

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

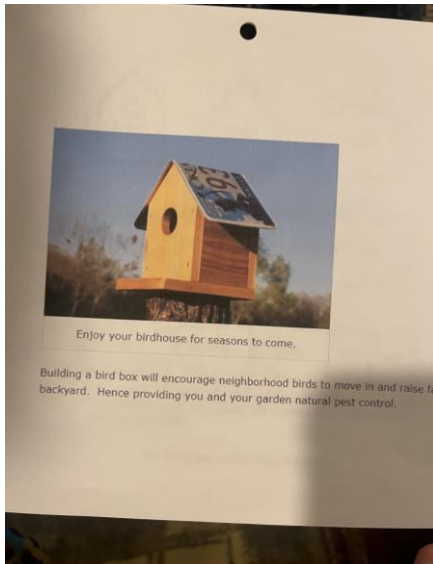
Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022

## HOTWGPS Events

Our March meeting was at the Peitsmeyer's home. Many of our members turned out to enjoy John's presentation on using our Pond Vac. We also enjoyed a chili feast. Thanks John & Susan!!

Our April meeting will be at Suzy Needler's family park. We will be following Johns directions when building our own bird houses. If you have an electric screwdriver, try to remember to bring it with you for the "construction project".



The Waco Historic Foundation having a fundraiser this weekend. See the flyer below.



Thank you to all of you that have paid your 2022 HOTWGPS membership dues. If you have not yet met your obligation, please submit them now or bring them to the April meeting. Either mail them to HOTWGPS, 700 Fox Ridge Rd., Lorena, TX 76655 or bring them to the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Family \$24.00

Individual \$18.00

Non-Voting associate \$12.00



## Pond Vac

As a reminder, this is a "Members Only" benefit. You can rent (\$5.00 for up to 72 hours) this super-duper pond cleaning machine is priced very reasonably! John

DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022

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!!



This from the February 2022 I-Wire  
invasives Newsletter

## Invasive Mussel Watch

Invasive quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) have been detected for the first time in Texas. National Park Services (NPS) discovered the mussels at the International Amistad Reservoir (Lake Amistad) in the Rio Grande basin along the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio. In addition to this first time detection in Texas waters, this is also the first finding of any invasive mussel species in the Rio Grande basin.

Amistad Reservoir early detection surveys resulted in a single quagga mussel larva that was detected and confirmed by DNA testing at Diablo East in June 2021. In May, August, and September, single quagga mussel larvae were detected at a second site in Rough Canyon. TPWD has designated the reservoir as “positive” for quagga mussels. Positive status indicates invasive mussel larvae have been repeatedly detected, but no juveniles or adults have been found and there is not yet evidence of an established population. TPWD press release.

Quagga mussels are closely related to zebra mussels (*D. polymorpha*), and cause many of the same problems. They are present in other areas of the US, so there is a risk that boats can transport them to Texas lakes. The department emphasized the importance of continued help from boaters, marina operators, and others to Clean, Drain and Dry all boats and water craft equipment before moving them, and remain vigilant to stop the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

Anyone who spots quagga or zebra mussels should immediately Report It!



Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*). Credit: Amy Benson, USGS.



DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022

Quagga mussel larvae a few days after hatching. Credit: Russel Cuhel and Carmen Aguilar



Pipe clogged by invasive mussels. Credit: Mussel Prevention Program in Louisiana, California

Quagga mussels can negatively impact native species by out-competing them for resources and space. The mussel's high rate of filtration decreases the level of beneficial phytoplankton, like diatoms and green algae from the water column, subsequently reducing food for zooplankton eaters and freshwater macro-invertebrates. The reduction of algae can change water clarity and affect the composition of aquatic plant, like floating plants nursery areas vital to aquatic organisms. Also, much like the zebra mussel, quagga mussels clog pipes and foul different aquatic structures, which reduces the pumping capacity and damages equipment, which costs industries millions of dollars to fix.

In December 2021, quagga mussels were found in Lake Amistad in the Rio Grande basin. Experts fear they could spread to many other bodies of water in Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and partners are monitoring many high-risk water bodies in Texas for the presence of invasive mussels.

Because of its negative impacts, quagga mussels are part of the Sentinel Pest Network, a component of [Texasinvasives.org](http://Texasinvasives.org). Please [Report It!](#) For more information regarding management and removal, see the Texas Invasive Species Institute info page [here](#).



## AquaNooga Tip of the Week

Feb 22, 2022

Its TWOsday and the Tip of the Week is back as spring is approaching. Spring can be a critical time for the health of our pond fish. If

### Invasive Spotlight: Quagga Mussel

(*Dreissena bugensis*)

Quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) are closely related to zebra mussels (*D. polymorpha*). They resemble each other in size and shape; however, quaggas are generally rounder with a shell that appears asymmetrical when viewed from the front. The size can range from ¼ to 1.5 inches. The shell pattern is variable, but typically bears dark bands that fade near the hinge. The bands can be black, cream, or white. Individuals reproduce externally by releasing eggs and sperm into the water column. In a few days, microscopic larvae will begin to develop tiny bivalve shells as they drift in the plankton. Three to four weeks later, juveniles will settle down and attach to various substrates with strong byssal threads. Juveniles are generally fixed to one place, but adults can detach and settle in new areas. These mussels can form colonies up to 4-12 inches thick.

DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022

you took all the right steps in fall your pond should be in good shape for a healthy spring. At this point one of the best things you can do is be prepared to ensure a relatively clean bottom to the pond. If there are a lot of leaves and muck you'll want to remove as much as possible. For heavy buildups, you may want to use a [pond vacuum](#). For lighter buildups an enzyme treatment like [Microbe Lift Spring/Summer](#) may be enough. Both can be done once the water temperature is consistently into the 50s.

March 1, 2022

Its time to be prepared for feeding our pond fish. As the pond starts to warm and fish get more active remember to use the water temperature as your guide for feeding fish. Avoid feeding until the water temperature is CONSISTENTLY above 50 F. At this point, we want to feed a wheat-germ based cold weather food. Above 60 F and we can transition to the summer food. Water temperature should be checked at about 1 foot of depth

March 29, 2022

For best aquatic plant performance, adding fertilizer tablets can be key. This is especially true for waterlilies and lotus. But when do we start in spring to feed our plants left over from last season? If you are giving your shallow water plants a spring boost, you can do that once growth begins to emerge from the pot. For waterlilies, we want to start fertilizing when the first leaves reach the pond surface. For lotus, you want to wait until the first leaves that emerge ABOVE the water surface. Continue fertilizer per manufacturer instructions for the remainder of the season.



## Words of Wisdom

- "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." *Viktor E. Frankl*
- "During labor, the pain is so great that a woman can almost imagine what a man feels like when he has a fever."
- "One can ignore reality but one cannot ignore the consequences of ignoring reality."

*Ayn Rand*



## On the lighter side

**Ole was called into his bank to discuss his accounts.** "Your finances are in terrible shape," his banker said. "Your checking account is way overdrawn and your loan's are overdue."

"Ya, I know," said Ole. "It's my wife, Lena. She's out of control."

The banker asked Ole, "Why do you allow your wife to spend more money than you have?"

"To tell you da truth Mr. Banker," replied Ole with a deep sigh, "Because I'd rather argue wid you den wid her."



**Little Ole came home from school one day** and asked his mom Lena, "Mama, I have da biggest feet in da third grade. Is dat becoss I'm Norvegian?"

·No Ole," said Lena. "It's because yew're NINETEEN

DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022



The boss was very exasperated with his new secretary Lena, who kept ignoring the phone when it rang.

"You must answer the telephone when it rings," he told her. "Vell, OK," complained Lena. But nine times out of ten it's for yew."



<https://webbsonline.com/>

Webb's have graciously donated money to sponsor our 2022 pond tour, so your continued support of their business is appreciated!

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

MINDY LAWRENZ  
CARDINAL ROCK RENOVATIONS  
MINDY@CARDINALROCKRENOVATIONS.COM  
214 . 534 . 2505

LANDSCAPE DESIGN . INTERIOR DESIGN . ORGANIZATION

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

Steve Kainer  
Owner/General Manager

**HILL COUNTRY**  
**WATER GARDENS**  
& NURSERY

Phone 512-260-5050  
Fax 512-260-5060  
steve@hillcountrywatergardens.com

1407 N. Bell Blvd. (Hwy 183 N)  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
www.hillcountrywatergardens.com

Making outdoors awesome

DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 4

April 2022



**Landscape**  
SUPPLY

**Brian Sikes**  
brian@landscapesupplywaco.com

☎ 254-753-7900 📠 254-753-7907  
1900 W. Loop 340 - Waco, TX 76712

[www.LandscapeSupplyWaco.com](http://www.LandscapeSupplyWaco.com)



Aquariums Supplies Service

Wide selection of Freshwater  
& Saltwater Fish & Corals

[NorthWacoTropicalFish.com](http://NorthWacoTropicalFish.com)



Phone (254) 754-2718

1521 N. 15th st  
Waco, Texas 76707  
Tues.-Fri. 10-6  
Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 1-5

DISCLAIMER: While the information contained in this newsletter was carefully collected and compiled to be as accurate as possible, there are no expressed or implied warranties that the information contained herein, including paid advertisements, is correct, of any value, or suitable for any purpose. If you use this information in any way, you assume full responsibility for the results of your actions. In no event will the author or others be liable for any results or the lack thereof