

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 7

July 2022

HOTWGPS Events



Our 2022 pond tour was quite successful in spite of the 100+ degree weather. Thanks to all who showed their ponds on the tour.



<https://webbsonline.com/>

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



Our July meeting was on July 19st at 6:30 PM at Slow Rise on the Brazos.



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 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!!

This from the Pond Guy Blog



I am jealous of my friend's waterfall. Where do I start? ASKED BY: Ethan of Kailua-Kona, HI

Waterfall envy. We've all experienced it. It's that feeling you get when you see those stunning synchronized fountains at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, some over-the-top displays during your local pond and garden tour, or your pal's 15-foot 20,000-gallons-per-hour jaw dropper. You think, wow, I want that in my backyard!

Let's turn that jealousy into motivation.

With some planning, some equipment and a weekend (or two) of hard work, you can create a waterfall that will rival the others in your neighborhood. Here's how.

Be Budget Mindful

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Before you begin, think about how much money you want to spend and then work to develop a project budget. In most cases, the larger the waterfall, the more expensive it will cost—but some of those top-of-the-line accessories for smaller features can cost quite a bit, too. If you need some help, call a pond-building professional in your area who can assess your needs and suggest a starting point.

Making Space

You'll also want to consider how much room you have for your waterfall. Do you want to add a new feature to your existing pond? Alternatively, are you planning to build one from the ground up? In either case, how large will it be, and where will it go? Make sure that it's sized appropriately for your pond and/or yard, and position it in a place where you can enjoy it.

Changing the Look

If you have an existing pond and want to add a waterfall while changing the look of the water's flow, check out the [ClearSpring Waterfall Filter](#). Not only does it provide maximum year-round filtration to your pond, but it also offers two weir options – a smooth surface and a ribbed pattern – to add diversity to your water feature.

Another option is to increase your existing flow rate by bumping up your tubing size and pump size. More water and increased movement can make dramatic impacts in your water feature, and it's an easy adjustment to make with some plumbing and pump swaps.

Hobby Time

Finally, think about how much time you want to spend maintaining your water feature. Are you a weekend warrior with a full-time job, or do you have a busy family with soccer games every weekend? If so, you may not have a lot of time to spend on weekly and seasonal maintenance chores, like leaf netting and winterizing. A [Pondless Waterfall Kit](#) is an excellent solution. It provides the sights and sounds of running water with little maintenance.

If you have more time on your hands, consider adding a self-enclosed pond with pops of color to your landscape. The [Colorfalls Basin Kit](#) with [Color Changing Waterfall Weirs](#) is an easy-to-install system that includes a reservoir, the plumbing, the pump, all the fittings, double filtration, splash mat and even an automatic fill valve. The color-changing weirs feature 16 patterns and 48 color options – which should be enough to make your friend jealous!



This from Webbs Water Gardens

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PROTECT YOUR FISH *Heat Wave Tips*



How to Protect Your Fish from the Heat

With two thirds of the country experiencing a heat wave, we wanted to provide some tips to protect your fish from the high temperatures. Keep reading for advice on how to keep your water babies safe in this relentless summer weather.

Swap Fish Foods

If your water temperature reaches 80 degrees, we suggest swapping your protein rich food for wheat germ food. It's easier for fish to digest at these high temps. Wheat germ food is easier for fish to break down because it's carbohydrate based (which is also why it's recommended for cold weather feeding). The [Hikari Wheat Germ](#) food is one of our

favorites. Microbe-Lift [offers a great one](#), too.

Stop Feeding at 90

If your water temperature reaches 90 degrees, stop feeding altogether. Fish can't digest food at this water temp. If fish are continued to be fed at these temps the risk is sickness and possibly fish loss.

Aerate the Pond

Aeration can help cool water by keeping oxygen moving throughout, so keep those air pumps running. You can easily add one to your pond if you don't already have an aerator. They're a breeze to set up, especially the [Aquascape 2-Outlet Aeration Kit](#). It's our bestseller in this category.

Run Pumps 24/7

For the same reason you want to keep aerators running, it's important to keep your pond pumps running 24/7 during a heat wave. The water that pond pumps circulate will also keep oxygen moving through the pond. Additionally, they will keep your water quality high. If you're in need of a new pump, we have a [huge selection](#) and pond techs ready to help you pick out the best one for your pond configuration. Don't hesitate to reach out.

Partial Water Change

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A partial water change can also help cool water. Drain the water about 10% down (20% at most), then use your hose to refill the pond. The water from your hose will be cooler than the water that's in the pond resulting in a slight cool down. Don't forget to treat the water with a [dechlorinator](#) or [water conditioner](#) as most tap water will have additives that you want to neutralize for your pond. (Editor's note: our water temperature is very close to 90 degrees if not higher than that!!)

Protect Fish from Sunburn

Fish can actually get sunburned, so if you don't have shade they can hide under from plants or exterior features then we suggest investing in a product like the [Aquascape Fish Cave](#). In the meantime, turning some clay pots on their side underwater can give them a temporary place to hide. A member of our Facebook community said she uses a large pipe underwater for this and to give the fish a place to hide from predators. We've also seen customers use shade cloth to provide some additional shade.

We hope you have found these tips helpful and that they keep your fish swimming happy. As you watch out for the safety of your fish, don't forget about yourself, too. Stay hydrated, stay cool and stay safe in these high temps!

Food for thought

Found this on Nextdoor

I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me. He handed me a laminated card and said, "I'm Wasu, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk, I'd like you to read my mission statement". Taken aback, I read the card. It said "Wasu's mission statement: "To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest, and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment". This blew me away. Especially when I noticed the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean! As he slid behind the wheel, Wasu said, "would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf." I said jokingly, "no, I'd prefer a soft drink". Wasu smiled and said "no problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and diet coke, lassi, water, and orange juice". Almost stuttering, I said, "I'll take a lassi since I've never had one before". Handing me my drink, Wasu said "if you'd like something to read, I have Good Housekeeping magazine, Readers Digest, the Bible, and a Travel + Leisure magazine". As we were pulling away, Wasu handed me another laminated card, "these are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio". And as if that wasn't enough, Wasu told me he had the heater on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for me. Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time

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of the day. He also let me know he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

"Tell me, Wasu, have you always served customers like this? Wasu smiled into the rear-view mirror. "No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard about power of choice one day". "Power of choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle. If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining! Don't be a duck, be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd".

"That hit me right" said Wasu. He continued "It ios about me. I was always complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So, I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more". "I take it that has paid off well for you" I said. "It sure has," Wasu replied. "My first year, as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year, I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on it." Wasu made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles. I hope we all decide to soar like an eagle and not quack like a duck.

Credit: Summer Grace Vanni



On the lighter side



Where do catchers sit at lunch?

Behind the plate!



What does winter fat turn into?

Spring rolls!



Why did the Hippies microwave quit working?

He was trying to power it with flower power!



What do you call it when you get bubbles in your mouth while singing in the shower?

A soap opera!



Why did Beethoven give away his chickens?

They kept saying Bach, Bach, Bach!



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A guy got thrown out of the local park after arranging all the squirrels by size!

They didn't like him critter sizing!!



How many beers does it take to get a tropical bird drunk?

Toucans



Did you hear how Cap'n Crunch died?

Yeah, it was a cereal killer!



What do you call a bunch of animals that can't stop cracking jokes?

A funny farm!



The manager of a jewelry store nabbed Ole who was attempting to shoplift a necklace. "Listen" said Ole. "Yew don't vant any trouble and needer do I. What do yew say if I just buy da necklace and we forget dis ever happened?" Because Ole had never caused trouble before, the manager agreed and wrote up a sales slip. "Say," said Ole after looking at the price "dis is a bit more expensive den I wanted. Got anything cheaper?"



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