

April 2017

# Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the  
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

## The Next Meeting: April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Annie Foster & Mike Galeski.

- Telephone: 602-616-5138
- Address: 3543 E. Rosemonte Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Bring your lawn chairs & bags/buckets for any plants/fish that may be available.

# Happy Spring



**WILL THIS BE YOUR  
LAST NEWSLETTER???**  
**2017 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!**

Dues are \$25.00 per individual/family and can be paid at  
the monthly meetings or mailed to our treasurer.

Please send your payment to: Annie Foster  
3543 E. Rosemonte Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85050

# Letter from the President

Hello fellow GPPS members! Hope everyone had as good of a time as I had at the Japanese Friendship Gardens. Thanks to Della Killen for hosting the meeting and giving an interesting talk and guided tour of the gardens. What an interesting fact about the Tea House back door that looks more like a window. Back in the day in times of warriors, it required the men leave their armor and weapons outside to fit through the opening keeping everyone inside safe. It is a beautiful garden and we had a great time. I hope everyone will return and attend some of the events the gardens have to offer. Fern has already purchased tickets for the Haru in the Garden event.



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**Home and Garden Show:** I will be passing the signup sheet around again at the April meeting. If you will not be at the meeting but want to sign up to work just let me know and I will put you on the list. The dates and hours of the show are: 4/28/17, Friday from 10am to 6pm, 4/29/17, Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and Sunday, 4/30/17 10am to 6pm. Tanya Brown is working on a fishing game for the kids and Fern is working on a drinking game for the adults. Will have more details at the meeting.

**Annual Pond Tour:** Great News...Rita has confirmed the article is in the new April Phoenix Home and Garden Show magazine and they have also added it to their events page. Great job, Judy and Rita! Judy Restad will be giving out the final instructions for the pond tour. If you are on the tour the signs and any other items you will need will be at the meeting. If you are not showing your pond on the tour I encourage you to get out and enjoy the tour. I hope you see as many as you can to support your fellow members and friends.

**Odyssey aquarium:** Some members of our club will be going to the Odyssey Aquarium after the April meeting as a group to see the aquarium. The cost will be \$34.95 for adults or us oldies but goodies, \$32.95 and children under 3 are free. Check the website for more details [www.odysseaquarium.com](http://www.odysseaquarium.com) on aquarium pricing and information. If you have any questions you can contact Tammy Purtell at [tammy.l.purtell@medtronic.com](mailto:tammy.l.purtell@medtronic.com)

**Dues are due:** It is time to pay your dues for 2017. Anyone on the pond tour is required to have dues paid for Insurance liability reasons. Dues can be given to Annie Foster at the meeting or sent to her at the address at the top of the Newsletter.

**April Meeting and Speaker:** The April meeting will be at the home of Mike Galeski and Annie Foster. Annie will be giving a demonstration on splitting lilies.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

Don Shaw – GPPS President

**FREE! 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pond Tour FREE!**

**May 13, 2017 – 9:00AM – 4:00PM**



## **Greater Phoenix Pond Society**

Founded in January 1996, the Greater Phoenix Pond Society (GPPS) is a group of pond enthusiasts dedicated to the promotion of water gardening and fish keeping in the Arizona desert.



Many members have been known to say, "Once you join, you'll never need to buy a fish or plant again!"



**<http://www.phoenixponds.com>**

**Map available May 8, 2017**

## **Help Spread the Word!!!!**

**Our 21st Annual Pond Tour**

**May 13, 2017 - 9:00am to 4:00pm**

The tour map will be available on the website [www.Phoenixponds.com](http://www.Phoenixponds.com) on or before Monday, May 8

The annual pond tour is a fun, educational, and family friendly event! Many stories are swapped and knowledge shared regarding pond keeping, fish keeping and more. Check out a wide variety of ponds to get ideas, suggestions or just share our enthusiasm for water gardening!

# GIVE YOUR POND A SPRING CLEANING

From Aquascape-February 28, 2014

Spring is simply the most exciting time of year. As things slowly awaken from their winter hibernation, there are some things that you can do to make sure your water feature gets off to a good start this spring.

Does your water feature need a full clean-out this season or does it just need to be tidied up a little? There are a couple of things that you can look for to help you decide. First, if there is a layer of “crud” at the bottom of the pond and the water is dark in color, it would be a good idea to do a full clean-out.

On the other hand, if there is just a small amount of debris that you can stir up and capture with a net and the water looks clear, a little tidying up is all that’s in order. Plan on spending a half to a full day to complete a pond clean-out. A Pondless Waterfall will take considerably less time.

The best time to perform a pond clean-out is the early spring, before your water garden completely awakens from its winter dormancy – ideally before the water temperature in the pond creeps above 55° F. If a clean-out is performed when the water is warmer, after bacteria colonies form, the balance of the ecosystem will again be thrown off and your pond will go through another “green phase” before the bacteria colonies re-establish themselves again.

## Here’s what you’ll need to get started:

- A clean-out pump with approximately 25 ft. of discharge hose
- A high-pressure nozzle for your garden hose, or a power washer
- Garden shears for trimming plants
- A child’s swimming pool or a similar sized container to hold fish and any other critters you find during the clean-out
- A net or something similar to place over the fish container to keep them from jumping out
- Two five-gallon buckets to collect leaves and debris
- A fish net
- Aquascape Pond Detoxifier to remove chlorine and chloramines prior to putting fish back
- Aquascape Cold Water Beneficial Bacteria

## Drain the Pond / Pondless Waterfall

- Place the clean-out pump in the deepest point of the pond (or in the Pondless® Waterfalls Snorkel™) in order to remove the water.



- Drain the water into the surrounding landscape. Be sure to relocate the pipe two or three times to allow the water to seep into the ground and not flood the yard.
- If you have fish, use some of this pond water to fill up the holding pool. The fish can be removed from the pond using a net once the water is low enough so you can easily catch them.
- Don't keep the fish in the holding pool for more than several hours. Keep them in a shady spot with a net over the top of the pool to prevent them from jumping out.

## **Don't Overdo the Cleaning**

- Rinse the inside of the pond. You can also use a pressure washer to help remove debris from the rocks and gravel.
- Don't try to scrub all of the algae away. Some algae on the rocks will prove beneficial in developing your ecosystem. For an average size pond (11' x 16') this should take around 15 minutes.
- Use the gentle stream from a garden hose to rinse the rocks and gravel. Start at the top and work your way down to the bottom. Periodically turn the clean-out pump on to remove the dirty water. You can discontinue the periodic pumping once the water rinsing down to the bottom begins to look clear. Remove the pump and begin filling the pond.

## **Cleaning the Filters**

- Remove any debris from the bottom of the skimmer and Snorkel™ Vault. This can be done by hand or by using the cleanout pump.
- Remove the media nets and filter pads from the BioFalls® Filter. (Not included with the Pondless® Waterfall). If you have the optional drain kit attached to your Signature Series™ BioFalls® Filter, you can open up the valve and rinse the media and filters. Once the filters have been removed rinse them free of accumulated debris.
- The filter media and mats can be put back into place and the waterfalls pump can be reattached in the skimmer or Snorkel™ Vault.

## **Putting Your Fish Back into their Clean Home**

- If you're on city water, it's imperative that you add a Aquascape Pond Detoxifier to the water so it is safe for fish.
- Dip a five-gallon bucket, or similar sized container, in the holding tank and fill it with water.
- After you've caught a fish, place it in the bucket and set the buckets in the clean water.
- After about 15 minutes, periodically begin splashing some pond water into the bucket.
- By now, the temperature of the pond and the bucket water should be close to the same. You are ready to spill the fish into their spring-cleaned home.

<http://www.aquascapeinc.com/blogs/water-gardening/Give-Your-Pond-a-Spring-Cleaning>

## Water Lily Workshop

Do you want to know how to propagate and divide water lilies? Well then you need to attend our April meeting!! I will be talking about Hardy and Tropical Water Lilies and their different types of rhizomes. Did you know that there are actually five types: Odorata, Tuberosa, Marliac, Pineapple and Pygmaea? Depending on the type they can have different growing habits. I will be discussing how the different types should be planted, when to repot, pots/containers, soil, fertilizer and the best depth to placed plants. The workshop will include a live demonstration on how to divide up a hardy water lily and repot the plant. There will also be a handout to take home for future reference and help answer questions. You don't want to miss this workshop!

Annie Foster - GPPS Treasurer



Come hang out with fellow GPPS members at the OdySea Aquarium!! We will be heading over to the aquarium after the April meeting (and hosing Annie off after she shows us how to repot lilies). All are welcome so feel free to bring your family and friends! This is a casual event, no reservations or pressure, just a bunch of us spending time enjoying our aquatic friends.

## From the Editor:

The poll question last month was: What has been your favorite topic or presentation during our monthly meeting? What would you like to see in future meetings?

I'm guessing since not a single person answered this one... the question was a dud!!

If you have something you've always wondered about, need advice (from someone other than Google) or just have suggestions for random poll questions... Please let me know!!! Otherwise, I'll just come up with something really off the wall for next month! You've been warned.... ☺ Tanya Brown - GPPS Editor

# 2017 GPPS Meetings & Events

<b>January</b> 14th: Meeting – 9am Host: Tammy Purtell	<b>February</b> 11th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Don & Dawn Jarratt 10th-12th: Chinese Cultural Fair	<b>March</b> 11th: Meeting - 9am Japanese Friendship Garden
<b>April</b> 8th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Annie Foster & Mike Galeski 28th-30 <sup>th</sup> : Home Show	<b>May</b> NO MEETING 13th GPPS Pond Tour 9am-4pm	<b>June</b> 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Jeff & Rita Karsten
<b>July</b> NO MEETING	<b>August</b> NO MEETING	<b>September</b> 9th: Meeting – 9am Hosts: Chuck & Joy Basso
<b>October</b> 14th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Tanya & Ian Brown	<b>November</b> 11th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Ron & Penny Christensen BOD Election	<b>December</b> 9th: Meeting - 11am Hosts: Richard & Pet Smith Holiday Potluck White Elephant Gift Exchange Fantastic Food & Fun



## Member Corner

## Dave & Maryann (May) Nelson

**Area of town:** Mesa

**Family:** I have 1 son, 1 daughter from a previous marriage and 3 granddaughters. May and I have no children together.

**Profession(s):** May is an orthopedic nurse at Honor Health (Scottsdale Health Care). I am a District Sales Manager for Meritor. We manufacture and sell parts for the big diesel trucks.

**Hobbies:** outside of ponds we both ride motorcycles (Harley Davidson) and enjoy camping and traveling when we have the time.

**What got you involved with water gardening:** Attended a GPPS pond tour 10 years ago.

**What is your favorite part of water gardening:** The way they look and sound.

**Favorite fish:** May - butterfly koi, me - all

**Future plans:** We still want to put in a large koi pond...someday!!

# Your 2017 Board

GPPS Executive Committee			
President	Don Shaw	602-332-8112	president@phoenixponds.com
Vice President	Judy Restad		vicepres@phoenixponds.com
Secretary	Sue Beard		secretary@phoenixponds.com
Treasurer	Annie Foster		treasurer@phoenixponds.com
Event Coordinator	Chris Krum		events@phoenixponds.com
Newsletter Editor	Tanya Brown		newsltr@phoenixponds.com
Librarian	Jeff Karsten		librarian@phoenixponds.com
Webmaster	Dennis Beard		webmaster@phoenixponds.com

GPPS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Jeff Karsten	rj_kars10@yahoo.com
Ed Tunstall	lctricfrog@cox.net
Jon Jolly	jonathan_jolly@hotmail.com
Chuck Basso	1chuckbasso@gmail.com

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\*\*\*If anyone finds a broken link or out of date information on the web pages, please send information like the page name and what needs to be changed or fixed to webmaster@phoenixponds.com\*\*\*

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## WEB 101:

If a member wishes to view archived Club Newsletters they must use the URL below. That URL is not a link from any of our pages. There is no need for a password.

You can make it a bookmarked or favorite in your browser. I suggest that you highlight and copy the below URL. If you wish to type it in your browser's address window NOTE: there is an Underscore ( \_ ) between the gppsarchive and the .htm

-- Failure to type the underscore will result in an error message.

[http://www.phoenixponds.com/News/gppsarchive\\_.htm](http://www.phoenixponds.com/News/gppsarchive_.htm)

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

FREE Turtles! Please contact Dave Nelson (480) 357-7205

Need mosquito fish? Call Tanya Brown (623) 451-3432

If you would like to advertise an item or service in the newsletter, send your submission to:

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

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



Do you have your embroidered GPPS shirt yet? You can have your shirt embroidered with the society logo for \$10 or \$20 including a polo shirt. Contact Tanya at [tanyam6@cox.net](mailto:tanyam6@cox.net) for more information or to place an order.

## Treasurers Report

<b>Starting Balance</b>	\$3468.79
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$75.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Storage fee	\$39.67
Donation to the Japanese Friendship Garden	\$110.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$3394.12

## GPPS Newsletter

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