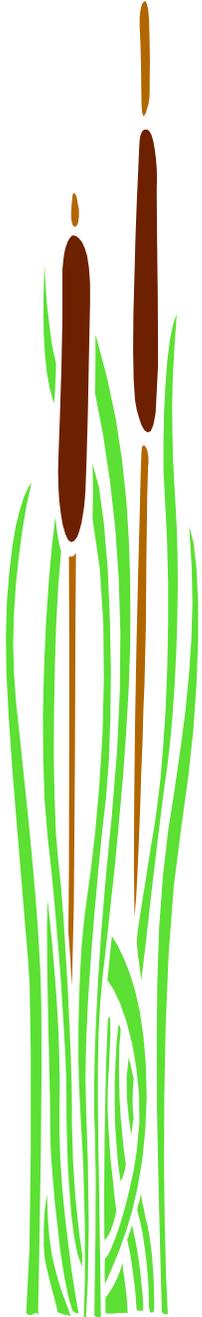


No Meeting July

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





President's Letter

Hi GPPS!

Well summer is here; ready or not! High heat, the monsoon season, higher humidity, high winds, dust storms and hopefully some much needed rain! Of course with all of the above also comes higher pond maintenance due to all of the debris that gets blown into our ponds. Also remember that with the higher heat comes higher evaporation rates and lower oxygen levels so please remember to do your water changes and turn on those air pumps to boost oxygen levels when needed.

I was bummed that I missed the June meeting at the Japanese Friendship Gardens (JFG) but I enjoyed a little vacation time to attend my oldest granddaughter's high school graduation celebration in Wisconsin. I hope everyone enjoyed the meeting and of course the JFG. We are able to enjoy the JFG due to our unique relationship that GPPS has with JFG. For those of you who may not be familiar with that relationship is and what it entails I will explain. First and foremost as with any relationship it all starts with people. The impetus for this is GPPS member and past VP, Gene Goerke. Gene brought a proposal to the GPPS membership to see if GPPS members would volunteer to help clean out the iris beds in the JFG pond and would we donate funds so JFG could purchase fertilizer tabs for them. Fortunately the GPPS membership agreed and since then there have been several work parties formed for cleaning and maintaining the planting beds at the JFG. Additionally we have continued the funding of the fertilizer tabs.

That is the "good" news; the bad news is that the same small group of people are the only GPPS members that volunteer their time to this worthwhile endeavor. The June meeting was the second time JFG allowed us to have a meeting at their awesome facility not to mention the free passes we have been able to give out at the last two GPPS pond tours. All of this is possible and available to all GPPS members due to the volunteer efforts of a few GPPS members. Please remember that the next time a work part comes up at JFG. We want this relationship to continue so please volunteer and do your part to keep this partnership going strong!

There is no meetings in July & August so enjoy your summer and we will see you all at the next meeting on September 14, 2013 at the home of Jon & Kristi Jolly.

A special thanks to Gene Goerke and Rita Karsten for taking care of the June meeting in my absence!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings

Thank you to the Japanese Friendship Garden and Gene Goerke for hosting our June meeting. The GPPS volunteers assist with the water gardens at the Japanese Friendship Garden. Please consider joining us for a work event in the fall.



Photos: Courtesy of Matt Watson

Jon Jolly has pond plants for sale, you can check them out at this link:

<http://phoenix.craigslist.org/evl/grd/3807919078.html>

Myra Baum has sent a link of the ocean that she would like to share with the membership: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/mcbHKAWIk3I>

Pond Lighting

Now that you have dug your hole, filled it with water, fish and plants, it's time to think about how you would like to install lighting in and around your pond to show it off to its full potential.



If you are going to use underwater lighting, place the lights so that a waterfall or a prized plant is highlighted. Placing the lights toward the center of the pond also highlights the foliage of your water plants and shows off your fish.

For interior lighting, you can choose from several types of lights, low voltage underwater lights, LED lights and floating lights. Alpine has a low voltage light that comes with a garden stake which makes it very easy to put in one of your underwater pots and the Eglites will sit on the floor of your pond. Each of these lights comes with several different colored lenses so that you can change the effect of the lights at your discretion. They also come with or without a transformer, singles or multiples so that you can use additional lights if you wish.

Fiber optic tubing and/or LED lights on the interior perimeter of your pond is also a beautiful option. For safety as well as beauty, be sure to light the perimeter of the pond and the pathways around it. There are many solar options as well as hardwired options. The solar lighting will give a soft "candle" effect whereas the hardwired lights have the capability to give off a brighter light.

There are also lights that are disguised as "rocks" that will fit into your landscape without being noticed.

Here's a tip for all the cords around your pond: Rather than have four or five cords lying around, consider putting them together in a Split Flex Tubing (aka Wire Loom). There are various diameters available so that you can put several cords together. The tubing is available at Lowes and Home Depot.



Pond Happenings

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|--------------|
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| Vice President | Rita Karsten | vicepres@phoenixponds.com | |
| Treasurer | Ed Tunstall | treasurer@phoenixponds.com | |
| Secretary | Helen Corson | secretary@phoenixponds.com | |
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| Librarian | Gary Ures | librarian@phoenixponds.com | 480-278-6847 |
| Webmaster | Dennis Beard | webmaster@phoenixponds.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

| | |
|--------------|--|
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| Dick Wilson | radwilson@cox.net |
| Ed Tunstall | lctricfrog@cox.net |
| Tom Briggs | tcbriqgsphx@gmail.com |
| 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 |
| July | No Meeting | Oct 12 | George & Diane Morris, Queen Creek |
| Aug | No Meeting | Nov 9 | Gloria Skylstad, Sun City Election of Officers |
| Sept 13 | Jon & Kristy Jolly, Gilbert | Dec 14 | Richard & Pet Smith, Phoenix |

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.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373

Happy July 4th! Stay Safe!