

February 2013

Next Meeting: February 9th 9:00 a.m.

The February meeting will be held at the home of Belinda Bertoncino.

Address: 22210 N. Van Loo Drive, Maricopa AZ 85138-1695
(Development of Rancho el Dorado)

Telephone: 520-303-0271

Directions: I-10 East to Queen Creek/ 347 Exit. Turn right (heading to Maricopa). Approx 15 miles to Maricopa. Large Palm trees before coming into city of Maricopa.

To left is Rancho el Dorado. Turn left at palm trees and light. Turn left at stop sign, Rancho el Dorado Parkway. Approx. 1+ mile on Rancho el Dorado Parkway, past the school on the left. First street after is Van Loo Dr., Pima Butte School is on the left.

Turn right at Van Loo Dr. Home is approx. 6 blocks down on right side of street. There are 3 iron quail by driveway; large Palo Verde tree. You have arrived.

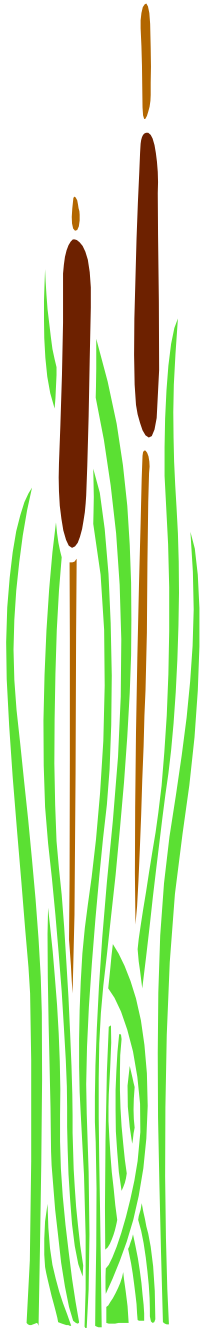
Please feel free to call if you have any questions on directions.

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

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.





President's Letter

Hi Gpps Members:

Well 2013 started off great with our first meeting on a very chilly morning at the home of Tom & Carla Briggs. It was a good turnout for such a chilly morning but they had chimineas and some propane heaters going to help take the chill off and trust me the attendees took full advantage of them. Tom talked about his pond and its various transformations since he first started his pond. There were two new members that had several questions that sparked lively discussion with numerous suggestions coming from the attendees. A very big thank you to Tom and Carla for hosting the meeting and sharing their yard, pond and gracious hospitality.

On February 9 – 10, 2013 the Valley of the Sun Koi Club (VSKC) is having their Koi show, rescue Koi sale and auction during the Chinese New Year Festival at the Chinese Cultural Center. Please go to the calendar page on our website for additional information. GPPS will have a booth at the event and we are looking for volunteers to help at the booth during both days. Please let us know either by e-mail, phone or at the February 9th meeting (yes the meeting is the same Saturday as the event).

Below are some items that need to be addressed.

- All membership dues are for the calendar year starting in January and expiring in December so membership dues are due in January. If you have not paid your dues for 2013 please send them in or pay them at the February meeting.
- There are still some open months available for any member wanting to host a meeting.
- If you want to be on the 2013 pond tour please contact GPPS Vice-President Rita Karsten.

The next meeting will be on February 09, 2013 at the home of Belinda Bertoncino in Maricopa. Please come on out and enjoy our host's pond, yard and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the February meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings

Thank you to Tom and Carla Briggs for hosting a very cold January Meeting. Tom had heaters to help with the cold. Rumor has it there was ice skating on the pond.



Please Note:

The Valley of the Sun Koi Club Koi Show will start on Friday with a sale of Koi up until such time that the vendors with fish for sale arrive. The actual Koi show starts on Saturday with the benching (determining the fishes placement for the judging that follows). The judging starts by size and Koi type. The awards banquet is later Saturday night. Saturday and Sunday, the vendors have first go at selling their fish. However, if there are any fish remaining from the Friday sale, the Koi club will have an auction on Sunday starting around 12:00 noon.

Goldfisnet.com is a vendor on GPPS resources page and they will be available at the Koi show. You'll get a chance to visit with them in person.

Gene Goerke will be setting up the GPPS booth and will need volunteers to man the booth Saturday Feb 9th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Feb 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

GPPS Webmaster Dennis Beard will be at the February meeting and will have five (5) free parking passes for the first five volunteers. Parking is \$5.00. The Koi show location is approximately 30 miles from the host member's home so you have plenty of time to come to the meeting, pick up a parking pass and head over to the GPPS Booth to volunteer.

The Koi Show location is:

**The Chinese Cultural Center
668 N. 44th Street,
Phoenix AZ 85008**

Pond Happenings

The February meeting will be at the home of Belinda Bertoncino in Maricopa. Belinda came to her first meeting in January and volunteered to host the February meeting.

Belinda's pond is 3,000 gallons, built by Brian of CTK Quality Ponds with very large (up to 500#) river rock boulders. She says that there is so much more to do, especially her greenery around the pond and waterfalls to naturalize the look of the pond.

She has a bead filter with UV and a 6600gph pump.

GPPS Webmaster Dennis Beard will be the presenter for the February meeting. He will be discussing the Valley of the Sun Koi Show and the Koi judging.

Reference Library

Library Books are available for checkout at each meeting. If you wish to donate to the library fund, please contact Gary Ures or see him at the meetings. All borrowed books should be returned to him as soon as possible.

Save the Date:

March 9, the GPPS meeting will be held at the Gilbert Riparian Water Preserve. Event Coordinator Kristy Jolly has arranged for us to have a speaker there and is working on a bird walk for after the meeting.

Gene Goerke will be looking for volunteers in the spring to help with the Iris and Lily beds at the Japanese Friendship Garden, please contact him if you might be able to help. plantabi@concentric.net

Welcome New Members

**Belinda Bertoncino, Maricopa
June & John Gill, Gilbert**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Rita Carsten	rj_kars10@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net	
Secretary	Helen Corson	htcorson@aol.com	
Events Coordinator	Kristy Jolly	tcferret@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	tcferret@hotmail.com



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

Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Feb 9, 2013	Belinda Bertoncino, Maricopa	May 2013	Pond Tour
Mar 9, 2013	Gilbert Riparian Preserve	June 8, 2013	TBD
Apr 13, 2013	Bob & Diane Malone, Phoenix	July	No Meeting

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 Valentine's Day