

Next Meeting: April 12 at 9:00 a.m.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Jeff and Rita Karsten.

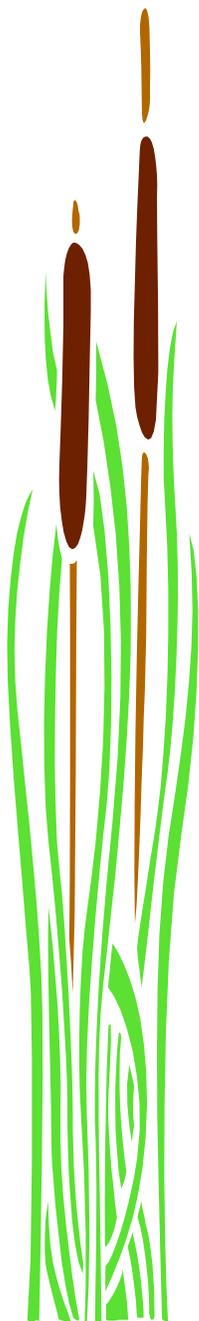
Telephone: 480-821-0768

Address: 1200 E. Tyson St., Chandler, AZ

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

Pond Tour Participants:

It is important to attend April's meeting at the Karstens. There was a method to the madness of our VP Rita hosting the meeting. You need to pick up your tour signs and supplies.



Forgot to pay your dues? Please Note:

This will be the last newsletter you receive until 2014 dues are paid!

Contact Ed Tunstall below.



Welcome our new members:
Anne Moe and Ping Huang



2014 Dues are \$25.00 per individual/family and are payable by December 31st. Please send your payment to:

Ed Tunstall
5439 E. Dolphin Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85206-2208



President's Letter

Hi GPPS members!

How is everyone enjoying their spring? Our March meeting was great and we had a good turnout. The meeting was held at the home of Jaime and Lisa Coffey. Jaime talked about his pond's original construction, expansion, equipment and design. We had a scheduled guest speaker but due to circumstances beyond our control he was unable to attend the meeting so we had a general discussion with a question and answer segment. There were some really good questions that generated some great answers and lively discussion. I would like to thank Jaime and Lisa Coffey for extending their gracious hospitality and opening up their home and yard for the March GPPS meeting.

As you know the annual GPPS pond tour is coming up in May and we are all gearing up and preparing for a great tour this year. Preparations have been underway by Rita Karsten, GPPS Vice-President and pond tour chair person. She has been working tirelessly with her pond tour "team" to organize the tour; if you have any questions or would like to help please contact Rita or any of the GPPS officers.

Among the events we use in preparation for the pond tour is the Maricopa County Home and Garden Show at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. This year's event is May 2nd, 3rd & 4th. I will have a volunteer schedule at the April meeting and there will be one posted on the GPPS website. During this three day event we must have someone at the booth at all times during the hours the event is open. Please volunteer a couple of hours during one of those days so we can interact with the show patrons and let them know about GPPS and our pond tour. Remember, our annual pond tour is the only opportunity we have to let the general public see what GPPS is all about and hopefully get new members to join GPPS. Membership dues are our only source of "revenue" to pay our bills, so getting the "message" out about GPPS is important to the sustainability of GPPS.

I have three forms that I made up and introduced at the December meeting and they will be at all future meetings:

- 2014 Meeting host sign-up sheet – we want everyone to have the opportunity to host a meeting and want to encourage those who have never hosted a meeting or those who have not hosted for a while to sign-up. When you host you are able to share experiences with other GPPS members, which is why you joined in the first place. No matter what "stage" you are at with your pond please share and remember if you wait for it to be "perfect" you will never share.
- Guest speaker/presenter volunteer sign-up sheet
- Suggestion sheet (meeting locations, guest speaker/topics, etc.)

The next meeting is on April 12, 2014 at the home of Jeff and Rita Karsten in Chandler. Please come out and enjoy our host's pond, yard and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the April meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Pond Happenings

March's pond meeting at the beautiful home of Jamie and Liz Coffey was wonderful. If you missed the last meeting, you missed fun, great food, and a beautiful morning with the group!





Your 2014 Board...

GPPS Executive Committee			
President	Dave Nelson	480-357-7205	president@phoenixponds.com
Vice President	Rita Karsten	480-821-0768	vicepres@phoenixponds.com
Secretary	Sue Beard	623-327-0153	secretary@phoenixponds.com
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	480-654-2107	treasurer@phoenixponds.com
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GPPS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Gene Goerke	Plantabi@concentric.net
Jeff Karsten	rj_kars10@yahoo.com
Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net
Tom Briggs	tcbriiggsphx@gmail.com
Jon Jolly	tcferret@hotmail.com

Save the Date:



May 2013 - No Meeting
 Pond Tour - May 10th
 Support your club!



Nov. 10, 2013-May 18, 2014
 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Chihuly in the Garden Exhibition
 Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org/luminaria

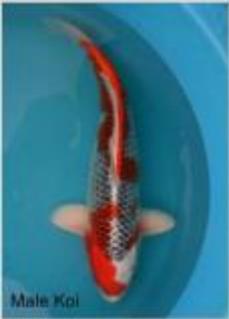
Pond Happenings

It's that time again... spawning fun! Spring has sprung and the koi are getting frisky.

Which brings up sexing again... I stare and look and stare some more and still can't tell a Jack from a Jill. Here is the 411 on sexing your koi. You're welcome!



Sexing your koi is much easier when they're mature and over 12 inches or so, but it can still be done with some accuracy before then. For inquiring minds... you can search 'sexing koi' and you will find x-rated pics online... if you dare!

Males	Females
Fins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Smaller, more pointed fins ❖ Opaque ❖ Colorful 	Fins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Larger, rounded fins ❖ Translucent or transparent
 	 
Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Long and thin body ❖ Like a cigar 	Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wider body to provide room for eggs... like a blimp
 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Male Koi</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Female Koi</p>
Size: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Smaller due to generations of the breeding practice of using small males to breed larger females to protect the ladies 	Size: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tend to be larger [they need to... the males get pretty aggressive during breeding]
<p>♥ The wider body makes the girls better show koi... more area to show off color and design! [I'm using that excuse from now on!]</p>	
<p>🌱 If you're touch feely or up for an up close and personal examination... You can see the female vent is pink and puffy – affectionately called an "outie" as it stands out more than a male. Also the shape of the vent is more round... The male vent is more like a slit than round. Males will have the sand paper feel on the gills during this season.</p>	
<p>I think I'll pass.</p>	

Spring

Bringing your pond back to life

Check your pond filter and pump and prepare for summer. Once spring arrives and water temperatures are above 45°F, you will want to get your filtration system started.

- ❑ Reassemble the filtration system and start it up. Check for leaks and proper flow rate.
- ❑ Jump start your biological filtration with bacterial additives to replace those lost over the winter.
- ❑ Measure water parameters and monitor the development of nitrifying bacteria in your biological filtration system with a good test kit.
- ❑ Have a pond aerator handy to promote proper gas exchange. Unseasonably warm spring days can encourage abrupt nitrifying bacterial activity that can rapidly deplete dissolved oxygen levels in your pond.
- ❑ Get your UV sterilizer system up and running to keep your water crystal clear throughout the spring and summer season.
- ❑ Get those green thumbs wet. Early spring is the best time to repot pond plants. Add fertilizer to water lilies to give them a good start.
- ❑ Start feeding pond fish easier-to-digest, wheat germ food when water temperature stays consistently above 50°F. **Plain old Cheerios works for me and my fish LOVE it! I buy generic in the bulk food section at Winco... my fish are not name-brand fussy ;)**

Tip

Combat spring green! Place barley straw in a container of moving water inside your home, 6 weeks ahead of time so it will be primed when you are ready to open your pond.

Our Treasurer Ed Tunstall might have some left.

Source: <http://www.drsfostersmith.com/pic/article.cfm?aid=1208>



Pond Happenings



Sale, Trade, or Free

Fishmate 2000UV Pressurized Filter \$100.00; OASE Pond Vacuum \$125.00
please contact newsltr@phoenixponds.com

FREE Goldfish and Turtles, please contact president@phoenixponds.com
Dave Nelson at (480) 357-7205

If you would like to advertise an item or service in the newsletter, send your submission to: newsltr@phoenixponds.com

Pond Tip.....Better safe than sorry! Quarantine everything you plan to put in your pond, whether it be frogs, snails, fish or plants.

Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea?
Send it to newsltr@phoenixponds.com

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Date	Location
April 12	Jeff and Rita Karsten, Glendale
May 2-4th	Maricopa County Home and Garden Show at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. This year's event is May 2nd, 3rd & 4 th Dave will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the April meeting.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373