

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 15 issue 4

August 2023

## HOTWGPS Events

Our August meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. It will be at Trujillos Comedor Cantina at 2612 LaSalle (on the circle). **PLEASE RSVP by Friday the 11th to Susan at [fullhouseinspect@aol.com](mailto:fullhouseinspect@aol.com).**

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday evening!



### 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](mailto: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 Clear Brown Pond Water

There's only one thing worse than [green water](#), and that's brown pond water. In some ponds or water features, the water can begin to take on a discolored appearance at the end

of summer or the beginning of fall. Generally, it's caused by one of two reasons:

**Debris Tea:** When leaves or pine needles fall into your pond, the tannins in them create a type of all-natural debris tea, which can give pond water a brown tint rather than the clean and clear look you're used to. This is the most common cause of brown koi pond water.

**Sediment Stew:** If you have a lot of floating particulates or sediment in your pond, playful fish, wind, or some other action can sometimes disrupt it, mixing it into your water column via your pump or aeration system.

To determine what's causing brown or cloudy pond water, grab a glass or jar from your kitchen, fill it with water from your pond, and let it sit for 24 hours. Once that time has passed, take a look at the water to determine the underlying issue. If the water is still brown, you have tannin-colored debris tea. If the water is clear with some particulates at the bottom of the glass, you have sediment stew.

### Treating Brown Pond Water

Once you pinpoint what's causing the discoloration, here's how to clear brown pond water:

**Clean It Up:** Because both causes start with an abundance of organics in the water, your first course of action is to clean the bottom of your pond to remove any muck, leaves and remaining debris with a [Pond Vacuum](#) or [Pond Skimmer Net](#).

**Water Change:** Next, do a partial (10 to 25 percent) [water change](#), which will freshen

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things up and clear the water. Don't forget to add a [Pond Water Conditioner](#) to help support fish wellness.

**Add Beneficial Bacteria:** If you have sediment in your pond, add some [Nature's Defense](#) (if water temperatures are above 50°F) or [Seasonal Defense](#) (if water temperatures are below 50°F). The beneficial bacteria will digest any accumulated organic debris and help eliminate brown pond water.

**Use Activated Carbon:** If you have debris tea, toss a media bag filled with [Activated Carbon](#) into your pond. The carbon will absorb the tannins, leaving behind clear water.

## Ongoing Maintenance

To prevent the discoloration from returning, keep organic material out of your pond. Clean up muck regularly with a skimmer net or vacuum, and when leaves or pine needles start falling, cover the water with pond netting like or [Premium Pond Netting](#). If you have any questions or need help, our [customer service team](#) will be happy to assist you.



## 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:

### 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

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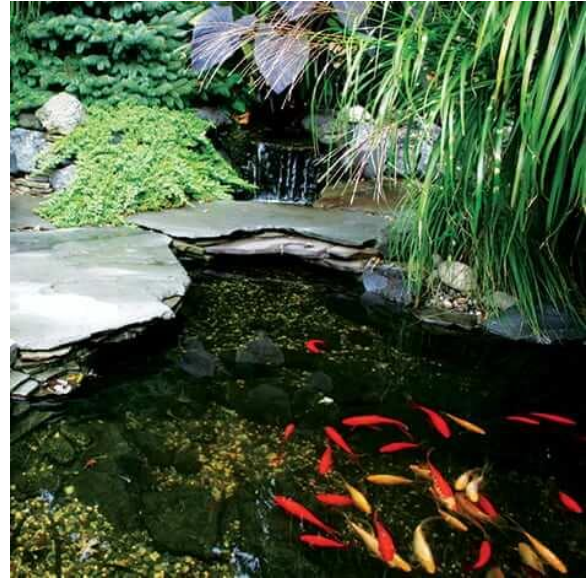
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this nutrient-laden water pours down your waterfall, the air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. A water change will quickly reduce that foamy buildup.

## **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 as soon as water temperatures reach 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.



## **Understanding the Nitrogen Cycle**

A well-balanced ecosystem in a pond is the perfect environment for plants and fish to thrive. Creating and maintaining this ecosystem is easy once you have a good understanding of the basics. In this article, we will discuss the nitrogen cycle and why it is important to all aquatic life in a pond.

### **Nitrogen Cycle 101**

The nitrogen cycle in a Koi Pond is responsible for biological filtration to keep the water at safe levels to support aquatic life including fish and plants. Without an established ecosystem, high levels of ammonia and nitrites can put fish in danger.

Once a pond is installed, nitrogen from the atmosphere enters the pond through rainfall, wind and runoff. Leaves, twigs and other debris may also enter the pond. In mature Koi ponds, fish waste and uneaten fish food will also add to the debris and it will start to decay over time with the help of beneficial bacteria

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or microorganisms called nitrosomonas and nitrobacter. As the debris breaks down it releases ammonia into the water. Nitrosomonas will reduce the ammonia and oxygen levels in the pond by consuming them and produce nitrites. Nitrites are also harmful to Koi so another organism called nitrobacter will reduce the nitrites in the water and convert them to harmless nitrates. The nitrates are then reduced by water changes or consumed by aquatic plants and algae.

## New Pond, New Bacteria

Nature takes time to establish an abundant population of beneficial bacteria, nitrosomonas and nitrobacter, so when a pond is first started, you may want to wait four to six weeks before adding fish as the ammonia and nitrites levels will be high.

To help increase the number of beneficial microorganisms, seed your filter media with sticky bacteria like Pure+ Filter Start Gel or PL Gel, and add Nature's Defense to the water. Boosting dissolved oxygen levels in the pond can also be helpful with a simple Aeration Kit.

## Maintain Bacteria Levels

In the early spring when established ponds are waking up after a long winter, a similar cycling process will take place. Some nitrosomonas and nitrobacter will survive in your filtration media and gravel and begin to colonize, but it's a good idea to give them a boost. Seasonal Defense is formulated for use in cooler temperatures – making it perfect for early spring applications. Since those microorganisms live in your filtration media,

avoid washing it unless water flow is restricted.

## Cycled and Ready for Fish

Prepare your water before adding fish into your pond to keep them safe. Throughout the first four to six weeks, monitor ammonia and nitrite levels using a master test kit. Once the test indicates that your levels are safe, the pond is ready for fish. Start by adding only a few small fish at first to see how well they do before adding more.

Pro Tip: Keep in mind as the fish grow they will produce more waste, so to keep your water safe, allow 1-2 koi or 2-3 goldfish per 200 gallons of water.



## AquaNooga tip of the week

July 18 2023

Summer is in full swing and that means we're in the midst of mosquito season. This often becomes a concern for pond keepers (or more frequently the neighbors of a pond keeper.) By knowing the facts and control methods, you can better control the mosquito population and reduce the concerns of neighbors. See our [mosquito article](#) to see how water gardeners can help decrease the nearby mosquito population. Spoiler alert - you are already doing a lot.

## On the lighter side

A ship's giant engine broke down and no

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one on board could repair it. So they hired a mechanical engineer with over 30 years of experience. After carefully examining the engine, from top to bottom, the engineer unloaded his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He knocked something gently. Soon the engine roared to life again. It had been fixed! The engineer told the ship's owner that the cost of repairing the engine was \$20,000.

"What!?" said the owner. "You did almost nothing. I need to see a detailed bill." So the engineer put together a bill that said: Tap with a hammer: \$2

Knowing where to knock and how much to knock: \$19,998

Moral of the story: You don't get paid for the minutes on the job. You get paid for your years of experience.



This from the Farm Show magazine

In the past couple years fully-equipped top-of-the-line Deere combines have increased in price to more than one million dollars.

So about a month ago we went into Deere's "Build Your Own" website and This 9RX 640 tractor can set you back nearly a million dollars with all the options.

The base price was \$900,224. Attachments and accessories cost \$17,115 and the options we selected (upgraded engine and transmission and "comfort" packages). added another \$73,504. Grand total: \$990,843. FYI, in 2015 the base model 9RX640 sold for right at \$554,000 while a tricked-out unit would cost you about \$680,000.



**Ole got pulled over by a cop, who said,** "You were speeding. Didn't you see the speed limit sign?"

"Ya, I saw da sign," said Ole. "I just didn't see yew!"



**Ole was trying to prove to his wife, Lena,** that women talk more than men. He showed her a study which said that men use about 10,000 words per day while women use 20,000 per day.

Lena thought about this for a while. Dat's because women have to repeat everyting dey say to men."

Ole responded, "What did yew say?"



**Lena came running into the store** and said to her husband Ole, "Hey, Ole, somebody yust stole our pickup truck from da parking lot!"

Ole replied, "Did yew see who it vas?"

Lena answered, "I couldn't tell, but I got da license plate number!"

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**Ole and Lena were arguing** and decided to give each other the silent treatment. Ole realized he needed his wife to wake him at 5 :00 a.m. the next morning for a flight to Wisconsin.

Not wanting to be the first to speak, he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 a.m."

The next morning Ole woke up to discover that it was 9:00 a.m. and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go see why his wife hadn't woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. It said, "It's 5:00 a.m. Wake up."

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



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