

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 16 issue 1

Happy New Year!

January 2024

HOTWGPS Events

Our November Holiday Party was a big success at the Galt's home! Most of the membership attended. The Food was provided by members and the society paid for the meat beans etc. catered by our own members, the Matthys' catering service.

Our January meeting was cancelled due to the nasty cold and somewhat slippery conditions. My ponds and waterfalls gathered LOTS of ice during the 80+ consecutive hours below freezing.

Happy New Year!

It is that time of the year again for paying our dues.

Membership dues are due January 1.

Family \$30.00

Individual \$20.00

Non-Voting associate \$15.00

Corporate/Business \$125.00

Bring your dues to the next meeting or mail your check to HOTWGPS, 700 Fox Ridge Rd., Lorena, TX 76655



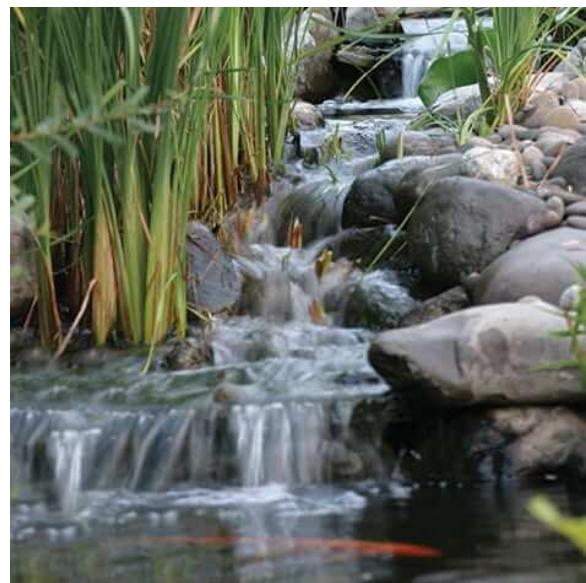
Pond Vac

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 including their advertising



Choosing Filter Media

By The Pond Guy

Filters are great; they do your dirty work without complaining. But they will need a little love from time to time to keep them in fighting shape. We all know that it is important to clean your filters, but how much is too much? When do you have to replace your filter, and for that matter with all those options which one do you choose? Questions like these can haunt a pond owner, but with some guidance, you will be on your way to becoming a savant.

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Types of Filtration

Filtration can be separated into two types – mechanical and biological. Mechanical filtration removes algae, leaves, and other larger debris. Biological filtration provides a home for your beneficial bacteria. Beneficial bacteria are responsible for getting rid of the excess nutrients that cause algae blooms.

Choosing Your Media

There are lots of options available, so it can be difficult to determine which media to use and where to put it. Having a mix of filter media will be your best bet to making sure you are getting your mechanical and biological filtration. Below are some options to help you filter through the choices:

Standard Density - Biological Filtration:

While Standard Density media provides some mechanical filtration for larger particulates, its primary focus is to provide surface area for beneficial bacteria to grow. The bacteria colonize within the media fibers, removing ammonia and nitrites caused by fish waste and debris.

Note: Standard Density filter pads are constructed with an open weave design, allowing for higher water flow rates and will require less frequent cleaning compared to higher density products.

High Density - Mechanical Filtration:

If your pond water contains fine particulates, High Density filter media is a great option. High-Density filter media is extremely efficient at trapping tiny particulates.

Designed with closely-woven fibers, it works to "polish" the water. Once particulates are trapped, they can be removed from the media with a simple cleaning. When using multiple densities of filter media, be sure to layer your filter pad so that your water flow goes from the lowest density to highest density filter pad.

Note: When heavy particulates are present, High-Density filter pad will require more frequent cleanings to avoid a reduction in water flow.

Keep It Clean, Kind Of

Cleaning your filter is important but cleaning it too frequently can wash away your beneficial bacteria. Mechanical filter pads can be cleaned every 1-2 weeks or when there is a reduced flow since they are filtering out the larger debris, but biological media should only be cleaned once or twice per year. If you are using a pressurized filter, like the AllClear, check to see if there is a pressure indicator and use that as a guideline for cleaning your filter. When cleaning, use pond water or gently spray with a garden hose rather than scrubbing them spotless with soap or harsh abrasives.

Finding Replacements

If the filter pads look worn on the edges or it has gaping holes, then it is time to get some new ones. Matala Filter Media Pads are specially coated to increase durability. Cutting your own filter pads can save you up

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to 80% compared to buying a pre-cut size designed for your filtration system. The filter pads we offer can be cut using a bread knife or heavy-duty pair of scissors. (editor note: I use an old electric knife to cut my filters to size) Use your old filter pad as a template to make sure you get the right fit.

Restart With Bacteria

After cleaning or replacing your media, give your filter a jumpstart by seeding your beneficial bacteria. If the water temperature is between 40-50°F, add Seasonal Defense to the pond or toss it right on top of the media in your waterfall box. If it's more than 55°F, use some PL Gel on your filter media and let it set for 1-2 hours before putting it back in your filter unit.

Good filtration starts with good media. When starting your pond in the spring and periodically through the season, make sure to check filters are in good working order. Doing so will save you time, hassle, and money because you will stay ahead of any potential problems and avoid dealing with insufficient filtration.



Will a Water Feature Bring in Mosquitoes?

By The Pond Guy

If pond keeping were a recipe for multiplying mosquitoes, it would be tough to justify having a pond at all. Fortunately, the same things that make a pond attractive to you make it an unwelcome spot for mosquitoes looking to settle down and start a family.

Keep Water Moving

Mosquitoes, it seems, prefer to lay their larva in stagnant water. As it turns out, ponds are much cleaner and more attractive when they're well aerated. The benefits of aeration are twofold. First, aeration helps gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter to dissipate naturally - which in turn eliminates the potential for unpleasant pond odor. Second - and very importantly - a well-aerated pond is a lousy place for mosquito

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larvae. That's why so many of our customers turn to PondAir and KoiAir Aeration Kits.



For pond keepers who prefer a more dramatic display of mosquito-beating aeration, we recommend our ClearSolution G2 Filter System. In addition to the oxygenating benefits of aeration, these pumps double as fountains, sending up a spray of water to keep you entertained - while keeping mosquitoes at bay.

When Stagnant Water Forms

Under some circumstances, aeration isn't a viable alternative. In those cases, our Mosquito Bits and Mosquito Dunks offer a safe, EPA-approved means to kill mosquito larva for up to 30 days.

So don't let the threat of mosquitoes stand between you and your pond. Give them the fight of their lives - and we'll do everything we can to make sure you come out ahead.

(Editors note: your fish will be most happy to eat any mosquito larvae that manage to inhabit the pond)



On the lighter side

Lena was being interviewed for a job as a maid for a very wealthy lady, who asked her, "do you have any religious views"? "No", said Lena, "but I've got some nice pictures of Norway."

During a recent password check, Sven was found using MickeyMinnie Pluto HueyLouie Dewey DonaldGoofyStPaul. When asked why he used such a long password, he answered "Vell, I vas told dat my password had to be at least eight characters long and include vun capital."



While attending a marriage seminar dealing with communication, Ole and Lena listened to the instructor explain that it is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes. He asked Ole "can you name your wife's favorite flower?" Ole thought about it for a while then answered "Ya, Lena always uses Pillsbury."



Sven recently volunteered to entertain at the local center. He told jokes and sang songs from his native Norway for a group of residents. As he was leaving, he said "I hope ya all get better." One elderly resident replied, "I hope you get better too."



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

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