

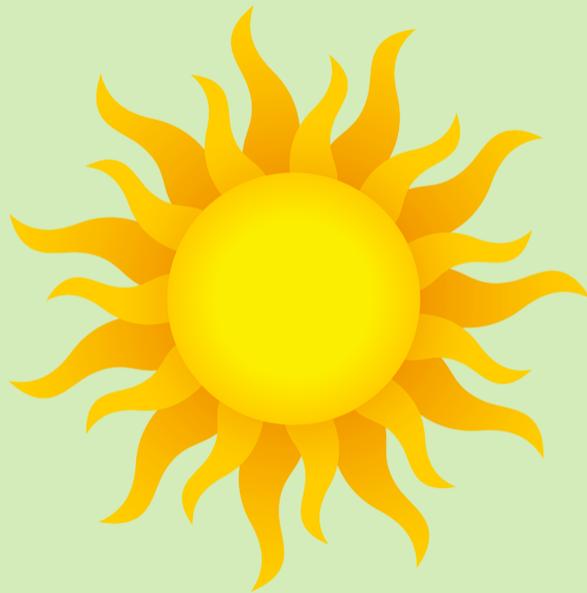
August 2017

# Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the  
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

**The Next Meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**

We wish everyone a safe and cool summer!  
See you in September at the Basso's pond.



# August



## Letter from the President

Hello fellow GPPS members. I hope everyone is keeping cool and enjoying the summer. We are about ready to turn the corner and start the cool down – can't get here soon enough for me. If you are like me you have some repairs or changes to make to your pond when the weather is better for being outdoors. I am planning some alterations



and no, one of them is **not** to add a bridge. I will be changing the filter system so it is easier to manage. Our bog is getting out of control and will need to be thinned out real soon. If anyone would like some plants let us know and we will see what we can do.

**Greater Phoenix Pond Society Directory:** Fern has updated our directory to match the membership list as of 7/20/2017. A copy is attached to the email with the newsletter. Please check your information and if there is anything that is incorrect please send the correction to me. If you have a picture of you and your pond (two pictures work nicely as Fern can blend them) please send it to me so we can update. It is very important that everyone understands that the directory is only for GPPS members. Do not use the information other than to communicate to fellow members. **Do not use the information for any business purposes or to send spam to members!** This directory's purpose is to get to know GPPS members and to empower communication with fellow members.

**Dr. George Brooks Mesa Community College hydroponics tour update:** I followed up with Dr. Brooks on the hydroponics tour and unfortunately the lab at the Mesa Community College was hit really bad during one of the monsoon storms and is in disarray. He will advise me when it is tour-ready again.

**Solar Power:** I received a question from someone thinking about building a pond asking if anyone in the club uses solar to run the equipment. Do Not know the answer to this question. If someone is using solar please let me know how it is working for you.

There will be no meeting for the month of August. We will start again in September.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Don Shaw – GPPS President

## From the Editor

The poll question this month was: How much water evaporation does your pond have each week?

Thanks to all the members who took a moment to answer the question! Some of the answers included 3" to 6" or more; I don't know because we have an auto-fill and; too much (suspect a leak). This brings up an interesting point... normal is a relative term!

There's no doubt that the internet is full of interesting information and Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends, entertain ourselves and learn new things... completely inaccurate things in some cases. I belong to several pond and koi groups on Facebook where I see individuals giving others a great deal of advice. One of the recent questions was "How much evaporation is considered normal?" The answers ranged from ½" per week to 5" per week. There were people who insisted that any pond that loses 5" a week MUST have a leak! I believe this is part of the problem with social media boards, people don't have all the information. In the northern parts of the United States or United Kingdom, losing 5" in a week could be a sign of a leak. But in the heat of the Arizona summer, my pond with it's a vigorous waterfall, small stream, large surface area located in full sun can easily lose 5-6" in a week. So when asking for advice or giving advice, be sure you have all the pertinent information. This is one of the reasons I love the GPPS group, we are working under many of the same conditions and can better understand the local environment. PLEASE ask questions at meetings, search the EXTENSIVE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on our GPPS website ([www.phoenixponds.com](http://www.phoenixponds.com)) or email board members for help. We have stronger, healthier ponds when we work together and share our experiences.

There are so many factors that can play a role in our pond's health, it's important to understand YOUR pond and what is normal for you. Factors like shade, fish load, plant load, size, chemical levels, depth and equipment efficiency just to name a few. My pond is only in it's second summer so I'm still learning what is normal. When I first started this pond, I worried about my pH level hanging around 9 and added all kinds of chemicals to try to bring it down. That is until I received a couple fish from the Shaws and tested their water...it was 9 too!

Turns out I was doing more harm

than good by fighting it, fish can live happy lives the area It may help put our minds at ease to track weekly temperatures and water loss in order to determine "normal" for our individual ponds. Does that sound like a lot of work to anyone else?? Another possible resource might be to watch your water bill for seasonal fluctuations. If you see major changes in your water bills, without seasonal or other explainable changes, especially if you have an auto-fill valve, you may have a leak. Know your pond and when needed, get help from others you trust to fully understand the big picture.



Tanya Brown-GPPS Editor

## Member Corner

## Bernard & Diana Ho

**Area of town:** Chandler

**Profession(s):** Bernard - Retired Engineer, Diana - Artist

**Hobbies:** Arts, music, easy sports, and travels

**What got you involved with water gardening:** We bought house that came with two ponds: small one in front of the house, big one at back yard, keeping us really busy

**What is your favorite part of water gardening:** Water plants (Lilies) and golden fish

**Favorite fish:** All kinds especially golden fish

**Future plans:** Adding more fish and water plants and lilies

For the last ten years, we just put chemicals into the pond to keep water clean, until 2016 when we had a visitor tell us to put plants in the pond to keep water clean, we tried last year and it worked. This is 2nd year, we not only put more plants but also we have golden fish now. We love it!

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### GPPS Painting Party!

Beat the heat and come paint with us! We will be painting the Dragonfly & Lotus (example below) at Artistic Adventures located at 23425 N 39th Drive, Ste 107, Glendale, AZ 85310 on Sunday, August 27th at 2:00pm.

This is an open event so please feel free to invite art loving friends and family! The cost is \$20 per person (due the day of the event) with a minimum of 5 people (max of 40 people). In case you've never done one of these classes before, here's a bit more about the experience... All the supplies you need to create your own masterpiece are included. The instructor will guide us through replicating our painting step by step and we'll go home with a painting that is uniquely ours. Most classes average 2- 2 1/2 hours with frequent breaks.



Please dress appropriately - although aprons are provided, paint splatter happens!

This is a great way to have a little fun, show off your artistic skills (or learn some if yours are a little weak like mine) and enjoy some time with your fellow GPPS members. Feel free to bring non-alcoholic beverages to enjoy while you're painting.

For more information, you can visit [www.artisticadventuresphx.com](http://www.artisticadventuresphx.com) or email me with questions at [tanyam6@cox.net](mailto:tanyam6@cox.net). Hope to see lots of you there!

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

## 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
Chuck Basso	1chuckbasso@gmail.com



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

Need mosquito fish? Call Tanya Brown at (623) 451-3432 PLEASE??... Annie has three large lava rocks that are free for the taking! Contact her at 602-616-5138. She can send pictures to interested individuals.

Have an item or service to advertise in the newsletter? Or a tip, trick, recommendation or idea to share? Send your submission to: [newsltr@phoenixponds.com](mailto:newsltr@phoenixponds.com)

\*\*\*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](mailto:webmaster@phoenixponds.com)\*\*\*

### 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)

## Treasurers Report

<b>Starting Balance</b>	\$3087.60
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$0.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Home Show Fees	\$48.00
Storage	\$40.69
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$2998.91

## GPPS Newsletter

Monthly Submission Deadline: 18th of each month. Newsletters will be sent out by the end 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.