

December 2012

Next Meeting: December 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

The December meeting will be at the home of Gary Ures.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an evening meeting

Address: 2174 S. Stuart Avenue, Gilbert, AZ
Phone: 480-988-4948.

Gary will be giving a presentation on pond and landscape lighting.

Please bring your own lawn chairs and buckets for fish/plants.

Directions:

From the East:

I60 to Greenfield Road

South on Greenfield thru Ray Road (Greenfield becomes Santan Village) to Williams Field.

Left on Williams Field and follow directions below.

From the West take Chandler Blvd. (Chandler Blvd becomes Williams Field Road.

Pass thru Santan Village Rd and pass over I202

Turn left (North) at the next light, Parkcrest Road.

Take Parkcrest about 1/6 mile to Carla Vista.

Turn right (East) on Carla Vista to stop sign

Turn right (South) onto Stuart Avenue.

2nd house on right.

Time to Renew Your Membership for 2013!!

Membership dues are payable by December 31st.

You may pay Ed Tunstall or Dave Nelson at the meeting or you can mail a check to Ed at: 5439 E. Dolphin Ave, Mesa, AZ 85206-2208.

Pond Happenings



Hi GPPS members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends! We had a great turnout for the November meeting and it was great to see you all. I would like to thank our gracious hosts, Richard & Pet Smith for opening up their beautiful yard and home for us all to enjoy! They have two ponds; a cute little pond in the front courtyard and a large gorgeous pond in the back yard with many

pretty Koi (according to Pet; we did not see them they were all hiding under the bridge). The meeting was held in their stunning back yard with its fantastic mature trees and landscaping. Pet shared information about the ponds along with some humorous stories concerning the construction of the front pond; let's just say that Richard thinks twice about leaving on an extended business trip! We did not have a guest speaker due to the 2013 GPPS officer elections.

November is when we elect our officers for 2013 and all officer positions were voted on. Some positions had officers who volunteered to return and ran for re-election to their current positions while other positions had the current incumbent not seeking re-election. The 2013 list of GPPS officers are:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ➤ President | Dave Nelson | (re-elected) |
| ➤ Vice-President | Rita Karsten | (newly elected) |
| ➤ Treasurer | Ed Tunstall | (re-elected) |
| ➤ Secretary | Helen Corson | (newly elected) |
| ➤ Event Coordinator | Kristi Jolly | (re-elected) |
| ➤ Newsletter Editor | Gloria Skylstad | (re-elected) |
| ➤ Webmaster | Dennis Beard | (re-elected) |
| ➤ Librarian | Gary Ures | (re-elected) |

I would like to thank all of the current GPPS officers for all of their hard work, time and effort in helping to make 2012 an outstanding year! I would also like to welcome back those that were re-elected and welcome our newly elected officers for 2013! Additionally I would like to thank all of the members who showed up to the meeting and cast their votes! Our club is only as strong as our membership and their participation, THANKS! After the polls closed, the votes tallied and winners declared we all enjoyed a fantastic potluck spread that was full of delicious dishes and desserts!

The next general meeting will be on December 08, 2012 at the home of Gary Ures in Gilbert. Gary is also our guest speaker and he will talk about pond and landscape lighting and using his pond and surrounding landscape in his demonstration. Due to the subject this will be an evening (after dark) meeting that will start at **6:30PM**. This should be a fun and great presentation and there will be some heaters and fire pits going to help keep everyone comfortable but please dress warmly so you can wander around the pond area and see all that Gary has done! Please come on out and enjoy our host's yard, pond and hospitality!

I hope to see you all at the December meeting!

Happy Holidays to you and your families!
Dave Nelson – President



How to Plant Iris in a Water Pond

There are many different varieties of Iris that will do well in or around your pond. They are considered hardy marginal pond plants, which mean that they will thrive at the margins of ponds where they can soak in ample water and sunshine while being secured by thick mud at the ponds' edge. When planted in pots, Iris do well even in ponds that lack muddy margins.

If you are planting in a bog, dig holes for the Iris just at the water's edge. Dig the holes twice the width of the root balls with a matching depth. Space the holes about 18 inches apart.

Remove the plant from its container, carefully leaving roots and soil intact. Set the plant in its hole and backfill with wet pond soil. Tamp the soil around the stems of each plant to remove air pockets and to secure the root ball.

Fertilize with an all-purpose fertilizer according to the package directions. Iris plants prefer early spring fertilization. Fertilize every four weeks until the plants are well established.

If you do not have a bog area around your pond, you can also plant your Iris in a pot and they will do very well.

Choose a pot that is four to six times larger than the rhizome. Younger Iris with smaller roots may be planted in a smaller, shallower container but will need to be transplanted later in the season as they start to grow.

Make sure there are holes in the bottom of the pot to allow the Iris roots to escape and get nutrients from the pond. Pack the bottom of the pot with a layer of wet clay mixed with a handful of small pebbles or pea gravel. This will act as a pot liner to slow the outflow of water and will give the Iris roots a good foundation for seasonal growth.

Fill the pot with wet garden soil or pond soil almost to the rim. Tamp the soil tightly after adding each of depth. Leave about one inch of headspace at the top of the pot.





Stock Photo

How to Plant Iris in a Water Pond, Cont.

Dig a hole in the center of the pot for your Iris plant. Carefully place the roots and rhizome in the hole, allowing room for the roots to spread. Make sure the soil into which you're planting the Iris is wet and muddy.

Bury the roots and most of the rhizome into the wet soil. Leave the very top of the rhizome and any foliage exposed. Sprinkle a handful of pea gravel across the top and tamp down the soil and gravel around the plant.

Place the potted Iris plant into the pond. Make sure the pond water covers the top surface of the pot at least 1 inch. Taller Iris plants should be placed into the deeper section of your pond to help keep them upright when the wind is blowing.

Pinch off dead flowers to encourage new blooms. Use sharp scissors or clippers to remove dead or damaged leaves whenever necessary. It will keep the plants healthy and well groomed.

Your Iris plants should be divided every two to three years to keep them productive. Cut back the leaves to one third of their growth, place the plant on a newspaper and separate the rhizomes with a sharp knife keeping one stem and several roots on each one.

Plant the separated rhizomes immediately or let them air dry on newspaper in a dry shady area for up to three days before you plant them.

There are several good sites for Iris information, check them out.

www.bonniesgreenhouse.com

www.irises.org

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2012/11/louisiana-la-iris-flower-form.html>

Welcome New Members

David Devlin
Laverne Branum
Norma L. Harvey

Pond Happenings



Thank you to Pet and Richard Smith for hosting the November meeting.

Thank you to all the members who attended the annual election meeting and brought food. It was an unqualified success. The food was terrific and Pet and her crew did a fantastic job setting up and serving the food.

Pond Happenings

The November meeting was our annual election and luncheon. This year, rather than having the lunch catered, we had pot luck. The food brought by the members was wonderful and plentiful.

Thank you to the Executive Committee for your hard work this past year. Welcome to the new members of the committee.

Your new Executive Committee is as follows:

President – Dave Nelson
Vice President – Rita Karsten
Secretary – Helen Corson
Treasurer – Ed Tunstall
Event Coordinator – Kristy Jolly
Librarian – Gary Ures
Webmaster – Dennis Beard
Newsletter Editor – Gloria Skylstad

Rita Karsten and Helen Corson are new to the committee, replacing Fern Shaw and Gene Goerke.

Thank you for a job very well done to Fern and Gene, it is appreciated.

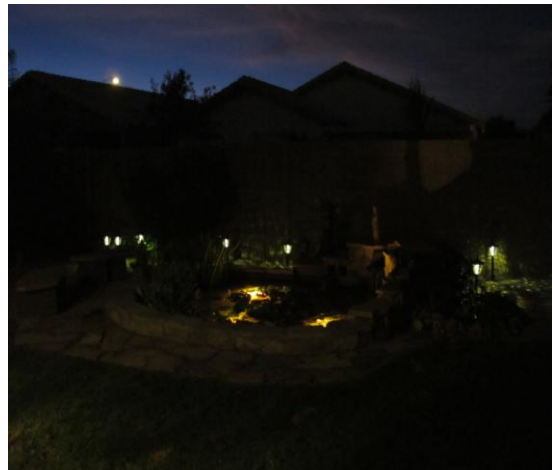
Save the date:

Wildlife Sanctuary Holiday Tours are available at the Phoenix Herpetological Society. 1:00 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Saturdays, through December 1st, and December 17th – January 5th. Fee is \$20.00; \$15.00 for ages 4-17.

www.sosouthwestwildlife.org

Valley of the Sun Koi Club, Inc

Koi Show with Rescue Koi Sale and Auction
Feb 9-10, 2013 Chinese New Year Festival
COFCO Center
668 North 44th Street
Phoenix, Arizona



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Gene Goerke	plantabi@concentric.net	602-410-7147
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net	
Secretary	Fern Shaw	Fdg1953@cox.net	602-332-8112
Events Coordinator	Kristy Jolly	tcterret@hotmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad	gskylstad@gmail.com	-
Librarian	Gary Ures	gures@koioffire.com	480-278-6847
Webmaster	Dennis Beard	dbeard_html@hotmail.com	

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'd like to change your newsletter option to "paperless".

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	tcterret@hotmail.com



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

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Dec. 8, 2012	Gary Ures, Gilbert	Mar 9, 2013	TBD
Jan 12, 2013	TBD	Apr 13, 2013	TBD
Feb 9, 2013	TBD	May 2013	Pond Tour

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.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373



A Very Happy Holiday To All!