

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 16 issue 4

April-May 2024

## HOTWGPS Events

Our 2024 Pond Tour is going to be on June 8 & 9 we're hoping for a great turnout and hopefully, the weather will cooperate!



Membership dues **were 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](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 is from The Pond Guy including their advertising

## How to Encourage Koi Spawning



From purchasing fry holding tanks to choosing the perfect fish to mate, you can go to great lengths if you're serious about koi fish breeding. For more casual homeowners, however, there are still several easy steps you can take to encourage successful koi spawning without turning it into a full-time job. In this guide, we'll cover the basics of how to breed koi fish, including when and how spawning happens and how to support it.

## Create Koi Spawning Areas

The leaves, stems, and root systems of underwater plants give your pond fish safe places to spawn and lay their eggs. And when those tiny fry hatch, the plants provide protection, food, and a comfortable place to call home.

Submerged pond plants are easy to add to your water garden or fish pond. Simply fill Planting Baskets with planting media, add

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some oxygenators, and place the planted basket on the bottom of your pond or on a plant shelf on the side of your pond. These baskets allow the plant's roots to branch out and find nourishment while containing it and preventing fish from nibbling on its root system.

## When Do Koi Spawn?

Temperature and time of year matter when it comes to koi breeding. Fish typically spawn when water temperatures are 65° to 70°F. In many ponds, this usually happens in late spring or early summer between May and June.

## How Do Koi Fish Mate?

When koi prepare to spawn, the males begin chasing after the females, nudging their sides with their mouth and fins. This encourages the female koi to lay her eggs. Once eggs have been laid, the male koi will fertilize them, and the future koi will begin to grow and develop. You may also notice cloudy or foamy water accompanied by a distinct odor.

## Keep Your Pond Clean

It's important that you keep the water in your pond clean and safe from potential diseases while the fry are developing. Perform regular water changes and use [The Pond Guy Stress Reducer Plus](#) or Microbe Lift Dechlorinator when adding new water to remove chlorine and toxic heavy metals from your tap or well water. It's also helpful to add [Pond Salt](#) to the water to keep fish stress down and help prevent diseases. If you want to learn more, read our article on the benefits of using [salt in koi ponds](#).

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## Keep the Fry Safe

Newly hatched fry can't swim and will need a protected area that's safe from natural [predators](#) like tadpoles, frogs, and other koi. Make sure you give them plenty of coverage with water hyacinth, water lettuce, (**Editor note: water hyacinth and water lettuce are PROHIBITED plants in Texas waters**) and other [floating pond plants](#). You might also consider using a fine mesh tent, like the [Nycon Fish Spawning Incubator](#), to protect them and prevent them from becoming trapped in your filtration system.

As your new additions begin to grow, there will be added ammonia and nitrates in the pond. If you plan to keep these new koi, make sure you're providing adequate filtration in your pond and aren't deviating from a practical fish load based on your pond size. Having more fish in your pond than your filtration system can handle can lead to more severe algae blooms and muck accumulation. To combat this, keep adding [beneficial bacteria](#) like [Nature's Defense](#) or [Muck Defense](#) to break this waste down.

## What's Next?

With a little staging and encouragement, koi fish breeding becomes a lot easier. Try implementing some of these steps this season to take your koi spawning efforts to the next level! If you have any questions along the way, our [customer service](#) team will be happy to help.



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## How can I create a good environment for my fish to spawn?

A little candlelight, some smooth jazz playing in the background, a private spot beneath the lilies ... sounds romantic, doesn't it? Well, when you're creating an ideal spawning environment for your fish, they really need little more than the right set up. The key is knowing what that set up should be – here's where to start.

**Know Your Fish:** Do you know what kinds of fish live in your pond or lake? Before you begin to prepare your fishes' love nest, you need to know what kinds you have, as different species have different needs. For instance, a spawning Bluegill prefers water temperatures that are 65 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit and some gravel or sand substrate for nest-building purposes. Check with your region's fisheries and wildlife department for more information about fish common in your area.

**Adjust the Environment:** Once you know the type of fish you have and their preferred setting for spawning, recreate that environment. In a large lake or pond, you won't be able to adjust the ambient water temperature, but you can use an [aerator](#) to be sure you're giving the fish enough oxygen, add gravel in the shallow areas and provide hiding spots, like the [Porcupine Fish Attractor Spheres](#), to protect the fish and their young fry. If they feel comfortable, they'll be more likely to get in the mood for love.

**Add Safe Havens:** Finally, create some specific areas for spawning fish. Bluegill, for example, will appreciate the [Pond King Spawning Discs](#), which are 20-inch concave

poly discs that resemble nests where the fish can deposit their eggs. Artificial habitats, can provide escape areas for smaller fish when placed in water 3 to 4 feet deep. Aids like these also provide a spot for algae – a.k.a. fry food – to flourish.

When you want to set the mood for your finned friends, follow these three simple steps. You'll create a spawning friendly environment and a lake full of thriving, happy game fish.



## On the lighter side

**When the doctor noticed that Ole looked in rough shape, Ole said, "High blood pressure, Doc. It comes from my family."**

"Your mother's side or your father's?" The doctor asked. "Neither," Ole replied. "It's from my wife's family." "Oh, come now Ole," the doctor said. "How could your wife's family give you high blood pressure?" Ole sighed, "You otta meet dem sometime, Doc!"



**Ole and Lena were visited by a door-to-door salesman.**

He tried to convince them that if they bought the big new freezer he was selling, they'd save enough money on their grocery bill to pay for the new freezer.

Ole responded that they were paying for the house on what they were saving on rent.

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Also, they were saving on movie tickets with the price of cable TV.

Finally, Ole said, "And we're saving on the laundromat with the new washer and dryer. So I guess, we have to say that we can't afford to save any more right now!"



## The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence.

Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating."

The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word fascinate, not fascinating."

Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated."

The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word fascinate."

Little Ole raised his hand. The teacher hesitated because she'd been burned by little Ole before.

She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate," so she called on him.

Little Ole said, "My mom Lena has a sweater with ten buttons, but she has put on weight so she can only fasten eight."



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



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