

Pondering Spring

The days are getting longer, trees and shrubs are bursting with buds, and your fall bulbs have exploded into a rainbow of color. It's the start of an exciting new gardening season, and time to take advantage of those warm sunny afternoons. You are already familiar with the importance of pruning, fertilizing, and general clean up of your yard and gardens, but what are we suppose to do about those ponds, so carefully constructed 2 or 3 years ago. They have now built up a layer of decaying leaves and needles on the bottom of a once clean smooth liner. Wait a minute; God didn't put a clean smooth liner in his lakes and streams! Why is that? Upon careful; examination of natural lakes, ponds, and streams you will find a complete life cycle. One of the keys in that cycle is beneficial bacteria found in the rocks and gravel. These bacteria break down poisonous gases that are released by decaying organic matter and the organic matter itself. This does not mean you can simply dump a load of gravel in your pond and everybody lives happily ever after, but it's an important first step. Here are some other steps that need to be taken: you can add bacteria to start your ponds life cycle, you can add a skimmer filter to skim off surface debris, to minimize the organic matter sinking to the bottom, much like a swimming pool. This also eliminates hoses and pumps from the bottom of your pond, to make a more natural look. You might say, "God doesn't have skimmer filters," but his ponds are typically a little bigger and He's got marsh, swamp, and bog filters, but that's another story.