

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 17 issue 3

September 2025

HOTWGPS Events



In August, the HOTWGPS had a great meeting with 30+ members in attendance. We met in the park like setting at the Bone Ranch hosted by Suzy Needler. A great time was had by all.



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!!



The following is from aquascape

Why You Need Plants in Your Pond: An Important Part of the Ecosystem

Which type of pond owner are you? Do you love fish and enjoy keeping koi as pets? Or

maybe you’re an avid gardener that desired a pond so you could expand your outdoor plant and flower options. The majority of pond owners want a pond in order to enjoy its overall beauty in addition to the soothing sound of the waterfall. Regardless of which type of pond owner you are, it’s important to understand why you need plants in your pond and how they enhance the overall ecosystem.

The Role of Pond Plants

Plants provide beauty and naturalization while offering the plant enthusiast a whole new world of plant choices. Most importantly, they help balance the pond ecosystem by providing valuable biological filtration that removes nitrogen, ammonia, nitrates, and other minerals from the water that algae would otherwise feed and flourish on. All this minimizes pond maintenance, leaving more time to enjoy your beautiful water garden. Without hardworking aquatic plants, your pond would not be able to function as its own little ecosystem. Food and Shelter for Pond Fish The plants in your pond provide food, shade, and protection for the fish and wildlife that live in and around the pond. They also provide areas for fish to spawn and a safe place for frogs and toads to lay their eggs. But plants don’t even need to be in the pond in order to help your wildlife. Plants placed around the edges of your pond attract birds looking for food and shelter, while blooming plants attract beneficial insects, butterflies, and others to your watery paradise. Waterlilies, the most popular of all the aquatic plants, spread a multitude of leaves across the surface that shades the water. This natural umbrella comes in a beautiful hue of green, providing shade

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which keeps the water a cool, comfortable temperature for your fish, as well as aids in preventing algae growth.

Visual Beauty of Pond Plants

Plants also provide pleasure to the pond lover. There's something special and delightful when seeing a frog pop its head up between the lily pads or watching him take rest on top of the round leaf. Equally interesting is spotting a dragonfly zipping around the pond and coming to rest on a waterlily bloom. This euphoric paradise wouldn't be possible without plants. Being in the presence of the lush and aromatic plantings, from waterlilies, lotus, aquatic mint and more in the water, to the infinite numbers of flowering terrestrial beauties surrounding the pond, it's all a memorable and exhilarating experience.

What Happens If There Are No Pond Plants?

Eliminate plants from the pond and what you have is the equivalent of a lawn without a landscape. Not to mention, you've greatly reduced the beneficial filtration in the pond. By itself, clean and clear water has an attractive quality, but in order to make it naturally clear, plants are an absolute necessity. Some plants prefer to be planted in the stream because they thrive on higher oxygen levels that exist in moving water. Other plants prefer no movement at all. In addition, each aquatic plant species has its own requirements for water depth. Some prefer to grow in deeper areas of the pond, while others will only tolerate getting their feet wet in very shallow water. Having a good

assortment of plants whose roots reach different depths, consuming different nutrients at each level of the pond, will provide your pond with broad-spectrum filtration.

Aquatic Plants are Nature's Filters

Each type of aquatic plant has its own set of requirements for optimum growth. The more a plant grows, the more food it needs. Pond plants thrive off the same nutrients as algae, so when they're larger and consuming more nutrients, they're starving algae of its food source. The more your plants consume, the less algae you'll have in your pond.

Mix It Up with Variety of Aquatic Plants

It's always best to select a variety of plants for your pond. Mix it up and have fun with the colorful array of flowers, textures, and plant heights. Variety is what makes a water garden interesting. For an exciting color palette in your pond, try different varieties of waterlilies. And don't be afraid to invest in tropical waterlilies, too. They come in unique colors and some bloom at night which is an advantage for people who work during the day. When you head out to your pond for a bit of relaxation after work, your night bloomers will greet you with open petals. When it comes to marginals and floating plants, there is an almost overwhelming array from which to choose. You can go with old standbys such as pickerel plant, cattail, lizard's tail, and sweet flag. Or you could try more exotic options like cardinal flowers, cannas, taros, and rushes. Don't forget to try a majestic lotus with its huge leaves and giant

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flowers. Different varieties allow you to grow it in anything from a small decorative pot to the largest of water gardens. Many people think lotuses are too large for their small pond, or difficult to grow. This isn't entirely true, just remember that lotus need at least six hours of direct (not dappled) sunlight to bloom their best.

Now That You Know

Learning a little more about the role of plants in your pond is important to help you better understand the ecosystem you have in your very own yard. When it comes to keeping plants in your water garden, remember to stay educated and have fun. Don't be afraid to experiment with new plants, but for best results, read up on their requirements before adding them to your pond.

<https://www.aquascapeinc.com/water-gardening/why-you-need-plants-in-your-pond-an-importantpart-of-the-ecosystem>



The following from the Pond Guy

Editor note: The article has many of their products shown. Webbs Water Gardens has similar products that are just as effective and probably a little cheaper with our HEART10 discount.

Using Beneficial Bacteria for Clear Water

Beneficial bacteria are instrumental in keeping a water garden clean and balanced.

Beneficial bacteria, like those found in The Pond Guy [Nature's Defense](#), [Muck Defense](#), and [Seasonal Defense](#), 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 necessarily bad, it will likely make your pocketbook a little lighter.



Beneficial Bacteria Keeps Your Pond Clean, Clear and Balanced

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.

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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.



On the lighter side

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday

A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it.

“Oh,” said Ole, “I perswades her to switch to a clarinet.” “how come?” asked Lars.

“Vell” Ole answered, “Because vit a clarinet, she cant sing.”



Ole was working out in the gym when he spotted a very pretty young woman.

He asked the trainer who was nearby, “Vaht machine in here should I use to impress dat pretty young voman over dere?”

The trainer looked Ole up and down and said, “I’d try the ATM in the lobby.”



There was a fancy new vending machine in the breakroom where Ole started working.

Ole put his money in the machine and a packaged sandwich came out. He was so excited he put more money in the machine and got another sandwich.

After he had a pile of sandwiches, Sven asked Ole, “Don’t you think you should stop now?”

Ole said, “Vy, I’m just starting to vin big!”



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

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