

**Next Meeting: September 13, 2014 9:00 a.m.**

**The September meeting will be held at the home of George and Diane Morris.**

Directions follow:

First - disregard MapQuest, it is wrong! **Address: 31408 N. Gecko Tr. Queen Creek.**

From San Tan Freeway going east exit Power rd. Right on Power all the way to the end (T- intersection) then go left to Ellsworth. Right on Ellsworth which becomes Hunt Hwy. Proceed about 5 miles to Golf Club Drive. Turn right on Golf Club Dr. then right on Johnson's Ranch Blvd. Left on Trail Dust which turns into Gecko. House on left hand side.

From 60 going East exit Ironwood, turn right. (Ironwood becomes Gantzel.) Continue about 17 miles to Bella Vista. Right on Bella Vista. Cross Hunt Hwy. Right on Johnson Ranch Blvd. Left on Trail Dust which turns into Gecko. House on left hand side.

Please call if you have problems: **480- 306-6417.**

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



Photo: Gloria Skylstad

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



## President's Letter

Welcome back GPPS members!

I hope everyone had a great summer and a fun and relaxing Labor Day weekend! Well we finally got some rain in the middle of

August with a couple of the storms causing some flash flooding in certain areas. We made the news along with all of the coverage of the wild fires in drought stricken California. Feast or famine! Of course our monsoons do create some havoc with our ponds but that is more of an inconvenience than a real problem.

I was watching TV and there was an advertisement for a new program that just might be of interest to our members for a variety of reasons. The new show is called "Pond Stars" and it makes its debut on Nat Geo Wild on Friday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00PM ET (7:00PM in AZ) on Cox channels 144/1144. The premier episode is titled "Turtle Power". I think the show will generate a lot of conversation, both pros and cons!

Check it out at: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/wild/pond-stars/>

Welcome back to our regular meetings! There are four meetings left in 2014 and they will be busy but fun and informative ones.

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

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## WANDA'S WORLD



What a crazy monsoon month! Hope all my friends and relatives in your yards are surviving this wild weather. We haven't been getting the bad storms but also have not gotten the showers we need. My c-o's sometimes bless us with a cool shower to wash all the dust and heat away. It makes me feel soooo much better.

Queenie (the Queen Palm) has been rather unhappy with me lately. She overheard my c-o's talking about this being *my world* and thinks this should be *her world* cause after all she is the "Queen". I've been trying to make peace but you know how those drama queens can be. Sometimes it's a good thing Robby is between us.

I promised that I would make her the highlight of this month's article. Queenie said to say that "her fronds create a tropical majestic canopy".(Ouy vey) As long as she gets fed three times with a good palm fertilizer during the growing season and gets regular watering, she is usually pretty happy. Sometimes, if her fronds get yellow or "frizzle top", she demands some extra manganese.

Our c-o's have learned to give her what she wants. They didn't listen at first and lost a couple of her relatives. I don't think she has forgiven them completely.

The mourning doves really like to raise their young in her protection.

Our c-o's sometimes put off pruning her old fronds just to let the babies have their nest undisturbed. She also provides some much needed shade for the smaller plants. I will have to admit that she is a great addition to creating a tropical looking yard in this tough AZ environment.

Well, hopefully this will get her off my case! I look forward to sharing more stories with you in the coming cooler(?) months. This humidity is great for my realm but we are really looking forward to some cooler air to breathe.

Talk to you all later. (Yes, Queenie, I am sending your pictures!)  
Wanda

Article by: Rita Karsten



## Pond Plant Tips

**Last Newsletter we mostly discussed the things Algae will do to Pond Fish....**

This time we will discuss what Pond Fish do to Algae.

First of all, Pond Fish do eat String Algae and it even enhances their color, but as mentioned previously, there are consequences for the Pond Fish. A little fuzz of string Algae is okay here and there, but too much can become a problem fast.

Pond Fish are big waste generators, especially when not fed the right foods. Most cheap foods contain lots of fillers that have no nutritional value. The fillers are not absorbed by the Pond Fish, instead they just move through the digestive tract to be expelled directly into the Pond and there..... they act like fertilizer for algae.

Good quality Pond Fish Food has very little filler in it, but consists mostly of ingredients that the intestines of the Pond Fish can convert to energy and muscle. Less waste is expelled, less fertilizer for Algae.

Courtesy: [www.pondmarket.com](http://www.pondmarket.com)

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**Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix | Ro Ho En**

**[www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org](http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org)**

**Reopens October 1, 2014**

**Location:: 1125 N. 3rd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003**

**Phone: 602-274-8700**

**Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00AM to 4:00PM**

**Admission: Adult: \$5; Children under 6: Free**

**Students/Military/Senior(+62)/Children: \$4**

## Provide Food for Wildlife

Everyone needs to eat! Planting native plants or hanging feeders in safe places are two easy ways to make your habitat the latest and greatest five-star restaurant for wildlife of all shapes and sizes.

Native foods, shrubs and trees provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive.



Natives are well adapted to survive in a particular geographic area according to the climate, soils, rainfall and availability of pollinators and seed dispersers. And because they are indigenous to a specific region, native plants usually require little maintenance and are welcomed by wildlife, serving an important role in the local ecosystem.

In times when natural food sources are not as available, it is important to also provide bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, squirrel feeders and butterfly feeders to add to the native food sources for resident and migrating wildlife.

### What food sources do I need to certify?

*Your habitat needs three of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:*

Seeds from a plant • Berries • Nectar • Foliage/Twigs • Nuts • Fruits • Sap • Pollen • Suet • Bird Feeder • Squirrel Feeder • Hummingbird Feeder • Butterfly Feeder

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### Fun (Pond) Fact (TM)

Koi only lay eggs once a year (generally), but Goldfish will do so sporadically as long as temperatures are mild

### Wildlife Habitat, cont.



## Supply Water for Wildlife

Wildlife need sources of clean water 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.

The easiest water source to install in your garden is a bird bath. Be sure to change the water 2-3 times per week during warm weather when mosquitoes are breeding, so that any eggs laid in the water don't have time to hatch. If you live in a climate with cold winters, consider buying a small heater available at wild bird feeding stores to keep the water from freezing.

Climate change is threatening our sources of clean water by increasing temperatures and reducing rainfall in some areas, causing drought conditions and lower water tables. In other areas, increased rainfall and extreme weather events such as tornadoes and hurricanes cause flooding and erosion of natural ecosystems and can pollute local watersheds. These problems highlight the importance of providing a constant source of clean water for birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife in their different habitats. Certified Wildlife Habitats not only provide water for wildlife, they use sustainable gardening practices that help ensure our human demands on water are kept to a minimum.

### What water sources do I need to certify?

Your habitat needs **one** of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe: Birdbath • Lake • Stream • Seasonal Pool • Ocean • Water Garden/Pond • River • Butterfly Puddling Area • Rain Garden • Spring

Source: <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat/Supply-Water-for-Wildlife.aspx#sthash.FUtcQeZr.dpuf>

**NEXT STEP >> Create Cover for Wildlife**

## Pond Happenings

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>			
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>	

<b>GPPS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE</b>	
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
Sept 13, 2014	George & Diane Morris	Dec13, 2014	Richard & Pet Smith
Oct 11, 2014	Les & Janice Tanzer	Jan 10, 2015	TBD
Nov 8, 2014	Robert & Diane Malone	Feb 14, 2015	TBD

**A request from GPPS Webmaster Dennis Beard**

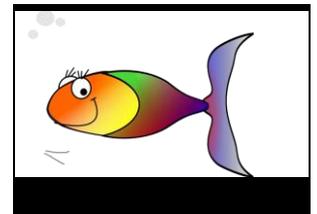
GPPS has "FAQs" that are listed on the <http://www.phoenixponds.com/archive/gppsfaq.htm> web page. This page is now a link on the left navigation bar titled -- guess? FAQs

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.



Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day!