

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 4

April 2019

## Meeting

Our meeting this month will be April 16 at 6:30 PM. We will meet at Ron & Rose Haft's home 408 Cindy Lane, Lorena, TX **Please RSVP [ronhaft408@yahoo.com](mailto:ronhaft408@yahoo.com)** There will be a plant swap so as you are thinning out your bog and other plants and lilies, bring some of the "extras" to share with fellow ponders. Remember to take your left overs that no one took back home with you.



## Save the date

The HOTWGPS is planning to attend the Japanese Spring Festival at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The festival is from 11:00 to 3:30. Last year's event featured drummers, dancers, tea ceremonies, demonstrations and more. The Japanese Gardens with Koi that you can feed are open 9-5 and admission is \$7.00. Bonus – stay for the lanterns in the garden event in the evening 6-9 PM

If you want to join the group, RSVP to Dr. Becky Sue at [drbeckysue@gmail.com](mailto:drbeckysue@gmail.com)



## Membership Dues

A big THANK YOU to those of you who have already paid your 2019 HOTWGPS membership dues!

As a reminder, our 2019 membership dues were due January 1, 2019. In accordance with our Bylaws, membership becomes delinquent if dues are not paid by the last day of February. You can either bring your dues to the April meeting or mail them to HOTWGPS, P.O. Box 852, Lorena, TX 76655.

Membership levels are:

- a. Individual -- \$18 per year
- b. Family -- \$24 per year
- c. Associate NON - Voting membership -- \$12 per year.
- d. Corporate/business -- \$100 per year.



*This from the Pond Guy 3/23/19*

**Do you have any tips for adding plants to my pond?**



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**A:** Water lilies and lotus ... blue flag iris ... hyacinth ... so many aquatic plants, so little time. A pond full of these colorful beauties – along with the hardworking, submerged oxygenators – adds splendor and life to your waterscape. Not only that, but birds will visit, bugs will buzz through and aquatic critters will stop by, attracted by the blooms and foliage. Like your terrestrial garden, a water garden needs some planning and forethought; without it, you could end up with an aquatic jungle. Here's what we recommend for adding plants to your pond.

## Choose Wisely

Before you get your feet wet (and your hands dirty!), first consider what types of plants you want in your water feature and how many you'll need.

**Aquatic plants** are typically categorized by their function in a pond. They include floating plants, like water hyacinth and water lettuce, that have roots that reach down from the water's surface; submerged plants, like vallisneria and hornwort, that live on the pond's bottom and release oxygen into the water; bog plants, like cattails and iris, that ring the perimeter of the pond; and water lilies and lotus, which provide dramatic surface color and underwater shade.

*Editor's note: Water Hyacinth & Water Lettuce are not the best choices here in Texas (they are illegal).*

When browsing for plants, select a mixture of floating, submerged, bog and lilies/lotus, with the goal of covering about 60 percent

of your water's surface. A sample plant shopping list for a 50-square-foot pond looks something like this:

- 6 to 12 floating plants
- Several submerged plants
- 2 bog plants
- 1 water lily

Don't forget to add aquatic plant media, fertilizer and containers, like pots, plant bags, planting baskets and floating planters, to your list. You'll need them when you transplant and care for the new greenery. Speaking of which **Planting How-To** Once you've planned out and purchased your plants, it's time to move them in to your water garden. The different types of aquatic plants need to be handled differently:

**Floating Plants:** Simply place these easy-care plants in the water. They will float freely and take up nutrients through their root systems.

*Editor note: if not anchored, they will end up in your skimmer!*

**Submerged Plants:** Grow these underwater plants in plant bags or other planters. Fill your container with planting material, plant several bunches of them together and submerge into the desired section of your pond. Another option: Tie a bunch to a weight and drop it into the pond, using one bunch for every 2 square feet of surface area. Their roots will take up nutrients from the water.

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**Bog Plants:** Best grown in containers filled with aquatic plant media, bog plants like their roots wet. Position them around the edges of your pond in 6-inch-deep water, or inside your pond with a floating island planter.

**Water Lilies and Lotuses:** These beauties thrive in pots, like those found in our Water Lily and Water Lotus Planting Kits. To transplant, fill your tub with clay and a clay/soil mix, and add some aquatic planting media on top. Position the tuber inside the soil with growing tip pointed up. Submerge the pot so the plant's tip is 3 to 6 inches deep. Once the plant starts to grow and its leaves reach the water's surface, place the pot in a deeper area of your pond.

**Feed for Healthy Growth:** Your newly planted plants will need nutrients for beautiful blooms, so don't forget the fertilizer tabs! The balanced nutrients in tabs encourage greenery and bloom production and should be added to the soil every 2-4 weeks for best results. Use one tablet to two tablets per gallon of potted soil, and push it deep into the media 3 inches from the crown of the plant. Pack the hole with dirt to prevent the fertilizer from being released into the water, and you're good until next month.



## Beneficial native aquatic plants of Texas

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Native Aquatic plants are a beneficial component of reservoir and stream ecosystems. They provide structure and improve habitat for fish and other organisms, increase water quality and clarity, stabilize sediments and protect shorelines from erosion. Some of the common native aquatic plants in Texas are shown below.

### COONTAIL



(*Ceratophyllum demersum* L.) This annual submersed aquatic plant is common to quiet streams, ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Generally rootless, mats of coontail can be found free floating. The leaves are in whorls of 5-12, branched, up to 3/4 inch long and can be abrasive to the touch. The entangled stems can reach several feet in length.

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## AMERICAN LOTUS



(*Nelumbo lutea* (Willd.) Pers) A perennial aquatic plant, American lotus grows from rhizomes and seeds. Lotus leaves are large, circular, peltate, either floating or emergent. The flowers are extremely large, showy, yellow in color and fragrant. Seeds produced are viable and valuable as waterfowl food. Generally found in slow to non-moving waters.

(*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton) These perennial aquatic plants produce large leaves and flowers from rhizomes. Leaves of white water lily are circular and v-notched. Leaves are floating and generally reddish on the underside. The flowers are showy white, fragrant and in high demand by the aquatic nursery industry. These aquatic plants are generally found in slow or nonmoving shallow waters

## BULRUSH



(*Scirpus validus* Vahl.) One of the most valuable food sources for waterfowl and mammals. A shoreline plant that grows in clusters, up to several feet in height. Rounded, spongy stems taper at the top with a tuft of dangling flowers on spikelets which produce numerous viable small seeds. Provides excellent shoreline stabilization and spreads by underground rhizomes.

## AMERICAN WHITE WATER LILY



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## PICKERELWEED



(*Pontederia cordata* L.) An emergent, perennial shoreline plant with heart to lanceolate shaped leaves and erect, showy purple flowers from a single rosette. Pickerelweed grows from rhizomes as well as seeds. Prefers shallow and slow or nonmoving waters.

## ARROWHEAD



(*Sagittaria* spp.) Perennial, generally emergent plants growing from a rhizome

with large leaves. Leaf shape can vary from blade to the broad lancelet form. Some underwater rosettes of leaves can be produced. White prominent flowers are produced in whorls of three and can be produced throughout the growing season. Arrowheads generate underground corms or tubers which are highly desirable to waterfowl.

## WATER STARGRASS



(*Heteranthera dubia* (Jacq.) Small) A submersed annual, water stargrass can grow efficiently in a variety of habitats, water depths and sediment types. Overwintering by rhizome provides an important food item for waterfowl and habitat for fisheries. A slender, multi-branched stem grows from the buried rhizome. Alternate leaves and a rounded stem can help distinguish from flat-stem pondweed. Distinctive yellow, star-shaped flowers provides basis for its common name.

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## SOUTHERN NAIAD



(*Najas guadalupensis* (Sprengel) Magnus) A submersed annual aquatic plant, southern naiad is a slender, narrow-leaved plant. Tolerant of many kinds of aquatic systems, southern naiad generally grows in shallow littoral zones. Leaves are opposite and thin, generally less than an inch in length, growing on long slender stems. The flowers are small, yet produce many viable seeds.

(*Vallisneria americana* Michaux) This submersed aquatic plant is found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Ribbon-like basal leaves can grow to several feet long from a single rosette. Dioecious staminate flowers are found at the rosette while the pistillate flowers grow to the surface on spiral stalks where pollination occurs. After pollination, the fruit ripens and produces abundant viable seeds.

## MUSKGRASS (CHARA)



(*Chara* Linnaeus) A macroalgae, muskgrass is considered a pioneer species, forming extensive underwater mats similar to vascular plants. The greygreen stems provide habitat in ponds and lakes and have a distinctive odor, hence the common name. The stiff, thin leaves are whorled around a long, slender stem, staying low in the water column. Reproduction occurs through the orange oogonia which are barely visible on the upper leaves.

## TAPEGRASS, WILD CELERY



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## SPATTERDOCK



(*Nuphar luteum* (Small) E.O. Beal) A perennial, emergent aquatic plant which produces large heartshaped leaves. The flowers are small and yellow, partially opened, producing a viable seed. Spatterdock can be found in slow to nonmoving water, up to 5 feet in depth.

(*Potamogeton* sp. Poiret.) A floating-leaved perennial with stems that elongate from the stembase, producing floating and submersed leaves. Submersed leaves are alternate, broad-leaved but tapering, while the floating leaves are shiny, dark green, and oblong. Fruiting spikes are produced singularly in the axils.



## Points to Ponder

"When faced with the truth, people either accept it or get angry. The truth often hurts, but it only hurts the guilty. To them, truth is offensive.

*" Benjamin Haldeman*

"Food is an important part of a balanced diet."

*Fran Lebowitz*

"Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games."

*Babe Ruth*

"I have seen the future and it is very much like the present, only longer."

*Kahlil Gibran*

"Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away."

*Phillip K. Dick*

"I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."

*Steven Wright*

## PONDWEED



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"The one predominant duty we all have is to find one's work and do it."

*Charlotte Perkins Gilman*



## Words of wisdom

A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition.

Never pick a quarrel, even when it is ripe.

In labors of love, every day is payday.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

*Anne Bradstreet*



## 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 [jenders@aol.com](mailto:jenders@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!!



## On the Lighter Side



Sven and Ole heard about a local livestock organization that would pay a \$5,000 bounty for every live wolf captured. They headed to the woods and hunted for days. One night, sleeping by the campfire, Ole woke up and saw that they were surrounded by 50 hungry, ferocious wolves. He yelled at Sven, "Hey! Wake up, Sven. We're rich!"



Ole died and went to heaven, where he saw two gates. One gate had a sign saying, "For men whose wives ruled over them." The other said, "For men who were the head of their house." The line for the men whose wives ruled over them was as long as the eye could see. But Ole was the only one standing in front of the "head of house" gate. St. Peter asked him, "Why are you standing in this line?" Ole responded, "I don't know why. My wife told me to stand here."

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Ole was working with cattle out on pasture one day when he was approached by a stranger and asked how much he thought his prize cow was worth. Ole thought for a moment, looked at the stranger closely, and then said, "VeIl, dat depends. Are you da tax assesor or vas she kilt by yur car?"



A customer called the local meat market and inquired, "Do you sell fat-free lard?"

THELMA MARTIN  
*Memphis, Missouri*



## The Gender Gap

Men aren't good at following directions. We're also bad at giving them. Ask my wife how to get to our house and you'll get a precise, easy-to-follow answer. "Go 2.4 miles down Old Bethany Road and turn right onto Evans Mill."  
Ask me and the answer will be something like, "Go a couple miles down the road where that old red house used to be. Turn left when you get to the road where I saw that huge buck a few years back. Go straight until you come to where that possum got run over last week and turn

right, or was it left?"

I don't think I'm alone in this either. I've never asked a man for directions that got me to where I wanted to go. Of course, maybe I just didn't follow them.

JOSHUA SMITH  
*Jasper, Georgia*



## Frog in Her Throat

While sitting on the deck one evening, my 4-year-old grand- daughter, Jane, asked what the noise was that we could hear from down at the water. I said it was frogs "talking" to each other.

She quickly said, "Ribbit, rib- bit," and added, "I bet you didn't know I can speak frogish, Nana."

PEGGY SMITH  
*Woodstock, Illinois*



## Remember to Share

I left two cupcakes on the table for my grandchildren. When Taylor went to eat hers, it was gone. I questioned the obvious culprit, Levi, age 7, "Why did you eat your sister's cupcake?"

He said, "I forgot I had already eaten my own!"

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MARY FOSNOW  
Fort Mill, South Carolina



## Healthy as a Horse

A patient said, "Doctor, please help me, I'm feeling hoarse!" "Don't worry," the doctor replied. "I can cure you, but it'll be expensive." The patient nodded. "Money is no object. I won the Kentucky Derby last Saturday!"

DONNA BAARDSEN  
Hart, Michigan

**Please support these businesses who have agreed to give our members a discount at their stores in addition to being sponsors for our 2018 Pond Tour.**

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