

August 2018

Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

**The Next Meeting will be in September.
Enjoy Your Summer!!**



Summer Pond Tip:

Don't forget that your finned friends also enjoy the occasional cool treat! Float a slice of watermelon or a half an orange and watch them nibble. Pull the peels out once they have been picked clean. You can also secure a zucchini sliced lengthwise or a bunch of parsley to a rock for an underwater fishy buffet!

Letter from the President

Hello fellow GPPS members!

Hope everyone is finding ways to stay cool! So glad we finally got some rain, this heat has done a number on our plants and yard!

Penny and I have been working on setting up a large tank to use for rescued fish, but I guess it's time to break out my honey-do list of indoor projects!

I would like to thank Jeanette Summers for posting some pictures of this year's pond tour on our GPPS Facebook page. She didn't get a chance to make it to all the ponds, but the picture's she took turned out great. If anyone has pictures of their pond/yards that they would like to share with the group, please post and don't forget to like/follow us.

Hopefully we can get some of these pictures to our webmaster, so he can update our pictures on our GPPS web page. I know nothing about computers, so I'm glad we have Dennis our webmaster to help us.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Alan and Molly Hanna September 8th @ 9:00am hope to see you there.

Thank you and Happy Pondering!

Ron Christensen

GPPS-President





GPPS Dinner with Sharks

August 18, 2018 at 6:00pm
Dillon's at Wildlife World Zoo!

DILLON'S WILDEST LOCATION is located on Northern, 8 miles west of the 101, the Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium allows you to dine with the sharks! That's right! We'll be eating beside a beautiful 60,000 gallon shark tank, or enjoying a vibrant flamingo exhibit on our patio. Don't worry, no entrance fee is required for dining with sharks! Dillon's will provide separate



checks and GPPS members will be responsible for paying for their meals. You can check out the menu at <http://dillonsrestaurant.com/menu/>

Please RSVP to tanyam6@cox.net by August 13th.

Have you seen any of these tracks near your pond?



From the Editor

Monsoon season is here and we have been getting some wild storms! Hopefully everyone's pond is surviving the weather and you haven't needed this advice yet. The poll question this month was:

What is your emergency plan for your pond?

Tell us your plan considering the following: power outages, pump breaks, storm debris, alien invasion (testing to see who reads this stuff), and other emergencies???

Thanks to everyone who responded, I always enjoy reading your answers. As for the individual (smarty-pants) that responded in the case of emergency...they would call me...Absolutely!!! One of the major sources of comfort I have when leaving town is the knowledge that if there is an emergency, I have arranged for a fellow GPPS member to look after my pond. If you're going away, I would suggest mentioning it during a meeting or to a club officer. We may be able to direct you to someone who could help look after your pond or be a point of contact for your house sitter in the case of an emergency. All you need to do is ask!

I think my favorite response was the members hoping an alien ship lands in their yard and makes a large crater, saves digging and it would make for a great pond! Way to look at the silver lining!!

Several responses included having solar operated aerators and pumps. You can check out options on Amazon to get a feel for what's available. Being in Arizona, we have the perfect climate for solar powered equipment. They may not be powerful enough to run a large pond for a long period of time but in the case of an emergency, they will really help!

Frank sent over this great checklist for dealing with emergencies:

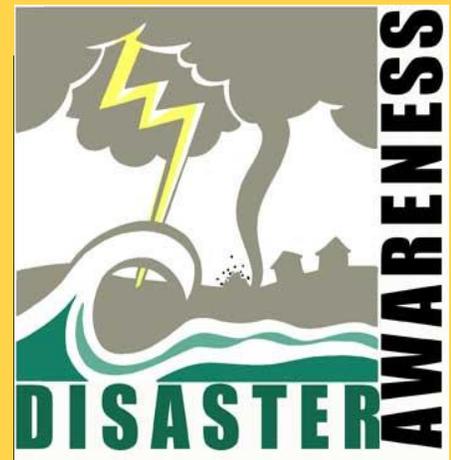
1. Turn off/on all pumps, check for any leaks or other damage, remove all fallen branches & leaves
2. Not too much one can do about dust storms, but check the filters to see if they're clogged
3. Use a submersible pump or the drain in the pond if the water level is too high
4. Check the circuit breaker to the pump or other electrical equipment
5. Check fish or plant health if it's been days since the storms

One of my personal emergency plans is to have an extra pump on hand. It may seem a bit extreme but my main pump isn't something you can buy at Home Depot or Lowes. I don't want to take the chance of it going out while I'm traveling and leaving my house sitter to deal with it. I also keep a gallon bottle of hydrogen peroxide and dechlorinator in my pantry...just in case.

It was also suggested to keep your pond as clean as possible on a daily basis. The storms are not going to wait, in fact Murphy's Law states it will hit at the worst possible time, so keeping your pond clean will help you to avoid having a bad situation being made much worse by the maintenance you've been putting off till next week. Considering the amount of time and money that we spend on our ponds, having an emergency plan in place makes sense! Below is a great article that discusses some other ideas for dealing with pond emergencies.

Make a plan... do it today... you never know what might happen tomorrow!!

Tanya Brown-GPPS Editor



Prepping Your Pond for Emergencies

Is your water garden or koi pond prepared for a natural disaster? Earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, etc can wreak havoc in countless ways. Our ponds and fish are not immune to these disasters. Many of us take steps to prepare ourselves for these situations, but often forget that our ponds and prized fish need a little forethought as well.

If a disaster strikes, hopefully it will at least be with some advance warning. With some time to prepare, the following steps can help reduce the severity of any problems.

Stop feeding your fish as soon as possible. Goldfish and koi will be fine for weeks with no food being added to the pond. By stopping the food, you can reduce the ammonia buildup in the pond. If your power might be out for days, this would mean your filtration would not be able to break down this ammonia. You can resume feeding when the situation has returned to normal.

Place pond netting over the pond. This netting can keep light debris out of the water. It can also help keep your koi in the water, koi have a tendency to jump when stressed and could otherwise end up outside the pond. Additionally, netting that is secured tightly can keep fish from swimming out of the pond in very heavy rains.

Perform partial water change. Water quality is key, help the fish by going into the disaster with fresher water. Replacing 25-50% of the water with fresh water can make for dramatically better water quality.

Clean filters. We just want to make sure everything is in as good of shape as possible.

Turn off your pump. Consider turning off pumps that pull water from the pond bottom or raising them off the bottom. If the plumbing line gets damaged, this could pump all the water out of the pond.

Elevate aerators. Ensure any air pumps are located on high ground to prevent being flooded out in heavy rains.

Make room for rain water. If heavy rains are expected you may want to drop the water level to make room for the influx of new water. You may also wish to buffer the water (raise the KH value) to help stabilize the pH as a lot of rain can alter the pH.

Have needed supplies on hand. These include test kits, dechlorinator, ammonia binders or removers, hydrogen peroxide, activated filter carbon, pond buffer, and pond salt.

Alternative Power

This next section covers steps to take once the disaster is upon you whether you have time to prepare or were caught off-guard. This is assuming that the disaster has left you without power.

Consider a generator. Generators have been known to save many thousands of dollars of koi. While generators are not necessarily cheap it may be the best way to ensure your fish stay alive. If you get a generator, make sure you know how to use it before hand and have fuel available. If you have to make the choice between running a water pump or an air pump choose the air pump. It generally

requires less electricity and provides more oxygen to the fish. Also, make sure the generator is not near the pond or the air pump as you certainly don't want to inject carbon monoxide straight into the water.

Uninterrupted power supply (UPS). With an air pump plugged into a UPS, you can get at least a few extra hours of aeration after the power goes out.

Inverter. Another option for providing needed electricity is an inverter. This device can run off of a car battery converting the DC to AC.

Battery power. A battery-powered air pump can work for a pond with a very light fish load. These may be sold for aquariums or from fishing supply companies where they are used to keep bait alive.

If worst comes to worst and there are no options for providing power, hydrogen peroxide can be added to the pond to increase dissolved oxygen levels. This can be added at a rate of ½ cup per 100 gallons up to 4 times per day. Make sure it is well dispersed in the pond.

Beneficial bacteria in a filter begin to die very quickly with no water flow. If you have an air pump running, you can keep the filter alive by dropping an air stone directly into a filter.

Oxygen levels will be lower with warmer water. You can place a tarp supported well above the water to keep the sun off the pond and keep the water temperature down.

After power is restored and the situation is back to relative normal a few more steps can help ensure a positive outcome for your fish.

When the power was off, it is best to unplug pump so that when the current returns it will not pump the water out of the pond in the event that there was damage to the plumbing. You want to be able to observe the pond when the pump restarts.

Any filters that were sitting without water flow should be emptied to flush out any accumulated hydrogen sulfide from the anaerobic conditions.

As soon as possible, performing a partial water change to dilute any buildup of ammonia or other toxins would be time well spent. Again 25-50% would be ideal.

Note that city water will often have extra chlorine added to it after a natural disaster. If you are not able to monitor the chlorine levels, use a little extra dechlorinator if you add fresh water.

Adding activated carbon into your filter can absorb any remaining toxins. Remember if there was a lot of rain or high winds, potential toxins could have come from miles away.

As mentioned before, in the event of an emergency situation, water quality is key. An overstocked pond is more likely to suffer disastrous consequences than a pond fewer fish. If you are in an area prone to hurricanes, earthquakes, or any other cause of extended power failures consider this in advance and consider finding a new home for a few extra fish.

Finally, all this is to help you get your pond and fish through a disaster. You and your family are more important than your fish, so please take care of yourselves first and foremost.

Source: <http://www.watergarten.org/Pond-Info/Pond-Emergency-Preperation>

Your 2018 Board

GPPS Executive Committee		
President	Ron Christensen 480-861-5320	president@phoenixponds.com
Vice President	Rita Karsten	vicepres@phoenixponds.com
Secretary	Sue Beard	secretary@phoenixponds.com
Treasurer	Annie Foster	treasurer@phoenixponds.com
Event Coordinator	Susan Stowe	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

Member News

Welcome to all the new members!!!! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting. In the meantime, please consider completing the member profile so we can get to know each other better! Profiles will be featured in the monthly newsletters.

If you're new or you haven't done the member profile questionnaire before, please fill it out and send it over to tanyam6@cox.net. We love learning about each other!!

Member Profile Questions:

Tell us a little about yourself...

Name(s):

Area of town:

Family:

Profession(s):

Hobbies:

What got you involved with water gardening:

What is your favorite part of water gardening:

Favorite fish:

Future pond plans:

2018 GPPS Meetings & Events

January 13th: Meeting – 9am Host: Jamie & Liz Coffey	February 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Gary & Susan Stowe 16th-18th: Chinese Cultural Fair	March 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Tim & Judy Restad
April 14th: Meeting - 9am Host: Dean Treadwell 27th-29th: Home Show	May NO MEETING 12th GPPS Pond Tour 9am-4pm	June 9th: Meeting – 6pm Hosts: Don & Fern Shaw
July NO MEETING	August NO MEETING	September 8th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Alan & Molly Hanna
October 13th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Dennis & Sue Beard	November 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Bernard & Diana Ho BOD Election	December 8th: Meeting - 11am Hosts: Richard & Pet Smith Holiday Potluck White Elephant Gift Exchange Fantastic Food & Fun

Do you have an event or gathering suggestion? Past events have included volunteering at the Japanese Friendship Garden, an Aquarium visit and a Painting party. If you have an idea for a similar or completely new event, please contact one of the board members or share it at the monthly meeting.

*** Sale, Trade, or Free ***



Need Water Lettuce?

Jeanette has plenty to share, just email her at classyjas@cox.net for more information!
 Located near Cave Creek Rd & Union Hills Dr.



How about Water Lilies?

Over the next few weeks, Glenna will be thinning lilies and will have cuttings to share. Varieties should include Wanvisa (coral), Colorado (peach), John Hardy (cream), Pennsylvania (periwinkle) & Lindsay Woods (purple). Please email Glenna at gbabstoo3@gmail.com for mor information. Located near Cave Creek Rd & Pima Rd.



Or some bio-balls?

Nancy has a 32-gallon can full of bio-balls, if you need some, give her a call at 602-863-1506 or email nmagee@hotmail.com for more information. Bio-balls pictured on my laptop keyboard for size reference. Located near 7th Street & Greenway Pkwy.

Have an item or service to advertise in the newsletter? In search of something? Or do you have a question, tip, trick, recommendation or idea to share? Send your submission to: 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 for more information or to place an order.

Treasurers Report

Starting Balance	\$3029.04
Income	
No Income	
Expenses	
No Expenses	
Ending Balance	\$3029.04

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

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

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