

February 2019

Pond Happenings

Monthly Newsletter Published by the
Greater Phoenix Pond Society

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

The February meeting will be held at the home of Claudia & Doug Bredow.

- Telephone: 206-852-6002
- Address: 4939 N. Grandview Dr Buckeye, AZ 85396

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



The Chinese Cultural Festival is quickly approaching and we need a few more volunteers to hang out in the GPPS booth. The duties include talking to people about the club and the upcoming pond tour... it's that easy! We would like to have at least 2 people in the booth for each timeframe and maybe give Ron a break from hanging out there all weekend! So please let us know when you would be available!

Email tempepenny58@gmail.com or tanyam6@cox.net to volunteer or for more information. Thank you!

PHOENIX CHINESE WEEK FESTIVAL

Friday, Feb 8th th 9am-3pm	Saturday, Feb 9th th 10am-5pm	Sunday, Feb 10th th 10am-5pm
9am-11am ▪ Ron Christensen ▪ Tanya Brown	10am-12pm ▪ Bernard Ho	10am-12pm ▪ Alan Hanna
11am-1pm ▪ Ron Christensen ▪ Tanya Brown	12pm-2pm ▪ Alan Hanna	12pm-2pm
1pm-3pm close ▪ Ron Christensen	2pm-4pm ▪ Ellie Gersten	2pm-4pm ▪ Ron & Penny Christensen
	4pm-5pm close ▪ Ron & Penny Christensen	4pm-5pm teardown ▪ Tanya Brown ▪ Ron & Penny Christensen
Setup Friday 7:00-8:30am Ron Christensen		

Letter from the President

Greetings fellow ponders,

We had a great turnout for our January meeting. I would like to thank Chris and Diane Krum for hosting and sharing their beautiful large pond and 3 bogs with us. It was a perfect backdrop for our topic of the month on how to build a bog. For our members who were unable to attend, Tanya sent out DIY step-by-step instructions for all our members to enjoy reading.

It's time to start preparing for our annual Pond Tour in May. Part of that preparation is advertising the tour by having a booth at the Phoenix Chinese Festival February 8th, 9th and 10th then the Home and Garden Show in April. We're still looking for a few more volunteers for the Chinese Festival. Tanya will be posting the current sign-up sheet, if you're interested in volunteering, please let Tanya or myself know. Thank you to Diana Ho for all your help in getting this year's booth and for everyone who has already stepped up to volunteer.

Please consider signing up to be on this year's pond tour, it's a great way to show off all your hard work and show that yes, you can have a pond in the desert!

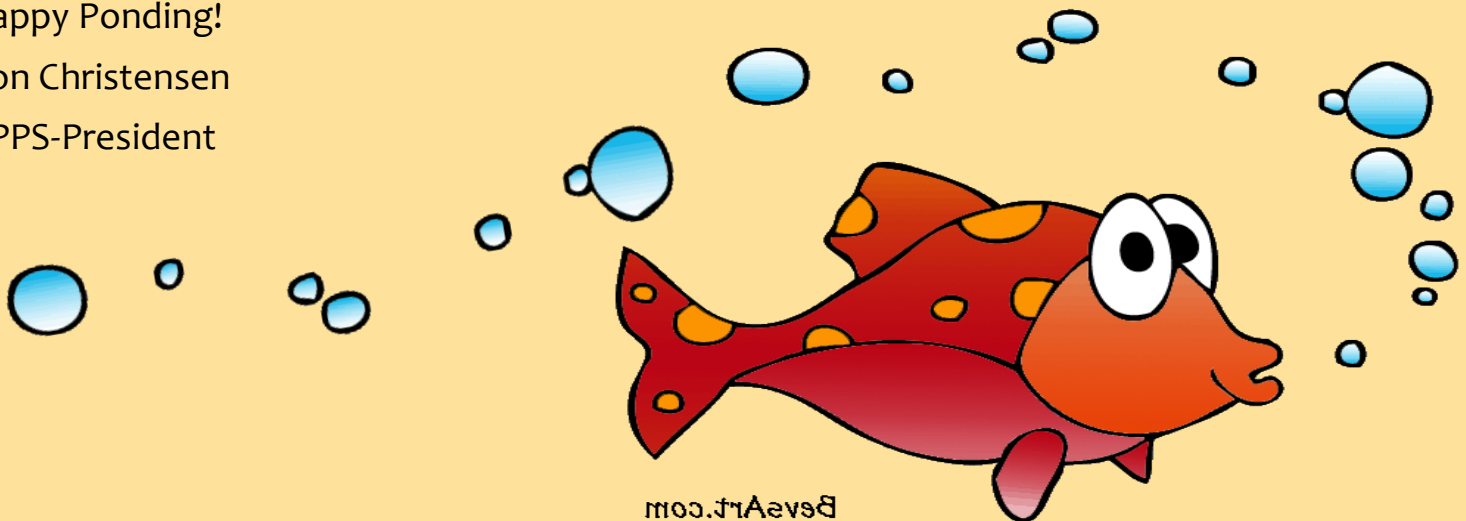
Annual dues are due - To keep receiving all the benefits of trading, learning and the GPPS newsletter you will need to pay your \$25 dues per household to Annie Foster (Treasurer) or Ron Christensen (President). We look forward to another exciting year of meeting and seeing new members and their ponds and continued friendship with current members.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Claudia & Doug Bredow. They have two ponds with waterfalls connected by a stream and bridge. They also have a bowl feature, Koi and two turtles. Can't wait to see and get new ideas.

Happy Ponding!

Ron Christensen

GPPS-President



Beverly.com



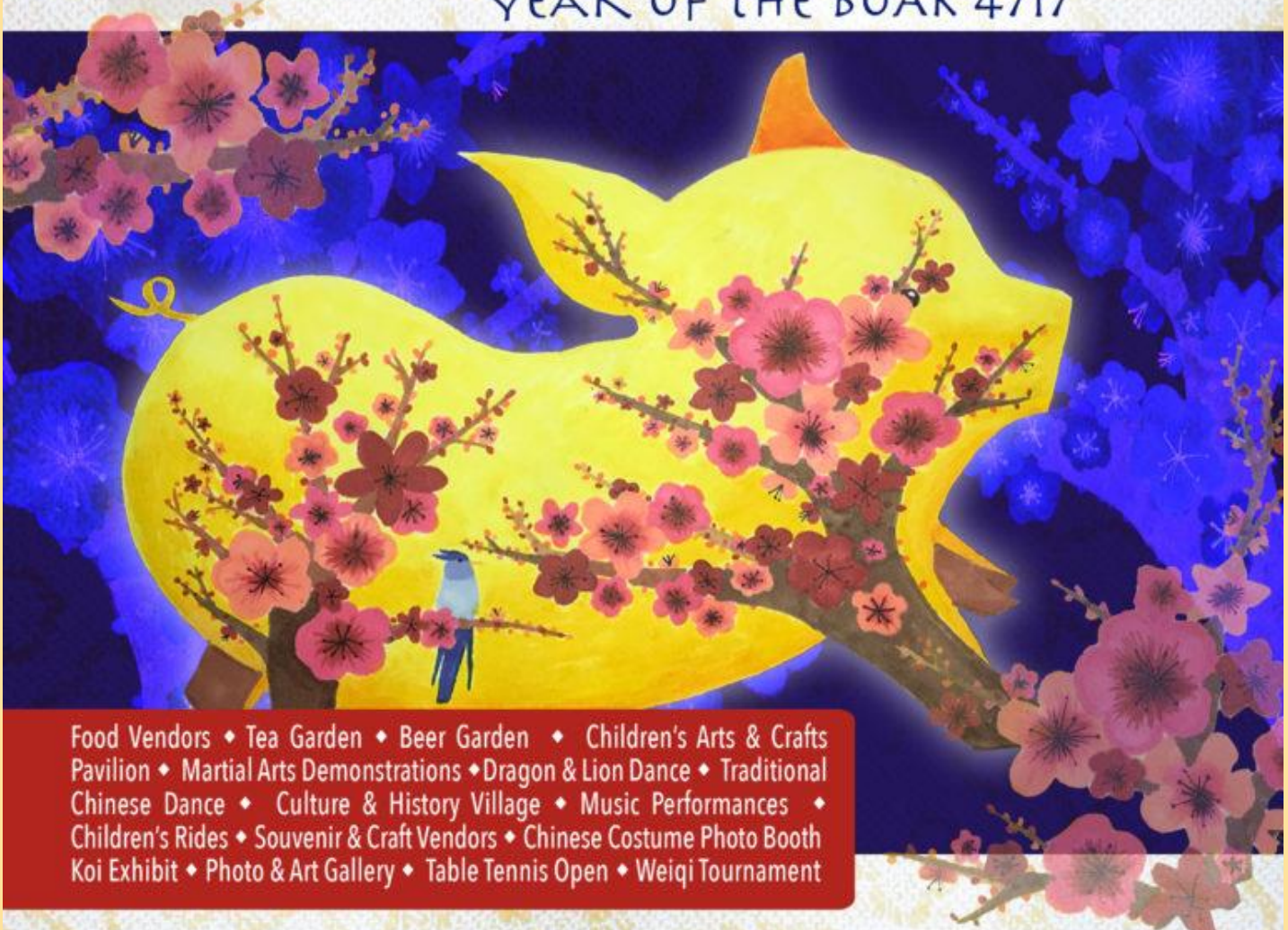
PHOENIX
CHINESE
WEEK



29th Annual CHINESE CULTURE & CUISINE FESTIVAL

FEB 8th-10th, 2019 | Phoenix, AZ

YEAR OF THE BOAR 4717



Food Vendors ♦ Tea Garden ♦ Beer Garden ♦ Children's Arts & Crafts Pavilion ♦ Martial Arts Demonstrations ♦ Dragon & Lion Dance ♦ Traditional Chinese Dance ♦ Culture & History Village ♦ Music Performances ♦ Children's Rides ♦ Souvenir & Craft Vendors ♦ Chinese Costume Photo Booth ♦ Koi Exhibit ♦ Photo & Art Gallery ♦ Table Tennis Open ♦ Weiqi Tournament

FRIDAY 9 am - 3 pm
SAT & SUN 10 am - 5 pm
Beer Station Sat & Sun 11am - 4:30pm

Margaret T. Hance Park East
1202 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

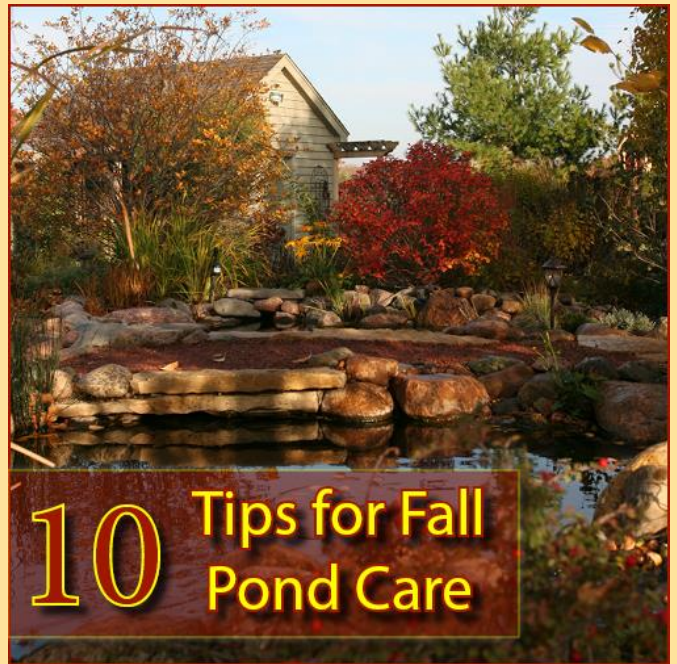
FREE ADMISSION

phoenixchineseweek.org



10 Tips for Fall Pond Care

A nip in the air, shorter days, and the shedding of multi-colored leaves from the trees signifies a changing of the seasonal guard. Gardeners across the country take precautions to protect their landscapes from the harsh reality of winter. Water features in the landscape require special consideration when putting your pond to bed for a long winter's nap. Pond maintenance chores in the fall and winter vary depending on where you live, but there are some basic guidelines to help your aquatic plants and finned friends weather the chill of Mother Nature. Following is a handy check list to help ensure a healthy pond come spring time.



1. Decaying leaves and foliage produce toxic gases that can harm your fish so you want to remove this debris before winter rolls into town. You don't need to remove every single last leaf, but try to remove the majority.
2. If you put Protective Pond Netting over your pond before the leaves started to fall, your job is easy. Carefully roll up the net and discard the leaves that were caught.
3. If you didn't use a net over the surface of your pond, you'll need to remove the build-up of leaves from the bottom of the pond. Use a long handled pond net to scoop them out. Check your skimmer basket and remove any leaves that are still caught inside.
4. Add Cold Water Beneficial Bacteria to the pond once the temperature drops below 50 degrees. Use twice weekly for two weeks, and then once per week until the water starts to freeze.
5. Stop fertilizing your aquatic plants after the first frost.
6. Trim back hardy marginal aquatic plants to 2" above the water to keep the dead foliage from drooping over into the pond.
7. Trim back waterlily leaves and stems to 2-3" above the base of the plant. This keeps dead foliage from decomposing in the pond.
8. If you left hardy waterlilies in their pot, drop them into the deepest part of the pond to over-winter. Do not bring them indoors as they need a period of dormancy.
9. Bring tropical waterlilies indoors if you want to over-winter them. Keep the pot in 50-degree water or take them out of the pot and store in sand. Be advised, even trained horticulturists lose a lot of tropical waterlilies when storing them indoors, so you might simply want to treat them as annuals.
10. Once temperatures drop to 50 degrees, stop feeding your fish. They need to get ready to hibernate and you'll want to avoid any metabolic complications. You can feed them Cold Water Fish Food until the temperature drops below 50 degrees.

The Secret to Creating a Low Maintenance Pond

The beauty of a pond is something everyone can appreciate. A flash of golden fish swimming in clean, clear water beneath the pads of waterlilies is a sight to behold and enjoy. Add the sound of a running waterfall and you have a dream come true in your backyard.

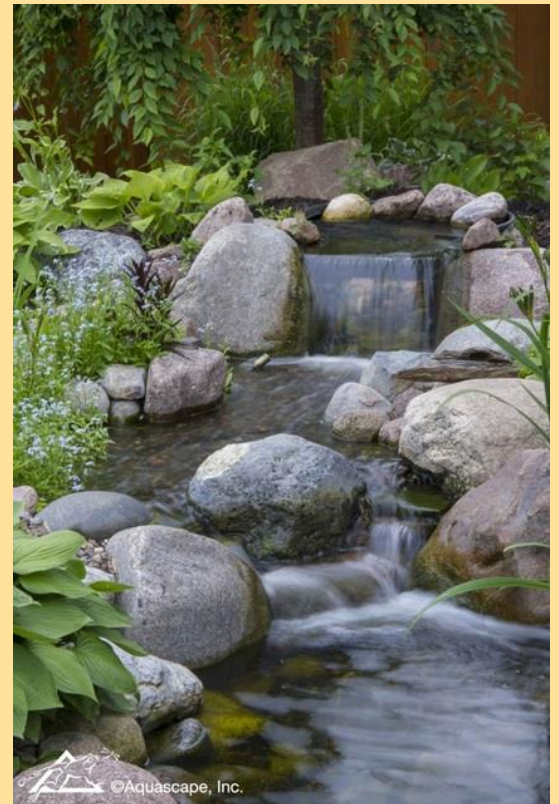
Keeping pond water clean and clear is the basis for a healthy pond that requires little to no maintenance. Fortunately, it's relatively easy to create a proper pond environment that benefits your fish and plants. Follow our not-so-secret steps to ensure a naturally-balanced, low maintenance pond throughout the year!

Circulation: Make sure your pond pump is the correct size for your pond and waterfall. A pump provides valuable aeration to the water. Several variables need to be considered when choosing a pump, such as the size of your pond and the height of your waterfall. Aquascape makes it easy to select the right size pump with our brand new Pond Pump Selection Guide.

Filtration: More often than not, when answering questions about pond water quality, we find that people don't have proper filtration installed on their pond. If you had your pond built by a Certified Aquascape Contractor, you should have no worries. But for others, you want to make sure your pond has both a biological filter and a mechanical skimmer. The biological filter is the start of your waterfall and adds beneficial bacteria to your pond. The mechanical skimmer is similar to a pool skimmer, removing surface debris such as leaves and sticks. Ideally, you want to position the biological filter and skimmer at opposite ends of the pond. This ensures movement throughout the entire pond so you don't end up with stagnant areas.

Rocks and Gravel: Ponds can be made various ways. Some are created with concrete, others with a simple pond liner. We believe in an ecosystem approach to the ponding lifestyle and use rocks and gravels in our ponds, after installing underlayment and liner. Gravel provides much-needed surface area for beneficial bacteria to grow. Your fish will graze on these bacteria, as well. The gravel won't be a breeding ground for muck and debris if you ensure that your low maintenance pond has the proper pump and filtration. The ecosystem works together so it's important not to eliminate any of the elements.

Fish: While fish keeping is fun, your finned friends play an important part in the overall ecosystem of your pond. They eat algae and their waste becomes fertilizer for your pond plants. Too many fish, however, can pose a problem. A good rule of thumb is to limit your fish load to no more than 10" of fish per 100 gallons of water. So if you have a 20 fish at various lengths totaling 300" when combined, then you need a 3,000 gallon pond.

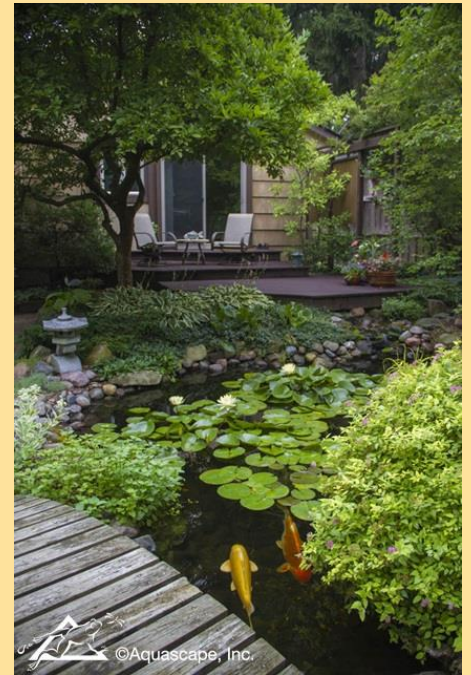


Plants: Plants play a critical role in the pond's ecosystem due to their filtering capabilities. Plants absorb nutrients from fish waste and help starve algae of its food. During hot summer months, make sure to have at least 40% of your pond's surface covered with plants. You can accomplish this with waterlilies and various marginals like mosaic plant, or floating plants like water lettuce and water hyacinth.

And now you know the secret to a truly low maintenance pond. Start with the basics and create a naturally balanced pond with a combination of proper circulation, filtration, fish, plants, and rock and gravel. You'll be amazed at how easy pond-keeping can be!

For more information, download our e-book, [How to Keep Pond Water Clean and Healthy](#).

Source: <https://www.aquascapeinc.com/water-gardening/low-maintenance-pond>



3 ways being near water is good for your emotional health

Research says that being around water is good for our health. And it doesn't have to be a huge body of water to be beneficial.

Water gives us a break

The sound of moving water is simple – it's not quiet, but it's repetitive and low. And while there's always movement with water, it's not the kind of crazy visual stimuli that bombards us in our daily lives. Being around water gives us a cognitive break. Think of the noise, traffic, people, and media that surround you every day. Then, consider your state of mind after sitting next to a fountain for five minutes. Your brain is still working – it just works differently.

Water drops stress levels

We've learned that green space in cities is important. But research is now suggesting that blue space is just as essential. A study out of the UK showed people pictures of green space and watched their stress levels drop. But when the green space included water, stress levels dropped even more. Another study found that the closer folks live to water, the healthier they are.

Water increases creativity

If you get your best ideas in the shower, you know what we're talking about. The sound of the water creates "blue noise" and acts as a stand-in for the ocean, according to Wallace J. Nichols. He's the author of "Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do." We can't spend our lives in the bathroom, but we can incorporate water into more of our spaces. Bringing water into your world can mean an expansive pond with waterfalls and fish. Or it can be as simple as a bubbling urn fountain tucked into a favorite spot.

2019 GPPS Meetings & Events

January January 12th: Meeting - 9am Host: Chris & Diane Krum Phoenix-19 th Ave & Union Hills Drive	February February 9th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Claudia & Doug Bredow Buckeye-Indian School Rd & Verrado Way February 8th-10th: Chinese Cultural Festival
March March 9th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Victoria Helton Tolleson-107 th Ave & Broadway Road	April April 13th: Meeting - 9am Host: Tammy & Eric Purtell Cave Creek-Cave Creek & Rancho Paloma Drive April 26th-28th: Home & Garden Show
May NO MEETING May 12th: GPPS Pond Tour 9am-4pm	June June 8th: Meeting - 6pm Hosts: Lynnette Zang Phoenix-7 th Ave & McDowell Road
July NO MEETING	August NO MEETING
September September 14th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Alan & Molly Hanna Glendale-51 st Ave & Thunderbird Road	October October 12th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Dennis & Sue Beard Buckeye-Watson Road & Yuma Road
November November 9th: Meeting - 9am Hosts: Chuck & Joy Basso Queen Creek-Gary Road & Judd Road BOD Election	December December 14th: Meeting - 11am Hosts: Richard & Pet Smith Chandler-State Route 101 & Warner Rd 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



Annual Dues are Due

Annual dues for 2019 are now due. If you have not already paid for 2019, you can bring your \$25 check or cash to the next meeting or you can mail them to our Treasurer at

Annie Foster
 3543 E. Rosemonte Drive
 Phoenix, AZ 85050

Your 2019 Board

GPPS Executive Committee		
President	Ron Christensen 480-861-5320	president@phoenixponds.com
Vice President	Fern Shaw	vicepres@phoenixponds.com
Secretary	Sue Beard	secretary@phoenixponds.com
Treasurer	Annie Foster	treasurer@phoenixponds.com
Event Coordinator	Group Effort	events@phoenixponds.com
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Webmaster	Dennis Beard	webmaster@phoenixponds.com

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

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Sale, Trade, or Free

Need Koi Food?

Diane & Chris are authorized distributors for Blue Ridge Platinum Pro Koi and Goldfish food. The 4.5lb plastic jug is priced at \$30 each. They have 30 koi and go through around one a month during the warm months. Blue Ridge Platinum Pro is a

professional, fish meal-based diet formulated for discerning koi keepers that want the very best for their fish. This is a higher protein formula that will provide your koi with exceptional growth, nutrition and coloration. It contains everything needed to keep your fish in top show condition including top quality protein, carbohydrates and amino acids. It contains proven color enhancers Spirulina and Canthaxanthin for superior color enhancement. Also includes Primilac, a probiotic immune stimulant designed to protect koi from sickness and disease. For more information or to place an order, email desertkrums@yahoo.com



Need Fill Dirt?

Tanya & Ian have several tons of fill dirt!! PLEASE come get some! We'll even help you load it! Email tanyam6@cox.net for more info.

Skimmer for Sale

Don & Fern are looking to rehome their old skimmer for a mere \$25! If you're interested, contact them at fdg1953@cox.net or dshaw50@cox.net.

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

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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	\$3130.12
Income	
Dues	\$275.00
Expenses	
Chinese Festival Booth	\$50.00
Ending Balance	\$3355.12

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