

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 5

June 2017

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## July Meeting

We are planning to have our July meeting at the Lake Waco Wetlands on July 18 at 6:30 PM. More details later.

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## Pond Tour

Our pond tour is this weekend. The weather looks like it will cooperate albeit a bit on the “toasty” side. Hopefully, we will have a great turnout.

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## Pond Vac

As a reminder, this is a “Members Only” benefit. You can rent this super-duper pond cleaning machine very reasonably! John Enders is the “official pond Vac keeper”. Call him 254-848-9596 or send him an email at [jnenders@aol.com](mailto:jnenders@aol.com) to schedule your time with the machine. One note of caution when using the pond Vac, watch how much water you are removing from your pond!! It works so well sucking up the yuk that one can easily forget how much water is also being removed! That is the voice of experience talking!!

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*This from the Pond guy 5-29-17*



The ph. level in my pond always reads high. What can I do to reduce it?

**A:** Your pond's pH – or potential hydrogen – level is an important measurement to understand because it affects the health of those things swimming around in the water. If your pH level is too high or too low, it could affect your fishes' ability to reproduce, fight disease and metabolize food. It can also impact the well-being of other living things in your pond, like plants, amphibians and other aquatic critters.

A pH test, like the one found in the [API® Pond Master Test Kit](#), can reveal a lot about your pond. But what does a high or low pH reading mean, and how can you adjust its level – or should you just leave it alone? Read on to learn more about understanding your pH level and how to change it.

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## Potential Hydrogen Defined

In super simple terms, pH is a measure of how acidic or alkaline a water body is on a scale from 0 to 14. Pure water is neutral. It has a pH close to 7.0 at 77 degrees F. Blood is also close to neutral. Ammonia's pH is ~11, which is high on the alkaline charts, while stomach acid's pH is ~1, which is acidic enough to burn through your chewed-up chow.

## Adjusting to a Proper pH

You don't have to keep your pond at a perfect 7.0 pH all the time. In fact, an acceptable pH reading for a pond is 6.5 – 8.5, so if your score falls in this range you need not make any changes at all. If it's outside those levels, however, you will need to make some adjustments. Here are some ways to reduce your pH:

### Partial Water Change:

Replacing some of your pond water with fresh water is one way to reduce your pH. Remember to treat with water with a conditioner, like [The Pond Guy® Stress Reducer PLUS](#), to remove impurities and heavy metals that could be harmful to your fish.

### Use pH Reducer:

If you need to adjust your pH using a [pH stabilizer](#) like pH Lift or pH Drop, apply

enough treatment to shift the levels 0.5 at a time, wait several hours before re-treating, and test the waters often with your [API® Pond Master Test Kit](#).

### Test Your Water:

Try testing your tap water, especially if you're on a well. If the pH is high from your well, then your pond will stay at about that level and you won't be able to do much to treat it.

### Try Clarity Defense®:

A water clarifier like [Clarity Defense®](#) can help to add trace minerals while buffering pH to promote stable levels and prevent swings. Plus, it clears cloudy water by locking up excess nutrients and allowing your filter to remove them.

Try these tricks to reduce the pH levels in your pond – but remember to do so very gradually. Good luck!

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*This from the Pond Guy 6-3-17*



## WHY IS MY WATER FOAMY?

**A:** Is foamy water making your pond look more like the inside of a washing machine than an aquatic oasis? All that bubbly white or gray buildup is likely being caused by an excess of organic material in the water. Accumulation happens when too many fish are living in the pond, you're overfeeding them, filtration is inadequate or there's runoff seeping into your water garden. Then, as the water flows down your waterfall, air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. Air-water collision is why the foam forms, particularly the base of your waterfall.

## What's the solution?

Short-term, you can change out part of the pond's water to remove the foam. When you do, be sure to add some The Pond Guy® Stress Reducer PLUS to the fresh water, which will form a beneficial slime coat on your fish and make tap water safe for them. In addition, add The Pond Guy® Defoam™ to your water. Safe for fish, plants and wildlife, you simply shake the can and pour its contents into the pond. The foam will disappear in no time.

Long-term, you have several options:

### Increase Filtration:

Boost your filtration by adding plants to your pond or increasing the capacity of your existing filtration system.

### Relocate Fish:

Too many fish will produce excess waste, which means more foam. The rule is to allow 1 inch of adult fish per square foot of surface area, so if you have too many koi or goldfish in your pond, you might want to think about finding new homes for some of them.

### Cut Back on Meals:

If you're feeding your fish too much or too often, the excess food adds to the extra

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organic material in your pond's water. Only feed your fish an amount they'll eat in a few minutes.

**Add Nutrient-Eating Bacteria:** To help break down the nutrient load in the water, add beneficial bacteria in such as, LiquidClear™ to work. They digest the dead organics in the pond, making the water crystal clear and foam free.

**Aerate the Water:** Aeration will also help reduce the nutrient load by circulating the water column and feeding fresh oxygen to the busy bacteria.

Foamy water can be a nuisance, but once you achieve some balance in your pond's ecosystem, those bubbles will disappear in no time.

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## The Water Garden's Tip of the Week

Draining a pond with green water is not a solution to an algae problem. A water garden needs to develop an ecosystem to create the best balance and ensure long-term success. Draining the pond starts the pond over delaying an established ecosystem. The green water would return within a few days after cleaning.

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Ole told Sven he was going to go on a diet. "It's got so bad dat if I drop a dime, I have to pay a kid a nickel to pick it up for me."

"Dat's me too, Ole," said Sven. "I used ta pinch an inch. Now, I grab a slab."

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Ole finally saved enough money to go to Hawaii. As he stepped off the plane, a beautiful girl put Hawaiian flower lei around his neck, gave him a peck on the cheek; and said, "Aloha from Hawaii."

Ole quickly replied, "Ole Olson from Nor Dakota!"

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Lena came home from town and Ole said, "Lena, vhat did you do to your hair? Dat almost looks live a vig."

"It is a vig," said Lena.

"Oh, veIl, you'd never know dat. It looks reel natural," said Ole.

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In church one Sunday the preacher said, "Anyone with special needs who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the altar."

Ole hopped right up and the preacher asked, "Well, Ole, what do you want us to pray for?"

Ole replied, "Vell, I need you ta pray for help vith my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand on Ole's ear, placed his other hand on top of his head, and then prayed fervently for Ole while the congregation joined in.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back, and asked, "Ole, how is your hearing now?"

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