

Next Meeting: October 13, 2012 9:00 a.m.

The October meeting will be held at the home of Mike and Liz Mantsch.

Address: 3060 E. Cherry Hills Place, Chandler AZ 85249.

Telephone: 480-229-2029

Please MapQuest or call for directions.

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

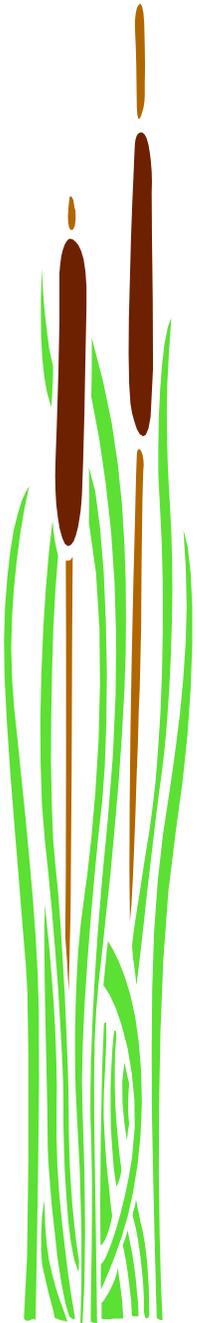


Photo: Matt Watson

Be sure to check out the website www.phoenixponds.com



President's Letter

Hello GPPS members!

It's now officially fall and I don't know about you but I am really looking forward to some cooler weather! Of course this time of year means taking care of a variety of maintenance issues and certain preparations for the winter months that will be here before you know it. I know we don't have the big issues our fellow pond enthusiasts have in the colder parts of the country do but there are still things we need to do.

For those of you who did not attend the September meeting you missed a great one! The meeting was held at the beautiful home of Jon & Kristy Jolly. They both talked about their gorgeous pond and all of the changes they have done to their yard. All of their hard work showed and I am glad we all had the opportunity to share it. Thank you Jon & Kristy for hosting our September meeting and sharing your home, yard and pond.

Our guest speaker at the meeting was Dr. Nick Saint-Erne, DVM head of animal care for PetSmart. Dr. Nick specializes in fish and knew he wanted to be a "fish doctor" since he was nine years old and it is definitely his passion. Dr. Nick gave a wonderful presentation and then answered and engaged in discussions with the attendees for almost two hours although we all could have kept him busy for a few hours more answering questions and discussing additional topics having to do with all types of aquatic life and care. It was a great meeting; thanks Dr. Nick!

The next general meeting will be on October 13, 2012. The meeting will be at the home of Robert & Elizabeth Manatsch in Chandler. At the time of my writing this the guest speaker and topic are still being worked on although one of my topics will be the annual GPPS general election of officers for 2013. Please come out and enjoy the Manatsch's gracious hospitality and support your Greater Phoenix Pond Society!

I hope to see you all at the October meeting!

Dave Nelson - President



Photo: G Skystad

Pond Happenings



Thank you to Jon and Kristy Jolly for hosting the September meeting.

Thank you to DVM Nick Saint-Erne, PetSmart Animal Health Quality for Aquatics for his presentation on fish and water care.



Thank you to Don Shaw for his great picture taking.

Fall Pond Maintenance Tips

1. Switch to cold temperature Beneficial Bacteria (dose as directed for your size pond).

Once your pond stays below 60 degrees for the winter, it is recommended that you switch to cold water beneficial bacteria. Beneficial pond bacteria play a key role in Koi pond and water garden care. Cold water beneficial bacteria will eat away at sludge on the bottom of your pond during the winter and help keep your pond crystal clear and healthy.

2. Reduce your fish feeding program

As your water temperature drops below 65 degrees the metabolism of your fish slows down. Start feeding your fish just a couple of times a week. Cold temperature fish food is specifically formulated for the spring & fall. LOW PROTIEN and HIGH CARBS are a must at this time of the year. Stop feeding your fish completely when water temperatures fall below 50 degrees. If you don't have a thermometer for your pond, Home Depot or Lowe's carry pool thermometers that will do a good job for you.

3. String Algae

Make pond maintenance easy. You can use Pond Balance once a month as preventative pond care to help control undesirable string algae. Pond Balance will assist in the breakdown and reduction of debris in your streams, waterfalls and pond, thus reducing your pond maintenance needs. Dose as directed on the container for your size of pond. It is a must that you dissolve the Pond Balance in warm water to activate it before adding it to your pond or it will lose it's efficacy.

4. Use Barley Straw Extract

The use of barley straw extract is a healthy way to keep your pond in balance. It works much faster and efficiently than barley straw or pellets.

5. Trim your perennial aquatic plants

Trim all the plants that begin going dormant as the weather cools. Your aquatic plants aren't dying, but they may turn yellow or brown as they go dormant. You should trim back the yellowing leaves to prevent decaying debris from building in the bottom of your pond. This simple trick will make your fish pond cleaning responsibilities much easier.

This is also a good time of the year to lightly clean out your biological waterfall filter and service your skimmer box and pump. Check all your wiring and pump and filter connections to make sure everything is in good working order.

Overwintering Tropical Water Lilies



Photo: G. Skylstad

It seems there are many methods of overwintering Tropical Water Lilies, according to popular opinion, each method works about 50% of the time.

Fertilization should cease mid September or October, this will promote the growth of small corms to store energy for the winter. These small corms are joined to the mother plant and can be successfully broken off to produce new plants for the next season.

If you choose to wash and store the Tropical, remove the water lily from the pond and remove all the soil around the plant, washing it all away to expose the root mass and corms.

If small corms are produced, remove these and place in damp play sand or builders sand in a plastic bag or glass jar. Place only one corm in the bag/jar and label it so that you know which Tropical it is. Store them in a cool dark place with temperatures between 50-55 degrees.

It is recommended that you dust them with a fungicide before placing them in storage. If the corm is mushy, discard it, saving only the hard corms. The fungicide will help to prevent rot while they are in storage.

For the mother plant, remove the full grown leaves and trim away excess roots. Place the mother plant, dusted with a fungicide in some damp sand also and keep in an area of the house that will stay above 60F.

In the spring, Once the temperatures are safely maintained about 60F, pot the stored plants in fresh soil with fertilizer tabs and place in the pond 2-4" below the water surface to get them started. When they start to grow again, place them in the appropriate place in your pond.

If you have the room, you can bring in the entire plant in for storage. If you chose to do this, trim off the largest leaves and any damaged leaves so the pot fits into an aquarium or lined pond inside. Keep the temperature above 60F to keep the plant alive. Let the water slowly evaporate over the winter and add warm water in the spring when you are ready to start growing the plant again.

Some supplemental lighting may be required to give the plant a bit more energy and keep the plant growing.

Overwintering Tropical Water Lilies, cont.

There are many websites that have information on overwintering all of your pond plants, the two below are great sites that have a lot of information, check them out.

<http://www.water-gardens-information.com/overwintering-tropical-water-lilies.html> Doug Green's Gardens Website

<http://www.fishpondinfo.com/plants/overwinter.htm> Robyn's Pond Plant Page

If any of you out there have successfully overwintered a Tropical, please share your tips with the Membership. We can put the information on the FAQ page of our website.



This little guy has been donated to GPPS by Ed LaBonte for another raffle. He is about 6" long now and ready for a new home. We will have lots of tickets available for him/her at the meeting so be sure to attend.



Welcome new members
Dwight & Susan McCutchan, Florence
Daniel A. Edge, Phoenix

<p>Save the Date Otsukimi Moon Viewing Festival Saturday, October 20, 2012 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p>	<p>Purchase Tickets at jfgphx.brownpapertickets.com Also available at the gate \$25.00 Adult / \$20.00 member \$12.00 Youth (4-10 years)</p>
<p>Japanese Friendship Garden 1125 N. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ Gates open at 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Includes entertainment and Bento Box Free 3 yrs and under</p>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Librarian	Gary Ures	gures@koioffire.com	480-278-6847

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

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 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
Oct. 13	Liz & Mike Mantsch, Chandler	Jan 12, 2013	TBD
Nov. 10	Richard & Pet Smith, Chandler	Feb 9, 2013	TBD
Dec. 8	Gary Ures, Gilbert	Mar 9, 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.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373



Happy Halloween!