

There will be no meeting in August

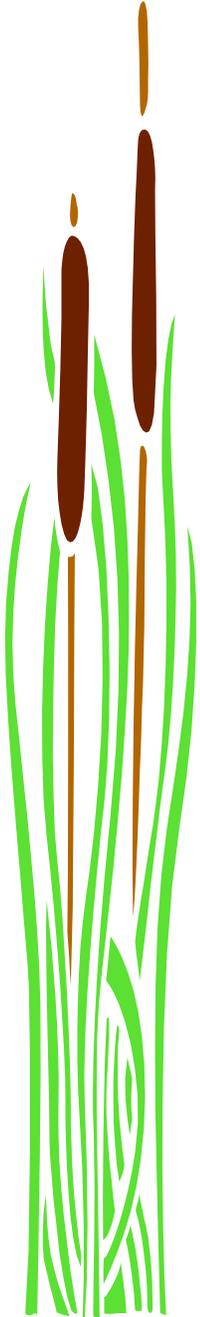


Photo: Gloria Skylstad

**While we are all sweltering in the heat, remember that we don't have to deal with this in the winter!**

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE? Logon to: [www.phoenixponds.com](http://www.phoenixponds.com)



## President's Letter

Hey GPPS!

How was everybody's 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Well it's hot, it's sticky and it's uncomfortable so it must be the Monsoon season! But where is the rain?

Welcome to the Valley of the Sun! I hope everyone is having a great summer so far and you are all doing fun things. As you all know there are no meetings in July and August which leaves me with very little to talk about so this letter will be short.

Pond maintenance in the summer months brings their own kinds of challenges. Some people are still battling algae issues while others are having plant and fish issues. One of things that is easy to forget about is performing water changes. We lose a lot of water due to evaporation and it seems like we constantly need to add water to our ponds. Unfortunately when the water evaporates all of the mineral deposits stay behind. This creates unsafe mineral levels in the remaining water and as you add water to your pond you dilute it a little but in a short amount of time the mineral levels become toxic and our fish pay the price. The solution is performing periodic water changes. Usually draining approximately 10% of your water volume out of your pond and then filling it back up with fresh clean water will keep those mineral deposit levels in the "safe" zone for your fish.

Summer is a time where, hopefully, families have time to relax, take vacation, visit relatives and generally have a good time. Whatever you and your family are this doing this summer enjoy one another and please be safe.

The next meeting will be on September 13, 2014 at the home of George & Diane Morris in Queen Creek, AZ I hope to see you all there!

Dave Nelson - President

\*\*\*\*\*

***Do your Fish seem to be fighting each other in the Pond? That is just spawning behavior.***

***The male pond fish press (sometimes slam) the females against the side of the pond or rocks to help release their eggs.***

### WANDA'S WORLD



Welcome back friends! I'm not saying I'm really bright or anything but...(see picture-LOL).

Today I would like to "shine some light" on one of my filtered shade providing friends.

His name is Phoenix Roebelinii. I call him Robby for short. Oh, sorry! He's very sensitive about that word (short) cause some people call him Pygmy Date Palm. I think he is very handsome. (see picture!) He was here to welcome me when I came to this pond.

We have grown up together and he isn't one of those high maintenance types.

Robby just needs a haircut/trim job once a year or occasionally after the temperature drops below 30 degrees (brrr!) and that

scoundrel Jack Frost has visited. I do get upset with him when he sends his seeds into the pond.

Then I have to get my co-owner, Jeff, to give him an attitude adjustment. Thank goodness he only gets wild like that once a year!

Robby has welcomed other family to the yard over the past several years. They are all ages and sizes and like it here in various areas and amounts of sun.

They're happy as long as their feet are kind of wet and they get fertilized a couple times a year. (No babies yet! LOL) Enough about Robby. This is is "My World" after all.

It sure has been warm and humid lately! That recent hurricane type wind got a lot of my friends "all shook up". Why I was movin' better than ole Elvis' hips. Yahoo!



Honey, I am not just a "pretty thing". So far this gal can handle whatever "mama nature" throws her way. Sure did like the rain on my regal appendages. Bring it on "mama"!

Hope to see you all for more tales from my realm next month.

Wanda  
Article by: Rita Karsten



### Pond Plant Tips

Many of you already know the important role aquatic plants play in your water garden. They not only create shade and shelter for a wide variety of creatures including fish, frogs, and dragon flies, but they also contribute to the overall ecosystem of your water garden.

**Fun fact: The small pink balls on the stems of some plants are dragon fly eggs.**

Not so fun fact ( unless you're a bee keeper) : This time of year bees start building their hives. They will seek a body of water to use, possibly your water garden. So be careful when tending your aquatic plants. Use aqua gloves which are arm length gloves with elastic bands 28" long. Made of PVC with fiber-reinforced sleeves, they will keep your hands away from the pond water.

To insure your plants perform and look their best this year follow this basic care guide.

Be sure you have chosen plants that are compatible with your sun exposure. For example, water lilies require at least 4 hours of sun.

Monitor Your PH Levels. High PH levels can inhibit plant performance. Every pond owner should have a pond care PH Test kit, which is a complete test kit for pH, ammonia, nitrite and phosphate. The kit comes with liquid for each test, 4 test tubes and holding tray, instruction book and color chart. Overuse of Algaecides can burn and damage plants. Also, avoid getting any algaecide directly on a plant.

Fertilize regularly, especially your water lilies and lotus. They will flower much more for you. Highland Rim. Microbe-lift Bloom & Grow liquid is an Aquatic Plant Supplement formulated for all types of aquatic plants to promote larger, brighter and faster blooms as well as healthier and stronger roots and is available at most pond plant suppliers.

Trim decaying leaves before they end up in your pond. Try pond scissors for hard to reach areas.

Transplant and divide overgrown plants . Now is especially a good time to divide water lilies while they are actively growing. Plant Baskets and Microbelift Aquatic Soil are also available at most plant suppliers.

Aphids can be easily washed off and your fish will enjoy the treat! A garden hose chlorine filter works great to minimize chlorine in tap water. It easily attaches to the end of your hose or at the spigot. Information courtesy of: [Pondbiz.com](http://Pondbiz.com)

## Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat



Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas.

By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young you not only help wildlife, but you also qualify to [become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat®](#).

## How to Create a Wildlife-Friendly Garden

### Provide Food for Wildlife

Everyone needs to eat! Planting native forbs, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders and food sources.

### Supply Water for Wildlife

Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds or rain gardens.

### Create Cover for Wildlife

Wildlife require places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and inclement weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees.

**Wildlife Habitat, cont.**

**Give Wildlife a Place to Raise Their Young**

Wildlife need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young, from wildflower meadows and bushes where many butterflies and moths lay their eggs, or caves where bats roost and form colonies.

**Ready...Set...Certify!**

Once you have provided these essential elements to make a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat, join the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts across the country who have earned the distinction of being part of NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat® program.

Information Courtesy of: National Wildlife Federation

[http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx?campaignid=WH13F1ASWTX&s\\_subsrc=Web\\_Sidebar\\_CWH\\_GardenSite\\_Main](http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx?campaignid=WH13F1ASWTX&s_subsrc=Web_Sidebar_CWH_GardenSite_Main)

**Next month there will be information on what to plant to provide for food.**

**To Be Continued:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**2014 Sedona Hummingbird Festival  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN AMERICA  
TO SEE HUMMINGBIRDS!(SM)**

<http://hummingbirdsociety.org/hummingbird-festival/>

**August 1-3 Check it out!**

## Pond Happenings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	<a href="mailto:president@phoenixponds.com">president@phoenixponds.com</a>	480-357-7205
Vice President	Rita Karsten	<a href="mailto:vicepres@phoenixponds.com">vicepres@phoenixponds.com</a>	
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	<a href="mailto:treasurer@phoenixponds.com">treasurer@phoenixponds.com</a>	
Secretary	Sue Beard	<a href="mailto:secretary@phoenixponds.com">secretary@phoenixponds.com</a>	
Events Coordinator	Kristy Jolly	<a href="mailto:events@phoenixponds.com">events@phoenixponds.com</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad & Fern Shaw	<a href="mailto:newsltr@phoenixponds.com">newsltr@phoenixponds.com</a>	-
Librarian	Gary Ures	<a href="mailto:librarian@phoenixponds.com">librarian@phoenixponds.com</a>	480-278-6847
Webmaster	Dennis Beard	<a href="mailto:webmaster@phoenixponds.com">webmaster@phoenixponds.com</a>	

GPPS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Jeff Karsten	<a href="mailto:rj_kars10@yahoo.com">rj_kars10@yahoo.com</a>
Ed Tunstall	<a href="mailto:lctricfrog@cox.net">lctricfrog@cox.net</a>
Jon Jolly	<a href="mailto:tcferret@hotmail.com">tcferret@hotmail.com</a>

### **\*\*\*Sale, Trade or Free\*\*\***

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

If you would like to advertise an item or service in the  
newsletter, send your submissions to:  
[newsltr@phoenixponds.com](mailto:newsltr@phoenixponds.com)

### **GPPS Newsletter**

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 [newsltr@phoenixponds.com](mailto:newsltr@phoenixponds.com)

Have a tip, trick, recommendation or idea? Send it [newsltr@phoenixponds.com](mailto:newsltr@phoenixponds.com)

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Aug 2014	No Meeting	Nov 2014	Robert & Diane Malone
Sept 2014	George & Diane Morris	Dec 2014	Richard & Pet Smith
Oct 2014	Les & Janice Tanzer	Jan 2015	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 2014**

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.

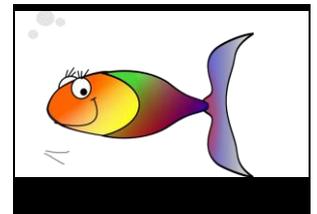


Photo: Gloria Skylstad

