

January 2013

Next Meeting: January 12th 9:00 a.m.

The January meeting will be held at the home of Tom and Carla Briggs of Phoenix.

Address: 4310E. Glenhaven Drive, Phoenix AZ 85048
Telephone: 480-510-2403 480-331-4564

Directions: From either I-10 or San Tan 202 take the Pecos Road West exit 1 mile to 40th St. Go right on 40th, ½ mile to Frye. Hang another right. Go ½ mile to 43rd Place. Again, go right, to Glenhaven Dr., right on Glenhaven. We're the 4th house on the right.

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

Welcome New Members

David Devlin, Glendale
Laverne Branum, Chandler
Norma L. Harvey, Gilbert

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.

Please note that the March 2013 newsletter will be the last issue unpaid members will receive. So be sure to get those dues into Ed as soon as possible.



Happy New Year GPPS members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas/Holiday Season and you were able to spend time with family and friends. I know it is hard to believe but it is already 2013. I hope 2013 is a great year for you, your family and friends. I am looking forward to our upcoming season and working together with our 2013 officers and all of our members to ensure that GPPS continues to be the best it can be.

There was a great turnout at the December meeting. The meeting was at night and although it was a bit chilly there were a couple of fire pits to help people keep warm. I would like to thank our gracious hosts Gary and Lisa for sharing their pond and hospitality. Gary talked about their pond, fish and plants. Gary was also the speaker and he gave a great presentation on pond and landscape lighting. There were several questions that led to some further discussion on the topic.

Every year we look back at what we accomplished the year prior and try to come with ways to improve in the upcoming year. Some of our members have been with the club for many years while other are brand new but you all have great ideas so please submit them now. If you are an older member, think back to years past and submit suggestions on any/all of these topics based on your past experiences. If you are a newer member please submit ideas based on what you want out of your club. The key here is that this is **YOUR** club and it is **YOUR** responsibility to submit suggestions to help not only you, but your club, be the best club experience it can be. Please submit any/all suggestions you can think of for the topics below. They are all import topics and they require your input.

1. Ideas for meeting topics – include seasonal ideas such as pond maintenance and plant care such as when and how to re-pot lilies.
2. Ideas for special meeting locations
3. Ideas for July/August field trips
4. Ideas for fund raising activities and/or products
5. Ideas for club activities
6. Ideas for club growth and improvement

The next and first general meeting for 2013 will be on January 12, 2013. The January meeting will be held the home of Tom & Carla Brigs in Ahwatukee. Please come on out and enjoy our host's pond, yard and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the January meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings



Thank you to Gary Ures for hosting the December meeting. Gary was the presenter as well, exhibiting wonderful ways to decorate your ponds and landscapes with lighting.

Thank you to Don Shaw for the photos. Great Job!

At the November meeting at Pet Smith's house, there was a beautiful purple plant that everyone admired. Helen Corson has identified that plant as she has one as well.

It is Mona Lavender. *Plectranthus Hybrida*. The label instructs that it have part sun, 4-6 hours of direct sun each day. Medium water requirement, spacing 12"-14", height 12"-16". It blooms spring and fall. Helens plant blooms constantly although a bit less in the summer.

Request for Member Input for the GPPS Newsletter

We are looking for input from GPPS members. Remember, this is **your** club, and all information shared, contributed and exchanged, will continue to enrich the club. The following is a list of topics that can be used for future newsletter content, as well as additions to the website. **This list is not exhaustive; please feel free to submit any other ideas you may have.**

Additionally, all questions are welcome and can be answered in future meetings, shared in the newsletter, and/or placed on the GPPS site for future reference.

Please submit any/all ideas to gppsnews@blue-fish.biz. Pictures are helpful as well.

1. Tips/Tricks - What are some creative things that you've done that have improved your pond?

Example - Using the rectangular "window box" plastic planters, rather than round. Makes it easy to pond vac around, can "stake" my pond lights in them, and makes it easier for the lily rhizomes to grow/spread out.

Example – Use nylon stockings to put loose barley straw in for algae control. You can often find loose barley straw at feed or garden supply stores, sometimes even for free.

2. Fish Care - What are things that you like to feed your fish? Organic lettuces, peas with skin removed, just goldfish flakes, etc. What do you do for medical treatments and how do you identify issues before they become too drastic? What kind of fish do you have and how many? How old are they, etc?

3. Basic pond terminology - What's the difference between a gravity filter vs. a pressurized filter? Why used submersible pump vs. external pump? Why are there so many different kinds of filter media, and what do they do?

4. Plant Care - What kind of planting media do you use? What is your fertilizing routine? Do you use just fertilizer tabs, or do you supplement with liquid fertilizer? How do you divide plants and when?

5. What products would you recommend/not recommend and why? This can include things like water filters, pumps, pond maintenance products (algae control, flocculants, etc).

6. URL Links to Internet sites that you've found helpful.

7. Featured Member's Pond – Submit photos and a write-up of your pond so that it can be featured in the newsletter.

Now that “Winter” is upon us, it’s time to start planning for spring. Now is the time to decide what new plants you want to add to your pond landscape and whether or not there are new fish additions in your future.

There are many very good sites for plants if you check our member website www.phoenixponds.com you will find several links to vendors that our members have recommended. If you explore our website, you will also find vendors for pond supplies of all kinds.

GPPS Webmaster, Dennis Beard has also updated the FAQ page, check it out, the answer to your question may be there.

If you’re considering snails, now is the time to order them if you get them by mail.

Editor’s note: I have had very good success ordering my Black Japanese Trapdoor snails from www.dragonflyaquatics.com . The cost is \$1.99 each and they are usually large and healthy. Gloria Skylstad, Newsletter Editor.

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 from the Valley of the Sun Koi Club



*** 2013 Koi Show***

Koi Sale. Friday, February 8th from 9 to 5
Koi Auction Sunday, February 10th at 12 noon.

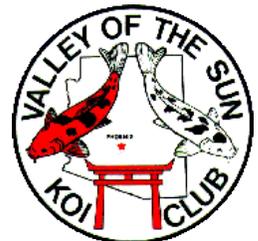
At the

Chinese New Year's Festival

The Chinese Cultural Center

668 N. 44th Street,
Phoenix AZ 85008

Over 60 Vendors!



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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	Bigd_1956@yahoo.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Rita Karsten	rj_kars10@yahoo.com	
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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".

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
Jan 12, 2013	Tom & Carla Briggs, Phoenix	Apr 13, 2013	Bob & Diane Malone, Phoenix
Feb 9, 2013	TBD	May 2013	Pond Tour
Mar 9, 2013	Field Trip	June 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

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!