date. The Smiths were so trust worthy to allow us to pour our creative juices into their backyard. What they ended up with is a retreat spot right behind their house. It is a comfortable place to hang out, relax,

sleep and play with the kids. And as I understand it, Mr. Smith spends most every evening down by the fire watching the outdoor TV while browsing the internet in the great outdoors. This outdoor kitchen and pavilion area is more than I thought it could be.

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"RETREAT SPOT COMPLETE" continued *by Adrian K C.E. Pontz Sons owner*

We can't wait to spend the evening with the Smiths for the C.E. Pontz Sons party that they are hosting for us in October. It's truly a blessing to have "friends" like the Smiths.



Pictured above are areas and elements of the Smith's outdoor retreat spot



"HALF-ACRE OASIS" continued

"The plants feed on the nutrients that algae would otherwise feed on, and naturally, in turn, keeps the water clear."

The pond is now in better health and water depth can be measured in feet instead of inches! And that's not all. There are tons of fish everywhere! Hidden by previously murky water, the fish population is now higher than anticipated. A balanced ecosystem has created a healthy environment for the fish.

Adrian says, "It's amazing how much improvement was achieved by introducing proper plant material as well as additional oxygen sources to this pond." Craig adds, "I am appreciative of the thoroughness of Adrian and the team that was sent to do my project. I am excited to see the short and long term impact of the algae intervention plan that C.E. Pontz Sons has put in place."

Pictured above is the half-acre pond now in better health

BOBBY'S GREEN TIP:



Bobby Kenyon

Collecting Compost

Falling leaves are beautiful to look at but may seem like an inconvenience when planning your garden. Instead of putting your leaves, branches and weeds into plastic bags only to be picked up by trash collectors, consider turning this lawn "waste" into nutrient-rich soil ready for your spring garden! Collecting compost is quite easy and can save money on soil and fertilizer when it comes time to start your

garden after the cold season. Almost everything in your yard is compostable — grass and plant clippings, leaves, dead or brown weeds. The exception for this are weeds that can withstand composting, as well as those that contain seeds or pernicious weeds — ivy, etc. Also, don't forget to mix in some of your kitchen waste to increase your yield — fruit and vegetable peels, teabags, and coffee grinds.

AL'S POND TIP:



Al Jenkins

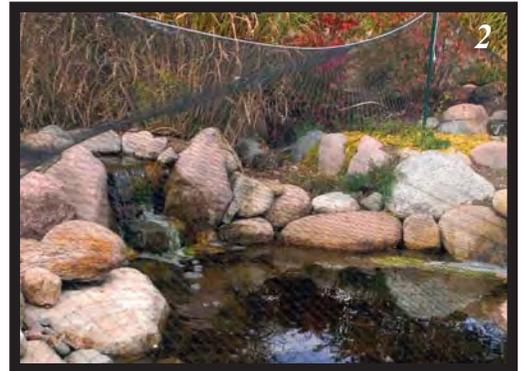
Pond Netting Tips

As I mentioned in last month's tip, putting a net over your pond is important to keep out falling leaves. It is important to keep the net out of the pond water, and I recommend one of the following ways to help ensure this will not happen.

1. As you can see in photo 1 to the right, 3/4" PVC pipe positioned like a hoop over the pond. The ends of the pipe are fitted over 1/2" rebar that is pounded into the ground at an angle. The net can then be draped over the pipe frame and the edges fastened to the ground with sod staples.

2. As seen in photo 2 to the right, snow fence stakes are driven into the ground on either side of the pond, and nylon rope is strung across to form the support for the net. This method typically works better for larger ponds (15' wide and up) where a long span would cause PVC pipe to bow. The netting can be fastened to the ground in the aforementioned fashion.

I hope these photos and descriptions will help, but if you need more assistance please feel free to call or email me at al@cepontzsons.com.



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