

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 15 issue 6

October/November 2023

## HOTWGPS Events

Our October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was at the Jalisco Mexican restaurant and many members enjoyed good food and fellowship. Our President John presented Nora Schell with a \$1,000.00 check from our pond tour proceeds.



Our next meeting will be on November 28 at (tentatively) the Galts. This is our annual “Holiday Party”. HOTWGPS will pay for the meat to be shared by all. The sides will be provided by the Members.

We will be doing the “Bad Santa/Chinese gift exchange again this year. There is a \$25.00 max limit on the gifts. 1 gift per person or couple. Bring 1 gift, get 1 gift.



## 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](mailto: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!!



The following articles from The Pond Guy including their advertising.



## Seasonal Feeding

By The Pond Guy

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As the seasons change, so do your fish's feeding habits. Koi, goldfish, and other species are cold blooded and take cues from the water temperature. At pond temperatures of 50°F and above, your fish will be active and ready for their summer diet. When temperatures are lower, your finned friends will slow down to get ready to go dormant for winter. Use these fish feeding techniques to keep your fish happy and well.

## Cut Back

In getting ready for wintertime, your fish will reduce their activity level and metabolism rate. They naturally start to eat less than when they were growing in summer. As the water temperatures cool, you will want to reduce the quantity of food you serve. Not only will it save you from skimming out what they do not eat, you will also have a cleaner pond since your fish will produce less waste.

## Nutritional Facts

In the summer, your fish crave a protein-rich diet, like Growth & Vibrance. This gives them the nutrients they need to grow and add mass. In the spring and fall, your fish will lack the digestive enzymes needed to break down their summer food, so you will want to switch over to a wheat germ based diet, like Spring & Fall Fish Food. This is a carbohydrate-heavy food that is easier for your fish to metabolize when water temperatures are between 40-50°F. When the water temperatures drop below 40°F, stop all feeding. Your fish will not be able to process the food which can lead to complications as the food will rot in their stomachs. Instead, your fish will live off their fat reserves they stored up during summer.

## Something Special

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Even though their diet is changing, your fish will still like indulging in a treat from time to time. Some things to feed your pond fish are oatmeal or oat-based cereal or share some veggies, such as carrots, pumpkin, or frozen peas. These snacks will be gentle on their system and give them some extra nutrients.

## Food for Thought

Though you can resume feeding your fish their wheat germ food when your pond thermometer **consistently** reads above 40°F in spring, you may want to consider waiting until the water temperatures get between 45-55°F. After the long winter, take some time to get their appetite back to full force. Waiting will also allow them to readjust and get their digestive juices flowing. In the meantime, they will satiate their hunger by snacking on any algae in the pond.



## What is a Bog Filter?

By The Pond Guy

A bog filter for ponds, also known as a bog garden or wetland filter, is a natural filtration system that uses gravel and aquatic plants to help keep your pond clean and free of algae blooms. Bog filters are designed to filter and purify water by mimicking the natural processes that occur in wetland ecosystems. The gravel traps organic matter, which is then broken down by bacteria and the nutrients are absorbed by the plants.

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One of the advantages of bog filters is their ability to promote biodiversity. The aquatic plants in the filter provide habitat and food sources for various organisms, attracting beneficial insects and supporting a range of wildlife. Additionally, bog filters can be aesthetically pleasing, adding an attractive, natural element to a garden or landscape.

## How a Pond Bog Filter Works

A pond bog filter is essentially a pond for your pond. A separate, smaller pond about 10-20% the size of your pond is built in, next to, or around your main pond and connected using ventilated pvc piping and a pump.

Water is pumped from your main pond through the bog filter for your pond, where the gravel traps the organic debris. The organic matter is then broken down by bacteria, which turns it into food for the bog plants.

Bog plants are not only a beautiful addition to any pond, but aquatic plants serve several

purposes in a pond, including providing natural filtration for the water.

In a pond bog filter, the roots from the aquatic plants absorb the excess minerals in the water from the organic matter that would normally fuel algae growth, like nitrates, ammonia, and phosphates. Then the cleaned water is pumped back into your pond, resulting in a clean — not green — pond. Without the excess minerals from organic matter like fish waste, grass clippings, and leaves and twigs that drop into your pond, the algae is starved of nutrients and cannot grow.

## Bog Filters Are Challenging

Pond bog filters can be technically challenging and require expert knowledge, a custom design, and lots of space. While some pond enthusiasts may be enticed by the opportunity to recreate a wetland environment, others might be deterred by the significant time and resource commitment required.

Luckily, pond bog filters are not your only option for keeping your pond clean. There are a variety of filtration systems for ponds of all sizes that are much less complicated to install, easy to maintain, and do an excellent job at keeping your pond clean and free of algae blooms.



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I'm keeping the leaves out of my pond. I installed the netting the first week of October when I noted the leaves on those big Bur Oak trees beginning to show signs of yellowing. Keeping the leaves out of the water is very helpful in maintaining water quality as well as fewer skimmer cleanouts!

When many leaves are allowed to get into the pond, the tannins in them will cause the water to become tea colored! Additionally, they significantly add to the muck that accumulates on the bottom. Too much accumulation of muck can cause water quality issues that can make the fish sick.

Another side benefit of netting over the pond besides keeping the leaves out is it will keep MOST critters from dining on your fish. Note, I said most critters! If you should be unfortunate enough to be visited by river otters, nets are only a minor inconvenience to them!



## On the lighter side

This from the Farm Show magazine

## Recipe for preserving children.

6 young children  
1 large grassy field  
3 dogs  
Many Flowers  
1 babbling brook with pebbles  
1 Hot sun  
1 deep blue sky  
Mix the children and dogs together and empty them out into the field, stirring continuously. Sprinkle the field with the flowers and pour the brook gently over the pebbles. Cover all with the deep blue sky and bake in the hot sun. Once the children are well browned and tired, they may be removed. Cool off in a soapy bathtub.



## Points to Ponder

“Everything is habit forming, so make sure what you do is what you want to be doing.”

*Wilt Chamberlain*

“Love is blind, marriage is a real eye opener.” *Gary Samson*

“A problem is a chance to do your best.”

*Duke Ellington*

“People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.” *H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*



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## Everything about Bees

Honey is the only food with every substance needed to sustain life.

Honey doesn't ever turn bad. You can actually eat honey found in Egyptian tombs that are thousands of years old.

A single bee produces just half a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

Honey has been used as an antibacterial and anti-fungal for generations.

Honey is a natural sleep aid; add a shot of honey to a cup of chamomile tea before sleep.

To make one pound of honey, bees need to visit 2 million flowers.

Bees don't sleep.

Honey helps heal burns.

Babies under 12 months of age shouldn't eat honey because their immune system isn't strong enough to handle a certain strain of bacteria often found in honey.

Without bees, over a third of all food eaten America wouldn't exist.

Bees communicate with other bees by dancing.

How did bees know how to make honeycombs into hexagons? It's the most efficient shape to store the maximum amount of honey with the least amount of wax.



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



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