

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 14 issue 8

August 2022

HOTWGPS Events

Our August meeting was at Mindy Lawrenz' home. We had a great turnout of members, new members and guests. Mindy served pizza and several delicious side dishes. Mindy gave an interesting talk on landscape design. We also celebrated Dr. Becky Sue's birthday and enjoyed her birthday cake.



This from the Pond Guy Blog



<https://webbsonline.com/>

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



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 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!!

5 Reasons Why Water Changes Are Important

Adding water every week or so to replenish any loss from evaporation is certainly important--but it does nothing to remove the sludge, or algae-feeding nutrients, in your pond. As the water evaporates, the gunk stays behind and concentrates. Your filter does a good job removing the pollutants, but it's not always enough. A partial or complete water change in your koi pond or water garden freshens your finned pals' environment, keeping them happy and well.

Here are five reasons why water changes are so important to your fish, plants and other aquatic life:

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Nutrient Removal:

Muck and debris buildup happens in just about every water feature. A water change manually removes any excess nutrients and chemicals like nitrates, phosphates, and ammonia that can be harmful to fish and other underwater critters.

Fish Wellness:

Fresh, clean water means improved water quality, which ultimately promotes your fishes' wellness. Just as you need oxygen to thrive, your fish need clean water to thrive. Their well being is directly related to the liquid environment in which they live.

Algae Control:

Pea soup and string algae feed on all that decomposing waste, which they use as fertilizer. By removing those excess nutrients in the water column with a water change, you can discourage the growth of algae.

Fights Foam:

Foam forms when excess organic material has accumulated in your water garden. When this nutrient-laden water pours down your waterfall, the air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. A water change will quickly reduce that foamy buildup.

Clears Water, Stabilizes pH:

A water change will also improve the appearance of cloudy water and maintain pH levels, resulting in a pristine pond filled with happy fish, lush greenery, and clean water. To keep stress levels down among your fish, we recommend doing partial water changes when water temperatures are above 50° F.

In addition, be sure to add some Stress Reducer Plus and Nature's Defense to your water. The Stress Reducer Plus forms a beneficial slime coat on your fish and makes tap water safe for them and Nature's Defense will further reduce ammonia and digest dead organics in the pond, such as phosphates and nitrogen.



From Webbs Water Gardens
Sudden summer storms can quickly knock out power. During extended outages, be aware that the biological waste in filters may have started to break down anaerobically producing methane and hydrogen sulfide. These gasses are toxic to fish, so make certain to clean filters before power is restored.



On the lighter side

About a Navy Master Chief

“Look, I don’t know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they’re teaching sailors in boot camp these days, but I don’t call anyone by his first name”, the chief scowled. “It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my sailors by their last names only; Smith, Jones, Baker, Jackson, whatever. And you are to refer to me as ‘Master Chief’. Do I make myself clear?”

“Aye, Aye, Master Chief!”

“Now that we’ve got that straight, what’s your last name?”

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The seaman sighed. "Darling, My name is John Darling, Master Chief".



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