

July 2017

Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

The Next Meeting: September 9th at 9:00am.

We wish everyone a safe and cool summer!
Be sure to watch your email for GPPS (indoor) gatherings!



Letter from the President

Hope everyone is avoiding the heat. I am in Atlantic City where it is in the 70's with a splash of rain and throw in a LOT of humidity.

Thanks to Jeff and Rita Karsten for hosting the June meeting. Your place is looking great. Also had a great presentation from Dr. Burns on hydroponics. What an interesting and helpful guy! We will be trying to set a time and date to tour the hydroponics lab at Mesa Community College soon... possibly second Saturday in July, same time as a normal meeting.

Don't forget we do not have a normal pond meeting during July or August. It's a dry heat, but so is your oven! If you have any ideas on what activities the club might do during this summer to get out of the heat, let me know. I will see if we can work on something fun to do.

Hope everyone enjoys the summer and gets out to do something fun. The next meeting will be September at the home of Chuck and Joy.

Don Shaw – GPPS President



Member Corner

Tammy and Eric Purtell

Area of town: Cave Creek

Family: 2 Golden Retrievers and several fish

Profession(s): Sales Rep Medtronic, Eric Sales Rep United Rental

Hobbies: Ponding, beach vacations, fishing, hiking, gardening, spending time outdoors.

What got you involved with water gardening: Loved ponds since I was a child.

What is your favorite part of water gardening: Watching the changes in the plants every day as they grow and feeding the fish.

Favorite fish: Butterfly koi

Future plans: A HUGE pond, Eric will never let me do it but it's ok to dream!

The Water Lily is July's Birth Flower



Everyone knows that they have a specific birthstone that is placed in jewelry and trinkets to signify the month they were born in. However, many people don't know that just like the stones, each month has a flower or two as well, which symbolizes birth. Here is the history and meaning behind your birth flower, the water lily.

The Water Lily, also known as Nymphaeaceae or "water lily family", is a family of flowering plants and can be found throughout the world. The white water lily is the national flower of Bangladesh.

Like other flowers, the Water Lily is rooted in soil, however it grows and floats in bodies of water. The leaves and flowers are above the water, while the rest of the plant stays below the water. The leaves can vary, all being round, but some species containing notches, while others are perfectly shaped.

Water Lilies are divided into two main groups, hardy and tropical. The hardy group only blooms during the day, while the tropical group blooms night and day and is the only group that contains blue flowers.

Water Lilies are temperamental and clearly the species are separate. Some species prefer the warm air and are found in temperate and semi-tropical zones, some prefer the cold and are found only in northern Canada and Alaska. The fragrant Water Lily occurs from Puerto Rico to Alaska and from California to Quebec, but its many subspecies can be found floating in lakes and ponds throughout North America. The fragrant Water Lilies are generally white in color. Florida has a species all its own that is called the Yellow Water Lily.

Fun and interesting fact: The Water Lily seed can survive and be planted for up to 2000 years.

<https://www.babiesonline.com/flowersbirthmonth/waterlily.asp>

2017 GPPS Meetings & Events

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

From the Editor

While preparing to go on the longest vacation I have ever taken, it occurred to me that the pond is A LOT of work!! My spoiled fish will only eat at dusk, water must be added three times a week along with stress coat, the filter media needs to be changed about once a week and the skimmer basket needs to be emptied and rinsed regularly. WHEW!! For me, this is all just part of the therapy of owning a pond but how do you ask a non-ponder to take on something so intensive?? It takes a special friend to agree to that sort of commitment. So to help her understand I wrote out all the instructions, made sure I had plenty of food and stress coat with measuring cups to make it easy to measure, I even bought extra filter media so should could just toss replacements into the skimmer. I also arranged for a couple of fellow GPPS members to be available in cause of emergency (thanks Don, Fern & Annie). All my ducks were in a row.... Or so I thought.



First thing, for non-ponders, we should define what makes for a pond emergency. For instance, 118-120 degree summer days combined with a power outage. Fortunately, the power outage didn't last too long and my dedicated friend came over every other day to replenish the water that was constantly evaporating so disaster was avoided but it got me thinking.

Hot summer days increase pond water temperatures, causing the oxygen levels to drop and putting our fish at risk. Waterfalls and fountains can provide good oxygenation and aid in releasing carbon dioxide. If you have ever seen your fish huddling under your waterfall or at the surface gasping for air, your water may be low on oxygen. Many ponders also use aerators to help ensure the water keeps circulating and there is plenty of oxygen. So if there is a power outage and our waterfalls or aerators stop, our fish don't have a chance. We need to have a Plan B in place.

This month's poll questions: Do you have an emergency plan for your pond? What would you do if there was flooding, power loss or other issues that did damage to your pond? In addition, how do you ensure your pond and fish are cared for while you are away on business or on vacation?

The responses to the poll question included having lots of hydrogen peroxide (please explain this one at the next meeting?), dechlorinator and battery operated aerators on hand. One member has an extra pond just in case (please help me talk Ian into letting me do this?) Other responses included "???????" and "lots of hungry feral cats in the neighborhood" (didn't see THAT response coming!). One member wrote that they have maintained a relationship with their pond builder in case of emergency. When it comes to traveling, several members said they have family members or house sitters watch their ponds while they are away.

No matter who is dealing with a pond emergency, it's a great idea to have a plan (including instructions) in place long before something bad happens so here are some tips:

- Buy a generator to power your equipment during a power outage. Other options include running battery or solar (not helpful overnight) operated pumps and aerators.
- You can also run the sprinkler into the pond, the higher you can get the spray and more water surface you can disrupt, the more oxygen you'll be introducing into the pond. ALWAYS be sure to add dechlorinator when adding water from the hose. This is not a perfect solution but might save the lives of your fish in an emergency situation.
- To avoid rain water draining into your pond, do not build your pond in the lowest part of the yard. No matter the location, you may want to build up the edges of the pond to channel water

around the pond, run off water can contaminate your pond with fertilizers and disrupt your chemical balance.

- Have back-up equipment and plumbing supplies on hand, just in case. Emergencies rarely happen at convenient times of the day or when you have “spare time” to handle the situation properly. Having an extra pump, aerator and/or plumbing supplies may cost more money in the short term but can save you time, aggravation and potentially your fish! Consider the long-term costs and value.
- Unplug all electrical devices to your pond in case there is a power surge when the electricity comes back on. It is also a good idea to invest in a surge suppressor strip since the power can surge at any time, the breaker the strip will keep surges from damaging equipment.
- During a power outage, clean out the filters and change filter media to help keep your water quality as high as possible in the case of a prolonged outage.
- You should not feed your fish during an outage (most fish can go several days without food) unless absolutely necessary, the food can act as a pollutant and cause algae to build up faster and quickly reduce water quality.
- Establish relationships with people who are willing to help in case of emergency. Talk to fellow GPPS members, friends or family members willing to pond-sit or scramble if the need arises.

There are great resources on the internet to help us build an action plan for pond emergencies. The best time to establish a plan is when we DON'T need it! We have all put far too much energy, time, money and love into our water gardens to allow them to be destroyed by an unforeseen emergency.

Hopefully this article will help encourage us all to get prepared and be ready for anything.

Tanya Brown-GPPS Editor

Your 2017 Board

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Sale, Trade, or Free

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

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

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

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

Treasurers Report

Starting Balance	\$3489.29
Income	
Dues	\$25.00
Expenses	
Insurance Policy	\$336.00
Meeting Speaker	\$50.00
Storage	\$40.69
Ending Balance	\$3087.60

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.