

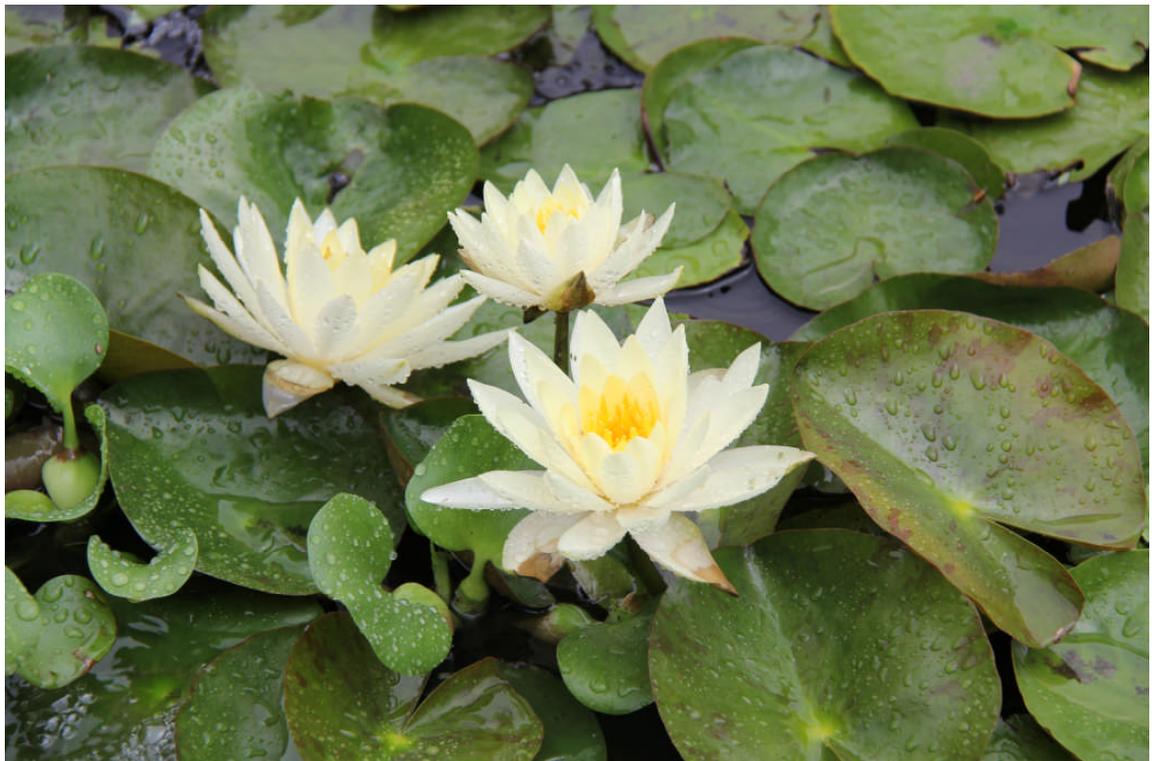
# Pond Happenings

August 2012

A Monthly Newsletter Published  
by the Greater Phoenix Pond  
Society

## No Meeting in August

The September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at  
the home of Jon and Kristy Jolly of Gilbert.



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



### President's Letter

Hello GPPS members!

Is it August already? Just one more month and we will back into the regular meeting "swing" again. I hope everyone is having a great summer and are finding ways to keep cool and dry; unfortunately I am talking about the humidity not the rain!

By the time you all read this some of your fellow GPPS members will have performed a total pond "rescue" out at Casino Arizona in Mesa. GPPS member Tom Briggs found out that the casino was going to be tearing out a pond near the entrance to the casino and put together a rescue mission to save and repurpose all of the aquatic plants and rescue all of fish and turtles that currently call this pond home. The turtles that are not "adopted" the day of the rescue will be taken to the Arizona Herpetological Society and placed up for adoption through them. This is a large undertaking but will help ensure all of the aquatic life in the pond end up being "reused and repurposed" instead of being discarded. Many thanks to Tom and all of the volunteers!

I will update the results of our rescue operation in next month's letter. I am sure Gloria will have some great photos to share as well. The best part will be at the September meeting where Tom can tell everyone about it and share all of the successes we had performing this rescue.

The next general meeting will be on September 08, 2012. The meeting will be at the home of Jon & Kristy Jolly in Gilbert. Please come out and enjoy the Jolly's gracious hospitality and support your Greater Phoenix Pond Society!

Whatever you and your family have planned for the remainder of this summer please enjoy and be safe! I hope to see you all at the September meeting!

Dave Nelson - President



## Pond Happenings

### Summer Maintenance

Summer is here and you've earned some quality time with your ponds, and when better than summertime – perhaps the most beautiful time of the year for most ponds. Summer is your chance to truly enjoy the pond. And with your clean-out completed in the early spring, the majority of your pond maintenance is behind you. There are some summer maintenance items that still need to be addressed in order to have a season of clean, clear water to enjoy. By keeping up on these tasks, you should have a healthy pond all season long.

**Keep Your Pond “Topped off”** – Make sure the water level stays where it should be. This will ensure that the pump and /or skimmer are able to operate properly and will help keep your pond free of debris, while providing plenty of oxygenated water for your fish. The summer heat can be tough on oxygen levels.

**Add More Plants** – The more the merrier! If at all possible, try to cover at least a third of the pond's surface area with water lilies. Also, make sure you have plenty of marginal and floating plants around the pond to blend the pond's edge with your landscape.

**Trim Those Plants** – You've added the plants, now keep them looking good. Routine maintenance, including removal of spent blooms, yellowing leaves, and excess growth will get rid of nutrients in the pond, reducing the possibility of algae blooms. If you devote just a few enjoyable minutes each day to this task, it never becomes “the big chore” that encourages procrastination.

**Feed Your Fish** – In the extreme heat of the summer, over feeding can lead to oxygen depletion and possible algae blooms. A good rule of thumb is not to feed your fish more than they can eat in a period of two to three minutes at a time.

**Don't Clean the Filter Pads** – If you have a biological filtration system, cleaning the filter pads will destroy the algae-fighting bacteria that live there, resulting in excess algae growth.

**Fertilize Lotus and Lily Plants** – To encourage more prolific blooming during the summer months, use Lily fertilizer tabs near the base of the plants throughout the growing season. It's not really necessary to fertilize marginal plants if they're planted right in the pond gravel – they will easily pull the nutrients they need right from the pond.

**Add Bacteria** – Follow the dosage instructions on the label and add bacteria regularly to compete with the algae for excess nutrients in the water, helping reduce the growth of algae.

**Control Runoff** – Avoid using fertilizer in areas that may drain into your pond. Fertilizer will cause a surge of excess nutrients in your pond and actually encourage algae blooms. Remember, your water garden is there for you to ENJOY! Take time to appreciate all that it has to offer you. Plant some tropical water Lilies – either day or night blooming. Their beautiful fragrance will cover the whole pond area and they are visually stunning.

**Avoid Disaster**....shut off water by using a timer or automatic meter when re-filling pond water.

Reprinted from Aquascape.com

# Koi

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

Koi or more specifically nishikigoi, literally “brocaded carp”), are ornamental varieties of domesticated common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) that are kept for decorative purposes in outdoor koi ponds or water gardens.

Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Some of the major colors are white, black, red, yellow, blue, and cream. The most popular category of koi is the Gosanke, which is made up of the Kohaku, Taisho Sanshoku, and Showa Sanshoku varieties.

### Etymology

The word koi comes from Japanese, simply meaning “carp”. It includes both the dull grey fish and the brightly colored varieties. What are known as koi in English are referred to more specifically as nishikigoi in Japan (literally meaning “brocaded carp”).

### History

Carp are a large group of fish originally found in Central Europe and Asia. Various carp species were domesticated in East Asia, where they were used as food fish. The ability of carp to survive and adapt to many climates and water conditions allowed the domesticated species to be propagated to many new locations, including Japan. Natural color mutations of these carp would have occurred across all populations. Carp were first bred for color mutations in China more than a thousand years ago.

Common carp were first bred for color in Japan in the 1820s, initially in the town of Ojiya in the Niigata prefecture on the northeastern coast of Honshu island. By the 20th century, a number of color patterns had been established, most notably the red-and-white Kohaku. The outside world was not aware of the development of color variations in koi until 1914, when the Niigata koi were exhibited in the annual exposition in Tokyo.

### Varieties

Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Some of the major colors are white, black, red, yellow, blue, and cream. While the possible colors are virtually limitless, breeders have identified and named a number of specific categories. The most popular category is Gosanke, which is made up of the Kohaku, Taisho Sanshoku, and Showa Sanshoku varieties.

### Health, maintenance and longevity

The common carp is a hardy fish, and koi retain that durability. Koi are cold-water fish, but benefit from being kept in the 15-25C (59-77F) range, and do not react well to long, cold, winter temperatures; their immune systems “turn off” below 10C (50F).

In the winter, their digestive systems slow nearly to a halt, and they eat very little, perhaps no more than nibbles of algae from the bottom. Their appetites will not come back until the water becomes warm in the spring. When the temperature drops below 50F (10C) [citation needed], feeding, particularly with protein, is halted or the food can spoil in their stomachs, causing sickness.

Koi are an omnivorous fish, and will eat a wide variety of foods, including peas, lettuce, and watermelon.

## Pond Happenings



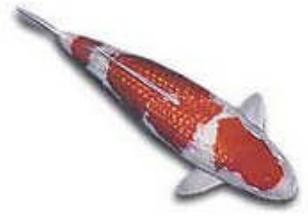
Doitsu



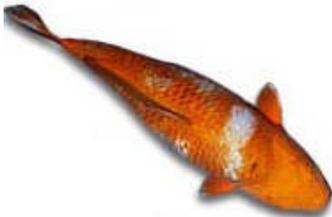
Bekko



Asagi



GinRin Kohaku



Kawarimono



Hikari



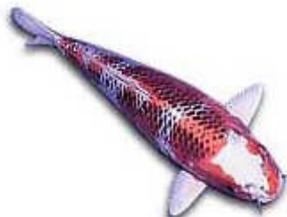
Goshiki



Kohaku



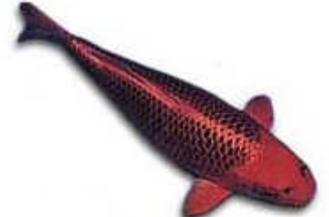
kumonryu



Kujaku



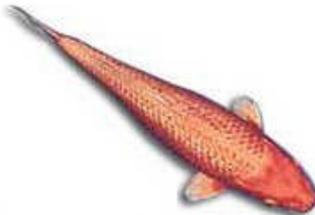
Goromo



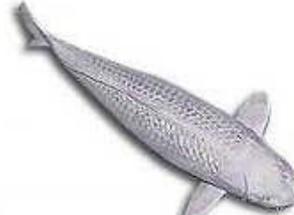
Gin Matsuba



Sanke



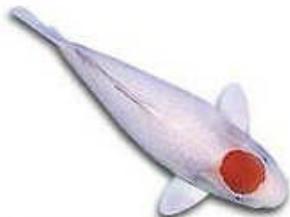
Orenji Ogon



Platinum Ogon



Ochiba



Tancho



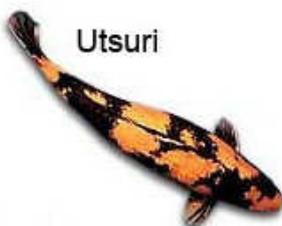
Tancho Sanke



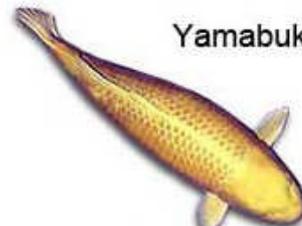
Showa



Shusui



Utsuri



Yamabuki Ogon

## Pond Happenings

### Water Lily Maintenance

At least once monthly, after the lily pads reach the top of the water in the summer, the water lily needs fertilizer. You will get more blooms if you feed every 10 days.

For each gallon of soil, push one tab in the pot. If you have a lily in a two gallon pot, you will need two aquatic plant tabs. Feed the water lily until the days begin to shorten in October. Stop feeding and allow the plant to go dormant for the winter. You may begin feeding again when you see the pads in the spring.

While you are fertilizing the plants, find any spent blooms and either cut or pinch off the stem and bloom as close to the pot as you can reach. Decomposing stems and flowers can foul your pond.

Water lily pads grow outward in a circle. The pads on the outer ring will get brown spots, get ragged and die first. Remove those at the base of the stem at least monthly to keep the dead organic matter from decomposing in your pond.

Check out **WATER GARDEN PLANTS FOR SO. AZ.** on the [www.phoenixponds.com](http://www.phoenixponds.com) website for more information regarding pond plant maintenance and resources.

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If you have an interest in Dragonflies, the website [www.azqfd.gov](http://www.azqfd.gov) has a calendar of Dragonfly Walks.

The walks take place at Ayer Lake, Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park and begin at 9:30 a.m.

The dates are: Wednesday August 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Arizona State Parks Volunteers will be guiding the walks.

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### August Maintenance Tips:

Check Water Temperature\_& stop feeding Pond Fish if 85+ degrees  
Boost Beneficial Bacteria  
Add Barley Product  
Fertilize Pond Plants



## Pond Happenings

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### 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

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Dick Wilson [radwilson@cox.net](mailto:radwilson@cox.net)  
Ed Tunstall [lctricfrog@cox.net](mailto:lctricfrog@cox.net)  
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Jon Jolly [tcterret@hotmail.com](mailto:tcterret@hotmail.com)



**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
Aug.	No Meeting	Nov. 10	Richard & Pet Smith, Chandler
Sept. 8	Jon & Kristy Jolly, Gilbert	Dec. 8	Gary Ures, Gilbert
Oct. 13	Liz & Mike Mantsch, Chandler	Jan 12, 2013	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 2012!

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.



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Sun City, AZ 85373

Enjoy Your Summer!

