

Pond Happenings

June 2011

A Monthly Newsletter Published
by the Greater Phoenix Pond
Society

Next Meeting: June 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

The June meeting will be held at the home of Jeff & Rita Karsten.
1200 E. Tyson Street, Chandler, AZ 85225. Phone 480- 821-0768. Please
MapQuest or call for directions.

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

**Thank you to Nina Koepke and all the 2011 Pond Tour
Hosts. By all reports we had a very successful pond
tour.**

Webmaster Dennis Beard has photos of the tour ponds #7 thru #12.

If anyone has photos of ponds #1 thru #6, please contact him at
dbeard_html@hotmail.com



Photo: Gloria Skylstad

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

Pond Happenings



President's Letter

Hello GPPS,

Well we made it through another pond tour! Although I have not seen any of the sign-in sheets it sounds like it was a good turn-out, although I hear there were not as many people as last year. I do know we signed up some new members and the tour was a success! The pond tour is not an easy thing to put on each year. It takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to make it all happen, and there were a lot of people that helped make this year's tour happen.

There are a lot of people to thank and I will start with the members who volunteered to open up their yards so that everyone could enjoy your pond or ponds as well as your gracious hospitality. Without you, our members, we would not have a pond tour. Next is Nina Koepcke, she worked very hard to ensure that our tour was organized and advertised throughout the valley. This is a lot of work and she did a wonderful job, well done Nina! Finally I would like to thank all of the members who came out to support the pond tour by visiting as many ponds as they could. It was great to see all of the familiar faces intermingled with the new ones at the various ponds on the tour.

Of course part of the preparation for the pond tour included passing out flyers and supplying information to the general public at both the Children's Kite Festival and Valley of the Sun Koi show at Margret T. Hance Park and the Maricopa County Home and Garden Show at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. Thanks to all who volunteered and helped work the booths at both events.

My wife, Maryann, and I made it to 10 of the 12 ponds before we ran out of time and I must say everyone's yards and ponds were wonderful and gorgeous! It was so evident that you all had worked so hard and are so proud of your ponds! I especially liked the diversity! There were all types and sizes of ponds. Some were natural, some traditional, some more formal, some large and some not so large but everyone was unique and displayed just what our organization is all about. You all did us all proud!

The next general meeting will be on June 11, 2011 at the home of Jeff and Rita Karsten in Chandler. They have a gorgeous pond and a lovely yard so you won't want to miss this one!

This is the last meeting until September. If anyone has any ideas for a special "field trip" we could plan in July or August please bring it up at the meeting.

I hope to see you at the June meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Reeves Turtles facts: Submitted by Ed Tunstall

These turtles are tame and personable

If you get any kind of turtles, try for a captive born. Wild caught really should see a vet first. They come with assorted parasites and problems. Many of these are due to shipping.

This turtle is referred to as the Golden Retriever of the turtle world

Their normal adult size is 5 inches although there are samples of twice this.

Older ones like a little terrestrial area to roam or bask in.

Provide supplements if a regular prepared turtle diet is not used. Example would be Reptomin.

Hibernation is possible sometimes. I am still thinking about this.

Along with the Reptomin they eat a vast assortment of food. Fish, frogs, fruit, shrimp, monkey chow etc.

Each turtle has its own personality. Generally these are more friendly than some others like Red Ear sliders.

Sexually the males are usually determined by their longer tails. This is true of many turtles.

Usually males are black or darker than females. The females are said to be browner.

A few facts about Red Ear Sliders

Red Ears get big. Easily 12 inches plus.

Red Ears live around 40 years or more.

These cannot be kept in small plastic or glass bowls.

These and many reptiles/turtles carry salmonella. Always wash after handling.

Red Ears and most turtles are messy. They tear food apart and eat the bigger pieces and leave the rest laying about to spoil the water.

Most turtles will learn to beg for food. Do not mistake this for 'I am starving' they simply like to eat. Same is true of fish. Limit the amount any of them are fed.

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Reeves Turtle facts: cont.

A few facts

The worst bite I ever received was from a Red Ear Slider. Not that they all bite but be ready for them if they should try.

I kept a soft shell (local turtle) once and it wanted to take my whole hand it seemed. It was never friendly but would tolerate you if you brought food with you. It probably grew to over 15 inches as I recall.

Contrary to my opinion of Red Ears, I had 1 that was very nice. It would bask most of the time, left the fish and plants alone and would swim over to me to receive his daily 3 shrimps.

Lastly

Regardless of what you put into your pond, read up on it first so you will know what you are getting. This is just two of the possibilities for your pond. There are many others you can consider. Just remember that captive born are usually the best buy.



Reeves Turtle

We have a request from Gene Goerke for a few GPPS members with hip waders to come to the Japanese Friendship Garden one or two Saturdays per month to “fine tune” the aquatic plants. It seems that there is a lot of Iris debris floating around the ponds there. He would like to have the volunteer to duck proof the plants by anchoring them with rip rap, which would be provided by Gene. There is also one small lily pad area to fertilize as it is quite barren. Please contact Gene at plantabi@concentric.net

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Photo: Ed Tunstall

This beauty is Ed Tunstall and Susan Smithwick's first Lotus bloom. This plant is three years old and has bloomed for the first time



Photo: Gloria Skylstad

For Sale

28x28 Waterfall filter. Comes with 2 ea 1 ½ inch brass gate valves. \$100.00
Contact Bill Reeves at 480-380-3478

ProLine Pondmaster Pressurized Filter System P-2000UV. \$275.00
Contact Gloria Skylstad at gskylstad@gmail.com

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Photo: Gene Goerke

Thank you to Gene Goerke for these beautiful photos of the bog gardens that the GPPS volunteer members worked on. Great job to those who worked on these beds. We will be fertilizing them in July so all who wish to participate, please contact Gene at plantabi@concentric.net



Photo: Gloria Skylstad

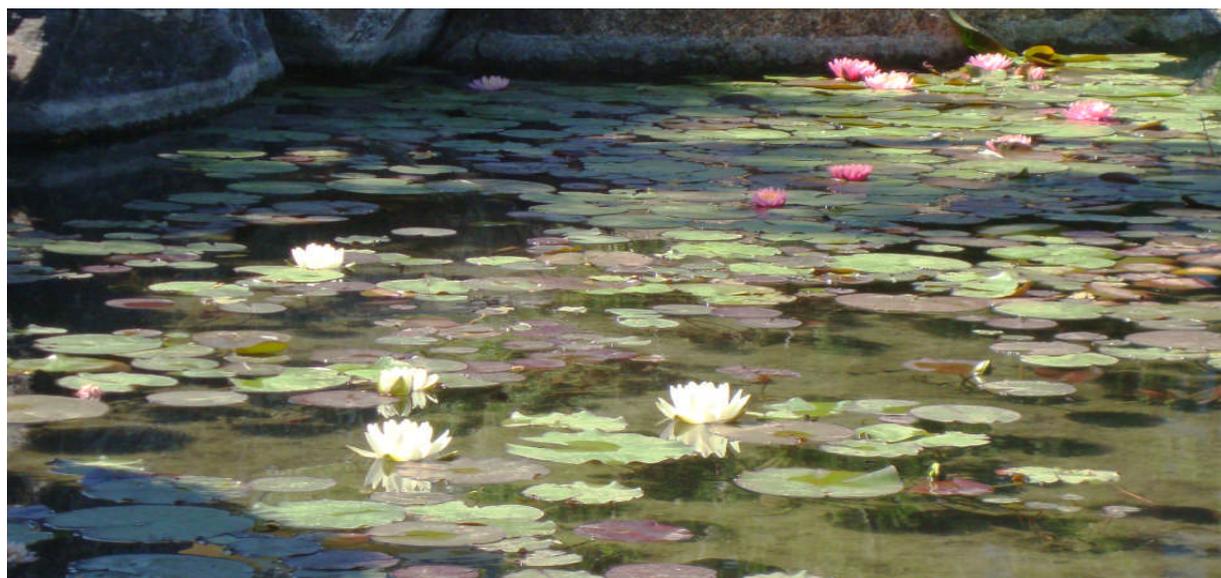


Photo: Gene Goerke

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Niina Koepcke	Nkdragonlady166@gmail.com	--
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net	
Secretary	Fern Shaw		
Events Coordinator	Dan Stough		
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad	gskylstad@gmail.com	-
Librarian	Gary Ures	gures@koioffire.com	480-278-6847
Webmaster	Dennis Beard	dbeard_html@hotmail.com	--

GPPS Updates



Photo: Gloria Skylstad

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 gskylstad@gmail.com

Did you know? Receiving an electronic version will save GPPS Members money every month. Contact gskylstad@gmail.com if you would like to change your newsletter option to "paperless".

Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea? Send it to gskylstad@gmail.com

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

Month	Location	Month	Location
July	No Meeting	Oct 8	Mike & Karen Valenzuela, Chandler
Aug	No Meeting	Nov 12	George & Diane Morris, Queen Creek
Sept 10	Dan & Carol Catlin, Mesa	Dec 10	Tom & Katie Knight, Phoenix

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

Enjoy the Summer!