

## Bigger Fish, Better Fishing

Do you have an aging pond that used to have great fishing? Do you wish your pond had bigger fish and offered more quality fishing experiences? The truth is, ponds and small lakes need to be properly managed in order to produce quality fish communities. It usually doesn't just happen on its own! There are many factors that can lead to poor fishing in ponds and small lakes. Changes in water quality, additions of undesirable fish species, a lack of successful spawning, over/under harvest, and many other variables can impact the quality of the fish community in your pond. Often times pond owners fall into the philosophy of catch and release fishing only on their ponds. On the surface, this seems like the best way to manage a fishing pond to ensure good fishing in the future. However, this is almost always the wrong approach for the long term well-being of your pond. Typically, ponds in the Midwest are based on bluegill and largemouth bass, with the addition of channel catfish and redear sunfish occasionally. Bluegill have a tendency to overpopulate and become stunted. There is an even greater chance of this in ponds with weak largemouth bass populations. Without adequate predation from largemouth bass, bluegill can quickly overpopulate. This overpopulation leads to poor growth of bluegill and leaves the pond owner with a pond overrun with small bluegill. In these cases, the pond owner can compensate by harvesting more bluegill and/or adding additional largemouth bass. Over time, ponds can develop thick layers of organic muck on the bottom. This happens from the decaying accumulation of leaves falling into the pond and cattails and even submersed aquatic weeds. This muck layer can eventually lead to negative impacts

on spawning of largemouth bass and bluegill. Eventually, these ponds develop problems because the fish cannot replace themselves through natural reproduction. In some cases, undesirable fish species such as green sunfish, gizzard shad, common carp, and others may accidentally be introduced into a pond. Perhaps a recent flood has allowed the introduction of one or more of these species from a nearby stream or neighboring pond. These undesirable species can often change the dynamic of your pond's fish community assemblage and cause negative impacts on your overall quality of fishing. Often times, many of these potential problems in ponds can be corrected with proper management strategies if detected early enough. You might be asking yourself, "How do I know if my pond has any of these problems?" Or "How do I manage my pond correctly to make the fishing as good as it can be?" That's where we come in. Aquatic Control has been managing fish communities and sportfish populations on ponds and small lakes since the 1960's. We have a large staff of trained fisheries biologists with years of experience in fisheries management. Our biologists hold degrees in fisheries management from a variety of universities and have professional biologist experience from a variety of state fish and wildlife agencies. Let Aquatic Control answer all of your questions with the completion of a fish survey. Our biologists can collect data on the water quality of your pond and look for possible problems and develop solutions to make sure your pond has suitable water quality for sustaining



a healthy fish community. Our team of biologists can sample the fish community of your pond with our electrofishing boat. This is the safest and most effective way to get a representative sample of all of the fish species and sizes in your pond. We use the same technology that your state fish and wildlife agency uses to conduct fisheries research on all of your favorite public lakes. The electrofishing boat utilizes electric current to stun fish and allow us to collect them and record data about their length and weight. All fish are released alive and healthy once they have been identified (species) and measured for length and weight. Once our biologists have collected their data, they will analyze it at the lab and compile the results in a professional report complete with findings and recommendations on how to manage your pond in order to make the fishing better and keep your pond's fish community healthy and in balance. Fish survey season is just around the corner so call your regional Aquatic Control office today and talk to a biologist about fish management on your pond!

## Aquatic Control Welcomes Cody Sunby



Jared Cody Sunby began his employment with Aquatic Control, Inc. on April 22, 2013 and is currently working out of the Seymour office. In May 2010, Cody earned his Associates of Arts in General Agriculture from Crowder College. Mr. Sunby continued his education at Missouri State University and in December 2012 he completed his Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Management.

Mr. Sunby learned the value of hard work and a job well done while working as a farm laborer at Sprenkle Farms in 2008-2009 where he bailed hay; repaired and built fence, corrals, and barns; worked with cattle; and performed regulatory maintenance on all farm equipment. From this position he worked as a cooker/packer at International Dehydrated Foods where he monitored and serviced equipment to make sure operation was satisfactory, took samples of products for further quality testing, and maintained a sanitary working environment under the supervision of USDA safety officers. All of these experiences added valuable

skills to Mr. Sunby's background and experience but it was time to get back to his passion of the outdoors.

Mr. Sunby worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Fisheries Division as a Conservation assistant from May 2011 until he began working with Aquatic Control. While working with the MDC Mr. Sunby spent a lot of time performing fish population sampling using seines, trap nets, hoop nets, and electrofishing equipment. Once the data was collected he was also involved in data entry. Mr. Sunby also performed habitat surveys in various streams and habitat improvements in Stockton and Table Rock lakes. In addition to typical fish population sampling and habitat improvements, Mr. Sunby also performed mercury testing on largemouth bass. Finally, his duties were rounded out at the MDC by doing regulatory equipment maintenance and participating in a goose banding project at Lake Taneycomo.

As an outdoor enthusiast, Mr. Sunby has also served as a MDC hunter education instructor, national muzzle loading rifle instructor, as well as a member of several conservation programs and wildlife and waterfowl chapters. Mr. Sunby loves the outdoors and enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending as much time as possible outdoors during his free time.

Aquatic Control is excited to have Cody as part of our team and will have him involved in vegetation management plans, application work, fish population management, and fountain/aeration work.

Please join us in welcoming Cody to our team!

## Winter Fountain Removal and Maintenance Program

Floating fountains should be removed from the water in areas that experience freezing conditions. Aquatic Control can provide you with a Fountain Winter Maintenance Program to help take the headache out of winterizing your unit. The program includes:

- Removal of the fountain from your lake in the fall
- Cleaning and visual inspection
- Oil and seals changed as prescribed by the manufacturer
- Quotations will be sent for any additional repairs necessary, along with any light bulb replacement that may be needed.
- Storage in our heated warehouse
- Installation and unit startup in the spring.

Those of you that have been taking advantage of the Winter Maintenance Program will be receiving your proposals in the mail any day now. Please sign and return the proposal to our office if you would like to take advantage of this service. If you are a new fountain owner or one that is tired of wrestling with fountains every fall please call our office for your 2013-2014 proposal. Let our factory trained technicians keep your fountain in top working order for years to come.



Be sure to "Like Us". Please find us listed as **Aquatic Control, Inc.** Share our link with others you know who own or manage water resources.

## Adding Diffused Aeration

Diffused Aeration systems will improve water quality, fish habitat, and prevent winter freeze-over. Diffused air systems are the best choice for deeper bodies of water or where an unobtrusive aerator is preferable. No mechanical parts of a diffused air system are in direct contact with the water so it can be used year round. Diffused air systems are also easy to install, easier to maintain and less costly to run than most other aeration options.

### Improved Water Quality

As the compressed air is released through the diffuser, water is circulated. This not only leads to direct oxygen transfer, but also keeps water in constant motion and prevents stratification and stagnation. By increasing the oxygen levels at the soil water interface beneficial bacteria are able to reduce “muck” and nutrient buildup. This digestion process occurs more actively in aerobic conditions than

anaerobic. This natural filtration, along with constant water circulation, aids in the reduction of nutrient cycling. Last but not least, the elimination of a thermal stratification ensures against turnover.

### Fish Habitat Improvement

As the compressed air is released through a diffuser, oxygen is added to the system. The added circulation of water also aids in creating higher oxygen concentrations throughout the entire water column for fish habitat. This increase in oxygen level opens the entire body of water for aquatic life. By effectively recirculating the water within the aquatic system you are ensuring against summer or winter fish kills. Higher oxygen levels also create increased production of fish food organisms.

### Reduced Winter Freeze-Over

The circulation of warmer water from the deeper sources in the system

keeps an open source of water for waterfowl. This open space also allows for oxygen transfer to the water from the atmosphere. NOTE: If you plan to use the body of water for any winter activities, we do not recommend running a diffused aeration system as the circulation patterns create variations in ice quality.

### Installation, Operation and Maintenance

Our Lake Life Guard systems can easily be installed by two people with a boat. We have several aeration systems available to fit different budgets and needs. Diffused aeration systems have greater energy efficiency than other aeration options. Our simple design needs less maintenance and provides greater durability. Aquatic Control provides installation and service upon request.

## Phoslock



How did the management of your pond go this season? The temperature was much milder; we did not have extreme drought conditions like we did last season.

Were your algae problems just as bad as previous years? Many pond owners should beginning to consider products to address the nutrient pollution in their ponds versus only treating the algae as it comes. Algae can be a very tough thing to keep in check. Many ponds have fairly high phosphorus levels which can lead to the nuisance algae problems and make algae harder to manage. In cases in

which your algae seems to be winning the battle, maybe a new approach of manipulating the phosphorus should be considered. Phoslock is a lanthanum based clay material that will bind to free reactive phosphorus when applied as a slurry to a lake or pond. Application rates will vary, but it is important to realize that any amount of Phoslock applied to a water body will remove phosphorus. Many people have been seeing a benefit of applying 2-4 bags of Phoslock (55lb bags) per surface acre of water. This process can be repeated multiple times during the season or on an annual basis until results are achieved and maintained. The fall is a great time to apply Phoslock because most of the phosphorus is not tied up in algae that would be growing in the pond during the season.

If you would like to take a more scientific approach to the application of Phoslock, you may take water samples and sediment (muck) samples to determine the exact amount of phosphorus that is in the system. Once this is determined, a plan can be put in place for doing a complete one-time application or splitting up between multiple applications. The split applications can make better sense in some cases or could be a way to spread out the financial commitment of such a project.

Please contact Aquatic Control today to discuss your nutrient pollution program. Fall or early spring applications of Phoslock can improve the water quality of your pond and reduce the nutrients available for algal blooms in the future.



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## Aquatic Control Welcomes Mark Sharp to Our Team



Mark Sharp began his employment with Aquatic Control on June 17, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a minor in management from the University of

Southern Indiana in 2013. Throughout college he worked at Tradehome, a retail shoe store in Evansville, IN. While doing so, he developed skills to become a successful sales person. These skills include setting up store displays, helping customers overcome common objections, and making the store a fun selling environment. In the summers between school, Mark worked as a golf course maintenance attendant at Belterra Casino. His duties included maintaining ponds, beautifying sand bunkers, and mowing greens on a day to day basis. Mark really enjoyed this summer job because he was always outdoors. He also found himself enjoying working in teams to accomplish daily tasks.

Before college, Mark graduated from Switzerland County High School in 2009 and was ranked 8th out of 100

students in his class. During high school he participated in extra-curricular activities such as FFA, National Honors Society, golf, cross-country, and basketball. He was a two time ORVC all-conference member throughout his basketball career.

Through his upbringing in a rural community, he developed a passion for the outdoors. Some of his hobbies include golfing, fishing and hunting. Most of the hunting he participates in, is deer hunting. Aquatic Control is excited to have Mark as a new addition to our sales team.

Welcome to the team Mark!