

March 2013

**Next Meeting: March 9th - 9:00 a.m.**

The March meeting will be held at the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Event Coordinator Kristy Jolly has reserved the Dragonfly Ramada from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. for our group.

There are four picnic tables so you may be able to leave your chairs in the car. There will be a volunteer to talk about the GRP. Members may spend as long as they like in the Preserve after the meeting.

<http://www.riparianinstitute.org/pdf/riparian0108.pdf> This link is a map to the preserve.

**Time to Renew Your Membership for 2013!!**

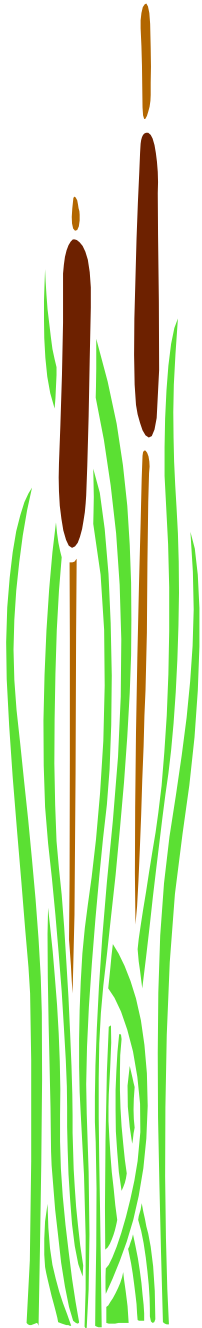
**Membership dues are payable by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**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!**

**This will be last issue of the newsletter that you will receive if your dues are not paid.**

**Welcome New Members  
Les & Janice Tanzer, Chandler**





Hello GPPS!

The February meeting was quite a bit warmer than the January meeting and was well attended! The meeting was held at the home of new GPPS member, Belinda Bertoncino, who volunteered to host the February meeting during the January meeting; it must have been the cold! Belinda had just had new gravel spread around her backyard so the bulk of the meeting was held inside her beautiful home. We went through all of the normal GPPS business and then went into the backyard where Belinda shared her pond with everyone. She told us about the construction of her pond and answered a variety of questions about her plants and fish. A big “thank you” to Belinda for hosting the meeting, sharing her home, yard, pond and her gracious hospitality.

On February 9 – 10, 2013 the Valley of the Sun Koi Club (VSKC) was having their Koi show, rescue Koi sale and auction during the Chinese New Year Festival at the Chinese Cultural Center so in keeping with that theme our guest speaker, Dennis Beard, shared with the meeting attendees some of the criteria used for judging Koi. Dennis had picture handouts to show some of the seemingly minor variances that are looked at and graded as part of the judging process. It was a lot of fun trying to play judge and pick the winners! Thanks Dennis for the great information. I would also like to thank Gene Goerke for taking charge of the GPPS booth, getting it set-up and arranging for volunteers to work the booth throughout the weekend.

During the meeting one of the topics I brought up for discussion was moving the November meeting luncheon to the December meeting and moving the December meeting start time to 11:00AM to better facilitate the luncheon. After some discussion a motion was proposed, seconded, voted upon and unanimously passed.

Note: The GPPS officer elections will still be during the November meeting starting at the normal 9:00AM starting time.

Just a reminder:

1. 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 March meeting.
2. If you want to be on the 2013 pond tour please contact GPPS Vice-President Rita Karsten.

The next meeting will be on March 09, 2013 at the Gilbert Riparian Preserve with the guest presenter being a volunteer of the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Please come on out and enjoy the day at the Gilbert Riparian Preserve!

I hope to see you at the March meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

**Save the Date:**

**March 23** - Work Day at Japanese Friendship Gardens 7:00 a.m.  
1125 N. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ

If you would like to volunteer to help with the water gardens, please contact Gene Goerke at [plantabi@concentric.net](mailto:plantabi@concentric.net) or Gloria Skylstad at [gskylstad@gmail.com](mailto:gskylstad@gmail.com) .

**April 13 & 14** - Phoenix Bonsai Society Show, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Valley Garden Center 1809 North 15th Ave. , Phoenix, AZ 85007  
This is an indoor event and admission is free.

**April 26-28** Home Show at Maricopa County Fairgrounds. President Dave Nelson will be needing volunteers to help with the GPPS booth for the three days. This is an important event to promote the upcoming GPPS Pond Tour, so please be as generous with your time as possible. Contact Dave Nelson at [Bigd\\_1956@yahoo.com](mailto:Bigd_1956@yahoo.com) to sign up for the event.

**May 11 - GPPS Annual Pond Tour.** If you would like to be a tour host, please contact Rita Karsten at [rj\\_kars10@yahoo.com](mailto:rj_kars10@yahoo.com)

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Now that spring is here, it's time to check your pond to be sure that everything is in good working order.

Check your pond liner to make sure that there are no leaks or tears in your pond liner. Make certain that the pond is not leaking around the perimeter. Check all your tubing, connections, pond pumps and filters to make sure they are all secure and working properly.

Remember that even though your UV light may be lighting, it doesn't mean it is still working. The UV light tends to lose its efficacy after about 10 months.

If you have a pond vac, use it to clean the debris from the bottom of the pond.

Once everything has been checked out, you can begin thinking about feeding your fish and dividing some of the pond plants that have out grown their planting containers and fertilizing them.

## Pond Happenings



Thank you to Belinda Bertonconi for hosting the February meeting. Belinda has a 3,000 gallon pond with beautiful river rock and an assortment of Koi and fancy goldfish. She says she has lots of plants to get in the ground and will be working on the landscaping for the pond this spring.

Webmaster Dennis Beard gave a talk on Koi and how they are shown. He explained some of the judging criteria and how the Koi are "benched", placed according to size and type. It was very informative and there were lots of questions for Dennis.



Please pass my thanks along to the folks who volunteered to man our GPPS booth at the Koi Festival. It was a great success.

Nina & Alan Koepcke  
Jack Hayes  
Dennis and Sue Beard  
Don and Fern Shaw  
Roger Michael  
Karen Valenzuela  
Gloria Skylstad  
Dan Drane  
Dan Edge  
Ed Tunstall

I hope I didn't forget anyone. Thanks again.

Gene Goerke



The following is a note from Lucy Ross regarding a trip she has planned to Taiwan. Please respond to her if you are interested in the trip.

"I am planning a group trip and wish to know if anyone in the Pond Club/Koi Club maybe interested in a tour to Taiwan (where the Ultra Balance fish food is made).

<http://taiwantourism.us/> - click on the lily will lead you more info.

Basic information:

\$ 1,599 (double occupancy) for 5 days, 4 nights, - Round trip airline ticket (economy class - LA -> Taipei, Taipei -> LA), tour include: bus transportation between sights, 5 star hotels. Breakfast included. The ticket is good for 90 days so people can stay longer if they wish. We have to ADD ROUND TRIP AIRFARE from PHOENIX and LA.

People may add additional days to explore any particular sights that were not covered in the tour.

[Sun Moon Lake](#) [Kenting National Park](#) – I pick a couple of spots that listed on the tour.

Each person needs to have a valid passport; no Visa required if you have a passport issued by the US government. I have not pick a date yet, that will be determined who and when they will be available (this will happen in late March to early April – summer can be hot and humid in Taiwan.

My email address is [Remotetoken@Yahoo.com](mailto:Remotetoken@Yahoo.com) "

Lucy Ross

Jon and Kristy Jolly are the proud parents of a litter of 8 Chinook puppies. While puppies aren't very pond related, they did manage to fall/jump in and try out the water in their pond.

Check out their website [www.desertsolchinooks.com](http://www.desertsolchinooks.com) and look and the puppies.

Kristy and Jon did wonderful job on their website and the puppies are too cute.





January 11, 2013

Greater Phoenix Pond Society  
5439 E. Dolphin Ave  
Mesa, AZ 85206

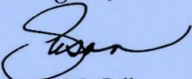
Dear Pond Society Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, please accept our thank you for your generous contribution of the fertilizer tabs for the aquatic plants (an estimated value of \$105). Your continued support of our garden is very much appreciated.

The Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, Inc. is a nonprofit organization as determined and designated by the IRS tax code, section 501(c)3. The Garden's EIN is 20-1978899. Your donation may be tax deductible; please consult with your tax advisor or accountant. This letter serves as your receipt.

Once again, please accept our deepest appreciation for your generosity. It is through contributions such as yours that Ro Ho En continues to thrive and realize its growing potential in our community as a place of friendship, beauty, and peace.

Warm regards,

  
Susan O. McCall  
Executive Director  
Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix

*Thank you all for your ongoing contributions! They are truly important to the Garden's beauty.*

No goods or services were provided by the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix in return for this contribution.

2700 North 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone 602-274-8700  
Please like us on Facebook! *Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix*

The above letter is from the Japanese Friendship Garden thanking the GPPS volunteers for all their help with the fertilizer tabs and the work done in the flower beds. Kudos to all of you for taking time to participate. Your work is invaluable.

## Pond Happenings

President	Dave Nelson	<a href="mailto:Bigd_1956@yahoo.com">Bigd_1956@yahoo.com</a>	480-357-7205
Vice President	Rita Karsten	<a href="mailto:rj_kars10@yahoo.com">rj_kars10@yahoo.com</a>	
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	<a href="mailto:lctricfrog@cox.net">lctricfrog@cox.net</a>	
Secretary	Helen Corson	<a href="mailto:htcorson@aol.com">htcorson@aol.com</a>	
Events Coordinator	Kristy Jolly	<a href="mailto:tcterret@hotmail.com">tcterret@hotmail.com</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skystad	<a href="mailto:gskystad@gmail.com">gskystad@gmail.com</a>	-
Librarian	Gary Ures	<a href="mailto:gures@koioffire.com">gures@koioffire.com</a>	480-278-6847
Webmaster	Dennis Beard	<a href="mailto:dbeard_html@hotmail.com">dbeard_html@hotmail.com</a>	

Monthly Submission Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletters will be sent out the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 [gskystad@gmail.com](mailto:gskystad@gmail.com)

**Did you know?** Receiving an electronic version will save GPPS Members money every month. Contact [gskystad@gmail.com](mailto:gskystad@gmail.com) if you'd like to change your newsletter option to "paperless".

### GPPS Technical Committee:

Gene Goerke [Plantabi@concentric.net](mailto:Plantabi@concentric.net)  
Jeff Karsten [rj\\_kars10@yahoo.com](mailto:rj_kars10@yahoo.com)  
Dick Wilson [radwilson@cox.net](mailto:radwilson@cox.net)  
Ed Tunstall [lctricfrog@cox.net](mailto:lctricfrog@cox.net)  
Tom Briggs [tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com](mailto:tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com)  
Jon Jolly [tcterret@hotmail.com](mailto:tcterret@hotmail.com)



*Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea? Send it to [gskystad@gmail.com](mailto:gskystad@gmail.com)*

## Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
March 9	Riparian Water Preserve	June 8	Japanese Friendship Garden
April 13	Bob & Diane Malone, Phoenix	July	No meeting
May 2013	Pond Tour	Aug	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 Saint Patrick's Day!