

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 7

August 2017

No August Meeting



Welcome to our newest members

Lloyd & Valerie Colson



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 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!!



Muskgrass, Chara

Chara spp.

Chara is often called muskgrass or skunkweed because of its foul, musty almost garlic-like odor. Chara is a gray-green

branched multicellular algae that is often



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confused with submerged flowering plants. However, Chara has no flower, will not extend above the water surface, and often has a “grainy” or “crunchy” texture. Chara has cylindrical, whorled branches with 6 to 16 branchlets around each node.

Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.). After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called “detritus” for many aquatic invertebrates. Chara is consumed by many species of ducks.



Coontail

Ceratophyllum demersum

Description



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Coontail, or sometimes called hornwort, is a dark olive-green, rootless submerged perennial plant that often forms dense colonies. Leaves are relatively stiff, whorled with many forks and small teeth along one edge. The tips of branches are crowded with leaves giving it a “coontail” resemblance. Coontail reproduces by seeds and fragmentation.

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This from the Pond guy 6-6-17

SNAKES in our ponds.

There has been an uptick in reported snake sightings around ponds in our area although it is always best to err on the side of safety when it comes to snakes, not all snakes are dangerous. In truth, most snakes would rather not be in the company or vicinity of humans as we are not the best of company for them either because we are mortally afraid or because we want to kill each and

every one, both good and bad. Many snakes actually do a lot of good killing mice and rats that tend to gather in the rockwork around our ponds or under our sheds. They are a bit intimidating when you come across them unexpectedly and they will either try to get away or go into attack mode depending on the type. In either case, leaving them alone will generally be enough for them to leave. Obviously, if you have pets or children then a different approach may be called for but it is up to each individual to make that decision.

A good rule of thumb for most of them is that the venomous ones, with a couple of exceptions, have distinct triangular shaped heads. Incidentally, I have found nonpoisonous ones in my Skimmer which does tend to give one a bit of a start but given time, they quickly leave. I also had a rat snake in my shed and later out in the yard. I gave him some time to get away but unfortunately, Richie, my medium sized Dachshund found and killed him. He was all of four feet long and was beautifully marked. Always be aware and be careful.



Words of wisdom from the August issue of Country magazine

- * Optimism is the partner of faith; together they help us see the light.
- * Never discourage anyone who makes progress, no matter how slow.

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- * Grow each day in some good way, life will be worth living.
- * No happy time is really gone if it leaves a special memory.
- * If you lend someone \$20 and never see him again, it was probably worth it.
- * When we have a pet peeve, it is remarkable how often we pet it.



Ole does not like weddings so he rarely attends them. Lena finally got him to go to one. As they entered the church, an usher asked, "Are you on the groom's side or the bride's?"

Before Lena could reply, Ole exclaimed, "Uff-da! Are dey fighting already!"



"Ole, I tink vew love baseball more den vew love me," said Lena, as they watched yet another game on TV.

Ole replied, "Veil, maybe so, Lena. But I vant vew to know dat I love yew more den I love basketball."



Sven's cousin Ole showed up one night, just as supper was being served.

"But Ole," said Sven, "I taut vew said yew would be coming after dinner."

"Dat's right, Sven," said Ole, "Dat's what I came after!"



The doctor said to Ole, "Your leg is swollen, but I wouldn't worry about it."

Ole replied, "Yeah, veil, Doc. If vew're leg vas svollen I wouldn't worry about it either."



In church one Sunday the preacher said, "Anvone 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, "Veil, 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?"

"I don't know," said Ole, "Da hearing is not 'till Tuesday!"



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