

**Next Meeting: December 10, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.**

**The December meeting will be held at the home of Tom & Katie Knight, Phoenix.**

Here are the directions from Tom and Katie;

First – I've checked Map Quest, Bing Maps and Google Maps, and they all are OK. The address is; **5530 W Tether Trail, Phoenix AZ.**

Second – Most folks call once or twice while navigating to our home the first time. Our phone number is; **623-234-9147**

Here is the scenic route for those who would prefer to forgo the computer generated adventure.

From the North West portion of the 101 Loop (also called the Agua Fria Freeway) exit 59<sup>th</sup> AVENUE (exit number 19) and go north.

Continue over the mountain that is Thunderbird Mountain Park, the road name changes to

W. Pinnacle Peak and turn left at the stop light at the base of the mountain, which is 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Travel North on 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, through the stop LIGHT at Happy Valley Road.

At the 4-way stop SIGN, turn left on N Stetson Valley Parkway Loop.

Turn left on W Marcus Dr. It is the second left turn lane. You will be going West.

Turn left on 54<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Turn right on W Lariat Lane.

Lariat Lane makes a little wiggle at 55<sup>th</sup> Drive. Just keep going West on Lariat Ln.

Turn right on 56<sup>th</sup> Drive. You will be going north.

Turn right on W. Hide Trail.

Follow the road around to the left and you will be traveling North on 55<sup>th</sup> Lane.

Follow the road around to the left and you will be traveling West on Tether Trail.

Our house is the second one on the right.

Tom and Katie have about two dozen chairs available so that you don't need to bring your own. If the weather is less than perfect, they will move the meeting indoors.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE? Logon to: [www.phoenixponds.com](http://www.phoenixponds.com)

## Pond Happenings



### President's Letter

Happy Holidays GPPS members!

Wow, it is December already! My how time flies when you are...seriously this year has just flown by! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you were able to spend time with your family and friends. There was a great turnout at the October meeting and it was an excellent meeting! I

would like to thank our gracious hosts, George and Diane Morris, for opening up their yard, sharing their pond and hospitality. George talked about their pond, Koi and plants. Due to our GPPS officer elections for 2012 we did not schedule a guest speaker.

All of the GPPS officers who were present gave report and any updates or announcements. Gene Goerke gave the technical committee report. We had some continuing discussion on topics from our last meeting; they were all great topics that really brought out some great discussion from the members.

November is when we elect our officers for 2012 and all officer positions were voted on. Some positions had officers who were running for re-election to their current positions while other positions had their current incumbent not seeking re-election. The results of the GPPS officer election for 2012 are:

Office	Incumbent	2012 Officer
➤ President	Dave Nelson	Dave Nelson
➤ Vice-President	Nina Koepcke	Gene Goerke
➤ Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	Ed Tunstall
➤ Secretary	Fern Shaw	Fern Shaw
➤ Event Coordinator	Dan Stough	Kristy Jolly
➤ Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad	Gloria Skylstad
➤ Webmaster	Dennis Beard	Dennis Beard
➤ Librarian	Gary Ures	Gary Ures

Each and every position is important to GPPS and to our members. Your votes were tallied and I would like to thank all of the members who came out to support GPPS and vote for the officers for 2012. At the end of the meeting we all enjoyed an excellent lunch from Honey Bear's BBQ. All of the food was outstanding and if the members attending the meeting were not full when they left it was their own fault! I would also like to thank the members who volunteered to serve as an officer for GPPS in 2012 as well as the officers who served for 2011. I believe 2011 was a great year for GPPS and its membership! There were several events that our members were involved with and everyone worked extremely hard but we all had fun doing it! I am looking forward to 2012 and I know it will be even better! There are several GPPS events in 2012 and there will be some work to make them successful but we have the members that will make that happen!

The next and last general meeting for 2012 will be on December 10, 2011 at the home of Tom and Katie Knight. Please come on out and enjoy our host's yard, pond and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the December meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

## Pond Happenings



Thank you to George and Diane Morris for hosting the November meeting



Thank you so much to the 2011 Vice President, Nina Koepcke and Event Coordinator, Dan Stough for their great job this past year.

The annual election of officers was held at this meeting. We welcome Gene Goerke as Vice President and Kristy Jolly as Event Coordinator. The remaining positions are the same as last year

**2011 dues are \$25.00 per individual/family and are payable by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please send your payment to:**

Ed Tunstall  
5439 E. Dolphin Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85206-2208

### Cats from Hell

It all started about a year ago. We began to notice signs of upheaval around our pond and backyard in the morning. Pots in the pond were knocked over, the water was cloudy and stirred up and our beloved fish, who usually greeted us every morning, were nowhere to be seen. Fortunately the fish were unharmed but huddling at the bottom of the pond obviously very frightened. We had no idea what caused this. Was it birds, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons? This continued to occur about every two weeks for the next few months, until one night about 4 am I awoke to some din and clatter in the backyard. I crept out of bed and got my flashlight - I was determined to see what was causing all of this. I quietly opened the sliding door and shined the light at the pond and saw six beady, bright eyes staring back at me. I made some noise hoping to scare them away but they just sat there. I picked up a rock and threw it in their direction but they just looked at me almost puzzled at my stupidity. They finally moseyed off, hopped up on the fence and left. I was able to see that it was a band of ring tail cats. They looked something like a raccoon with a long ringed tail.



At that point I started thinking of options to control my new found problem. I thought I could fence off the pond at night but that proved to be quite difficult considering the structure of our pond. Incidents continued from time to time and we scratched our head as to what to do. Then one night I awoke to more chaos in the backyard. I went out back and there they were brazenly going thru everything in the yard looking for who knows what. To make matters worse when I walked out to shoo them away they started calmly walking toward me like a family pet might do. It was at that point I knew we had a real problem. They went thru everything on the table looking for food. I watched one of them crawl into a potted water plant seemingly looking for something in the root zone. It was obvious from the upheaval in the pond they were looking for something in the roots of the plants and not, necessarily the fish. We were perplexed.

Then one day, I had an idea. Our daughter's trusty Pug, Prince was kind of lonely these days so I thought we might bring him up and set him up with a nice house on the porch and see if his presence might be a deterrent to our problem cats. During the first few nights I did hear bouts of barking and hoped that he was, indeed, reacting to an incursion of the cats - and it seemed to be so. We were also hoping that just the presence of his marking and poop might keep the cats away, but that was disproved one cold night when we had him sleep inside and our little tailed friends returned. Anyway, to bring this cat tale to an end we think that Princes presence is helping quite a bit but it is still a work in progress. If anyone out there has any other ideas we would love to hear them.

Article: Alan Koepcke



## Pond Happenings

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Nina Koepcke	Nkdragonlady166@gmail.com	--
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net	
Secretary	Fern Shaw	Fdg1953@cox.net	602-332-8112
Events Coordinator	Dan Stough		
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad	gskylstad@gmail.com	-
Librarian	Gary Ures	<a href="mailto:gures@koioffire.com">gures@koioffire.com</a>	480-278-6847
President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205

### GPPS Newsletter

Monthly Submission Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletters will be sent out the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 [gskylstad@gmail.com](mailto:gskylstad@gmail.com)

**Did you know?** Receiving an electronic version will save GPPS Members money every month. Contact [gskylstad@gmail.com](mailto:gskylstad@gmail.com) if you'd like to change your newsletter option to "paperless".

### GPPS Technical Committee

Gene Goerke [Plantabi@concentric.net](mailto:Plantabi@concentric.net)  
 Jeff Karsten [rj\\_kars10@yahoo.com](mailto:rj_kars10@yahoo.com)  
 Dick Wilson [radwilson@cox.net](mailto:radwilson@cox.net)  
 Ed Tunstall [lctricfrog@cox.net](mailto:lctricfrog@cox.net)  
 Tom Briggs [tcbriggsphx@gmail.com](mailto:tcbriggsphx@gmail.com)  
 Jon Jolly [tferret@hotmail.com](mailto:tferret@hotmail.com)



The GPPS website FAQs now hold Technical Committee Reports.

**Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea? Send it to [gskylstad@gmail.com](mailto:gskylstad@gmail.com)**

## Pond Happenings

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

Month	Location	Month	Location
Dec 10, 2011	Tom & Katie Knight, Phoenix	Mar 10, 2012	TBD
Jan 14, 2012	TBD	Apr 14, 2012	TBD
Feb 11, 2012	TBD	May 2012	2012 Pond Tour

### 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 2011!

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 December 31st.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85373

