

The Greater Phoenix Pond Society is not responsible for recommendations made by Technical Committee members.

Technical Committee Report for October 2011:

On Saturday October 1, 2011 a Koi rescue was requested from a person who was selling her residence.

I requested information about the pond and was told that there were both Koi and turtles in the pond. The depth of the pond was "I don't know" and the diameter of the pond was about 10'.

Upon arriving I found the pond functional with a water return that oxygenated the water. The water condition was murky. Rerouting the return line onto the lawn started the process of draining the pond, which took about 2.5 hours. I chose to make 2 trips, first trip for the Koi (which had mysteriously "morphed" into gold fish) and the 2nd trip for 4 large Red Eared Sliders. All the turtles were about the size of dinner plates.

Returning for the turtles I found that in my absence, 2 of them had crawled out of the pond and were hiding in the back yard and 2 of them still remained in the pond. We located 1 turtle basking in the branches of an Oleander. The 3 turtles in my possession were then relocated in a turtle sanctuary that is sponsored by a recluse. That left 1 turtle to go. The next day I received a phone call that turtle #4 had returned to the pond from points unknown. I then made my 3rd trip (each trip was about 35 miles) to rescue turtle #4. When I arrived, Turtle #4 was not to be seen and had apparently found a new home. I phoned the lady and told her I was happy that turtle #4 had found a new pond and that my part of this rescue was finished.

Friday October 7th and Sunday October 9th.

A Koi rescue was requested from a man whose residence was going into foreclosure. This pond was at a front entry and was constructed with 2 levels. The larger and deeper of the 2 pond areas was about 28' long and 4' to 5' wide and water depth was about 2.5' deep. This larger pond area was intersected in the middle by a bridge that was 9' wide with an opening under the bridge of about 2'. I invested 2 trips for this rescue and found that after draining the pond to about 14" the size of the opening under the bridge would not permit me to reach the Koi. (Actually 3 Koi and 40ish gold fish, there's that "morph" thing again.) The high point of this rescue was the electric shock I received when I lifted the pump out of the water. The owner of the pond had not bothered to seal the connection from the pump plug to the extension cord with RTV. WHICH I HIGHLY RECOMMEND.

The home owner was not on site and did not return my 3 phone calls. I rescued 3 fish, left the pond operational and informed the home owner I was no longer available. This was my first rescue failure.

Respectfully submitted: Gene Goerke Technical Committee Chairperson