

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 12 issue 9

September 2020

HOTWGPS Events

September is a BONUS meeting month!! We will meet at Keith & Marji's home in Georgetown at 1100 AM Saturday September 12. Becky Sue's email has all the specifics so bring your lawn chairs and we'll see you Saturday!

Then on Tuesday 9/15/2020, we will have our "regular" meeting via ZOOM at 6:30 PM. There will be a program on bats.



AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Sept 8, 2020

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

September 1, 2020

Prevent pump damage with proper skimmer maintenance. Check the water level inside the pond skimmer regularly. Ensure that a pump inside the skimmer is always completely submerged. Make sure you are checking while the pump is running.



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!!



From Texas Invasives I-Wire August 2020

There's been a lot of buzz in the news about the Asian giant hornet (AGH), *Vespa mandarinia*, popularly dubbed the 'Murder Hornet'. The AGH are voracious hunters that preferring medium to large insects, and are a predator of the European honeybee, which could be devastating to the already-threatened western honeybee population.

See: [Varroa mite](#), [pesticide](#), [environmental changes](#).

The AGH is a large bodied hornet that can grow to be 1.5 to 2 inches long. It has a large orange or yellow head, prominent eyes, and a yellow and black to brown striped abdomen, similar to a honeybee. The first confirmed U.S. report of AGH was in Washington state, December 2019.

There have been no confirmed reports of AGH in Texas. However, it does resemble some of our native Hymenopterans (wasps), including **Cicada Killers**, **Pigeon Horntails**, and **Yellow Jacket Queens**:

Cicada Killers can grow from 0.5 to 2 inches long; have a dull brown head with yellow patching, and a brown to black abdomen with incomplete yellow stripes.

Pigeon Horntails can grow to be 1 to 1.25 inches long and have a narrow, elongated

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body and abdomen compared to that of the AGH.

Yellow Jacket Queens can grow from 0.75 to 1 inch and have a predominantly orange abdomen with some black incomplete banding. Patterns vary by species but the bands on the abdomen will always be discontinuous compared to the AGH.

Entomologists in Washington are working with USDA APHIS in hopes to eradicate the invaders while the populations are small. Survey work is currently underway this season, with any positively identified wasp being tracked back to the hive and eradicated. The only confirmed populations of AGH thus far are in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.

Pigeon Horntail (Left) and Asian Giant Hornet (Right).



Yellow Jacket Queen (Left) and Asian Giant Hornet (Right).

Credit for all images: Hanna Royals, Museum Collections: Hymenoptera, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



Laughable

A little girl walked to elementary school every day. One afternoon a thunderstorm popped up so her mother got in the car and drove along the route to the school. She soon saw her little girl walking along happily. Every time there was a flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile.

The mother drove up alongside in her car and rolled down her window, calling to the girl, "What are you doing Honey?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty. God keeps taking my picture."



Ole was called as a character witness for his friend Sven who was being sued in court.



Cicada Killer (Left) and Asian Giant Hornet (Right).



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Judge: "State your name."

Ole: "Ole Olson."

Judge:
occupation?"

Ole:

"Manufacturer.

" Judge:

"Children?"

Ole: "No, lady's shoes."



Ole told Sven he was going to stop drinking coffee in the morning because it keeps him awake for the rest of the day.



Ole bumped into an old friend the other day. "Hey, Sven, I hafn't seen yew in years!" he said. "Ye.w used to be skinny but now yewr fat. Yew used to haf a lot of hair but now yewr balt. Yew used to be tall but now yewr short."

Vell, my name isn't Sven.. I'm Lars Nelson," said the man.

-"Oh, wow!" said Ole. "So yew changed yewr name too!"



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Making outdoors awesome

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