

**Next Meeting: November 12, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.**

**The November meeting will be held at the home of George and Diane Morris.**

Directions follow:

First - disregard MapQuest, it is wrong! **Address: 31408 N. Gecko Tr. Queen Creek.**

From San Tan Freeway going east exit Power rd. Right on Power all the way to the end (T- intersection) then go left to Ellsworth. Right on Ellsworth which becomes Hunt Hwy. Proceed about 5 miles to Golf Club Drive. Turn right on Golf Club Dr. then right on Johnson's Ranch Blvd. Left on Trail Dust which turns into Gecko. House on left hand side.

From 60 going East exit Ironwood, turn right. (Ironwood becomes Gantzel.) Continue about 17 miles to Bella Vista. Right on Bella Vista. Cross Hunt Hwy. Right on Johnson Ranch Blvd. Left on Trail Dust which turns into Gecko. House on left hand side.

Please call if you have problems: **480- 306-6417.**

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

A catered lunch will be provided and we will elect officers for the coming year.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you will be nominated for an office, so please join us.

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

## Pond Happenings

### President's Letter



Hi GPPS members!

It is finally fall, the days are getting shorter and there is a nip in the air...ok, we are still waiting for the "nip" part, but it is fall. I hope everyone had a wonderful Halloween and got more treats than tricks! There was a great turnout at the October meeting and it was an excellent meeting! I would like

to thank our gracious hosts, Mike and Karen Valenzuela, for opening up their yard, sharing their pond and hospitality. Karen shared information about their pond, Koi and plants. Dan Stough was our speaker; he put together a presentation and talked about pond leaks. Due to the bright sunlight everyone adjourned to the house so the presentation could be viewed on the TV. For those who missed Dan's presentation it is available on our "Resources" page. The presentation is in Microsoft PowerPoint format.

We had so many items and topics to discuss and get input on that it took up the bulk of the meeting. Some of the items were new topics while others were continuing discussion topics from our last meeting but they were all great topics that really brought out some great discussion from the members. Gene Goerke was not able to be at the meeting so Jeff Karsten gave the technical committee report.

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

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Event Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster
- Librarian

If you are interested in running for any of the officer positions listed above please show-up at the November meeting and "throw your hat into the ring". Each position is important and as a member it is your responsibility to participate in the election process. This is your club and your voice needs to be heard, your vote needs to be tallied and your participation is needed.

The next general meeting will be on November 12, 2011 at the home of George and Diane Morris in Queen Creek. Due to the GPPS officer elections for 2012 there will be no guest speaker. This is a very important part of our organization and your input and participation is needed so please come out and support your club! There will be a catered lunch provided for all in attendance. Please come on out and enjoy our host's yard, pond and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the November meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

**Be Completely Algae Free for Pennies!**

I setup a 50 gallon pre-form as a “water feature” at a friend’s house, on the patio. The location it was in gets a tremendous amount of sun. With only a homemade bio-filter (10 gallon planter full of Yerba Mensa), needless to say, string algae was a serious issue, regardless of time of year. Algaecide was not helpful, and while the Yerba grew well (that stuff grows in anything), it never could out-compete the string algae. It was so bad for 2 seasons that she was ready to give up and get rid of the entire thing.

I happened to read about copper/silver ionization used for algae and bacterial control in swimming pools (as opposed to chlorine or salt), and found the concept interesting. As it turns out, this type of process has been used in water recycling and bacterial control in hospitals for quite some time.

So, she got a handful of pennies, and put them in the pond. In less than a month, the string algae disappeared, and for over a year now, there has not been one iota of algae in the pond. She replaces the pennies occasionally as they oxidize. I figured that the pre-1982 pennies (which were bronze/copper based) would be more effective, but it seems to work with the newer pennies (that are 97.5% zinc plated with copper).

DISCLAIMER - Keep in mind that this is just a water feature with Yerba Mensa. No fish, the lily doesn’t do well with the elevated copper levels, and what few snails were in there have since perished. Copper sulfate based products are used as parasite and algae control methods, and are toxic to many things at elevated concentration levels. In a small water feature application, the pennies were completely effective for the algae (suspended and string), without the need for costly chemicals, and require essentially no maintenance. Heck, you can even take them out of the pond and spend them if need be. If you choose to try this application, please be aware that it likely will have a negative effect on any critters in the pond, as well as certain plants. For this particular situation, it was an effective approach to resolve a nagging problem, but “your mileage may vary”.

Article: Matt Watson

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The Valley of The Sun Koi Show will be held on April 13 & 14, 2012. The site for the meeting has been moved to The Style Nursery, 7120 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020. The nursery has water and bog plants as well as traditional landscape plants. For information on the Koi show and the new venue, check the [www.vskc.net](http://www.vskc.net) website. The Koi group will still have a presence at the Kite Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park on March 31, 2012.

## Pond Happenings



Thank you to Mike and Karen Valentine for hosting the October meeting.



Dan Stough gave a very comprehensive presentation on Repairing Pond Leaks. If you have a leak and need information, the presentation has been posted on [www.phoenixponds.com](http://www.phoenixponds.com), thank you Dennis, under Resources/Useful information.



## Pond Happenings

- Members:
- The Membership List Information form is on page (6), please fill that out and return it to Dave by mail or by email so that we have current and correct information for you. There will be a completed list that will be available to members only so that you can contact other members if you wish.
- At the October meeting there was discussion regarding dues being waived if you were/are a meeting host or a tour host. That will no longer be the case; ALL members will be required to pay their annual dues. If you are unable to pay them, please contact SPPS President Dave Nelson.
- Membership dues will be payable by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. If your dues are not paid by April, you will no longer receive a newsletter.

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### Seasonal tasks for November/December

Scoop out dead leaves & other debris from the pond.

Change 1/3 of the Pond Water (be sure to use de-chlorinator)

Test the Pond Water for pH level, Ammonia and Nitrite

Make further slow water changes if Ammonia and Nitrite are present. Adjust the pH level to within 6.8 - 8.0

Add cool weather Beneficial Bacteria to digest any left-over leaf debris and organic waste (this goes a long way to avoiding a complete pond draining in the spring)

Use a Barley Product to inhibit stringy growth on pond rocks, waterfall, liner and other water features

Use Restor to clean existing stringy and slimy growth off the waterfall, rocks, liner and pond plants

## Pond Happenings

### The Greater Phoenix Pond Society

11/14/2010

To: All GPPS Members  
From: GPPS Officers  
Subject: Membership List Information

GPPS Members,

As time goes by the GPPS master membership list can become outdated and inaccurate. In an effort to ensure we have the most accurate and current information, we ask for your co-operation and assistance in updating our records. Please fill out the information below and return it to us as soon as possible.

Also, we have a lot of members who would like the membership list sent to all members so everyone can keep in contact with one and other throughout the year instead of just at meetings. The information that GPPS gathers on its members is for the sole purpose of ensuring GPPS can get important club information to its membership in a timely manner. If you want any or all of your information shared with **other club members** **only** please check the box next to the information you do not mind sharing. If you do not check the boxes your information will **not** be shared with anyone.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **City, St., Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Home Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Cell Phone#-1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Cell Phone#-2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **E-Mail Address-1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **E-Mail Address-2:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have checked the boxes next to the information I am willing to share with other GPPS members. By signing/dating below (type your name/s if e-mailing this form) I authorize GPPS to share the above information with fellow GPPS members only.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail to: Dave Nelson – President: [bigd\\_1956@yahoo.com](mailto:bigd_1956@yahoo.com)

Or

U.S. Mail: Dave Nelson – President: 339 E. Glencove St. Mesa, AZ 85201

If you have any questions please call me at: (480) 357-7205

## 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

## GPPS Updates

### 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 [tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com](mailto:tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com)  
Jon Jolly [tcferrret@hotmail.com](mailto:tcferrret@hotmail.com)

The GPPS website FAQs now hold Technical Committee Reports.



Badger Koi has imported Japanese Koi, for show or pleasure, on sale. 7205 Maine Lane, Colorado Springs 80923, Phone 719-592-1858 Email [badger@falconbroadband.net](mailto:badger@falconbroadband.net), contact is Valerie Grenfell.

**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
Nov 12	George & Diane Morris, Queen Creek	Feb	TBD
Dec 10	Tom & Katie Knight, Phoenix	Mar	TBD
Jan	TBD	April	TBD

### 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

**Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!!**