

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 6

June 2022

HOTWGPS Events

2022 HOTWGPS Pond Tour is rapidly approaching on June 25 & 26. While we are tidying up our pond, PLEASE be careful in the heat! Stay hydrated, work early morning and or late afternoon. These are the “cooler” parts of the day and also when the mosquitos are most active!! They don't like the really hot sunny part of the day either. Use a protectant spray and wear light colored clothing.



<https://webbsonline.com/>

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



Our June meeting will be June 21st at 6:30 PM at John & Susan Peitsmeyer's home, 205 Lake Drive, China Spring, TX, 76633. Please RSVP NOT LATER THAN June 15th to either Dr. Becky Sue drbeckysue@gmail.com or Susan speitsmeyer@aol.com. John & Susan will be providing barbeque sandwiches. They will also give the program on their experiences with Purple Martins.



Pond Vac

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

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 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!!



Some neat ideas from the Reader's Digest

Another Reason to Always Keep Lemons Around

Try to hand-wash your cheese grater, and suddenly the kitchen sponge is shredded like a block of cheddar. Scrub it down with half a lemon instead: The lemon juice and pulp will loosen any debris stuck in the grates. All you'll need to finish the job is a thorough rinse.



Keep Food Cold Outdoors

If you're serving chilled foods under the sun, put a zip-top bag of ice at the bottom of the dish, cover it with lettuce, and serve your culinary creation on top. You'll keep your shrimp or deviled eggs safe to eat through a sultry afternoon.



HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 6

June 2022

Cool Off a Hot Car

Get into the car on a hot summer day and you can practically choke on the heat trapped inside. Lower the passenger window and quickly flap the driver door open and shut a few times to push out the bulk of the hot air. It'll give your AC a fighting chance and get you on the road more quickly.



Corks for Starting, Not Stopping

If you have a firepit in the backyard or a camping trip coming up soon, start saving wine corks in a Mason jar. Fill the remainder of the jar with just enough rubbing alcohol to submerge the corks, but leave enough space at the top of the jar for them to swell. In a few days, each cork will make an excellent upcycled fire starter.



This from the Pond Guy Blog

The water level in my pond keeps dropping below my skimmer opening. What should I do?



A: That's a problem, for sure! Let's take a look at some reasons why your water level is dropping below your skimmer opening in the first place. One of them could point to your solution.

Reason #1: Wrong Pump Size

Skimmers are rated for maximum water flow. If your pump exceeds this rating, the water will leave the skimmer faster than it enters—and you'll be left with a low water level. Check your pump to be sure it's sized correctly for your skimmer.

Reason #2: Accumulated Debris

Is your skimmer's filter mat plugged? Nets and media pads catch a majority of debris as the water passes through your skimmer (which you then clean out several times a year), but some of it may fall to the bottom. That debris could then plug your filter mat and prevent water from getting to your pump. It could also cause a water backup, allowing water to escape from other areas of your pond. When you pull out your filter

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 6

June 2022

pad, check for debris buildup in the skimmer bottom.

Reason #3: Skimmer Height

If your skimmer is set at the wrong height, that could cause problems, too. It should be set so that the natural water line of the pond when filled is about an inch below the top of the skimmer opening. If it's set where the water level is lower, small fluctuations in the water level can make a big difference. Check your skimmer height and adjust as needed.

Reason #4: Too-Low Overflows

If you installed an overflow in your skimmer, make sure the overflow's bottom is not lower than where the water level should be. Otherwise, you will have issues when you have small fluctuations in your pond's water level. Check to be sure any built-in overflows are positioned at the right height to allow water to drain from the skimmer.

Reason #5: A Leak

Dropping water levels could indicate a leak, so check around your pond for pooling water. [Here](#), we outline in detail how to find and repair a leak.

Reason #6: Evaporation

Editor Note: this is the most probable cause for dropping water level this time of the year.

The sun's evaporation power can play a role in your waning water levels, too. If this becomes a problem over time, you can install an [auto-fill valve](#) to refill your pond when it gets low. At the very least, install an [automatic shutoff switch](#); if water depletes to a certain point, the pump will switch off automatically.

Good luck figuring out this mystery!

Editor's note: An autofill valve can be problematic if pond debris gets into the valve causing it to not shut off completely. I had a not so good experience with a school pond I was helping with. They always had a wet area around the pond. They were convinced it was due to a leak! I found the autofill valve down in an area with lots of vegetation, disconnected it and "miraculously" the wet area dried up!! A little training on manually refilling with the garden hose and all was well.



AquaNooga tip of the week

June 7 2022

Foam on the pond surface is caused by an excess of proteins in the water. One possible cause is the fish getting a little frisky. Spawning will cause a fairly heavy foam buildup quickly. But it could also be a sign that your ecosystem is not keeping up with the waste load. Both are most common issues in spring. While you can scoop some foam off, using a beneficial bacteria to boost the biological filtration can be the best long-term approach.



On the lighter side

A driver was found guilty in traffic court.

When the judge asked her occupation, she said she was a school teacher. The judge rose from the bench and said, "Ma'am, I've waited years for a school teacher to appear before this court. Please sit down at that table and write, 'I will not run a red light' 500 times."

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 6

June 2022



Sven walked up to Ole, who was sitting at the local bar with a pitcher of beer in front of him. "Looks like yur celebratin' Ole," he said. "Vell, ya," said Ole. "I put a hunnert bucks on a sure ting at da track today. It vas da seventh horse in da seventh race and this is da seventh of da month and it's my sons seventh birtday. And da odds ver seven to one!" "And yur horse finished first?" asked Sven. No, yew von't believe it," declared Ole happily. "He finished seventh!"



Young Ole lived in northern Minnesota. All his life he had heard amazing stories about how his father, grandfather, and great grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthdays. So the day Ole turned 21, he and Sven took a boat out into the middle of the lake and Ole stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned. After Sven rescued him, Ole was furious and went to see his grandmother. "Grandma," he said bitterly, "dis is my 21st birtday so vhy can't I walk across da lake on vater like my fadder, his fadder and his fadder before him?" "Veil, Ole, dat's because your fadder, grandfadder, and great grandfadder ver all born in January. You ver born in July.



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
Bonniegreenhouse.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

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 6

June 2022

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

Landscape
SUPPLY

Brian Sikes

brian@landscapesupplywaco.com

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

www.LandscapeSupplyWaco.com



NORTH WACO
EST 1964
TROPICAL FISH

Aquariums Supplies Service

Wide selection of Freshwater
& Saltwater Fish & Corals

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