

June 2018

Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

The Next Meeting: June 9th at 6:00pm.

The June meeting will be held at the home of Don & Fern Shaw.

- Telephone: 602-332-8112
- Address: 1220 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85027

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



The Big Reveal!!!

The June meeting will be a very special event...

Don & Fern will reveal their completely renovated backyard to the club!

The meeting will start at 6:00 in the evening. After the meeting, we will be throwing some brats on the grill, enjoying some time with great friends & breaking in the new pool! Be sure to bring your suit & your beverage of choice.

Remember, this is the last meeting till September so you will not want to miss it!

Looking to seeing everyone!

Letter from the President

Hello fellow GPPS members!

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to man the booth at the Home and Garden Show and help us promote our annual GPPS pond tour. I hope everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy the variety of yards & ponds that we had available on the tour this year.

I would also like to give a BIG thank you to everyone who took the time in getting ready and sharing their yards & ponds with all of us. The tour is a great way to give fellow pond enthusiasts ideas on how to create their own backyard oasis in Arizona! We had a good turnout on the eastside but sounds like the North area had excellent attendance. With our members located all over the valley it's hard to make it to all the ponds; we can't wait to hear from everyone who participated or went on the tour at our next meeting.

Speaking of our next meeting, I'm so excited to see Don and Fern's NEW pond! I know they have put in a lot of hard work and time creating their backyard paradise!

We will be switching it up a little this meeting, since it's getting warmer it will be held in the evening starting at 6pm with a BBQ and pool party to follow.

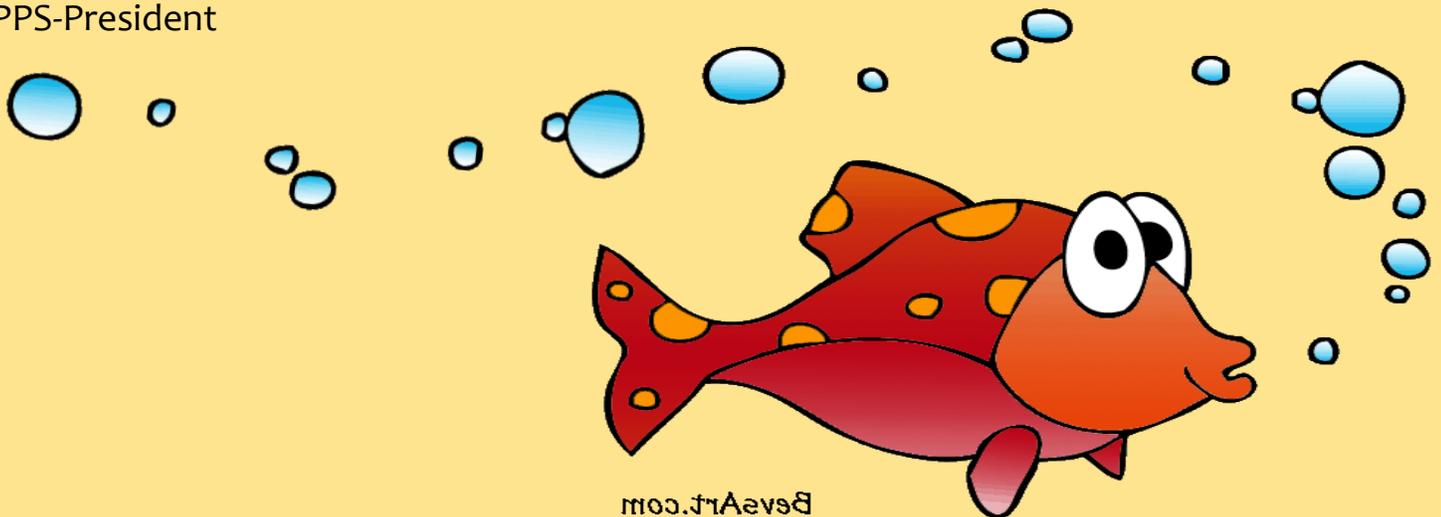
Don't forget to bring all your pond tour supplies and sign in sheets to this meeting. Rita needs everything returned ASAP! If you are unable to make the June meeting, let me know, so we can work out a time to come pick them up (Ron 480-861-5320).

If anyone has pictures of this year's pond tour please share with our webmaster Dennis Beard and/or post on GPPS Facebook page.

Thank you and Happy Ponding!

Ron Christensen

GPPS-President



Hand Feeding Your Fish

Here's a great Q & A from www.thepondguy.com

Q: My friend talks about her fish coming up to eat from her hand. How can I get my fish to do the same?

A: Talk about a cool party trick! Feeding by hand is not only a fun way to show your friends how well-trained your fish are, but it also gives you an opportunity to bond with your finned pals.

Teaching your fish how to eat from your hand starts with understanding the temperament of the fish themselves. Are your fish friendly? Do they swim up and say "Glub, glub, hi!" when you visit your pond? Or do they scatter when you approach and your shadow falls on the water?



Friendly fish are easier to train. They already associate you as an approachable face that brings them tasty food every day. Sketchy fish, however, can be more of a challenge. They might be newbies that don't recognize you or your feeding routine, or they might be spooked from predators visiting your pond.

If you've ruled out the possibility of predators (or put up some predator-control measures), follow these steps to help teach your fish to eat from the palm of your hand:

Set a Routine: Fish are creatures of habit. They're more likely to respond to something that happens the same way every day (or frequently, at least). To set a mealtime routine, visit your pond at the same location, at the same time of day, on a regular basis. They'll get to know your patterns and learn to recognize you – and feeding time.

Make Them Work: Throwing a handful of Growth & Vibrance Fish Food into the water and walking away teaches your fish an easy snatch-and-run feeding style. Instead, toss them a few pellets at a time and wait for the fish to eat them. They'll rush to get the food first! Even the shy koi will get in on the action. This toss-and-wait style reminds them that you are hanging out and something exciting is happening.

Get Brave - and Get Wet: Once your fish are used to your feeding routine and race to the pond's edge to greet you, take the plunge! Hold a few pellets loosely in your hand just at the water surface without making any sudden or quick movements. It takes only one fish to act bravely and let the others know it'll be OK. Before you know it, they'll be racing to your hand to be fed!

Once your fish are trained to eat from your hand, you'll be tempted to keep offering them food. Prevent overfeeding them by measuring out a predetermined amount of food – and stop when it's all gone. If you can't help yourself (or you're sharing this cool new party trick with your friends), at least be sure to have some natural bacteria, like Nature's Defense®, on hand to help clean up the leftovers after dinner.

From the Editor

As the weather heats up here in the desert, the battle with algae also heats up. The poll question this month was “How do you defend your pond against the Arizona sun?”

Thanks to everyone who responded...it appears that many of us are on the same page. Great filtration, lots of plants and the use of UV clarifying lights were popular answers as well as good aeration. My goal is to add shade sails to my pond this season

but I'm also using this great stuff Annie told me about, Nualgi Ponds. My pond being in full Sun means I fight algae blooms that make my water look like pea-soup and that dreaded string algae. I really hate how string algae hangs off my waterfall and suffocates my water lilies. I've had pretty good results by manually removing the string algae then adding Nualgi Ponds to my pond once a week or so...it only takes a little so the bottle goes a long way.

Hopefully the article below gives you some additional ideas for defending your pond through the summer!

Tanya Brown-GPPS Editor



How to Shade a Garden Pond (Heat Protection Guide)

July 14, 2017 - <https://pondinformer.com/how-to-shade-a-pond/>

Summer is a great time to watch a garden pond come to life; with plants blooming, fish becoming more active, and sunlight illuminating the water.

Even though most of us love the sun, too much sunlight can be a bad thing, and that also applies to garden ponds. Water exposed to the UV light of the sun without any period of shade can have all sorts of problems, ranging from algae bloom, decreased oxygen content, and really unhappy fish! These problems are more common for pond owners living in much warmer climates, or for smaller ponds which are more shallow and absorb heat faster. Both koi and goldfish also prefer a pond within a specific temperature range, and water which becomes too hot can cause a lot of unnecessary stress.

If your pond has a few hours shade a day, or is at least partially shaded throughout the day, you should not see any issues unless you live in a particularly hot climate. If you have a small pond with fish, or a heavy fish stocked pond, it may be a good idea to consider shading the pond for a certain amount of time each day to make fish more comfortable. It's also a good idea to shade pond water if you're having algae issues due to intensive sunlight, or you notice a lot of water is evaporating daily due to the heat. Providing shade will slow algae growth and make it more controllable, and will also slow the evaporation rate of water, which means less topping up with mains supply.

Even if you don't get a huge amount of sun, providing extra shade can have benefits to both you and your fish, reducing overall pond maintenance and making fish just a little happier!

Benefits of Shading a Pond

1) Slows Algae Growth

One of the main reasons to shade a pond is to slow down algae growth during summer when it becomes unmanageable. Algae grow the fastest during the hottest months when sunlight is the most intense, and if left unchecked, they can quickly take over a garden pond. Ponds in the shade may still have issues with algae, as they can grow with minimal light, but providing shade will help slow down growth making it more manageable. A partially shaded pond will have much slower algae growth in comparison to a pond constantly exposed to sunlight. Too much algae can become a huge problem for a pond, especially one with koi or goldfish. As algae die off and more start to grow, massive amounts of oxygen are removed from the water by decomposing beneficial bacteria. During periods of algae blooms this process can reduce oxygen content in the water to dangerously low levels, putting huge stress on fish.

Shade will certainly help slow algae from growing, but if you're already experiencing a rapid bloom, a more direct approach may be needed to get things under control first. If you already have major algae problems, check here for our full guide on algae control and how to remove it.

2) Improves Oxygen Levels

High temperatures reduce the oxygen holding capacity of water, meaning ponds will be holding less oxygen during the warmest summer months. Fish also become more active during summer, eating more as their metabolic rates increase. This increase in activity means the fish produce more waste, and beneficial bacteria will need to work harder to break down the excess. These bacteria require oxygen to function, just like fish, and may struggle to carry out their job as oxygen content decreases.

Shading a pond from sunlight will help lower the overall temperature and improve the capacity at which water holds oxygen. Algae also grow the fastest during the day, so slowing their growth by blocking sunlight will help improve oxygen for both fish and beneficial bacteria.

3) Makes Fish More Comfortable!

Both goldfish and koi prefer a pond within a specific temperature range, generally between 65 and 75 F degrees. They can certainly survive in much colder or hotter water, but that doesn't mean it's ideal for them. Warmer water temperature, along with pH, also has a direct effect on the toxicity of ammonia. This waste substance is very dangerous to fish, but the majority is safely removed by the beneficial bacteria living in your pond and filter box. Problems may occur during summer where fish produce more waste (ammonia) and temperatures are also high, which causes the ammonia to become more potent. Shade is just one thing that can help with this issue by allowing water more time to cool down from the sun, and giving bacteria more time to breakdown substances before they can build.

In much smaller ponds, such as preformed ponds, fish can literally boil to death if the water is exposed to constant sunlight throughout the day. Smaller ponds act as insulators, taking in heat and retaining it much more readily than a larger body of water. Even with aeration, shallow water may not be able to cool down fast enough, so providing shade is essential if you want to keep your fish healthy and happy in a small environment.

Methods to Provide Pond Shade

Option 1: Pond Plants (Real or artificial)

Shade Amount: Partial Shade

Both real and artificial pond plants (pictured) can help provide shade and shelter from the sun. A great natural way to provide shade to pond water is to add pond plants! Both real or artificial plants will be able to provide shade, but only real pond plants will be able to give your water more oxygenation and help with natural filtration. The best plants for shading water and providing shelter to fish would be water lilies or lotus, as their foliage grows across the water, blocking a large chunk of UV light. Most floating plants would be ideal for adding shade to a pond, and luckily these come in both real and artificial varieties. If you just want some shade and shelter for your fish during summer, artificial floating plants will provide those benefits without requiring any hands-on maintenance. If you decide to go with real floating plants, it may take some time for them to grow and become established, but the results are fantastic in the long run!

As well as floating plants, marginal plants can also provide partial shade to a pond, creating areas where the water is cooler and less UV light penetrates. These kind of plants are usually added to the sides of a pond, fleshing out the embankments. A few can grow very tall with lush green foliage, and these provide the best shade to pond water. It's less common for these kind of plants to have an artificial alternative, so if you don't want to care for real plants, we recommend sticking with artificial floating types for best results.

On top of shading a pond and helping cool down the water, both types of pond plants also create "safe spaces" for your fish to hide when stressed or threatened. Plants provide a natural form of shelter which fish love to hang out around when they need to relax for a few hours away from the sun and everything else.

Option 2: Shade Sails

Shade Amount: Partial-Full Shade

Shade sails provide partial to full shade to a pond and block up to 90% of UV light.

Unlike pond plants which only provide partial shade to the water, shade sails can provide up to full pond shade, and can be altered to suit your needs. These covers are generally made from durable UV resistant fabric, often polypropylene, and work to block a large amount of UV light from penetrating into pond water. They're fixed above ground and can be positioned to provide full shade or partial shade to a specific area of water, with most models blocking up to 90% of all UV light.

If you have particularly hot summers and a small fish pond, investing in a high quality shade sail is probably the single best method of cooling and shading your water. There is no maintenance required when installed, and due to the amount of UV light the material can block, it can reduce water temperature by a large amount daily. They will also work fine in larger ponds, allowing you to section off a shaded area of pond water for your fish to hide, and giving water a chance to cool as it circulates. They will also help reduce algae growth and deter airborne predators, such as herons, from taking pond fish.

A downside is they're very noticeable and not something you can easily hide. Shade sails will also block sunlight from reaching regular pond plants, so you would need to make sure your plants can grow in partial shade or position the material so the sunlight still hits the plants. Other than this, however, shade sails are probably the best method of shading AND cooling pond water during summer, and we'd recommend them to anyone who has a fish in a full sun exposed pond.

Option 3: Pond Water Dyes

Shade Amount: Partial Shade

Pond dyes help control algae growth and reduce temperatures by blocking the amount of UV light that can penetrate water.

Another interesting method for shading pond water and blocking UV light is by using non-toxic water dyes! These kind of dyes are a popular method of algae control for larger bodies of water, such as lakes, where it's not possible to install shaded covers or enough plants. In recent times they have also started to become popular for garden ponds, providing an alternative method to help reduce algae growth and block UV light from penetrating pond water.

The best pond dyes are made from non-toxic food-grade ingredients, which are the same dyes used to color food we consume on a daily basis. They come in a range of colors, with blue, turquoise, and black being the most popular and functional for blocking sunlight.

Blue dyes are a good all-round colour which will provide a more natural pond aesthetic and help block a large chunk of sunlight reaching through your water. They look great for most types of ponds, and we would recommend blue as a good starting choice for first time dye users. If you want maximum algae control and UV reduction, black dyes provide a much higher reflective surface and a darker water color. This color will absorb more UV light and reflect more light off the pond water as the dye becomes established, but the color is less natural in comparison to blue.

Pond dyes are safe for both fish and wildlife, and usually provide around 2-3 months of color before needing a top up. They will also help hide your fish from predators, as the dyes will make it much harder for flying animals, such as herons, to see your fish while overhead. Pond dyes won't provide as much direct shade as plants or shade sails, but can be used alongside these options to help further control algae and reduce water temperature from UV light exposure.

Option 4: Fish Shelters

Shade Amount: Partial-full Shade... for fish!

Fish shelters may not shade your entire pond, but they make great places for fish to get away from the heat.

Although they may not provide your entire pond shade, fish shelters are a great solution for fish needing to cool down during the hottest times of the day! These shelters are usually made from non-toxic plastic or mesh material and are designed to sit on the bottom of your pond floor at the deepest point. They make great safe havens from predators and give your fish a place to de-stress when needed. As well as this, both mesh and plastic designs will help to block UV light from penetrating a small area of the pond floor, providing fish a slightly cooler place to escape to.

Although they may not be suitable for small ponds with shallow water, they work great for ponds with at least 3ft+ of water depth. If you have pond plants which require plenty of sunlight and you don't like the idea of a shade sail, a shelter should provide your fish enough UV protection to cool down when needed. If you have lots of fish, or larger koi, you can add multiple shelters in different areas of the pond for more places to hide in summer. As well as providing shade, they work great to stop herons taking fish, so would be a good addition to any koi or goldfish pond.

The choice of design is mostly down to personal preference, with both plastic and mesh working well to shade a fish pond. If we had to choose, we'd probably select a mesh shelter as they are softer (less chance of injury), easier to sink, and still provide good UV coverage.

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
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Librarian	Jeff Karsten	librarian@phoenixponds.com
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GPPS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE		
Jeff Karsten	rj_kars10@yahoo.com	
Chuck Basso	1chuckbasso@gmail.com	

Member News

Ed Tunstall, our former GPPS treasurer until he retired in 2015, passes away on May 6, 2018. Arrangements for a memorial service have not yet been determined, updates will be sent to the club when available. Condolences can be sent to Ed's wife Susan Smithwick, 5439 East Dolphin Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85206-2208

Rita - GPPS Vice President



The Valley of the Sun will be hot this summer, but the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix will continue to provide an oasis downtown. We are pleased to announce our summer hours and special programs this June. We welcome you to enjoy a beautiful stroll in the garden on weekend mornings and evenings.

June Open Hours: Saturdays and Sundays (June 2-30)

- Morning hours: 7 a.m-11 a.m.
- Closed: 11 a.m - 6 p.m.
- Evening hours: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

*Note: Our regular operation schedule will end on May 31, 2018. The garden will be closed from July 1-September 30, 2018. Our new season begins Monday, October 1, 2018

MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP

Sunday, June 3 and June 10 8:30 - 9:30 a.m

\$20 General / \$15 Member (Class price includes admission)

During the summer, the garden provides an escape from the heat in the morning and evening. Birds are singing their 'morning chorus' while the trees and other plants look relieved without the sun above them. We offer a beautiful, calm and serene place to relax your mind and body.

SUNDAY JAZZ AND WINE IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, June 3 and June 10 6:00pm-9:00pm

\$7 Adult/\$6 Senior & Military/\$5 Student (with ID) - Including one sampling ticket

Step out and groove in our traditional Japanese Garden while enjoying live jazz, wine sampling, lantern display and happy hour. Hiro Sake also will be present sampling Watermelon Saketini's and Sake Mules.

PUBLIC TEA CEREMONY

Saturday, June 16

\$25 Member + Senior (62+) or \$30 General

Please join us for our last Tea Ceremony for this season. The Japanese tea ceremony is called Chanoyu, Chado or simply Ocha in Japanese.

In the 1500s, Sen-No-Rikyu incorporated the ideas of simplicity, and that each meeting should be special and unique, into the tea ceremonies. The traditional Japanese tea ceremony became more than just drinking tea; it is a spiritual experience that embodies harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. Tea is a choreographic ritual of preparing and serving Japanese green tea, called Matcha, together with traditional Japanese sweets to balance the bitter taste of the tea.

Please call 602-274-8700 or go to www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org for more information.

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 ***



BOX FILTER - We have a used box filter FREE to a good home. It is 16"X22"X16" deep & has 1 1/2" Bioballs (3" layer), a foam pad, a blue Matala mat, and a green Matala mat. The filter was used as part of a system that kept our 3000+ gallon pond, with a heavy fish load, clear. Contact Jeff or Rita Karsten 480.821.0768



1971 Chevrolet El Camino ~~\$8900~~ - REDUCED TO \$7900

Good condition, runs and drives great. Engine and transmission rebuilt 2013-New carburetor 2015-New heater core 2016-Gear shift & steering column rebuilt 2017-Has SS hood & new tailgate-original hood/tailgate/user manual/misc parts included. Clean title and license/passed emissions. Contact Jeff at 480-570-2759 or jl_kars10@yahoo.com

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



Treasurers Report

Starting Balance	\$3174.04
Income	
Dues	\$25.00
Expenses	
Insurance	\$336.00
Ending Balance	\$2863.04

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.

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