

February 2014

Next Meeting: February 8, 2014 9:00am

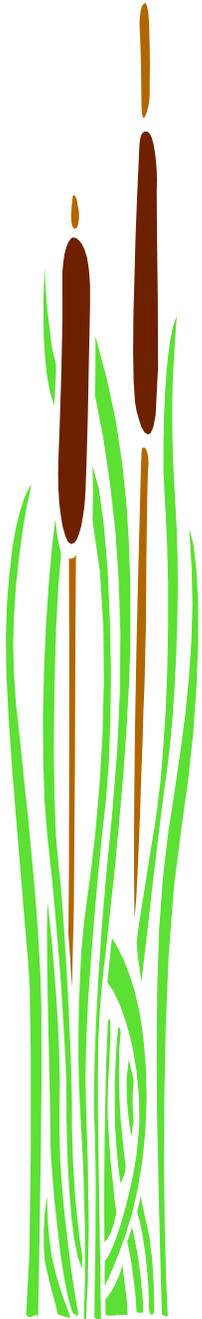
There has been a change in the February meeting location. We will be meeting at N 3rd St, Margaret T. Hance East Park on February 8th at 9:00a.m.

From anywhere out East, take I-10 West to the 3rd St Exit (it is a center lane exit from the HOV lane and goes up to 3rd St. At 3rd St., you will turn Left and go South a very short distance to the first driveway westbound or Moreland St.

GPPS will have a booth set up there at the Koi Show. GPPS Webmaster, Dennis Beard will be doing a presentation on Koi benching and judging.

As usual, please bring your own chairs and containers for any fish or plants. We will have coffee and snacks.

We also need several people to man the GPPS booth for Saturday, if you can spare an hour or two, please contact Dave Nelson and let him know what time you would be available. His email address is president@phoenixponds.com. You may also contact any of the executive board members and we will let Dave know.



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

Hello GPPS members!

I hope everyone is enjoying 2014. So far we are having a very mild weather this winter; I think the water temperatures only got low enough to affect fish feeding a few days and a lot of my plants think it is spring. There was a great turnout at the January meeting. I would like to thank our gracious hosts Richard and Pet Smith for opening up their beautiful home, for the second month in a row, and sharing it with all of the members. Pet told us about her two ponds and shared some humorous stories with everyone. We did not have a guest speaker so we opened the meeting to questions and general discussion.

Every year we use the first part of the year to prepare for our annual pond tour in May. Part of that preparation is to “get the word out” or advertise our tour. We use a variety of ways to let the general public know about our annual pond tour; one of which is having a GPPS booth at various functions that are open to the general public. For the last few years we have been invited by the Valley of the Sun Koi Club (VSKC) to have a GPPS booth at their annual Koi Show and they extended an invitation for this year too. We will have a booth at the event all day on Saturday February 8th so I am requesting that any member who can volunteer to help at the GPPS booth on Saturday the 8th at Margret T. Hance Park.

February 8th is also the date of our February monthly meeting so we will have the meeting at the GPPS booth at Margret T. Hance Park at 9:00AM. Please bring a chair to sit on at the meeting. We will have a presentation covering Koi benching, classification & judging; there will also be handouts. Using the information presented and the handouts should help make your experience at the koi show more enjoyable.

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

1. 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.
2. Guest speaker/presenter volunteer sign-up sheet
3. Suggestion sheet (meeting locations, guest speaker/topics, etc.)

The next meeting is on February 08, 2014. The February meeting will be held at Margret T. Hance Park in Phoenix. Remember, we will be guests of the Valley of the Sun Koi Club (VSKC); please come out and enjoy our host’s Koi show and hospitality!

I hope to see you at the January meeting!

Dave Nelson - President

Guarding Against Sick Fish

Fish disease and death can be very frustrating. Unfortunately, it even causes some people to give up on fish-keeping altogether. But a little knowledge along with some basic precautions can be very powerful in the health of our goldfish and koi. Maintaining good water quality is extremely important. It's also important to make sure you are starting with healthy fish. If you purchase sick fish, it's going to be an uphill battle at best. Buy your fish from a dealer you trust. If you are keeping high-dollar fish then trust is not good enough. You should set up a quarantine pond for new fish before mixing them with your other fish.

If a health problem does arise, your first step should be to test the water (you do this once a week anyway, right?).

Symptoms	Possible Cause	Treatment
Cotton-like growths	Fungus	Medi-Koi , Microbe-Lift BSDT
Open wounds	Bacterial Infection	Melafix , Medi-Koi , Debride
Gasping at surface	Oxygen deficiency	More aeration, fewer fish
Bulging eyes	Pop-eye, Bacterial Infection	Melafix , Medi-Koi
Swollen body and scales protruding from body	Dropsy, Bacterial Infection	Melafix and Medi-Koi (mainly for the other fish as usually it is too late for this fish)
Fins deteriorating	Finrot, bacterial infection	Melafix , Medi-Koi
Floats upside down, trouble swimming upright	Swimbladder disorder	Sinking food
"Flashing" through the water (sudden sideways bursts) or jumping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parasite infection Water toxin 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Salt level to .3%*, Microbe-Lift BSDT, Prazi Pond Water Change
Colored fish turning white	Loss of pigment	More sunlight
Swollen gills	Flukes, parasite infection	Salt level to .3%* , Microbe-Lift BSDT , Prazi Pond
Lying on pond bottom	Flukes, parasite infection	Salt level to .3%* , Microbe-Lift BSDT , Prazi Pond
Scales raised (on only part of the body)	Parasite infection	Salt level to .3%* , Microbe-Lift BSDT , Prazi Pond
Strong red veins in the fins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial Infection Parasite Infection Ammonia or Nitrite poisoning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Melafix, Medi-Koi Salt level to .3%* Water Change, Ammo-Lock
White Spots (pinhole size only)	Ich, Parasite infection	Salt level to .3%* , Microbe-Lift BSDT

*This level of salinity is not recommended with plants in the pond.

Article courtesy of: <http://www.watergarden.org>

Pond Happenings

Thank you to Richard and Pet Smith for hosting the January meeting and providing us with lots of puppies for entertainment.

If you haven't hosted a meeting and would like to, please contact GPPS President Dave Nelson to get on the meeting schedule.

It is a great way to introduce the members to your pond, no matter how large or small, or what stage of construction.



Save the Date:

Maricopa County Home Show May 2, 3, 4, 2014 – Arizona State Fairgrounds

Please contact GPPS President Dave Nelson if you have time to help with the booth at the Home Show. It is a 3 day event with set up and take down so any amount of time that you can be there would be greatly appreciated. president@phoenixponds.com

Tadpoles For Water Gardens & Ponds

Tadpoles are social creatures and some will even interact and school like fish do. After about 6 weeks, you'll begin to notice tiny little legs start to sprout. The tadpoles we send normally have legs starting but some don't. You'll begin to notice the head gets more distinct and the body elongates. Their diet usually consists now of dead tiny insects unless you chose to feed them. Their arms begin to bulge and eventually pop out, elbow first. After about 9 weeks, the tadpole begins to look like a tiny frog with a long tail and is almost full grown. It takes approximately 6-12 weeks for a tadpole to develop into a frog. The temperature has a lot to do with it. During cold spells it may take a bit longer or even be suspended till the temperatures go up. So don't panic they will become frogs soon. Normally at about 12 weeks it looks like a tiny frog with a stub tail.



When a tadpole begins to develop his legs, they will need some sort of perch so they can get out of the water. Floating water lily leaves and branches are ideal for this, but you can also create ledges using stones. You don't have to feed tadpoles or frogs because they will fend for themselves. But if you choose to here are some suggestions. I found that if I feed them when they were tadpoles they became friendly and a couple of mine will eat out of my hand.

Tadpoles - Love Lettuce. You boil the lettuce for 10-15 minutes and drain it. Chop it up and then lay it on a tray to freeze it or put it in ice cube trays. Give them one cube every couple of days and that should be enough. When they first get their legs they aren't big enough to eat crickets so if you want to feed them start off with small insects or blood worms (live is best). If you can't get them from your yard, you can purchase them at a local pet store that carries fish. You can take a jar lid and put warm water in it and lay a bunch of wiggly worms in it and the frogs will find them. Or put them directly in the water. Aphids are also a good food source.

Proper Care For Full Grown Frogs

By about 14 weeks depending on what the frog eats and on the water supply and temperature, the frog will have completed the full growth cycle. He will begin to grow as you watch.

Usually frogs will be content to stay around your pond but if there is a water source nearby.....don't be surprised if they decide to venture to it. But usually will return. This happens a lot of times when it rains. I have some frogs that never leave and some that do....not knowing if the ones that appear one day are the same ones that left. What I found surprising is that you can actually hold some of them. If you raise them from a tadpole and visit them regularly they will get accustomed to you and become your pet. Its harder to do if they are a frog when you get them. I start out by feeding them lettuce when they are tadpoles because when they are little insects and blood worms are too big for them yet. Then I introduce the worms and insects. They will soon become your friend and its fun watching them grow. Another interesting, nature watching process that gives you more enjoyment out of your pond.

Article courtesy of Barb Grunder
www.dragonflyaquatics.com

Pond Happenings

As the weather warms and we are sharing plants and fish with our members, remember to quarantine everything. While fish can carry diseases, plants can also bring unwanted visitors to our ponds.

Next on the list for your pond care is to make sure you don't forget about your fish whether they be Koi or Goldfish. As soon as the water reaches a constant temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit you will need to begin feeding your fish. Make sure you feed a cold weather food until the water temperature reaches 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Then you can change your feeding routine to a higher protein summer food.

If your pond has accumulated leaves and other debris over the winter the next step in your pond care plan is to remove anything in your pond that might decompose and leave behind waste products that are toxic to your fish. There are both skimming and bottom scooping types of nets that will assist you in this aspect of pond care. There are also other products available to help accelerate the natural decomposition of any leftover debris.

Another possibility in your program is the use of a vacuum to remove debris from the bottom of the pond. If there are an excessive amount of leaves and sludge then proper care may require that you do a complete pond cleaning. This type of care should only be done if absolutely necessary since it will mess up the balance of your pond and interfere with your algae control.

Proper pond care includes keeping your filter clean. If you use a skimmer or pre-filter then you will need to clean those more frequently, possibly as often as once a week. However it will cut down on the frequency of your regular filter cleanings.

If you use a biological filter as part of your program then make sure you do NOT over-clean it, and avoid chlorinated water. Over-cleaning these types of filters can destroy the helpful bacteria that has colonized on the media in the filter.

Another very important pond tip is to make sure you do what you can to maximize aeration of your pond. Warm water holds less oxygen. One great option is to include an additional air pump and keep it running all the time.

Welcome New Member Brian Venetz

We still need meeting hosts for June, October and December. If you haven't had a chance to host a meeting, this is your chance. Please contact president@phoenixponds.com or any of the other Executive Committee members and volunteer for one of these months. It's great fun and you don't have to drive anywhere!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Dave Nelson	president@phoenixponds.com	480-357-7205
Vice President	Rita Karsten	vicepres@phoenixponds.com	
Treasurer	Ed Tunstall	treasurer@phoenixponds.com	
Secretary	Sue Beard	secretary@phoenixponds.com	
Events Coordinator	Kristy Jolly	events@phoenixponds.com	
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Skylstad & Fern Shaw	newsltr@phoenixponds.com	-
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"

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

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 tcferrret@hotmail.com



Pond Happenings

Upcoming Meetings & Events			
Month	Location	Month	Location
Feb 8, 2014	Margaret T. Hance Park	May 10, 2014	Pond Tour
Mar 8, 2014	TBD	June 14, 2014	TBD
April 12, 2014	TBD	July 2014	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 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.



11058 W. Oraibi Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373



Happy Valentine's Day!