

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 12 issue 5

May 2020

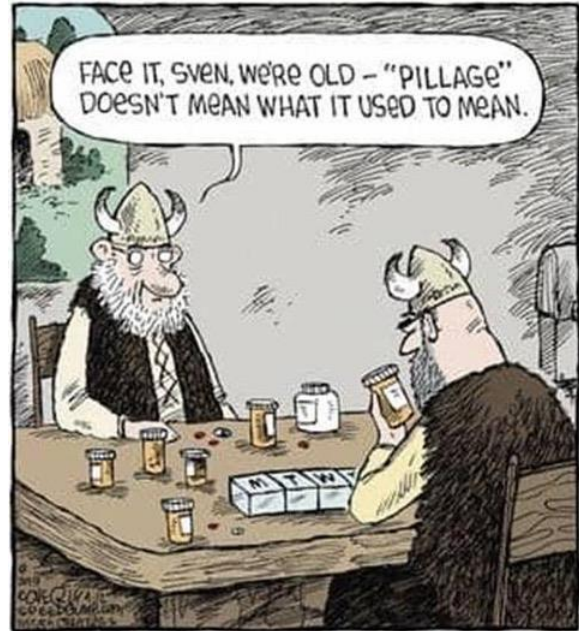
HOTWGPS Events

Due to the virus issues and concern for everyone's safety, the May meeting is canceled. Hopefully, things will be a little more like normal by next month!!



Be sure to reach out to your neighbors - from a safe distance - to make sure that everything is okay with them.

Remember our essential workers and volunteers. Make them feel appreciated, with a heart-felt "thank you", or an act of kindness on your part. When you go to the store, remember to be responsible and thoughtful by turning your gloves inside-out along with your wipes and disposable masks and disposing them in proper disposal bins so others won't be exposed to your germs or have to clean up after you.



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!!



The AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

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Early spring is a good time to see if your water lilies should be divided. Each individual plant within the same pot competes with the others for the available nutrients. Too many in one pot can mean poor growth and few flowers through the season. Even if you have to give some away or throw some away, thinning the pot will go a long way toward a healthy, thriving plant.



The AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

When choosing a new pump for your pond, it is important to look at all factors. Obviously, we first want to make sure the pump will provide the needed flow (this involves calculating head pressure). Then we look at purchase price, and warranty. An often overlooked factor is the cost of operating the pump, that can make a big difference in the lifetime cost of the pump. Our [pump article](#) can help if you want to do the work on your own or we are always happy to help.



The AquaNooga Tip of the Week

April 21, 2020

The usual time for koi and goldfish to reproduce is when the water warms in spring (although it can happen other times as well). If you want to help ensure survival of baby fish, provide a safe haven for the eggs and fry (baby fish), as the adults will eat as many as they can get. This safe haven can be plant roots, soft filter material, or a [Spawning](#)

[Basket](#). But think first as too many fish can easily lead to poor water quality.

Editor note: We have had a VERY ACTIVE spawning season this year at the expense of the lilies!! Those amorous creatures really did a number on them causing LOTS of lily leaf pieces and some stems to float aimlessly? on the surface. Thankfully, the screen I put up on the stream that takes water from the upper to the lower pond captured most the pieces before they could drop into the lower pond. How many, if any of the spawn will see adulthood remains to be seen. There have been 2 or 3 that made it in each of the past couple of years.



The AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Tuesday May 5, 2020

Have you noticed tiny red worms in your pond filter? No need for concern. These harmless creatures are Blood Worms and they can be beneficial to the pond by consuming some of the detritus (sludge) in your filter. Blood Worms are the larval stage of chironomid midges – a very small fly that resembles a mosquito but does not bite.



The following articles are from THE POND GUY BLOG. Naturally, they recommend their products.

I want to upgrade my filtration system. What are my options?

Asked by: Brock of Baton Rouge, LA

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A: In just about every pond keeper's life, the time comes when they want (or need) to upgrade their filtration system. Whether they're looking for a filter that will handle a higher fish load, a system that has UV light built right in, or one that'll efficiently skim out leaves falling from that overgrown maple tree, a new filtration system can improve water quality – and give hobbyists a fun new water garden gadget to play with.

Ready to check out some options? Below, we've outlined several upgrade choices for your pond filtration system.

In-Pond Filtration Systems: The **ClearSolution™ G2 Filter System** is an ideal upgrade for ponds 1,250 gallons or less. This unit uses mechanical and biological filtration media to remove large debris and dissolved organics, while a powerful ultraviolet clarifier clears discolored water. The system also features a compact energy-efficient mag-drive pump, which circulates water through the filtration system and discharges it through a fountain head attachment or a diverter valve. You can upgrade your filter and add a fountain!

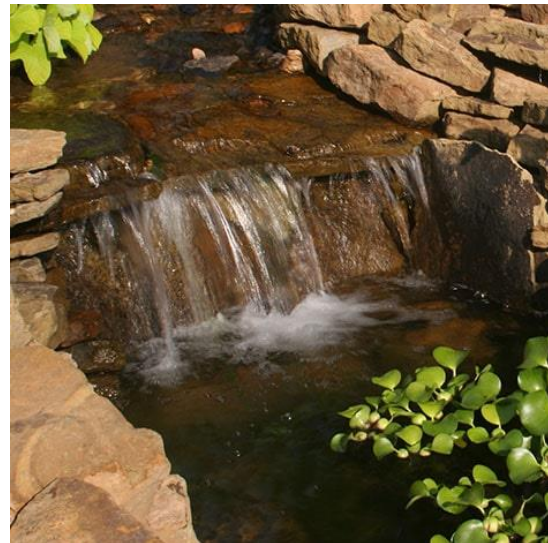
External Pressurized Filters: For those with larger ponds up to 4,500 gallons, the **AllClear™ G2 Pressurized Filtration Systems** offer mechanical, biological and ultraviolet filtration in an efficient, economical filtration unit – but it also includes a back-flush system that allows you to clean the filter with the turn of a dial and rinse away waste water and debris via a discharge outlet. The **AllClear™ G2 Pressurized Filtration system** with **SolidFlo™ Pump** is great upgrade for existing ponds with high fish populations.

Waterfall Filter Boxes: Add a water feature to your pond while stepping up your

filtration with a waterfall filter box, like the **ClearSpring™ Mini Waterfall Filter**. The unit houses Bio-Balls and two filter pads of varying density for maximum filtration. For the waterfall pattern, you can choose between two included weir options – a traditional smooth sheet-like surface and a ribbed pattern. FPT inlets are located on both sides of the waterfall box so plumbing can enter from either side or to join multiple boxes together.

Skimmer Boxes: A skimmer is a practical upgrade in ponds with a lot of leaves. If your pond requires a high-volume pump that you want to hide, or if you want to add some extra mechanical filtration, check out the **ClearSkin™ Skimmer**. This unit includes a large removable debris net and an automatically adjustable weir door for maximum surface cleaning.

A new filtration system is a great investment in your hobby. Whichever you choose, have fun and enjoy the upgrade!



Why is my water foamy?

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ASKED BY: Luke of Belen, NM

A: Is foamy water making your pond look more like the inside of a washing machine than an aquatic oasis? All that bubbly white or gray buildup is likely being caused by an excess of organic material in the water.

Accumulation happens when too many fish are living in the pond, you're over feeding them, filtration is inadequate or there's runoff seeping into your water garden. Then, as the water flows down your waterfall, air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. Air-water collision is why the foam forms, particularly the base of your waterfall.

What's the solution?

Short-term, you can change out part of the pond's water to remove the foam. When you do, be sure to add some **Stress Reducer Plus** to the fresh water, which will form a beneficial slime coat on your fish and make tap water safe for them. In addition, add **Defoam™** to your water. Safe for fish, plants and wildlife, you simply shake the can and pour its contents into the pond. The foam will disappear in no time.

Long-term, you have several options:

Increase Filtration: Boost your filtration by adding plants to your pond or increasing the capacity of your existing filtration system.

Relocate Fish: Too many fish will produce excess waste, which means more foam. The rule is to allow 1 inch of adult fish per square foot of surface area, so if you have too many koi or goldfish in your pond, you

might want to think about finding new homes for some of them.

Cut Back on Meals: If you're feeding your fish too much or too often, the excess food adds to the extra organic material in your pond's water. Only feed your fish an amount they'll eat in a few minutes.

Add Nutrient-Eating Bacteria: To help break down the nutrient load in the water, add beneficial bacteria in such as, **LiquidClear™** to work. They digest the dead organics in the pond, making the water crystal clear and foam free.

Aerate the Water: Aeration will also help reduce the nutrient load by circulating the water column and feeding fresh oxygen to the busy bacteria.

Foamy water can be a nuisance, but once you achieve some balance in your pond's ecosystem, those bubbles will disappear in no time



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My friend talks about her fish coming up to eat from her hand. How can I get my fish to do the same? ASKED BY: Donna of Chesterfield, MO

A: Talk about a cool party trick! Feeding by hand is not only a fun way to show your friends how well-trained your fish are, but it also gives you an opportunity to bond with your finned pals.

Teaching your fish how to eat from your hand starts with understanding the temperament of the fish themselves. Are your fish friendly? Do they swim up and say "Glub, glub, hi!" when you visit your pond? Or do they scatter when you approach and your shadow falls on the water?

Friendly fish are easier to train. They already associate you as an approachable face that brings them tasty food every day. Sketchy fish, however, can be more of a challenge. They might be newbies that don't recognize you or your feeding routine, or

they might be spooked from predators visiting your pond.

If you've ruled out the possibility of predators (or put up some **predator-control measures**), follow these steps to help teach your fish to eat from the palm of your hand:

Set a Routine: Fish are creatures of habit. They're more likely to respond to something that happens the same way every day (or frequently, at least). To set a mealtime routine, visit your pond at the same location, at the same time of day, on a regular basis. They'll get to know your patterns and learn to recognize you – and feeding time.

Make Them Work: Throwing a handful of **Growth & Vibrance Fish Food** into the water and walking away teaches your fish an easy snatch-and-run feeding style. Instead, toss them a few pellets at a time and wait for the fish to eat them. They'll rush to get the food first! Even the shy koi will get in on the action. This toss-and-wait style reminds them that you are hanging out and something exciting is happening.

Get Brave - and Get Wet: Once your fish are used to your feeding routine and race to the pond's edge to greet you, take the plunge! Hold a few pellets loosely in your hand just at the water surface without making any sudden or quick movements. It takes only one fish to act bravely and let the others know it'll be OK. Before you know it, they'll be racing to your hand to be fed!

Once your fish are trained to eat from your hand, you'll be tempted to keep offering them food. Prevent over feeding them by measuring out a predetermined amount of

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food – and stop when it's all gone. If you can't help yourself (or you're sharing this cool new party trick with your friends), at least be sure to have some natural bacteria, like **Nature's Defense®**, on hand to help clean up the leftovers after dinner.



This from the 4/15/20 Microbelift Newsletter

April in covid-19 social isolation-

We are the lucky ones! We have our ponds to play with during our Social Distancing safety from Covid-19. We have fresh air, sunshine, and more time to spend with our ponds. I would bet your ponds have never looked so good. I find myself relaxing when spending time with my pond. For me, this is a gift. If you have lung disease like me, or other immune deficiencies, I hope you are taking all the precautions necessary. Good pond people are hard to find and nobody knows your pond the way you do. I have thinned out all my overgrown plants, cleaned my filter, and done some good water changes already. I sit back and admire the strong colors on my koi this year. I use PL to stop the fishy odors. Life is great!

Did you know?



Koi fish can recognize the person who feeds them. Yes, they do know you.

Feng shui, a spiritual form of organization

and placement of objects, says that having the spirit of the **koi** near you will attract good luck, fortune, and spiritual benefits.

Koi are actually very **intelligent** – they have trained you to feed them on demand! All joking aside, **Koi fish** are noted for their great memory, loyalty to their owners, and for their striking personalities!



ANECDOTES & PLEASANTRIES

Groan Men

Mahatma Gandhi, as everyone knows, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail, and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.

This made him a-ready?-super-callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.



Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.



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

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