

Pond Happenings

October 2011

A Monthly Newsletter Published
by the Greater Phoenix Pond
Society

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

The October meeting will be held at the home of Mike and Karen Valenzuela.

Address is 1901 E. Erie Street, Chandler, AZ 85225. Telephone: 480-899-0028.

The guest speaker will be our own Dan Stough and he will be talking about pond leaks.

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



Thank you to Dan and Caryl Catlin for
Hosting the September meeting.

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

Pond Happenings

President's Letter



Hi GPPS members!

It was good to get back in to the swing of things at the September meeting and it was an excellent meeting! I would like to thank our gracious hosts, Dan and Carol Catlin, for opening up their yard, sharing their pond and hospitality. Dan Catlin was also our speaker and talked about the different solar electric and hot water systems they have installed at their home. Dan's presentation was very informative and prompted numerous questions from the members.

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 brought up a having a general meeting at the Japanese Friendship Gardens, having another volunteer work party work on pond lily beds at the Japanese Friendship Gardens and an update on the GPPS "tech team". These were all great topics and garnered some lively discussion.

I would also like to thank Gene for all of his hard work and time on behalf of our organization. His efforts in organizing the work parties at the Japanese Friendship Gardens and heading up the "tech team" has not only helped GPPS in building a good relationship with the Japanese Friendship Gardens but also having a direct and positive impact on the members who may be experiencing pond issues and difficulties. I know there are many people involved in all of this but thank you Gene for taking the lead!

We have a couple of different opportunities to have our general meetings at new locations next year and we are encouraging members who have never hosted a meeting to volunteer to host a meeting next year. This is a great opportunity to share your pond with your fellow members. You have worked hard on your pond, you are proud of your pond so share it! By the way, your pond can be in any stage of construction, modification and/or condition. If you think you need to wait until your pond is "perfect" before you can host a meeting you are wrong. First, our members joined the club to get answers on how to plan, build, maintain and solve problems with ponds so showing ponds in less than "perfect" condition is beneficial to all. Second, if you wait for your pond to be "perfect" before you host a meeting chances are you will never host one because as most members can tell you there is always something we want to change or wish we had done differently or better. Step up and host a meeting, you will not regret it!

The next general meeting will be on October 8, 2011 at the home of Mike and Karen Valenzuela in Mesa. The guest speaker will be our own Dan Stough and he will be talking about pond leaks. This can be a tricky and at times difficult situation to accurately diagnose so be prepared to learn something and bring your questions. So please come on out and enjoy our host's yard, pond and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the October meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings

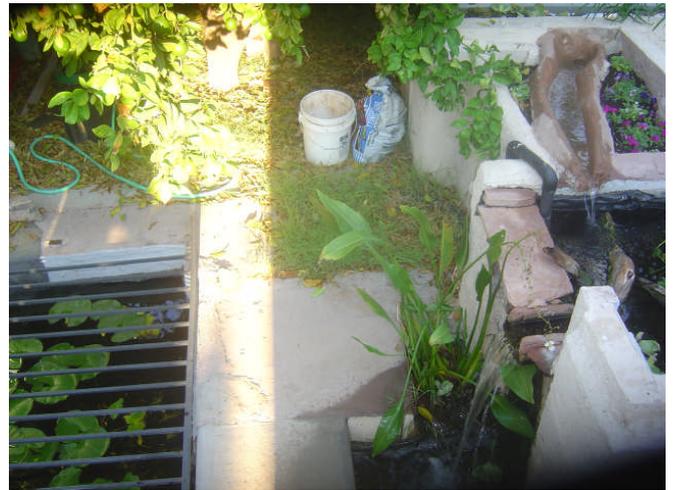
September Meeting Presentation by Dan Catlin

Dan Catlin told about their large in ground fish tank with water fall. He then shared their experiences adding solar water heater and solar photovoltaic systems starting 4 years ago. They had a goal to generate as much electrical energy as they use year around. They have met this goal and due to excess generation during most of the year they had enough credits for covering the SRP connection fee. This resulted in actual summer bills of \$0.00 while keeping a cool house and pond pump working. Dan also discussed the federal and state tax credits for solar installations as well as the utility rebate situation. He explained why the government is encouraging people to install renewable energy systems such as solar photovoltaic systems and solar water heaters. Dan and Carol Catlin are encouraging others to invest in renewable energy systems and can show a great tax free return on these investments. They have a web page that can help you reach them at:



www.catlinenergy.com

Sincerely,
Dan and Carol Catlin



Photos and article by Dan Catlin

**Welcome New Member
Aaron Weissenborn**

Pond Happenings

From the Newsletter Editor:

At the end of our Newsletter, there is a blurb that says if you have a tip, trick or recommendation, to please contact the Newsletter. We were contact by our wonderful secretary, Fern Shaw with a recommendation that I think would be worth merit. This is her email:

"I noticed your link at the end of the newsletter... what do you think of a link on our website: "So you think your pond looks bad?" We could all send in our worst day pics to encourage people who think their ponds are not up to par. We could have a traveling trophy-LOL!"

Is there anybody out there that hasn't considered "unponding" and growing flowers where the fish used to be? I don't think I know any of them if there are. So while Fern may have made this suggestion in jest, I personally think that it would be a great idea. If any of you would like to send in photos of your pond at its worst and if possible, at its best, it would be encouraging to members who think they are the only ones who have green ponds at times. I will publish the photos that you send in, space providing and it would be nice if you could tell how you cleared up the problem you were having with your pond..

We have a wonderful Technical Committee as you all know so if you are having problems, please contact one of the members. Thank you to Fern Shaw for a great suggestion.

GPPS Technical Committee

Gene Goerke Plantabi@concentric.net
Jeff Karsten rj_kars10@yahoo.com
Dick Wilson radwilson@cox.net
Ed Tunstall lctricfrog@cox.net
Tom Briggs tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com
Jon Jolly tcferrret@hotmail.com



If you haven't checked out our website for a while, Dennis has some wonderful new added links.
One of them is:

WATER GARDEN PLANTS FOR SO. AZ

It is a very informative link and might help you to decide what to put in your pond.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

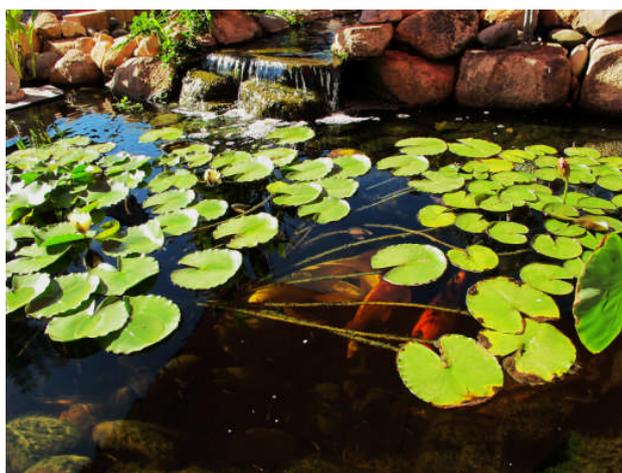
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GPPS Updates

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 gskylstad@gmail.com

Did you know? Receiving an electronic version will save GPPS Members money every month.
Contact gskylstad@gmail.com



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

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Month	Location	Month	Location
Oct 8	Mike & Karen Valenzuela, Chandler	Jan	TBD
Nov 12	George & Diane Morris, Queen Creek	Feb	TBD
Dec 10	Tom & Katie Knight, Phoenix	Mar	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 Great Halloween!!