

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 issue 9

September 2019

## Pond Members Tour

Our member's tour will be on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will start at the Coffee's at 9:30 AM.

A. 9:30 - 9:50 Jerry & Doris Coffee  
3257 Village Park Dr, Waco, TX 76708

B. 10:15 - 10:35 David & Robin Hixon  
1038 S Old Robinson Rd, Robinson, TX  
76706

C. 10:50 - 11:10 Ron & Rose Haft  
408 Cindy Ln, Lorena, TX 76655

D. 11:20 - 11:40 Jay & Elizabeth Trout  
725 Tahoe Trail, Hewitt, TX 76643

E. 11:45 - 12:50 Lunch @ Which  
Wich Sandwiches  
100 Ritchie Rd, Hewitt, TX 76643

F. 1:00 - 1:20 Harv & Georgia Peterson  
700 Fox Ridge Rd, Lorena, TX 76655

G. 1:30 - 1:50 Bevil Cohn  
251 Cross Creek Rd, McGregor, TX 76657

H. 2:10 - 2:30 Ron & Lori Galt  
360 Winding Trail, Crawford, TX 76638

I. 2:50 - 3:10 John & Susan Peitsmeyer  
205 Lake Dr, China Spring, TX 76633

Click on the link below for an interactive map.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1S-P1spKGfCEkUeAy6binO0WLR440T-sv&hl=en&usp=sharing>



## September Meeting

Our September meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will meet at Dr. Becky Sue Parton's home located at 436 Donaldson Ln. in Waco.

We will have a "Living Classroom" Experience! So for those who are relatively new to the hobby of garden ponds, this session will cover many of the basics with a backdrop of a pond in progress. For those of you who are more experienced, we need your help! You will be the presenters this month. We would like to have several of you volunteer to discuss some aspect of pond building. Each lightning round talk will only be about 5 minutes so you don't need to prepare a formal presentation, just be ready to share your wisdom! Perhaps you want to talk about bogs or lighting or water quality, or pumps, or waterfall design, or plants, or fish, or using the **Pond Vac** or anything else that us beginners need to know!

Please send Becky your topic (if you are willing to share), along with your RSVP, by September 14th. [drbeckysue@gmail.com](mailto:drbeckysue@gmail.com)

A "breakfast" supper will be served. Please bring an outdoor CHAIR if you have one. I have a few but not enough for everyone.

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## Driving directions

My house is off of University drive on a gravel road. If you come off Loop 6 you pass by the baseball fields, then the equestrian center, then the Baylor practice golf course and then take a right onto my little road. (You will also see the RV Park as the next thing.) You will see a mobile home on the right and then you will see my brick house. I have a bear mailbox and a Texas windmill. I have two driveways so I will try help direct parking, but you can also park in the drive way of the next brick house because it is vacant or just in the grass is fine. I will have the gate to the yard open so just come on back!

Just so no one is disappointed, I do have one small pond that I love - it has my Mom's original pump from her farm as the water feature. But my other larger pond is not pretty yet - someday it will be and maybe after our Living Classroom lesson, I will have an even better chance!



## Night Skies

September 23 is the first day of autumn for the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring for the Southern Hemisphere. Earth will see 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness—hence the word “equinox”, which comes from the Latin word *aequus*, for “equal,” and *nox*, for “night.”

--Tracy Staedter



This from “The Pond Guy 9/7/19

## I heard fish can get swim bladder disease this time of year, what is it?

Becky of Trumbell, CT



**A:** Many bony fish, like the fancy goldfish found in ornamental ponds, have an organ called a swim bladder. This gas-filled sack has two main purposes: It helps the fish control its buoyancy and remain at a particular depth without having to waste energy on swimming, and it keeps the fish in an upright position. When a fish is unable to control its depth, or starts swimming sideways, upside side down, or head or tail down, it may have "swim bladder disease."

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A fish with swim bladder disease can be a troubling sight to see, but it can be treated. Here's what you need to know about what causes it and how to get your fish swimming the right way again.

## Your Gluttonous Goldfish

Although intestinal parasites and microorganisms can cause swim bladder disease, it mainly stems from overeating, eating too quickly or gulping too much air during feeding time. The fish gobbles mouthfuls of pellets, which expand like sponges as they soak up water in the mouth and digestive tract leading to constipation. Enough pressure on the swim bladder will cause the fish to swim any which way but up.

## Time for a Diet Change

Water temperatures dip – sometimes precipitously – in the fall, and that change can slow your fishes' digestive processes. They have a harder time digesting protein when it's cold, and it can build up in their gut and result in an enlarged intestine.

To prevent this from happening, switch your fish food during the fall (and spring). Using a **pond thermometer**, periodically check your water temperature. Once temperatures are consistently between 40°F and 50°F, change over to a lower-protein, higher-carbohydrate diet like **The Pond Guy® Spring and Fall Fish Food**, which is packed with easier-to-digest wheat germ. Feed them two to three times a week and only give them an amount that they will eat

within 5 minutes. When temperatures drop below 40°F, stop feeding them entirely.

## Peas to the Rescue

The best treatment for swim bladder disease is found in your refrigerator or freezer. Frozen or cooked peas, will blast through the impaction and reduce the pressure on the fish's swim bladder. If your fish starts floating sideways, we recommend you stop feeding them for a few days and then hand feed peas to help clear up any blockages.

Medicating fish in outdoor ponds with cooler temperatures really is not an option, as the medications won't work – so stick with the fasting-plus-peas remedy.

If one of your fish is really stressed, a salt bath could help – but you will need to dissolve the salt in an indoor holding tank filled with warm 78 to 80°F water. Keep in mind that when you transfer your fish from the cooler 40°-50°F outdoor water to the warmer treatment tank, that temperature change can easily shock the fish. It should be avoided.



*Another Pond Guy article 9/7/19*

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## My water quality is good, but what should I do over the winter to keep it that way?

Quintin of Pine Bluff, AR

**A:** When it comes to doing chores at the pond, it is easy to let your guard down this fall. Thanks to your hard-working bacteria, the water is clean and clear with minimal algae, and your fish are happy. You have nothing to do but coast into winter and hibernate until spring.

Not so fast.

As water temperatures drop, those bacteria and algaecides stop fighting off excess nutrients and cold-temperature plant growth. They are no longer effective at their jobs, and so you need to step in and help. Here's what you can do to maintain pristine water quality over the winter.

**Add Some EcoBoost™:** Formulated to bind organic debris suspended in the water, **EcoBoost** helps to clear water and enhance beneficial bacteria. It also provides more than 80 trace minerals to fish, keeping them healthy over the winter. EcoBoost has no temperature restrictions, so you can use it all year round. Simply mix the powder with some water in a pail and pour it in the pond.

**Tint with Pond Dye:** During the cold temperatures and even iced-over conditions your pond's bottom can still be exposed to sunlight. **Pond Dye** can be used year-round – winter included – to shade your pond from the sun's UV rays. The dye also imparts a dramatic hue to the water, giving it a great look when it ices over.

**Aerate and Oxygenate:** You can also improve water quality through the winter by keeping the oxygen levels up and water circulating. If you are not going to use the pond for ice-skating or hockey, we recommend you use a subsurface aerator, like the **Airmax® Aeration Systems**. The system will keep the air bubbles flowing throughout the water column while maintaining a hole in the ice for gas exchange. If you have a fountain running, remove it and store it for the winter. Ice can damage the motor in the pump.

Before you hibernate for the winter, spend a few hours out at the pond to prepare it for winter.

When you look out on a crystal clear pond in January, you'll be happy you did!

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(editor's note: The average first frost here is Nov 21-30)

## Words of Wisdom

A house is built by hands, but a home is built by hearts.

A kindergarten teacher is someone who loves children but hates zippers.

What is the most rigorous law of our being?  
Growth – Mark Twain

Busy people don't have time to be busybodies.

Giving is an exercise that makes a healthy heart.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. –Albert Einstein



## AquaNooga tip of the week

Tuesday, September 3 2019

You should stop fertilizing aquatic plants about a month before the first frost in your area. Even in areas that don't normally have frost, plant growth slows in the shorter, cooler days of the fall and winter months.



## 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!!



**Please support these businesses who have agreed to give our members a discount at their stores**

<p>Bonnie's Greenhouse Sandra &amp; Johnny Killough</p> <p>5198 Orchard Lane Waco, Texas 76705</p> <p>254-799-7909 254-799-5411 Fax <a href="mailto:sandrakillough@hotmail.com">sandrakillough@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://Bonniesgreenhouse.com">Bonniesgreenhouse.com</a></p>	
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