

**January 2018**

# Pond Happenings

**Monthly Newsletter Published by the  
Greater Phoenix Pond Society**

## **The Next Meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**

The October meeting will be held at the home of Jamie & Liz Coffey.

- Telephone: 480-213-1092
- Address: 3653 E. Decatur, Mesa, AZ 85205

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



## Letter from the President

Hello fellow GPPS members. A big THANK YOU to Pet and Richard Smith for hosting the December meeting. As always, they did a fantastic job and it is greatly appreciated. 2017 has been a good year and I look forward to an amazing 2018! I hope everyone had as much fun as I did at the annual GPPS potluck party. The food was great, the fellowship was fabulous, and did I mention the white elephant game... the grandkiddos love the ginormous stuffed koi.

This will be my last letter as President. I want to thank everyone for all the support you gave me over the last three years. It has been a pure pleasure serving as your president. Thanks to Ron Christensen for stepping up and accepting the position of President for 2018. I am confident he will do a great job with your support.

Rita Karsten has stepped up to fill the vice president position again; she will be in charge of the 2018 annual pond tour. She is an experienced organizer and will do great but needs the support of everyone to have a successful pond tour.

Annual dues are due! Where else can you get an education on ponds and free plants, fish, etc. for only \$25 a year. What a deal! Dues can be paid at the meeting or sent to our treasurer Annie Foster, 3543 E. Rosemonte Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85050.

The next meeting will be at the home of Jamie and Liz Coffey. Hope to see everyone there.

Don Shaw

GPPS-President

P.S. We still have rocks and plants for a couple of weeks. Let us know if you are interested. 602-332-8112.



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## From the Editor

2018 is already shaping up to be a fantastic year... We have some great new ponds on the meeting calendar this year and we hope to have even more on the pond tour in May! It's refreshing to see new ponds and have new members getting involved. If you haven't already liked our Facebook page, please take a moment to check it out and please share your pond pictures and experiences throughout the year! See you all soon!

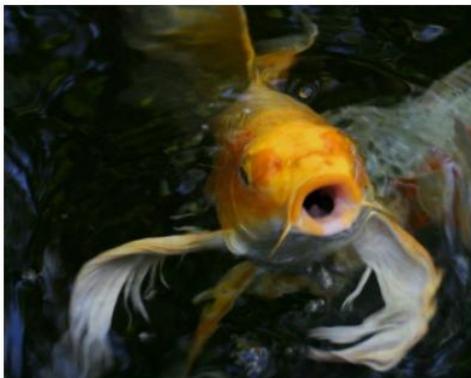
Tanya Brown – GPPS Editor



## Butterfly Koi



### basic facts to know



## Butterfly Koi

In certain circles, when you mention butterfly koi it's like speaking out of turn in an audience with the Pope. You just don't do this. Quite a few of the koi connoisseurs think of butterfly koi as "mutts," and some say that butterfly koi aren't even koi. Others, however, happen to think butterfly koi can be the finest koi in any collection, depending on several factors—size, pattern, and finnage.

First, let's consider where butterfly koi originated. In the early 80s, a population of common, brown and grey carp with long fins were found in a series of canals and ditches in Indonesia. A company in New York took an interest and brought the fish into the U.S. and sold some. They did not sell well because they were ugly. However, an enterprising and curious group of breeders at Blue Ridge Fish Hatchery placed an order for a dozen of these fish to see what the heck they were. Ugly, with long fins, is what they discovered. Over the next several years they bred these large, long finned mutations with their finest regular-fin koi and made several discoveries.

- Long-fin genes are dominant, so breeding the fish back to color would not breed out the long fin gene.
- Long-fin koi are robust and disease resistant.
- The fish could be bred back to color and many colorful lines of long-fin koi have been created at Blue Ridge Fish Hatchery.

The original breeder at Blue Ridge Fish Hatchery who spearheaded the cultivation of long-fin koi was a man named Wyatt LeFever. His son Randy made his way to the tanks to see the fish. As he regarded the fish with interest, he observed, "Dad, they look like Butterflies!" The name stuck.

### The Relation of Size and Value

As Butterfly koi grow, they become more and more impressive because the fins keep growing until the blood vessels can't sustain the fins to be any longer. The older the fish, the longer and more impressive the finnage. So, a full-grown butterfly koi looks like a long, slinky dragon moving through the water. Their barbels (whiskers) even grow long and can fork into elaborate designs.

Butterfly koi seem to lack some of the body size of regular koi, but the overall fish can run as long as 36 to 40 inches in the right pond with plenty of food. They are graceful and pleasant to watch swim.

### **What about Pattern?**

Since pattern seems to mean a great deal to the value of a regular koi, it makes logical sense that a good, standard pattern with bright colors would increase the value of a butterfly koi too, but there are a few notable additions. While a butterfly koi is more valuable when it has a properly defined and positioned pattern in the color, beautiful fins can often make even a poorly patterned fish look beautiful.

In addition, lemon and platinum ogons (solid color) in the butterfly category are awesome as adults. When you grow a metallic yellow or platinum ogon butterfly to an impressive, large size, their body movement is more graceful and slow. The fins are long, but the uniform gold or neon-white color is brilliant in the water and such fish look like fireballs or comets moving through the water with their "fire" (fins) streaming behind them. Gorgeous!

### **Notable Butterfly Koi Types**

Sorogoi are incredible as adults in the butterfly class, as well. A sorogoi is the overall grey fish with the "fukurin" or black fish net pattern over the body. So, taking that color and putting it on a large, impressive adult butterfly koi gives you what rather appears as a grey sea monster moving through the water. Its subdued colors don't attract the eye at first, but then you see its graceful, lengthy body and fins moving around below you and you are taken aback by both the robustness of the fish (they grow huge) and its mysterious, grey color.

Even better than that are black butterflies – which are, by far the coolest fish. They are seldom found, so the effect is rare and special when it happens. The black butterfly may be with or without scales. The rarest and most valuable of this type is the doitsu, karasu butterfly. This fish is black, has no scales, and has long fins.

### **Black Beauties**

Black butterflies grow up and become very large because their genes are not as strained as some of the brighter colored fish. And if they have no scales, the body is a glistening jet-black. The fins keep growing until the entire fish is broad, and streams long black robes behind it. They look like a jet-black dragon.

And when a visitor to your pond is feeding your fish at the side of the pond, suddenly, a large black shadow looms up from the depths. Larger it gets, until they realize that there is no color, the fish is just a shadow and when the fish takes the food, it turns and swirls down out of sight with a flourish of long, black fins. "What was that?" they usually stammer. "That is the shadow. He's our black fish, which the Japanese have always regarded as a lucky fish," you reply. The fully mature black butterfly koi is surely one of the most memorable fish a kid could ever encounter or feed. With such a fish, you own a living breathing shadow dragon.

### **Oh Those Fins!**

In a discussion of butterfly koi, we should talk a tiny bit more about the fins. The butterfly koi fins are long because of a genetic aberration resulting in the length growth gene failing to turn off. In fish, the fins are supposed to grow to a genetically specified length, and then stop growing. But in

the high fin mutation the fins don't get the "stop growth" message and they keep growing. This happens in individual fish of many species from time to time. Some notable examples are Siamese fighting fish, Simpson's hi fin swordtails, long fin oscars, and long fin black tetras. Any time the mutation is encountered and identified, it is bred into a species to see if it would make that species more economically important commercially.

Like any other koi, the fins of the butterfly koi are made up of dozens of rays of cartilage that radiate outward and support the fin. These rays generally grow very straight, but past the point of normal length they can grow wavy. The fish that grow straight rays even into the lengthier parts of the tail are more impressive looking and would be more valuable.

One problem with butterfly koi is that they are often handled the same way as regular koi. Broken fins and tails are par for the course by the time the fish is an adult. So, it's normal to see bends and waves in the fins and tail of butterfly koi partly because of growing that way, but also because of netting-damage as a juvenile. As an adult, a split tail or fin often does not heal well and remains split. All of the above is irrelevant to the casual observer, the impact of the fish is exactly the same, but you might notice variations in fin quality and you may care enough to choose one fish over the other based on that.

### **Are They the Real McKoi?**

The butterfly koi is a true koi. Despite this fact, the Japanese have shared some American purist's distaste for these long fin beauties. Truth be told, the Japanese have usually reacted to any new color, at first, as an abomination. Eventually, they get used to it and accept it, and eventually love the diversity.

And it has been that way with the butterfly koi. At first, Mr. Suda was the only breeder in Japan producing butterfly koi. His fish have been gorgeous, and he even bred them for prodigious size. But the rest of the Japanese breeders declined.

Mr. Suda's fish became so popular in the U.S. that they became scarce; making Mr. Suda realize his decision to breed them was a good one. Over time, as other breeders watched Mr. Suda sell everything he had very fast, they eventually overcame their resistance to butterfly koi and started producing them, too. Today, there are domestic breeders who compete in the butterfly koi market. They are very popular fish – and for good reason.

*Aquascape - June 29, 2016 (<http://www.aquascapeinc.com/blogs/water-gardening/Butterfly-Koi>)*



# 2018 GPPS Meetings & Events

<b>January</b> 13th: Meeting – 9am Host: Jamie & Liz Coffey	<b>February</b> 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Gary & Susan Stowe 16th-18th: Chinese Cultural Fair	<b>March</b> 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Tim & Judy Restad
<b>April</b> 14th: Meeting - 9am Host: Dean Treadwell 27th-29th: Home Show	<b>May</b> NO MEETING 12th GPPS Pond Tour 9am-4pm	<b>June</b> 9th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Don & Fern Shaw
<b>July</b> NO MEETING	<b>August</b> NO MEETING	<b>September</b> 8th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Alan & Molly Hanna
<b>October</b> 13th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Dennis & Sue Beard	<b>November</b> 10th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Bernard & Diana Ho BOD Election	<b>December</b> 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.

We are always looking for new ideas!

## Member Corner

**Area of town:** North Phoenix

**Family:** Blend family of 5 kids, 6 grandchildren

**Profession(s):**

Annie-Mortgage operations

Mike-Kitchen bath design and sales

**Hobbies:**

Annie-Gardening

Mike-Target shooting, golf

**What got you involved with water gardening:**

Annie-I bought a house with a pond and went nuts.

Mike-My wife drug me into it.

**Annie Foster**  
**GPPS Treasurer**  
**& Mike Galeski**

# 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

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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](mailto: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)



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

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 question, tip, trick, recommendation or idea to share? Send your submission to:  
[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>	\$2880.15
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$75.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Holiday Party Food	\$94.07
Holiday Ornaments	\$82.07
Storage fee-Nov	\$40.69
Storage fee-Dec	\$40.69
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$2697.63

## 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)