



# PONDERINGS

Official Newsletter of The Tucson Watergardeners (TTW)

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[www.tucsonwatergardeners.org](http://www.tucsonwatergardeners.org)

## Day Trip & Public Tour Pictures Galore!



Our day trip to **Sedona** and **Public Watergarden Tour 2007** were the culmination of our season! For Tour '07, we had approximately 305 paying visitors – up over 60 from last year! We also had 42 members volunteering for ticket taking duty, and dedicated Tour Chairs to make things happen. Your individual contributions were awesome!

*Elizabeth Good*

We had nine members traveling to Sedona for a private tour of the Troutman's spectacular water garden. A special thanks to our Sedona hosts, as well as to Casey Case for making all

of the arrangements! The richness of this garden included koi, lotus and lily ponds, a cascading stream, bog filter, a bird sanctuary, and a collection of artistic statuary, with many of the garden



elements in memory of family members. This was a fun, learning day for all!



*Koi enjoying watermelon!*

### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Board Meeting.** Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM  
Host: Rod Minami

**General Meeting:** Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>  
**7:30pm @ Jr League of Tucson**  
2099 E River Road

**Program:** "Koi Keeping - Rules of Thumb"  
By Eddie Hoggan, Guest Speaker,  
Desert Pet Center

**Refreshments:** P. Glenn; C. Case

**Door Prizes:** Share your "extra" plants & "stuff"

### KOI QUIZ - True or False?<sup>1</sup>

1. Koi are indigenous to Japan. T F
2. There are several species of Koi. T F
3. A "true" Koi pond should be designed differently than a lily or rock pond. T F
4. Water quality is important to Koi. T F
5. Koi are prodigious eaters, as well as waste producers. T F
6. Aka, Ki and Shiro are Koi names. T F
7. Koi are long-lived and can grow up to 3 feet in length. T F
8. Koi selling prices are determined by size, body shape, color, pattern and availability. T F

<sup>1</sup> Check out your answers on page 4.

# Water Garden Tour 2007

*Roll Call of the Featured Gardens!  
Congratulations & Thank You!*

## Watergarden 1. The Bonitos

A much-neglected pond inherited with their house purchase in May '05. Today, the rescued pond is thriving with over 20 different plant species and native fish. Each of the two children has whiskey barrel containers for their individual "learning" ponds. This is truly a family affair!

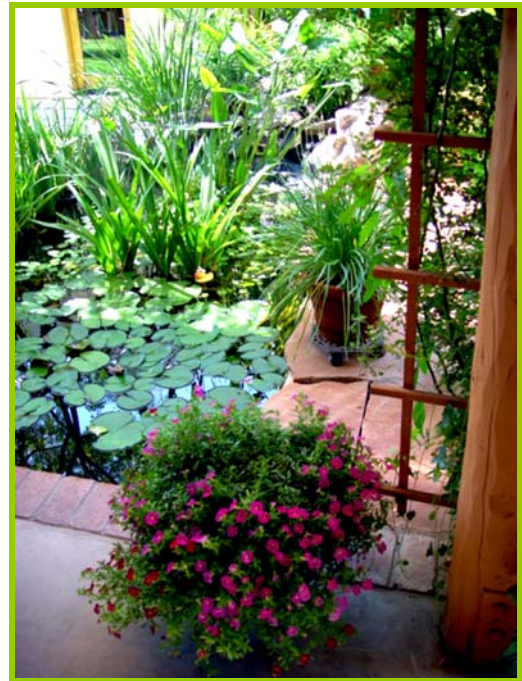


*Bonito's  
Rescued Pond &  
Children's Pond*



## Watergarden 2. The Rosts

A two-level courtyard and 2500-gallon pond have vistas overlooking the Tanque Verde Valley. Pond adjoins a covered patio connected to the house. A smaller container pond is located on a lower level in a more desert environment setting. Deep-shaded patios with ample potted plants, a large mimosa tree, grass, and a large banana tree behind the upper pond certainly create a tropical mood for this water garden.



*The Rost Garden - Tropical Ambience!*

## Watergarden 3. The Chircos

This is a family backyard oasis, with the 4000-gallon pond and gated garden area established just over a year ago in what was once a dirt patch! Both plants and fish are thriving in this partially shaded environment, with the lushness of Pennywort surrounding their pond being a real eye-catcher!



*View From  
The Kitchen  
Window  
- Coffee  
Anyone?*

*Pennywort Plants*





### *Watergarden 4. Jenks & Mosman*

Three water gardens make this home a serene retreat. The covered ramada provides deep shade to enjoy the sounds of the backyard ponds. The gardens include many artistic and playful touches, including handmade concrete pavers for the patio and pathways.



*Surprise Of An  
unusual Half  
Circle Pond...*

### *Watergarden 5. Bamba & Cuestas- Thompson*

A sanctuary based on Feng Shui principles and guarded by rooftop gargoyles, this garden has both a 1500-gallon turtle pond and a 3600-gallon koi pond. Redwood walkways and a two-story observation deck add to its magic!



*Door To A Feng Shui Sanctuary*

### *Watergarden 6. Elizabeth Good*

Front door moat and intimate courtyard, with its formal pond and garden, are set against the backdrop of vibrant southwest house colors. Complementing this setting is an original art wall fountain and a wide array of water plants.



*Splashes Of Color Enliven  
The Courtyard And Water Garden!*

### *Watergarden 7. The Hasbroucks*

Located in the riparian area along the Tanque Verde Wash, the pond has approximately 7,000 surface feet and holds approximately 350,000 gallons of water. The unique Mesquite Bosque setting is an important resource for many different kinds of wildlife who depend on the water and the life within the pond.



*Water Gardening On The Grandest Scale!*

## Aquatic Plant Profile

Featuring Plants That Love Our Desert Water Gardens



**Water Sensitive Plant** (*Neptunia aquatica*)

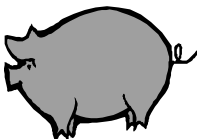
This perennial from the Mimosaceae family thrives as a bog marginal plant, and has several land-based relatives. It is usually found in our desert water gardens with its stems floating freely on the water surface. The stems can also be rooted in a container with pea gravel. The Sensitive Plant is often grown for its curiosity value, as its fern-like foliage immediately closes when touched (seismonastic movement). It can tolerate sun to partial shade conditions, and produces a small yellow flower. Other common names for the Sensitive Plant include Humble Plant, TickleMe Plant, and Prayer Plant – to name a few. This is a terrific plant, particularly for a child's water garden!

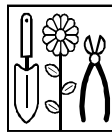
### KOI QUIZ Answers T = True F = False

1. **F.** Koi were introduced to Japan with the invading Chinese. 2. **F.** There's one species of Koi, *Cyprinus carpio* (carp), but over 100 color varieties. 3. **T.** A Koi pond is normally designed with steep sidewalls and a smooth bottom that slopes to a bottom drain. Also includes more sophisticated filter systems, such as vortex and bead filters. 4. **T.** Water quality is critical to healthy Koi, with the ideal pH value between 7-8, neutral to slightly alkaline. 5. **T.** Koi have a short gut and essentially no stomach, so a properly operating filtering system is vital. 6. **F.** These are some of the Japanese names for color: Aka (red), Ki (yellow), and Shiro (white). Colors are one component used to build the names for each Koi variety. 7. **T.** Koi can live up to 30 years or longer and reach over 3' in length. 8. **T.** All of these components factor into the Koi price, with championship quality costing tens of thousands of dollars—even millions!

## This and That....

### October Calendar

<b>Saturday 6th</b>	<b>Members' Fall Pot Luck 6:00 PM</b> Hosts: C. Case & S. Steffe RSVP <u>by October 1<sup>st</sup></u> for a head count and what side dishes you will be bringing. Casey and her husband are cooking pork ribs, with homemade applesauce! <a href="mailto:casey@dakotacom.net">casey@dakotacom.net</a> <b>Pork Ribs &amp; Chicken, too! Yum!</b> 
<b>Thursday 25th</b>	<b>TTW General Meeting 7:30 PM</b> Program: Celebrating end of our water gardening season!



### Watergardening Classifieds

**GOLDFISH! GOLDFISH!** Need new homes for a dozen 2" goldfish. Call Mary at 888-5773.

### FOR INFO TO GO

*Web Links We Tucson Watergardeners Like!*

[www.tucsonwatergardeners.org](http://www.tucsonwatergardeners.org)

### TTW Contacts

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