

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 15 issue 3

July 2023

HOTWGPS Events

Our 2023 Pond tour was HOT!! I think that was a significant factor in the somewhat reduced attendance from previous years. Our tour committee (Ron Haft) did a fantastic job of organizing and advertising the event and we thank him for all the effort he put into it.

Our July meeting will be July 18th at 6:30 PM at the Lake Waco Wetlands 1752 Eichelberger Crossing. It will be a potluck style feeding frenzy.

The program will be presented by our own Mindy Lawrenze.



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!!



The following articles from The Pond Guy including their advertising
How to Do a Jar Test



Creating a mini-ecosystem of your pond with a Jar Test will help you diagnose your pond problem. If you have green, tea-colored, or murky water doing the Jar Test will allow you to determine what is causing the clarity issue.

It's Simple

Take a clear glass jar, dunk it in your pond, fill it up with pond water, and let it sit in your garage (or darker space) for 24 hours. Overnight, the jar becomes a miniature version of your pond.

The Results

Green Water

If your jar contains green-tinted water or if the water has green particles in it, you most likely have algae. Planktonic algae – the source of algae blooms – are floating, microscopic plants that color pond water green, blue-green, brown or variations in

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between. Your jar is telling you to treat for [algae](#).

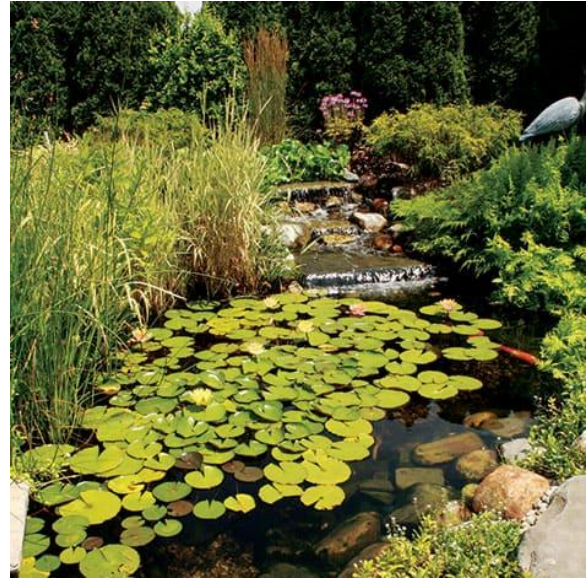
Tea-Colored Water

Discolored or tea-colored water means you have some leaf tea brewing in your pond. As organic debris decomposes in your pond, the tannins and other byproducts mix into the water column, discoloring it. Your first remedy is to add a bag of [Activated Carbon](#) to the water. It will clear up the dissolved materials that are causing the problem. While the carbon is working, remove floating and decaying material with the a [Net](#) or use the [ClearVac Pond Vacuum](#). Keep your pond clean by skimming it regularly and covering it with pond netting during the fall months.

Clear Water With Sediment

Does your jar have clear water with a layer of sediment on the bottom? If so, you have an abundance of organics in the pond, and your fish are constantly stirring them up and clouding the water. Here is a four-step solution to get you started:

1. Remove large debris.
2. Perform a partial water change.
3. Add a [Water Conditioner](#).
4. Double down on the [Beneficial Bacteria](#).



Using Beneficial Bacteria for Clear Water

Beneficial bacteria are instrumental in keeping a water garden clean and balanced. Beneficial bacteria, live their life noshing on the excess nutrients in your pond, converting it into a harmless gas. They then divide via a cellular division, called binary fission, to keep the population going. Since they are so handy, you might be tempted to add a few extra to really make your pond shine. While too much beneficial bacteria is not

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necessarily bad, it will likely make your pocketbook a little lighter.

Food Fight

Invite too many to your dinner party and there might not be enough food to go around. The same thing goes for your microorganisms. Overcrowding beneficial bacteria causes them to compete for resources rather than growing big so they can reproduce. Weaker organisms follow Charles Darwin's theory and ultimately starve and die. This causes the overall bacteria population to drop, meaning you need to add more bacteria to replace what gets lost. After a while, costs for repopulating could really add up.

When Good Bacteria Goes Bad

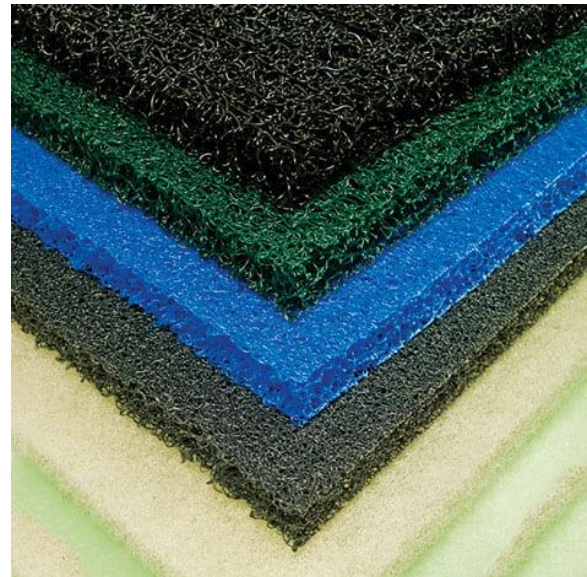
Plants and fish will generally be safe if too much beneficial bacteria is added. Trouble occurs when there is a lot of organic buildups, numerous beneficial bacteria, and inadequate aeration. Like fish and other aquatic organisms, good bacteria need oxygen. In ponds with high nutrient loads, bacteria are able to rapidly reproduce since food is not a limiting resource. This population explosion depletes the dissolved oxygen levels in the pond. Introducing an aeration kit, the CrystalClear [PondAir](#) or [KoiAir](#) Aeration Kits, will infuse oxygen into the pond and circulate the water column. Adding aeration will not only make a great addition for the summer when your bacteria are active, but it will also help keep a hole open in the ice during winter.

Even Stevens

The best bet for your pond and pocketbook is to stick to using the doses listed on the product labels for regular maintenance. After clean-outs or chemical treatments, we also recommend adding some [Mircrobe-Lift PL Gel](#) to jump-start the repopulation process. Beneficial bacteria is a useful tool for creating a balanced ecosystem, but it is only one piece of the pond. If you continually struggle with muck, poor water quality, or algae blooms, try to think about what the root of the problem might be; oftentimes, it is linked to one of these scenarios.



Should I use just one type of filter media or are multiple types better?



Filter media—or the stuff in your filter that holds beneficial bacteria—come in a range of shapes, sizes and densities. Some are plastic balls; some are fibrous mats and blocks; some are plastic spiral-shaped things that more

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resemble fusilli than pond products. With all the different types of filter media, it's tough to decide which is best.

Well, we'll make it easy for you: Try a little of each type. Just like plants, different filtration media provide different amounts of water filtration, so we recommend a mix of media pads, like [Matala Filter Media Pads](#), [Filter media Pads By-The-Foot](#); ridged plastic balls, like [The Pond Guy BioBalls](#); and curly plastic strips, like [Bacti-Twist Biological/Mechanical Filter Media](#).

When choosing the filter media, regardless of type, look for these defining characteristics:

- **Durability:** Your media should be able to withstand wear and tear. The Pond Guy BioBalls are more durable and longer-lasting compared to similar products.
- **Density:** Your media should be the right density for your specific needs. Matala Filter Media Pads come in 4 densities to suit your particular pond.
- **Surface area:** Your media should also have a lot of surface area, which will result in more places for beneficial bacteria to grow.

Your filter media's density and surface area are particularly important because they determine how much beneficial bacteria grow and the rate at which water flows through the material. Dense material allows for more bacteria colonization, while less-dense material allows for more water flow. By using all different types of filter media, you're encouraging optimal biological and mechanical filtration—and that's always a good thing in an enclosed system.

Already have filter media in your system? You may be able to use it for another season or two, but first, give it a visual inspection. Is it beginning to wear on the edges? Has it compacted over the last few seasons? Worn or compressed material should be replaced to give your pond top-quality filtration, but fresh, fluffy material can be reused.



On the lighter side

Sven and Ole were out in the country looking for a place to hunt. They pulled into a farmyard and Sven went up to the house to ask for permission to hunt.

The old farmer said, "Sure you can hunt, but would you do me a favor? That old mule standing over there is 20 years old and sick with cancer. I don't have the heart to kill her. Would you do it for me?"

Sven said, "Sure, no problem," and headed for the car. While heading back to the car he decided to pull a prank on Ole. He got into the car and said, "That old coot said we can't hunt here so I'm going to teach him a lesson."

With that, Sven rolled down his window, stuck his gun out, and blasted the mule. He exclaimed, "There, that will teach him!"

Suddenly, a second shot rang out from the passenger side and Ole exclaimed happily, "Ya, and I got da cow!"



Ole was driving his pickup erratically down the street, continually swerving back and

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forth till someone with a cellphone called the police.

.. A police officer pulled the car over.

Ole rolled down his window and said, "Officer, tank yew fer stopping. I saw a tree in da road, den I saw another von. So I had tew swerve back and forth ta keep from hitting it!

The officer looked at Ole and said, "Sir, that's not a tree.

It's your air freshener."



A nurse at the hospital received a call from a very anxious Ole.

"I'm a diabetic and I tink I had tew much sugar today" said Ole. '

"Are you light-headed?" asked the nurse.

·No," said Ole, I have black hair. But I don see how dat has any ting to do with it."



One Christmas morning Lena decided she was no longer going to hound her children about sending thank-you notes for their gifts.

As a result their grandmother, Hedda, never received acknowledgement of the generous checks she had given little Ole and Sven.

The next year she started bragging to all her friends after Christmas. "All da children came over to tank me in person dis year, she said.

"Wow!" said her friend. "What do you think made them do that?"

"Oh, dat's easy," said Hedda. "Dis year I didn't sign da checks."



Points to Ponder

Organisms in nature have survived and thrived for three and a half billion years, and they've done it without any kind of planning or predicting or anything that we spend so much of our time doing." *Rafe Sagarin*

Diversity of thought makes us stronger, not weaker.

Without diversity, we die off as a species. We can no longer adapt to changes in the environment. We need each other to survive." *Shane Farnam*

He who dares not offend cannot be honest." *Thomas Paine*

Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." *Winston Churchill in 1942*

If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking." *Haruki Murakami*



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