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Minick Monthly News

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 28

AQUATIC PLANT SEMINAR

9:00 AM-Main Location
Noon-Santa Fe Location

APRIL 4

POND DESIGN SEMINAR

9:00 AM-Main Location
Noon-Santa Fe Location

APRIL 25

FOUNTAIN SETUP SEMINAR (PERMEABLE PAVERS)

9:00 AM-Main Location

WEB LINKS

Our Website:

www.minickmaterials.com
NEW & IMPROVED

Amereq, Inc.

www.amereq.com

Aquascape™:

www.aquascapeinc.com/in dex2.php

Belgard®:

www.Belgard.biz

Cultured Stone®:

www.culturedstone.com

East West Stone

www.east-weststone.com

Rock-It Natural Stone

www.rock-itnaturalstone.com

MINICK MATERIALS ANNOUNCES NEW STONE VENEER LINE PRODUCED BY OWENS CORNING MASONRY, LLC

Designed to Help Builders Succeed in a Slowing Market

New product line delivers quality, affordability and compliance with stringent AC-51 codes

Minick Materials and Owens Corning Masonry introduce ProStone™; a new line of value engineered manufactured stone veneer products ideally suited to meet the pressures of today's challenging market. ProStone™ provides a quality stone veneer option for use where affordability is a major consideration.

"More than ever, builders need solutions that help them add beauty, substance and affordable differentiating features -- without compromising quality," said Chuck Stein, president of the Owens Corning Masonry Products Business. "ProStone™ is the newest product line to join the company's expanding family of manufactured stone products nationally and internationally for both trade professionals and do-it-yourselfers."

Manufactured to comply with all major building codes including AC-51, ProStone™ products are available in more than a dozen different color and texture combinations to complement a wide variety of design options and architectural styles. The products are backed with a 25-year warranty from Owens Corning Masonry Products, LLC.

"With the cost of land and labor increasing, finding ways to keep projects affordable is more of a challenge," said Joe Landolfi, president of Vegas Valley Construction. "We priced three brands of manufactured stone for The Village shopping center, a high-end, 73,000 square foot project. By selecting ProStone™ manufactured stone we were able to incorporate the rich, refined look of stone at a significant savings while ensuring the quality I look for in manufactured stone."

The ProStone™ brand of manufactured stone is now available at Minick Materials Company. To learn more, visit <http://prostoneveneer.com>, or contact sales@minickmaterials.com.



March Birthdays
George, Equip. Operator- March 15
Ron M., Driver - March 30

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

MARCH 17



The **four-leaf clover** is an uncommon variation of the common, three-leaved, clover. According to tradition, such leaves bring good luck to their finders, especially if found accidentally.

According to legend, each leaflet represents something: the first is for hope, the second is for faith, the third is for love, and the fourth is for luck. Another Irish legend tells that the three-leaf clover, or "Shamrock", was what Saint Patrick used to represent the Holy Trinity. The name "four-leaf clover" is a misnomer: the cloverleaf actually consists of three (or in this case, four) leaflets. Clovers can have more than four leaflets: the most ever recorded is twenty-one, a record set in June 2008 by the same man who held the prior record and the current Guinness World Record of eighteen. Unofficial claims of discovery have ranged as high as twenty-seven.

It has been estimated that there are approximately 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every four-leaf clover; however this probability has not deterred collectors who have reached records as high as 160,000 four-leaf clovers. It is debated whether the fourth leaflet is caused genetically or environmentally. Its relative rarity suggests a possible recessive gene appearing at a low frequency. Alternatively, four-leaf clovers could be caused by somatic mutation or a developmental error of environmental causes. They could also be caused by the interaction of several genes that happen to segregate in the individual plant. It is possible all four explanations could apply to individual cases.

FEELING A LITTLE "STRESSED-OUT" THINKING ABOUT YOUR ECONOMIC FUTURE?

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS

- Don't worry about things you can't control, such as the weather.
- Prepare to the best of your ability for events you know may be stressful, such as a job interview.
- Try to look at change as a positive challenge, not as a threat.
- Work to resolve conflicts with other people.
- Talk with a trusted friend, family member or counselor.
- Set realistic goals at home and at work.
- Exercise on a regular basis.
- Eat well-balanced meals and get enough sleep.
- Meditate.

What is meditation?

Meditation is a form of guided thought. It can take many forms. You may do it with exercise that uses the same motions over and over, like walking or swimming. You may meditate by practicing relaxation training, by stretching or by breathing deeply. Relaxation training is easy. Start with one muscle. Hold it tight for a few seconds then relax the muscle. Do this with each of your muscles.

Stretching can also help relieve tension. Roll your head in a gentle circle. Reach toward the ceiling and bend side to side slowly. Roll your shoulders.

Deep, relaxed breathing (see below) by itself may help relieve stress. This helps you get plenty of oxygen.

Steps to deep breathing

- Lie down on a flat surface.
- Place a hand on your stomach, just above your navel. Place the other hand on your chest.
- Breathe in slowly and try to make your stomach rise a little.
- Hold your breath for a second.
- Breathe out slowly and let your stomach go back down.



Selecting Plants for the Water Garden

When you make your selections, consider both the ornamental qualities and the practical value of each plant. A good combination will oxygenate the water, compete with algae to keep the water clear, and take up nitrogen to balance the pond's ecosystem.

Before running out to buy plants for your water garden, make a plan. The number of plants you need will be limited by the size of your pond or container. The general rule is that plants should cover no more than 2/3 of the water's surface.

It is important not to overcrowd your water garden. Good air circulation is needed to allow plants to flourish disease free. Plan on the small plants you start out with quickly growing and requiring more space. Flowering plants come in every color and can be chosen to provide sequentially continuous bloom. Foliage plants can provide vertical interest and range in color from shades of green to copper, bronze and black. Many are variegated.



Floating Plants

Floating plants float freely on the surface of the water and can be placed in all areas of the pond. They grow quickly and require periodic thinning. By shading the water with their leaves, they reduce the amount of light needed for algae to grow.

Examples of floating plants are Water Hyacinth, Water Lettuce, Sensitive Plant and Parrots' Feather.



Surface Plants

Surface plants have their roots in soil and leaves on long stems that float on the water's surface. By blocking sunlight, they also inhibit the growth of algae.

Water lilies are surface plants. Tropical or hardy, they are easily grown and make great plants for the average pond or container water garden. Other surface plants include Lotus, Water Hawthorne, Variegated Four-leaf Water Clover, and Yellow Floating Heart.



Submerged or Oxygenating Plants

The leaves of submerged plants remain underwater, rarely protruding above the surface. They may root in soil or float freely. Fast growers, they will need thinning in smaller ponds.

These plants are important in maintaining the quality of the water in the pond. They produce oxygen for use by both plants and fish. By utilizing nitrogen produced from decaying plant material and fish waste products, they deprive algae of nutrients.

Submerged plants include Hornwort, Cabomba, Anacharis and Jungle Vall.



Marginal or Bog Plants

Marginal, or bog plants prefer their roots and lower parts submerged. They may be planted in the shallow areas of a pond or in very moist soil at the edge. In the pond, they compete with algae for available nitrogen.

Black Taro, with its large burgundy to black heart shaped leaves, contrasts well with the tall sword-like foliage of Sweet Flag or variegated Sweet Flag. Other interesting marginal plants include Zebra, Corkscrew and Horsetail Rush, aquatic Canna, purple or pink Pickerel Rush, variegated Water Celery, Cardinal Flower and Dwarf Cattail.

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