

Pond Happenings

A Monthly Newsletter Published
by the Greater Phoenix Pond
Society

January 2011

Next Meeting: January 8, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.

The January meeting will be held Saturday, January 8, 2011, at the home of Alan and Nina Koepcke. Their address is: 22327 N. Freemont Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85050. Telephone is: 623-322-5337.

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

Directions:

Take 101 East or North to Tatum, exit off via left and continue on Tatum to Deer Valley, turn left again and continue on to 40th St., slow down but continue on and you will see a sign on your right "Aviano at Desert Ridge", turn right into Aviano Drive, go around the circle and turn right on Rough Rider (going West) and the first street you cross is Freemont, turn left on Freemont and our house is the second house on your left. If you can't find it, feel free to call 623 322 5337

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

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

Thank you to Clyde and Rita Parks for hosting the December meeting!

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

President's Letter



Happy New Year GPPS members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It's hard to believe it's already 2011 but ready or not, here it is! I hope everyone is ready for the awesome year ahead. We have a lot on our plates in 2011 but with everyone's participation and support we are assured success in all of our endeavors. I am looking forward to working with some of you and seeing all of throughout 2011.

The December meeting was an evening meeting hosted by Clyde & Rita Parks. Clyde treated us to a beautiful holiday light show right in his back yard! All of their hard work is appreciated and the end results were great! I do not profess to understand all of technical "stuff" but basically Clyde wired their entire backyard with Christmas lights, hooked them all to a multi-station control box and then hooked that up to computer. Clyde then fed in holiday music and the magic happened. The lights flashed in beat with the music with each station flashing to a different section of the soundtrack. It was great, thanks Clyde and Rita for a wonderful evening.

There were a couple of topics discussed that I will continue to bring up. One item has been a "hot" topic at the past several meetings having to do with the availability of a club roster for all current GPPS members. All of the information collected by GPPS is used to maintain an accurate membership roster and allow GPPS to get important information to our members. We make a promise to all members when they sign-up for membership that we will keep all of their information private and not share their personal information with anyone. For the last several meetings the majority of the members in attendance have been in favor of a "shareable" membership list. Because of this we will be sending a GPPS member information update sheet to all current GPPS members. This form serves a dual purpose. One is to ensure we have the most current information on our members and two; to allow you, the members to decide what information you want to share with your fellow members. Please fill out the form completely and check the box/es [X] next to the information you wish to share. We will update our current "private" membership information and compile a "Shared" membership roster that will be distributed to current GPPS members only. When you receive the form please fill it out completely and return it to me at the addresses provided or bring it to the January meeting. This is very important, please respond promptly!

Another topic was about bringing back the GPPS Photo Contest. We have not done one in awhile but if you go to the "Photos" section on our website you will see some of the past entrants and winners. Check it out and bring your thoughts and opinions to the next meeting.

Happy 2011 to all GPPS members and their families!

Dave Nelson - President

Bog Gardens

A bog garden is a shallow pond with either a natural bottom or a liner. Many ponds are built with a bog area incorporated into it that allows this shallow area to be used as a filtering system for the pond. The pond water naturally flows through the bog garden and makes your pond water clean and clear. The roots and stalks of the bog plants act as a natural filtration system. They add oxygen and remove ammonia in the same way deeper pond plants do.

Bog gardens can also be built independent of the pond for plants that prefer wet ground rather than standing in water. The size of the bog depends on the area you have but an ideal size is 5'x5'x2'.

Marginal/ Bog plants help provide a smooth transition from the pond to its borders and serve to link the pond with the surrounding landscape. A few plants that would thrive in the bog area are listed below. Also check out the websites listed below for a larger selection of these plants.

Bog Lily: Above its strap-like leaves, on a thick stem, are 3 -7 large, strongly fragrant, white flowers, each of which has five narrow petals. Flowers are produced in spring and fall. Plants will grow to 18 inches tall and produces runners which will eventually form a colony in a pot or large bog setting. Seeds are also produced. (Also known as Southern Bog Lily, or Seven Sisters.)

Canna "Tropicana": A water tolerant Canna with red flowers and dark purplish red leaves that are variegated with green and cream stripes. The variegated leaves are offset by the bright orange-red 4 to 5 inch flowers. Does well in up to 6 inches of water and will grow well on land.

Corkscrew Rush 'Unicorn' -: Larger version of Corkscrew Rush. The stems are spiraled, or corkscrewed, which creates an interesting effect. Grows up to 2 feet high and forms clumps which can be divided every couple of years. It can be anchored with gravel or small stones in shallow water areas.(1-2" of water)

Dwarf Giant Papyrus -: A compact version of the standard Egyptian Papyrus. Large fluffy "mops" of green on short triangular stems. A good height scale planted in areas with taller plants. Grows to about 3' in height. Prefers full sun to part shade.

Louisiana Iris: This flower comes in a wide range of colors including blue, yellow, purple, pink, white and shades of brownish red. The flowers appear in spring on 2-3 foot stems held above the foliage. A single plant that is thriving in its site can form a clump 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall in two years. These clumps of green foliage will add architectural interest to the garden and will grow both in the water itself and on its edges.

Article by Gloria Skylstad

http://www.floridata.com/ref/i/iris_Louisiana.cfm

<http://www.pondplants.com/aisle33.html>

Welcome New Member-Deneen Rogers of Mesa

Pond Happenings



These beauties belong to Ed Tunstall and Susan Smithwick. The little one is believed to have been hatched in mid August. They will not be able to determine the sex of the little one until later; in the meantime.....there will be more to this story.

Thank you Ed and Susan for sharing these photos.

At the December GPPS meeting, Deborah Baines, Vice President of the Japanese Gardens Board of Directors, attended the meeting and expressed her gratitude for the help that our club has provided.

Gene Goerke also thanked everyone who had helped. They are having problems at the gardens with the ducks eating the iris roots. Gene is trying to come up with solutions to the problem.

A motion was made to donate \$75.00 from our treasury for fertilizer tabs for the plants. Seconded and passed.

Website update:

GPPS Webmaster Dennis Beard has added a website; www.koibeginner.com by DVM Eric Johnson. There are several videos on this site that are full of great information, from fish to pond construction.

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	Dshaw50@cox.net	--
Events Coordinator	Dan Stough	danimalsto@aol.com	--
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad	gskylstad@cox.net	623-594-0555
Librarian	Gary Ures	gures@koioffire.com	--
Webmaster	Dennis Beard	dbeard_html@hotmail.com	--

GPPS Updates

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? 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”.



Upcoming Dates:

January 21, 2011 Project at Japanese Friendship Garden, contact Gene Goerke at plantabi@concentric.net if you would like to spend the morning assisting.

2011 Pond Tour – Contact Nina Koepcke at nkdragonlady166@gmail.com if you wish to participate in the upcoming pond tour.

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

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Feb 12	Tom & Carla Briggs, Phoenix, AZ	May	2011 Pond Tour
March 12	Don & Fern Shaw, Phoenix, AZ	June11	Jeff & Rita Karsten, Chandler
April 9	Richard & Pet Smith, Chandler	July	No Meeting

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

Happy Holidays!