

Next Meeting: March 13, 2010 9AM at the home of Ed Tunstall & Susan Smithwick
Address: 5439 E. Dolphin Ave., Mesa. (480-654-2107)

Subject: "Preparations for Spring" Presenter: Robert Lang, Pond Perfector

Please bring your own chairs and bags/buckets for any plants or fish that may be available.

Directions: From the Superstition (60) exit Higley and drive north about 1.5 miles to Delta and turn east. Drive to the stop sign and turn north on Sunnyvale. Drive 2 blocks and turn east on Dolphin. We are the second house on the right, 5439 E. Dolphin.

Our pond is about 12 ft X 16 ft. It holds 1750 gallons and started out as an Aquascape pond. Later Gary and I modified the skimmer/filtration set up so it would be more efficient, use less electricity and be far easier to clean the filter. A UV was added to help with algae and it has been pretty effective. Is it finished, no it is an on-going project we love to work on.

→ Welcome to new member Rebecca Montgomery of Phoenix! ←

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

It will be at the "Margaret T Hance Park" above the I-10 Deck Park Tunnel. The Open Koi Show is just that -- open to whom ever would like to show off their Koi Fish and win a prize. Additional information about the Show and registration form are at the VSKC web page:

http://www.vskc.net/annual_koi_show2010.htm

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.

Please be sure to read Dennis' FAQ update and request on Page 4 of this month's newsletter!

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE? Logon to: www.phoenixponds.com

Pond Happenings

GPPS Member Henry McGee's koi have taken a strong liking to freeze dried krill, which can be pricey to buy. Henry has found an online source that he's had good success with - Brine Shrimp Direct. Here's what Henry had to say about the company: "This company is great. Attitude, knowledge, great products at great prices, i.e., 1 kilo (2.2 lb.) bucket of large freeze dried krill for under \$50. Also, discounts to clubs."

You can get more info at www.brineshrimpdirect.com or contact Thomas Testa at sales@brineshrimpdirect.com. The site has a complete line of krill, brine shrimp, copepods, live feeds, frozen feeds, algae paste, etc, for a variety of fresh and saltwater needs.

Henry also has a recommendation for a **local source for pond liners** – great products and prices right here in the Valley:

Shane Carter
Western Environmental Liner (www.westernliner.com)
8121 W. Harrison, Tolleson, AZ 85353
Office: 800-347-8274 / Cell: 602-826-8720 / Fax: 623-321-6448
Email: Shane@westernliner.com

The Riddle of Two Pumps Submitted by: GPPS Member, Jeff Kirk

You need to buy a new primary pump for your pond and you have narrowed the selection down to two pumps:

The first pump pumps 2,900 GPH and is \$289.95.
The second pump pumps 3,000 GPH and is only \$179.95.

The riddle is why, if the first pump is \$110.00 more, is it the cheaper pump?

The answer is the cost of operation. The first pump will cost \$94.12 to run 24 hours a day for a full year and the second pump will cost \$175.55 to run for the same amount of time.

It can be confusing trying to compare pumps since some pumps' specs will give you watts and others amps. There are complex mathematical formulas that you can use to determine the cost of operation if you know your cost per KWH, or you can use an online calculator where you only need to know the specs of the pump and your electric bill.

An example can be found at:

http://www.venturakoifarm.com/Calculator_PumpCost.php

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

Pond Happenings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
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Webmaster	Dennis Beard	dbeard_html@hotmail.com	--

GPPS Updates

April meeting will be held at the home of Richard & Pet Smith
Subject: TBD

CORRECTION from the February Meeting: Master Gardener Website

The web site on the card passed out at the meeting is incorrect. Dennis did a Google search on Maricopa Master Gardeners and found several links to various web sites with information about them:

<http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/general/hort.htm> that had a further link to:

<http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/gardentour.htm>

That page has an additional link for online purchase of the tickets BY March 3rd! OR, go to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County office, 4341 E Broadway Rd, Phoenix, 85040.

Dennis has already uploaded the pages with information to the GPPS website.

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Month	Location	Month	Location
April	Richard & Pet Smith	July	No Meeting
May	Pond Tour	Aug	No Meeting
June	Bill & Gay Reeves	Sept	Bob & Diane Malone

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

Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!