

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 12 issue 3

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 2020

March Meeting Cancelled

Due to various issues, the March meeting has been cancelled. Happy St Patrick's Day anyway!! Hope this is all in the past by our next meeting on April 21.



Did you know?

In the 1600's, Chinese farmed carp in rice paddies, a practice that traveled to Japan, where the Japanese noticed odd color variations in some of the carp and bred them, creating the KOI species.

Their average lifespan is 25 to 30 years, but some have lived to 100!

Because of their hardiness, koi can easily become an invasive species if released into the wild. For this reason, the state of Maine has made it illegal to keep koi as pets!



Membership Dues

As a reminder, our 2020 membership dues were due January 1, 2020. Thank you to those of you who have paid yours. To those of you who have yet to pay them, you can either bring them to the April meeting or mail them to HOTWGPS, PO 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.



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 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!!



The following three articles are from THEPOND GUY BLOGS this month. Naturally, they recommend their products.

**Is it time to start feeding the fish?
They look hungry.**

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Asked by Ruth of Altoona, PA

A: Talk about feeling hungry! If your fish are actively (or anxiously!) swimming around your water garden, nibbling and tasting your budding plants, and gazing at you forlornly as you eat your peanut butter sandwich pondside, it sounds like your finned pals are ready for some grub after their long winter fast.

Signs like these are telling, but to make sure your fish are ready to start eating regular food again, here are some guidelines to follow.

Take Your Pond's Temperature

Last fall when water temperatures fell below 40 degrees Fahrenheit on the **thermometer**, your fishes' metabolisms slowed way down. For the next few months, they rested in a hibernation-type state when they fasted and lived off the fat stores in their body. They needed no food from you – in fact, feeding them when they're hibernating can make them very sick.

Once spring has finally arrived and the sun has warmed your pond's water to 40 to 50 degrees F, your fishes' metabolism has

kicked back into gear. They're swimming around and searching for food to fuel their increased activity levels. Begin feeding your fish up to 3 times per week, and only what can be consumed in a 5 minute period. They will need a wheat germ food that's easy to digest, like **The Pond Guy® Spring & Fall Fish Food**. Packed with plant-based nutrients, the diet will satiate their hunger, and stimulate growth and fertility.

Pump Up the Protein

Late spring and summer bring even warmer 50 degree-plus water temperatures, and that's when you can switch your fishes' diet to one that will help them develop and build some serious bulk. If growing big koi and goldfish is your goal, feed your scaled friends a high-protein diet, like **The Pond Guy® Growth & Vibrance Fish Food**. It contains 38 percent protein for maximum growth and includes ingredients that will make their colors pop.

If you want to simply maintain their size while supporting their health, offer them **The Pond Guy® Staple Fish Food**. Perfect for all pond fish, the summer staple diet contains a balanced diet of vitamins, minerals and amino acids. It's easily digestible and designed for everyday feeding. Plus, it floats – so it makes mealtime fun for you and your fish!

Check the Forecast

Mother Nature has fun with weather – particularly with temperature fluctuations in the spring – so be sure to check the long-term forecast before you start feeding your fish on a regular schedule. Ideally, the weather should be consistently keeping the water a warm 40 to 50 degrees F. At that point, feed slowly to make sure they're consuming the food at a steady pace and increase the amount as they're ready.

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Happy feeding!



How do I divide my pond plants?

ASKED BY Karen of Fort Worth TX

A: It's that time of year, isn't it? After a long winter's nap, your aquatic plants are a great place to start flexing that green thumb of yours. Potted water lilies and bog plants will need to be divided, but how you do so will depend on the type of plants you have. In general, bog plants will need to be divided every one to two years, and water lilies will need to be divided every two to three years.

Here are simplified, step-by-step instructions for how to divide your aquatic plants. Pull out your waders, pruning tools, extra **plant baskets**, **planting media** and garden hose – and let's get to work!

Divide Bog Plants

Bog plants include species like **corkscrew rush**, **dwarf cattails** and **irises**. Some have clumping roots, some have runners and

some have rhizomes. Regardless of the type of root mass, here's what to do with them:

1. Lift the pot or container out of the pond and gently remove the root mass.
2. Use your garden hose to wash the soil off of the root mass and trim any dead leaves and foliage.
3. Divide the root mass depending on the type of root system.
 - **Clumping Roots** - Like corkscrew rush, separate the roots into sections, leave some roots intact with each section.
 - **Runner Roots** - Like dwarf cattails, cut the runner root and leave the root base with each section of the plant.
 - **Rhizomes** - Like irises, simply divide them into sections.
4. Replant each section of plant in its own container and dispose of any plant overgrowth.

Divide Water Lilies

Water lilies – both tropical and the hardy variety sold in our **Grower's Choice** collection – are also easy to divide. You'll know it's time to separate them when you notice fewer lily pads, reduced blooms or splitting pots.

1. Lift the pot or container out of the pond, locate the tuber and gently remove it.
2. Rinse off the soil, and trim away root growth and old foliage.
3. Identify the crowns, or the little buds where a new lily pad group will sprout, and cut between them with a sharp knife. Keep the pieces 3 to 4 inches in length. Each one of these will become a new water lily plant.

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4. Using aquatic planting media, plant each section separately at a 45-degree angle so that the growing tip is still exposed above the soil.
5. Place your repotted lilies in a shallow area of your pond where only a few inches of water cover the plants.
6. Once new growth appears, move the lilies to the deeper areas of your pond.

Fertilize and Tend

After you divide and replant your aquatic plants, don't forget to give them regular doses of **fertilizer** to ensure they're getting the nutrients they need to thrive and produce vigorous blooms. Keep your colorful beauties looking good by keeping them trimmed and regularly removing dead foliage throughout the growing season.



When is the best time to install underwater pond lighting?



Asked by Lou of Winston, OR

A: Whether it's illuminating a patio, a landscape or a water garden, outdoor lighting can have a dramatic impact on the area's space. It creates a special mood and spotlights stunning features while adding ambient light to the environment.

Underwater lighting is best installed when your pond is empty, like while it's being constructed or – in most cases – while you're doing your annual spring cleanout. If you're putting in lights this spring, here are four key tips to follow:

1. **Choose the Right Lights:**

Landscaping lights come in many different sizes and varieties, and so it can be hard to choose the best for your needs. Luckily, we offer three above- and underwater lights that will do the trick.

- **LEDPro™ 6-Watt LED Light Kit:** These lights highlight your pond and landscaping with energy-efficient LED bulbs. It shines with the same intensity as a 50-watt halogen but with a longer life span and lower energy costs.
- **LEDPro™ 12-Watt Single Light:** This spotlight also features an LED bulb, but it shines with the same intensity as a 70-watt halogen.
- **LEDPro™ Rock Lights:** Featuring a realistic stone finish, these small warm-white LED lights illuminate 10 watts per light but use only 2 watts of power. They're perfect for accenting special features in your garden.

2. **Point Lights to the Pond:** Rather than directing your landscape lights toward

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the patio or other viewing area, shine the light on pond instead. Your goal is to illuminate your water feature – not blind yourself while viewing it.

3. **Cast an Underwater Glow:** Beneath the water's surface, install lights that will spotlight your waterfall or stream's cascading water. And don't forget to include some that will highlight landscaping around and pondscaping in your water feature, too.
4. **Stash Extra Power Cord:** To give yourself easy accessibility to the underwater lights when you need to change their bulbs, wrap some excess power cord around the light. This will allow you to simply pull the light out of the water and change the bulb without having to drain the water or move a rock.

Over time, algae and other debris will build up on your lights – and so you'll need to add a new to-do item on your spring cleanout checklist! Each year, plan to give those lenses a good scrubbing and replace any burned-out bulbs.



Points to Ponder

- "I have seen the future and it's like the present, only longer." *Dan Quisenberry*
- "Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character."
Vince Lombardi
- "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and

he's not the same man." *Heraclitus*

- "Speak only if you can improve the silence." *Spanish Proverb*
- "A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are built for." *John Shedd*
- "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light."
Albus Dumbledore
- "A man cannot build a reputation on what he is going to do." *Henry Ford*
- "I've never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him."
Galileo
- "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."
A.A. Milne
- "The reason we struggle with insecurity is because we compare our behind-the-scenes with everyone else's highlight reel." *Steven Furtick*
- "Understand that forgiveness does not exonerate the perpetrator, forgiveness liberates the victim. It's a gift you give yourself." *TD. Jakes*



To the amazement of his friends, Ole started a new career as an artist and soon had a big show at a local gallery. He stopped by one day to ask the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings.

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"I have good news and bad news," the owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman inquired about your work and asked if I thought your paintings would go up in value after your death. When I told him they would, he bought all 15 paintings."

"Dat's vunderful!" said Ole. "Vhat's da bad news?" "He said he was your doctor," said the gallery owner.



Little Ole went to his first wedding and whispered to his mother, "Why is da bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is da color of happiness and today is da happiest day of her life," said his mom.

Ole was silent for a minute, and then said, "Den vhy is da groom vearing black?"



Lena was having a bad day and was grumbling to Ole, "Nobody loves me. Da whole world hates me."

Ole, trying to make her feel better, said, "Dat's not true, Lena. Some people don't even know yew."



Ole got a job on a large farm. The first day he was driving a load of grain to the elevator. Unfortunately, he was speeding and got pulled over by a deputy sheriff who asked to see his license. Ole said, indignantly, "I vish yew people vould get yur act together. Yust yesterday another

policeman took my license away and now today yew expect me to show it to yew!"



I heard McDonalds is planning to release a new Japanese fish sandwich! They are going to call it "The Real Mc Koi".

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

Bonnie's Greenhouse
Sandra & Johnny Killough
5198 Orchard Lane
Waco, Texas 76705
254-799-7909
254-799-5411 Fax
sandrakillough@hotmail.com
Bonniesgreenhouse.com

Barrera's
Nursery & Landscape Co.
Seasonal Plants • Shrubs • Trees • Bulk Material
Landscape Rock • Perennials • Ferti-lome Products
Pavestone Products
201 Sun Valley
Hewitt, Texas 76643
FAX (254) 666-0919
barrerasnursery@yahoo.com
(254) 666-9806

Robinson
GREENHOUSE
254.662.0311
628 North Robinson Dr. • Robinson, Tx 76706
RobinsonGreenhouse@gmail.com • Fax 254.666.0919

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