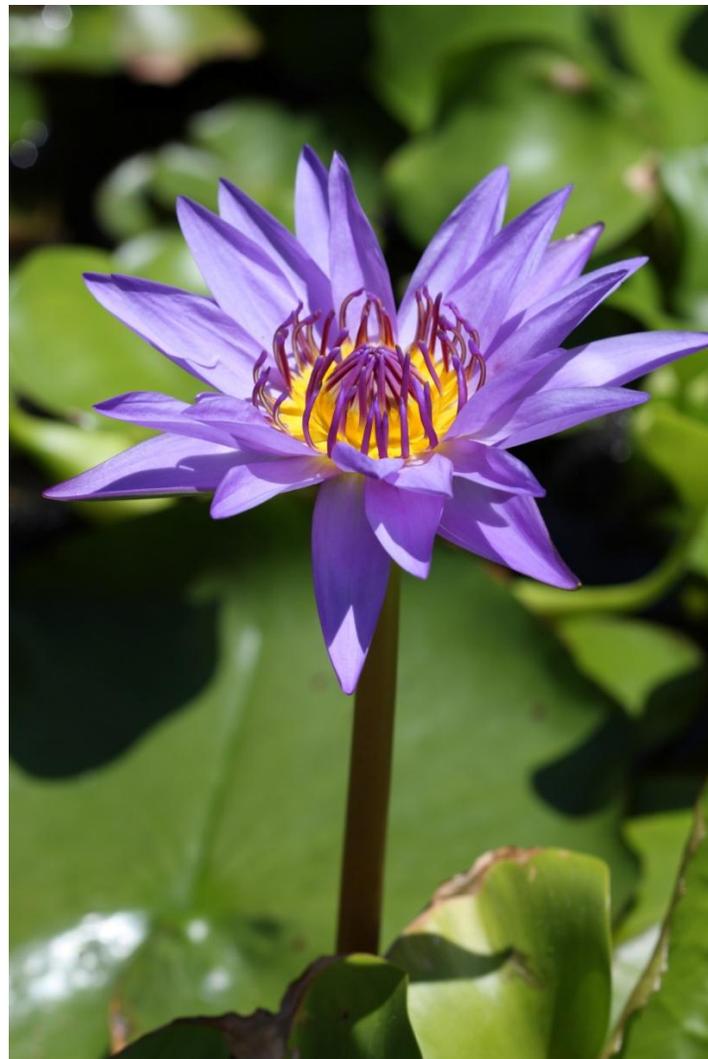
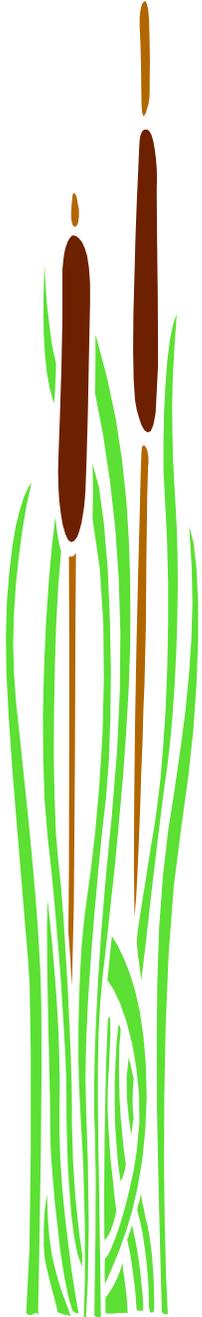


August 2013

No Meeting August

Next meeting will be September 13, 2013 at the home of
Jon and Kristy Jolly





President's Letter

Hello GPPS!

I hope everyone is having a great summer and had a great 4th of July! It's already August and the end of July monsoon thunderstorms actually brought us some rain this year. I know we need the rain that comes (hopefully) with the monsoon season but I for one could do without the humidity, ugh!

Last month I mentioned how important it was to keep on top of our pond maintenance this time of year. One of the problems we are all faced with is algae. Whether it's an algae bloom or the always dreaded string algae it is something we all have to deal with at one time or another. This leads me to an unfortunate story about algae control.

According to information I received from Dennis Beard the Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) is dealing with an issue concerning the use of a non-fish safe algaecide (contained copper) by a Phoenix Water Works worker. The individual who feeds the fish at JFG noticed one day that none of the fish came to the surface like they normally do when he put food in the water. After some investigating they found the algaecide container which contained a warning on the label that the product was not "fish safe". A water test was conducted to determine if there actually were detectable copper levels and there were. Dr. Nick Saint-Erne, DVM was consulted to see what the effects of the copper would be on the Koi. Dr. Nick said that copper causes problems with all carp species. He said that copper causes the fish to become disorientated and if in high enough concentrations the fish can actually forget to "breathe". The JFG has performed a "water change" by adding fresh water to flush out the contaminated water. There was not a total fish kill but the full effects of this mistake will not be known for a while as there may be some fish that die due to the effects of the copper. The issue at JFG was a simple mistake and was not done intentionally but it drives home a very important point; NEVER add anything to your pond without doing your research!

I hope to see you all at the next meeting on September 14, 2013 at the home of Jon & Kristi Jolly.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and please be safe!

Dave Nelson - President

ALGAE REMEDIES

Algae is a green plant, albeit microscopic, that needs sunlight and nutrients to survive. Controlling this pond keeper's bane requires deprivation of either light or food, or both.

Be patient...

Even if your pond is not overstocked with fish, spring often brings a touch of string algae followed by green water...*until the pond's plants have fully reawakened*. Patience is the key; wait it out as the pond balances on its own. Of course, performing a partial water change may temporarily alleviate the algae bloom, but until the pond plants are awake and out-competing the algae for the pond's nutrients, the algae bloom will return.

A Clean Pond

If fish wastes and particulate organic matter, commonly known as silt or muck, accumulate on the pond bottom or in gravel pockets within the pond, you may as well incorporate your own algae business. These organic wastes, through their decomposition and role in the Nitrogen Cycle, supply a continual source of nutrients to the water...fostering continual algae blooms and slimy, string algae. Regularly vacuuming the pond bottom in conjunction with partial water exchanges prevents such build-ups and their resultant algae problems, as does the use of bottom-drain systems.

Eco-Balance

Although many sources cite a list of quantities of various types of aquatic plants to be stocked in the pond to achieve 'eco-balance,' even a full-sun pond can remain free of algae with only enough submerged grasses or floating hyacinths to out-compete for the nutrients. One bunch per square foot of water surface of submerged anacharis, *Elodea*, or hornwort (free-floating-but-submerged (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)) will keep the pond water free of algae as long as the pond is not over-stocked with fish. Northern ponds should use *Elodea canadensis*, which is more tolerant of cold water than the South American native, anacharis. *Elodea* often breaks dormancy and begins removing nutrients from the water at the same time as traditional algae blooms. It is possible with the proper amount of *Elodea* to not experience an algae bloom at all.

Barley Straw

An effective prevention of algae growth is the use of barley straw. Generally most effective at prevention when used from November through spring, it seems to keep the algae at bay during the season with the assistance of aquatic plants. The straw should be removed from the pond before it starts to decompose and begins adding nutrients to the water. Many people include barley straw as a media layer in the bio-filter where it is out of sight.

Algae Remedies, Cont.

Shading the Water

Many botanical gardens attack algae by depriving it of sunlight with water dyes. These dyes shade the water either blue or black. Especially in the early spring, such shading inhibits the growth of aquatic plants. Move them closer to the water's surface until they are established and can survive at normal depths.

Shade can also be supplied with surface-covering plants such as water lily leaves and floating plants like water hyacinth. Remember, however, that the pond's primary source of oxygen is at the water's surface. Too much surface coverage can result in low oxygen levels, your fish advising you of the fact by gasping or gathering at the surface and at waterfall entries. You'll need to provide additional aeration and/or reduce the amount of fish in the pond, if you maintain extensive surface cover.

Yet another way to shade the pond surface is with a canopy of shade cloth or lattice. Koi pond keepers often use this method that also protects the koi's colors and shields them from the view of overflying predators. Northern water gardens find this method inhibits the growth of many flowering aquatics, while Southern water gardeners find the partial shade of lattices protects flowering aquatics from excessive heat and oppressive sunlight.

Mechanical Algae Removal

Twirling a stick or brush in the water is the best way to rid the pond of string algae. Shutting down the waterfall and using a scrub brush (with no soap or chemicals) satisfies fastidious pond keepers.

Ultra-violet light kills free-floating, green water algae as the cycling pond water flows past it. The algae cells are damaged by the light and die within the pond. Cleaning their debris from the pond bottom prevents it from feeding future algae blooms. UV lights also kill the free-swimming stage of many parasites in the flowing water. To protect the beneficial bacteria in the pond, the UV light is set up *after* the biofilter in the pond's plumbing scheme.

Chemical Controls

Do not use chemicals to kill the algae since most algaecides are bases on one of two chemicals: copper sulfate or simazine. Copper sulfate also affects other aquatic plants in the pond, particularly submerged grasses, floating aquatics, and more sensitive water lilies. Simazine is not recommended in the presence of fish.

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Please note Webmaster Dennis Beard's information on page 5.*

Hello all,

It was discovered that Phoenix City works had put an algaecide that contained copper into the JFG pond one day. The gentleman (John) who feeds the fish noticed one day that no Koi came to the surface and he was concerned.

In short David Yee (VSKC) had the water tested and found out for sure that the water did have copper. David confirmed with DVM Nick Saint-Erne that copper causes a problem with all carp species. The fish become disoriented and in high concentration, the fish forget to "breathe."

He also checked a container at JFG. It contained bold type that said the product was NOT Koi safe. There is an overflow setup in the ponds design and by adding new water a water change was effected.

While some fish may have or will die, there wasn't a total fish kill. However, it will take a lot of time to determine the exact level of damage.

So, for all pond keepers with Koi or Goldfish -- Do not use an algaecide that has copper in it. Read the labels!

Dennis E. Beard, Lt. Colonel(US Army Ret.), MA

Welcome New Members

Linda Zvara & Frank Smith, Scottsdale
Chuck Niday, Glendale
Michael & Linda Machen, Peoria



Hot Weather Pond Tips:

The warmer the water, the less oxygen it holds! If your pond holds near its capacity of fish, there is danger of a fish kill if the slightest thing goes wrong! If your fish are congregating around the waterfall, they are already looking for extra oxygen. How do you prevent it? [Add a fountain](#) for quick, extra oxygen or use [an air pump](#) (having an extra pump is always a good idea for emergencies). If that is not in the realm of possibility, at least make sure that all [cracks are sealed in your waterfall](#) to make sure all the water actually falls down the front and produces as much oxygen as possible.

Oxygen deprivation is the # 1 pond fish killer!

Stop feeding the pond fish if the water temperature goes above 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Feed early in the morning when the water is coolest. Cheerios is ideal at 80 degree and only the amount the fish eat in five minutes. Note, the fish will beg for food when you stop feeding at 85 degrees. Be strong and do not give in to their demands.

Do not use chemical algaecides - when algae die it temporarily reduces oxygen in the pond and that could be enough to push a stressed pond over the edge. Use [biological products](#) and [preventative products](#) instead and do so early in the morning when the water is coolest and not at all if the fish seem stressed.

Feed lower protein [fish food](#) which is easier to digest if water temperatures are above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. It provides all essential nutrients and reduces digestive stress during very hot weather.

Koi can actually get sunburned and need some shade or deep water to escape to.

Your Pond is an investment which increases your property value and is beneficial to the environment; these few precautions will go a long way toward protecting it.

Article courtesy of www.pondmarket.com



Pond Happenings

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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".

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Jon Jolly	tcferrret@hotmail.com



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

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Aug	No Meeting	Nov 9	Gloria Skylstad, Sun City Election of Officers
Sept 13	Jon & Kristy Jolly, Gilbert	Dec 14	Richard & Pet Smith, Phoenix
Oct 12	George & Diane Morris, Queen Creek	Jan 2014	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 2013!

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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