

Next Meeting: April 10th – 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Desert Landscaping Presenter: Tom McDonald, Smiling Dog Landscapes at
<http://www.smilingdoglandscapes.com>

The April meeting will be held Saturday, April 10th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Pet and Richard Smith. The Smiths live at 3096 W. Ironwood Circle in Chandler. Phone is 480-821-9412

Please bring lawn chairs and containers for plants and fish.

Directions:

From the West: I 10 to US 60, south on Loop 101 to Warner exit (58). Follow access road (Price Road) South past Warner to N. Seville Blvd. Turn right on W. Ironwood Circle, left where road branches follow to 3096 W. I Ironwood Circle.

From the Northwest/Northeast: Loop 101 south to Warner exit. Follow directions above.

From the East/Southeast valley: US 60 to Loop 101, south to Warner exit and follow directions above.

Valley of the Sun Koi Club, Inc. "Greater Phoenix Open Koi Show" is April 3rd.

The Children's day event starts at 10:00 am in Margaret T Hance Park. Valley of the Sun Koi Club is going to introduce a new children's game called "Feed the Koi." Food pellets (bean bags) are tossed toward a Koi painted on a board and it has its mouth open! Pellet in the mouth is success! Koi Coloring will be another VSKC event.

Vendors will start on Friday, April 2nd at noon. The main event is the Children's Festival on April 3rd from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

A's AQUARIUM (GOLDFISH) WWW.GOLDFISHNET.COM 972 530-5193 will have a booth at the show.

GPPS will have a booth to solicit potential members again this year. The only cost to GPPS is volunteer's time on Saturday (10 am -3 pm). RSVP to Dave (Bigd_1956@yahoo.com) for more information regarding GPPS volunteer times.

Pond Happenings



Hello GPPS Members!

The March meeting was another good one and there were a good number of members in attendance. Rob Lang, “The Pond Perfectionist” was the speaker and his talk on “Preparing for Spring” was not only informative but generated numerous questions and answers, thanks Rob!

We are gearing up for our pond tour in May and have a couple of events coming up to generate interest in the tour and GPPS. The first one is the Children’s Kite Festival and Valley of the Sun Koi Show at Margret T. Hance Park on April 3rd. GPPS will have a booth space courtesy of the Valley of the Sun Koi Club. The hours are 10:00AM to 3:00PM, if anyone wants to help out at the booth please give me a call.

The next event is the Maricopa County Home Show at the Arizona State Fairgrounds on April 30th, May 1st & 2nd. The Home Show organizers have offered us a complimentary 10 X 10 booth again. We have accepted their offer and are moving forward putting things together for our booth display. The only thing that is currently lacking is a sufficient number of volunteers to help work the booth.

The show hours are:

Friday – 10:00AM to 7:00PM , Saturday – 10:00AM to 7:00PM , Sunday – 10:00AM to 5:00PM

Someone has to be at the booth at all times while the show is open; that is 25 hours of coverage needed. If each volunteer could work 2 hours we would need 12 volunteers for one person coverage and 24 volunteers for two person coverage. I am taking care of registration, set-up, tear down and 3-4 hours in the booth each day to cover opening and closing. This is a wonderful opportunity for GPPS to get information out to a large number of people (19K+ attendance in 2009) over the three day event. If you can volunteer a couple of hours of your time during this event please go to our website and “open” the volunteer sheet (PDF file) to see what time slots are still available.

We have a few members that have filled out their “Pond Information Sheet” and e-mailed it to me along with a couple of pictures. Please take a few minutes to fill yours out and get it to me.

We also had a couple of members change their newsletter delivery preference from “snail mail” to e-mail. If you have an e-mail address please change your delivery method today.

Thanks,

Dave Nelson - President

Please be sure to read Dennis’ FAQ update and request on Page 6 of this month’s newsletter!

Pond Happenings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Laurie Ramsbacher	lramsbacher@cox.net	--
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net	480-654-2107
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Webmaster	Dennis Beard	dbeard_html@hotmail.com	--

GPPS Updates

There will not be a meeting for May. It is time for the Pond Tour.

Tips and Tricks

Potting plants in a square or oblong container allows for more pots in your pond. It helps to reduce the "root matting" that occurs from a round pot. It also makes for easier vacuuming. – Matt Watson

If you use barley straw in your pond, put it in a hosiery stocking or cheesecloth. It will eliminate the loose barley clogging up the pump. – Gloria Skylstad

A tip from Laurie Ramsbacher – she uses **unscented** kitty litter to re-pot her lilies.

Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea? Send it to gppsnews@blue-fish.biz!

GPPS Newsletter

Monthly Submission Deadline: 18th of each month. Newsletters will be sent out the 28th of each month. All submissions are subject to review and all materials become the property of GPPS. Due to space and timing, it is not guaranteed that all submissions will be printed. Submissions can be emailed to "gppsnews@blue-fish.biz".

Did you know? It currently costs approx **\$40 per month to print and mail the Newsletter**. Receiving an electronic version will save GPPS Members money every month. Contact gppsnews@blue-fish.biz if you'd like to change your newsletter option to "paperless".

Pond Happenings

GPPS Member Rob Lang (The Pond Perfecter) was the guest speaker at the 3/13 meeting, discussing the things that need to be considered during this time of year. The following topics were covered:

Algae Control

- Importance of filtration
- Correct use of a UV sterilizer in conjunction with algae control and bacterial additive products

Parasite Control

- Abnormal fish behavior
- Abnormal fish conditions
- Treatment for parasites and other fish conditions

Water Change outs

- User of a de-chlorinator
- Change out volume

Food

- Food products and digestion
- The role of Vitamin C
- What to look for in food ingredients

Plants

- Potting soil mixtures
- Planters
- Gravel vs. no gravel

Check out Rob's website at <http://www.pondperfecter.com/> or contact Rob at "pondperfecter@msn.com".

Dennis has added a more detailed write-up of Rob's presentation to the "Resources" page of the GPPS

Website. It can be found at the following URL: <http://www.phoenixponds.com/archive/gppslinks.htm>



As per Rob's suggestion, some of Matt Watson's goldfish enjoy a fresh navel orange and a good dose of Vitamin C.

Pond Happenings

Contributed by GPPS member Dennis Beard -

Valley of the Sun Koi Club meeting on Sunday, March 21st had a brief report about KHV and the State of Arizona Fish and Game Department. Koi are fancy carp and Goldfish are a type of carp (that is a cousin).

The link below cites that Koi Herpes Virus CAN infect Gold Fish as well as Koi and common carp. I am writing to Peter Ponzio who is with the **American Goldfish Association (AGA)**.

<http://www.goldfishpages.com/> is the AGA web site and under articles they address a goldfish herpes virus.

http://www.azgfd.gov/search.shtml?cx=014592001941246591579%3Aqppmnu_9lho&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=UTF-8&q=Carp+die-off+at+Lake+Havasu+increases+Arizona+Fishing+#1089

Thank you to Ed Tunstall and Susan Smithwick for hosting the March meeting. This young lady entertained the GPPS members.



This is an adult Russian Tortoise. It is a female but before we verified that fact she had been named Gorby after the Russian Premier. She had been living in a small plastic box in Illinois and my daughter, Jeanine, saw her at a garage sale. When she asked about 10in. x 5in. She didn't like that so she bought her for \$10 and shipped her back with me during my next visit. She is a favorite and we went out and bought a male partner for her but he is still a little young. They

rub noses once or twice a month and then go in different directions. - Ed Tunstall

Welcome to new members!



Joanne Noble



Alan & Nina Koepcke

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
May	Pond Tour	Aug	No Meeting
June	Bill & Gay Reeves	Sept	Bob & Diane Malone
July	No Meeting	Oct	George & Diane Morris

A request from GPPS Webmaster Dennis Beard

GPPS has "FAQs" that are listed on the <http://www.phoenixponds.com/archive/gppsfaq.htm> web page. This page is now a link on the left navigation bar titled -- guess? FAQs

I solicit your assistance in helping the club's website. Please write some questions with the answers and send them to the webmaster link on the FAQ page. If you know a good outside source to your answer -- copy the address at the bottom of the supplied answer.

Time To Rejoin GPPS for 2010!

Membership forms will be on the table at the monthly meetings or contact the treasurer, Ed Tunstall, 5439 E. Dolphin Ave, Mesa, AZ 85206-2208.

The cost is \$25 to join or renew your membership. Dues should be received by March 31st.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373

It's Spring! Time to divide and re-pot