

# It Sounds Fishy to Me

by Pat Smith

It is a beautiful day. Actually, it would be perfect for working on the “outdoor pond”. I should have set it up much earlier than I did. It used to be a hot tub, but after several attempts at getting it repaired, the cost of trying to keep it hot, when it had other plans was just not cost effective. Too bad...I REALLY wanted a hot tub. Outdoor pond, well I want one of those too, but I have my eye on this nice “little” spot in the backyard that might also be known as a swimming pool. Same as the hot tub, it just doesn’t seem to be cost effective. Ken spent a great deal of time trying to get it cleaned up. He replaced the pump. Last year he replaced the filter. He spent a small fortune on chemicals and yes! He did manage to get it cleared up and ready to go... only to have Andrew say that it was too cold... and off the kids all trudged...to someone else’s pool. Go figure!

So, here we are with this pool with a relatively new liner that still gives us major problems. The liner too has been problematic. I don’t think the people at Pool Doctor have a clue how to install one. And, to top it off they added additional parts that for one thing, I don’t think were replaced and others that were allegedly included in the initial estimate. They left broken parts all around the pool area, and hap-hazardly cut the wood deck to make the repairs to the coping around the pool. One other thing they were supposed to do was make sure the pool was up and running... forget that part of it. It hasn’t worked right since they were there. Well, I guess everyone got the point that I was less than thrilled with the wonderful job they did for us... and now, more than ever, I WANT it to turn into a tremendous backyard pond.

But, the first thing is that I need to get a new liner. Oh, brother... here we go again. I am not sure what is toxic in the liners used for pools, but guess that a lot of research is needed. In addition to liner concerns, my next problem will be filtration. As I can see, the system on the pool now is totally ineffective, and we will need to start from scratch. This leaves us the problem of the pipes and connections that are already on the pool.

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I did go online at one point in time and did see some really nice designs of back yard pools converted into fish ponds. Of course, when you want to review this information, unless you have saved the pages to favorites, you may not find them again. And, they were saved, just not on this computer. For a moment though, just consider the size of the fish I could grow in there. You would need lots of fish to prevent the growth of mosquito larvae. I know that whenever there is water there will end up being mosquito larvae.

One positive note would be that the pond would definitely be deep enough to keep the raccoons from getting the fish, but leaves the fact that it would definitely attract them. And, then there are the ducks. Since they tend to think of the pool as their pond now, I can't imagine them thinking any differently if it were converted into a pond. Would they find these fish to be a tasty treat? I never have considered whether or not fish would be able to avoid the hazards of pond life. Just how far down can dive to get fish?

All this is really starting to seem like more trouble than it is worth. What else can you do with a BIG hole in the ground? 🐸

