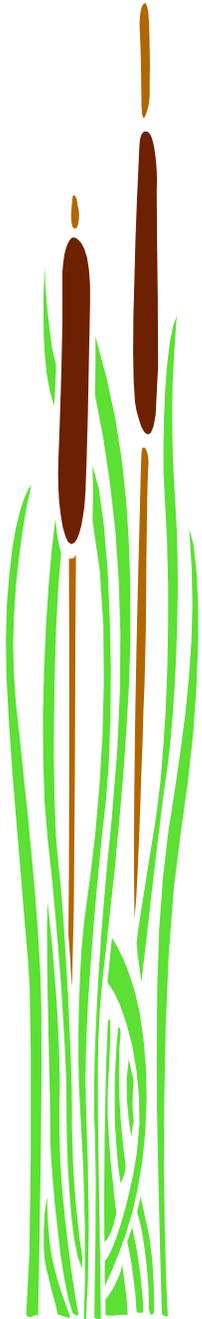


Pond Happenings

A Monthly Newsletter Published
by the Greater Phoenix Pond
Society

November 2013

The member information has been removed from this newsletter to protect the membership.



A reminder that membership dues are payable before January 1st.



President's Letter

Hi GPPS members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Halloween and got more treats than tricks! It was great to see so many of you at the October meeting! We had a great turnout and I would like to thank our gracious hosts, George & Diane Morris, for opening up their beautiful yard and home for us all to enjoy! They have a gorgeous Koi pond and yard. George talked about their pond and had recently replaced the pond sand filter with a media filter and plumbed in an UV light. Jo Setliff, Master Gardner, was our guest speaker. Jo talked about growing vegetables and vegetable gardening in the desert. There were hand-outs with references for all attendees and a great deal of group discussion on a wide variety of gardening topics.

We discussed the November meeting and the December meeting's pot luck lunch. The club will supply the main dishes (we had fried chicken & honey baked ham last year) and the drinks, plates, utensils, etc. while the members would bring an appetizer, a side dish or a dessert. If you have any ideas for the pot luck please bring them up at the next meeting.

November is when we elect our officers for following calendar year. All officer positions for 2014 will be voted on. Some positions have officers who will be running for re-election to their current positions while other positions will have their current incumbent not seeking re-election. The list of GPPS officer positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Event Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster
- Librarian

If you are interested in running for any of the officer positions listed above please show-up at the November meeting and "throw your hat into the ring". Each position is important and as a member it is your responsibility to participate in the election process. This is your club and your voice needs to be heard, your vote needs to be tallied and your participation is needed.

The next general meeting will be on November 9, 2013 at the home of Gloria Skystad in Sun City. Due to the GPPS officer elections there will be no guest speaker. This is a very important part of our organization and your input and participation is needed so please come out and support your club! Please come on out; let your voice and vote be heard while you enjoy our host's yard, pond and hospitality!

I hope to see you all at the November meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings

Have you checked the bottom of your pond? Cleaning it up now and keeping it clean may eliminate the big spring clean-out. We always like to avoid draining the pond in the spring. It is too much work, not good for the pond fish (or your back) and puts the pond back to "brand new status" with all the potential problems of aging it and getting it balanced. Much better to take a little bit of time now to prepare properly!

Check the pH to make sure the beneficial bacteria colony can flourish as long as possible - add some if necessary. In areas where leaves may be falling, pond netting should be used to keep as much leaf debris off the bottom as possible.

Nutrient levels (in other words: fish poo) can get out of hand in cooler weather making that awful stringy stuff grow all over the place. Adding Barley Extract can help prevent that (and prevent some rock scrubbing). Article courtesy of www.pondmarket.com

As the cooler temperatures arrive, you'll want to start getting your fish ready for the winter ahead. The only way you can possibly feed your fish correctly as the weather cools is to know the temperature of the water. If you do not have a thermometer, this is the time to get one.

Once the water temperature lowers to 70°F, your fishes' staple food should be mixed with a wheat germ base that is lower in protein. When the water temperature drops to 60°F the staple food should be switched to wheat germ based foods exclusively. When pond water temperatures decrease, the nutritional requirement of hardy pond fish change. Fish metabolism and the ability to properly digest and extract nutrients decrease as water temperatures plummet. Wheat germ diets are much easier to digest than other foods, making them the ideal food choice during periods of cool water temperatures. The wheat germ diet can continue to be fed all winter if the water temperature doesn't get below 39°F.

At 55°F the fish's metabolism starts to slow, reducing its intake requirements. Once the water temperatures go below 40°F, it's time to stop feeding until spring.

Anytime you are feeding when it's below 60°F, keep in mind the bacteria in your filter are also slowing their activity. They no longer reproduce, and they will die off or go dormant when extreme water temperatures are experienced. It's a good idea to test the water regularly to make sure ammonia and nitrite aren't showing up. A great diet to end the year and start in spring would include a mild antibiotic soaked in the food. Do not add antibiotics to the water as they can damage the natural balance in your pond. Article courtesy of <http://www.drsfostersmith.com/>

Pond Happenings

Thank you to George and Diane Morris for the great job hosting our October meeting.

Our Event Coordinator arranged for Jo Setliff, Master Gardener, to speak to the group on Vegetable Gardening and for those of you who were unable to attend they have provided they have provided the following PDF files for your information. There will also be information available on the GPPS website www.phoenixponds.com.

Ten Steps to a Successful Vegetable Garden (2008) (10) [PDF Version](#) 1774 kb

Vegetable Planting Calendar for Maricopa County (2010) (4 pp.) [PDF version](#) 928 kb

Save the Date:

Dec. 2nd 7:30 p.m.:

Tempe Symphony Orchestra

Holiday Concert

Boyle Auditorium

McClintock High School

1830 E. Del Rio Drive

Tempe, AZ

FREE event, no tickets necessary, no reserved seating.

Seating is a first-come, first served basis (usually plenty of room)

Doors open at 6:30pm

Nov. 10, 2013-May 18, 2014

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chihuly in the Garden Exhibition

www.dbg.org/luminaria

Nov. 29-Dec. 31

5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Los Noches de las Luminarias

Desert Botanical Garden

www.dbg.org/luminaria

Welcome New Members

Cheryl and Tom Broderick of Glendale

Pond Happenings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	president@phoenixponds.com	480-357-7205
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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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Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net
Tom Briggs	tcbriiggsphx@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
Nov 9	Gloria Skylstad, Sun City Election of Officers	Feb 2014	TBD
Dec 14	Richard & Pet Smith, Phoenix	Mar 2014	TBD
Jan 2014	TBD	April 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, The cost is \$25 to join or renew your membership. Dues should be received by December 31st.



Happy Thanksgiving!