

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 issue 10

October 2019

## October Meeting

Our meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will meet at Barbara & Charlie Lucas' home. Please RSVP **Not Later than Saturday October 12** to Dr. Becky Sue and mention the number of potatoes you want, [drbeckysue@gmail.com](mailto:drbeckysue@gmail.com)



## The AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Many beneficial pond bacteria lose effectiveness in cold water. [Microbe Lift Autumn/Winter Prep](#) works in cold water and even under ice. These bacteria will also help break down leaf accumulation thus helping keep a healthy pond both this winter and the following season.



## Another AquaNooga Tip

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Remember when cleaning or changing your pond filter media, try not to change it all at once to help maintain strong biological filtration.



## And Another AquaNooga Tip

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

When your pond's water temperature drops below 60F it will be time to decrease the amount of fish food given (no more than once per day) and to feed a food that is formulated for cold water.

(Editor's note: I use Microbelift Cold Weather Food)



This from the September issue Texas Invasives Newsletter

## Innovative Fish Adoption Program Protects San Marcos River from Invasive Species



The San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department (SMPRD) has devised an innovative way to protect both the San Marcos River and the fish that aquarium

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owners don't want any more. Unfortunately for the river, aquarium owners who no longer want their fish sometimes release them into the river, potentially adding to the ecological harm being done by invasive species. There are several options to releasing pet aquatic organisms into natural waters. SMPRD has developed a way to make it easier for people to use one of those strategies: finding others to adopt their fish. San Marcos' Pet Fish Drop Off program started in 2017 to reduce the number of non-native fish being dumped into the San Marcos River from aquaria and, most importantly, to educate the public about the impacts of non-native fish on native populations. The suckermouth catfish or pleco, *Hypostomus plecostomus*, is the fish they would most like to prevent from being released because of its important negative impacts on the river ecosystem (see the Invasive Species Spotlight below). They have also accepted "goldfish, angelfish, neons, beta, zebra, bala, gourami, cichlid, rainbow, Oscar, aquatic frog, carp, tetra and platy".

All of the fish are available for adoption. Interested individuals can simply stop by the Discovery Center, Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., with their own take-home container. The Discovery Center is located at 430 Riverside Drive, San Marcos, TX. The phone number is 512-393-8327.

For more information, see [this article at inhabitat.com](#).

Download TPWD's [Responsible Ways to Get Rid of Unwanted Aquarium Life](#) - PDF, 123 KB



## Armored Catfish (*Hypostomus plecostomus*)

### THE PLECOSTOMUS, A FRESH WATER INVADER

Also known as a “suckermouth”, “algae eater” or “armored catfish”, the Plecostomus is another example of an aquarium fish that was released into the wild and has grown out of control. They are voracious consumers of aquatic plants and wood, and contribute significantly to erosion in areas of infestation. They also create deep burrows under banks, which cause undercutting and bank collapse. What seems harmless in your tank can be a major threat to the ecosystem outside of it.



*In the aquarium.*

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Volume 11 issue 10

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*Released in the wild.*



This from The Pond Guy 10/5/19

## How do I overwinter my tropical lilies?

ASKED BY: Marilyn of Morton, IL

Vivid and fragrant, tropical water lilies are the floating jewels of a pond. If you live in **Hardiness Zone 9** or lower, you'll need to take extra special care of these warm-weather-loving beauties over the cold season. To overwinter tropical water lilies, you have two choices: send them into dormancy or keep them growing.



### Going Dormant for Winter

If you decide to send your water lilies into dormancy for the winter, stop fertilizing them in the fall to slow their growth and help them prepare their tubers for winter. After the first frost, pull out your **Aqua Gloves™** and follow these step-by-step instructions:

First, remove the lily and planting basket from the pond. Using your hands, dig around in the soil just below the plant's crown to feel for the tubers. They normally range in size from an acorn to golf ball, but they can be smaller or larger.

Take out the tubers and rinse each one very well with a strong stream of water. Use your **pond scissors** to trim off remnants of roots or stems. If small tubers are growing on a larger tuber, remove them and store them—

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they could turn into new lilies plants next year!

Store the tubers in a plastic bag or glass jar that's filled with damp (not wet!) peat moss, sphagnum moss or sand. Consider dusting them with a fungicide before sealing them up. Keep the container in a room that stays warmer than 50° F.

Once a month through the winter, check on your tubers to be sure they're still damp. Spritz them with water if they get dry.

When water temperatures climb back to 60° F in the spring, replant the tubers in a **planting basket** filled with fresh, fertile soil. Position them just below the surface with the pointy side up and round side down.

## Keep Them Growing

If you decide to keep your water lilies growing over the winter, set up a space in your home for a grow light and an aquarium or lined indoor pond. After the first frost, take the lilies and their planting baskets inside and follow these tips:

First, trim off the largest leaves and any dead, dry or damaged leaves with your **pond scissors**.

Place the planting baskets and plants inside in an aquarium or lined pond filled with water.

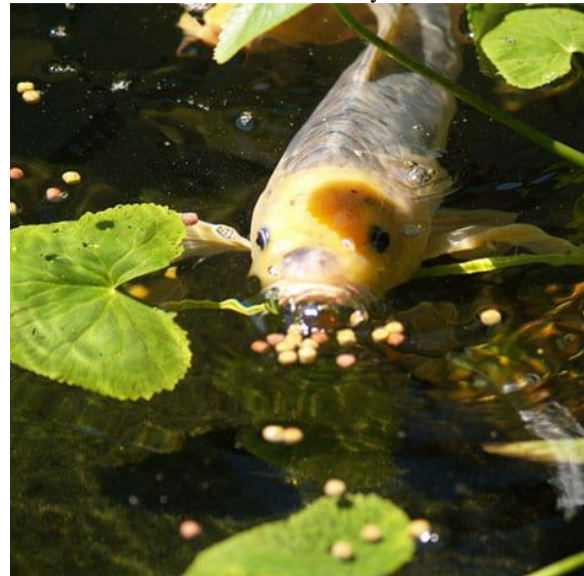
Keep the water temperature above 60° F, and use a grow light to keep the lilies growing slowly over the winter.

Once the weather outside warms and your pond's water temperature climbs back to 60° F, transplant your lilies or add some **fertilizer** to their existing soil and submerge them.

Overwintering tropical water lilies isn't hard, but it does require some space and planning. Good luck!



This from the Pond Guy 9/14/19



**Is it OK to continue feeding my fish summer food and just feed them less?** ASKED BY: Don of Livingston, TN

Koi have temperamental digestive systems. To stay healthy and happy, they need

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# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 issue 10

October 2019

specific types of food at different times of year—so no, we don't recommend feeding your fish summer food as we go into fall. Here's why.

## Feeding Less

Giving your fish less food is a good idea; especially as water temperatures start to drop. This will cause them to produce less waste, which will help in maintaining good water quality, and slow down their digestive systems. Fish naturally do this on their own; they will eat less food as temperatures decrease because the cooler water will slow their metabolism.

## Macronutrient Shift

As water temperatures cool, fish need a diet that's easier for them to digest—a wheat germ-based diet like our **Spring and Fall Fish Food**—that's carbohydrate-heavy rather than protein-rich. We recommend using a wheat germ based food when water temperatures are between 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer, fish crave protein to grow and put on muscle weight. But in the fall and spring, they're in transition between fasting and feasting and lacking some digestive enzymes, so they'll need something that'll gently slow down (or wake up) their metabolism.

## Up the Veggies

Even though wheat germ is the most common food to feed fish in the fall, you can still give your finned pals a treat in place of high-protein foods, too. Toss them some Cheerios, oatmeal or brown rice. Share some

healthy vegetables, like carrots, pumpkin or frozen peas. They'll provide important nutrients while being gentle on their system.

## 40-Degree Mark

As soon as water temperatures consistently read below 40 degrees Fahrenheit on your **pond thermometer**, remember to stop feeding your fish for the winter. Don't worry: They won't starve. The fast will give your fish the opportunity to give its digestive system a break and live off its fat reserves it added in the summer. In the spring, they'll clean up and look fresher and healthier than ever.



## Words of Wisdom

A well spent day brings happy sleep.

*Leonardo da Vinci*

However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results

*Winston Churchill*

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.

*Charles Reade*

All animals, except man, know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.

*Samuel Butler*

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

*Lucille Ball*

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We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.

*Ben Sweetland*

A good speech should be like a woman's skirt, long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest.

*Winston Churchill*



Ole graduated from law school and started his career as a young lawyer at a big city law firm. One day he returned to college to visit his old professors and saw a dog attacking a small child on campus. He quickly jumped on the dog and strangled it. The next day, the local newspaper wrote a story with the headline, "Valiant Student Saves Boy From Fearsome Dog".

Indignantly, Ole called the editor of the paper and asked that a correction be issued; pointing out that he was no longer just a student, but a very successful lawyer.

The next day, the paper issued a correction with a headline that read, "Pompous Lawyer Kills School Mascot."



When her son reached 10 years of age, Lena started to realize he didn't look like anyone else in the family. So she and her son took a DNA test and she found out the

child was not hers. She told her husband, Ole, what she had found. He replied, "VeIl, Lena. What's da matter vit yew? Don't yew remember when ve vere leaving da hospital da baby pooped his diaper and yew tolt me to go and change him. So I vent inside and got a clean von and left da dirty von dere."



After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Ole sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father, Ole, asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, little Ole replied, "Dat preacher said he vanted us brought up in a Christian home ... but I vant tew stay vit yew guys."



Ole goes to answer a knock at the door one evening to find two sheriff's deputies standing there.

"Sir, are you married?" one deputy asked.

"Vhy, yes," Ole replied, "Lena and I have been married for 48 years."

"Do you have a photograph of your wife, sir?" the second deputy questioned.

Ole pulled a picture out of his wallet and handed it to the officers. They looked it over and handed it back to him.

"Sir, I'm sorry, but it looks like your wife, Lena, has been hit by a truck."

Ole says, "I know, but she's got a vonderful personality and she's a great cook."

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## Points to Ponder

"As long as you live, keep learning how to live." *Lucius Annaeus Seneca*

"He that complies against his will is of his own opinion still." *Samuel Butler*

"This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read." *Winston Churchill*

"The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself." *Henry Miller*

"Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out." *James Bryant Conant*

"A book lying idle on a shelf is wasted ammunition." *Henry Miller*

"A jury consists of 12 persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer." *Robert Frost*

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.  
*Winston Churchill*

Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision.

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*Winston Churchill*

You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw rocks at every dog that barks.

*Winston Churchill*

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.

*Winston Churchill*



## 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**

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 issue 10

October 2019

**Bonnie's Greenhouse**  
Sandra & Johnny Killough

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