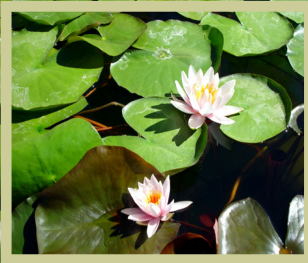


# Ponderings

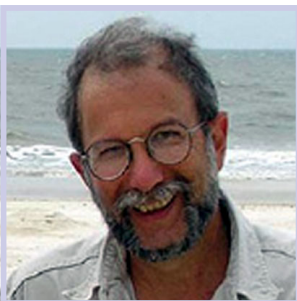
## Happy Summer Ponding!

Official  
Newsletter of  
The Tucson  
Watergardeners



Volume X, Issue 6  
July 2008

The Tucson Watergardeners is in its tenth year as a club! Many thanks for the countless hours of volunteer service to promote water gardening in our fascinating Sonoran Desert environment. Kudos to all members, Officers, Board of Directors, Chairs —past, present & future!



**Dr. Phil Rosen**, Research Scientist and adjunct faculty in the School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, is this month's guest speaker. He has had a lifelong fascination with evolutionary ecology and natural history, especially herpetology. His expertise is in desert reptile distribution and population ecology; ranid frog ecology and conservation; Southwestern aquatic status, conservation and ecology; and arid lands urban landscape ecology. Mark your calendar for a truly educational evening!

### NOTEWORTHY:

- **Sunday, September 14th** is the new date for the Watergardeners Tour '08! Mark your calendars for this change!
- **Native Pond-Field Trip Interest?** See Page 3.



## Ponders Calendar

### General Meeting

Thursday, July 24th 7:30 PM @ Junior League of Tucson 2099 E River Road

**Program: "Fish, Frogs & Lizards—Urban Biodiversity in Tucson"** by

Dr. Phil Rosen

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

### Board Notes

No July Board meeting. Mark your calendar for the next TTW Board meeting on August 21st. Hostess is Renee Shane-Boyd.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Project Water Garden!</i>	2
<i>President's Forum</i>	3
<i>Common Water Poppy</i>	4

# Project Water Garden!

One of Ken Canada's personal goals has been to complete a water garden this year! Ken, TTW Vice President, and his wife Jane, had a specific design in mind when they had a backhoe break ground in mid-February.

*Ponderings has been following progress of the Canada's water garden creation in their backyard desert setting. Now, it's time to share!*

As strong advocates of water harvesting, their water collection cistern is connected to the pond and a floating valve allows water replenishment from the cistern directly into the pond tanks. Remarkably, by mid May the



*Canada's water garden from the "dig" to the water lily ponds and an intricate rock work stream bed with marginals.*

With a very large, shaded back patio surrounded by desert plantings and interesting southwest pottery, these two gardeners set out to build a water garden featuring primarily hardy water lilies.

The water garden design was carefully planned so that they could step from the indoors to the patio and immediately hear the sounds of a waterfall and stream. The surprise construction elements were stock feed tanks! How about two 1,000 gallon plastic tanks, 9 feet across for starters! Top that with a third 300 gallon tank to support the water fall and stream! By mid March, all the tanks were in the ground, resting on 1 1/2 yards of sand. Ex-

cess soil from their project was used to build water harvesting berms around their property.

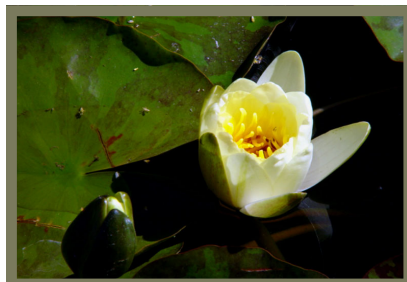
A TetraPond Pump OFX 4000 and an accompanying TetraPond UV Clarifier 4000 were selected by the Canada's to support their new water garden.

water lilies, marginal bog plants and mosquito fish were settling into their new aquatic habitat.

All piping, electrical, and lighting work around the water feature has been done. Decorative rock work around the pond areas still remains to be completed.

For Ken and Jane, it's now time to sit back and relax awhile in the summer's heat, before adding the finishing touches to their fabulous new desert water garden!

Their project will be on the '08 Watergardeners Tour.



Hardy Water Lily Sulphurea

## SUMMER DAZE!



### Monsoon Calendar June 15th—Sept 30th

Remember that monsoon time is mosquito control time! Make sure that you have mosquito-eating fish, that your ponds and water garden containers have good circulation, and use Mosquito Dunks™. Empty anything that can hold standing, stagnant water.

### Successful Pond Keepers are Successful Water Quality “Engineers”...

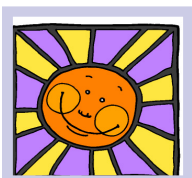
Maintaining high quality water is *the* key to a successful pond ecosystem. Make sure your pump is sufficient to re-circulate and filter the total volume of water in your pond once every 2-6 hours; keep your pump operating 24 hours a day; advise a 10% water change monthly—draining 10% of water and adding 10% new, fresh water; rinse filter pads regularly, but leave some of that good bacteria; and, empty skimmers. Keep your plants and aquatic life healthy and happy this summer!

## 2008 Future Programs

**AUGUST: “Living With Wildlife In Your Watergarden”** by Pima County Parks, Recreation and Tourism

**SEPTEMBER: “Alternative Methods of Filtering”** by Bill Hudson, Member

**Native Pond Field Trip.** If you are interested in participating and/or helping to organize a field trip and possible picnic to a local native pond in the early fall, please contact Ed Campbell at 760-2393 or plantman7@juno.com.



## Watergardening Classifieds

### Sell or Trade Water Garden Items.

Ad space is *free* to members! Write-ups on your water garden items must be in to the editor by the 4th of each month.

## President's Forum



Dr. Phil Rosen has been a friend of The Tucson Watergardeners for a very long time. Let's show him our appreciation, with a great turn out for our July 24th general meeting!

Based on discussions at our June Board meeting, the dates for our annual fall water garden tour have been changed. ***The new date for The Watergardeners Tour 2008 is now set for Sunday, September 14th.*** This is a change from the tentative date of September 21st that appeared in your Directory. Please mark your calendar, as we will need all the volunteers we can muster to help us host this public tour. At the present time we have five tour gardens, and are looking for at least two more in the central and northeast areas of Tucson. It's not too late to volunteer your water garden!

Thanks to Wayne and Anne-Lee Tomczyk for organizing and moderating June's lively “Pond Bingo” program!

*Elizabeth Good*



Thought for the Month:

There are no gardening mistakes,  
only experiments.

**President:** Elizabeth Good [gandegood@msn.com](mailto:gandegood@msn.com)  
**Vice President:** Ken Canada [kcanada1@cox.net](mailto:kcanada1@cox.net)  
**Treasurer:** Bill Hudson [lloydhudson@cox.net](mailto:lloydhudson@cox.net)  
**Secretary:** Wayne Tomczyk [waynet@us.ibm.com](mailto:waynet@us.ibm.com)  
**Membership:** Open  
**Webmaster:** HL Swain [hl@swain.net](mailto:hl@swain.net)  
**Editor:** JoAn Stolley [jstolley@cox.net](mailto:jstolley@cox.net)  
**Circulation:** Bill Hudson [lloydhudson@cox.net](mailto:lloydhudson@cox.net)

Visit our web site:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>







The Tucson Watergardeners  
9651 E. Watson Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85730



*To promote an appreciation of ... ponds, bogs, fountains, wildlife, and aquatic plants.*



## Aquatic Plant Profile



**Common Water Poppy**  
(*Hydrocleys nymphoides*)

At several of our aquatic plant give-aways after our general membership meetings, there will be a pot or two of the Common Water Poppy from the Limncharitaceae Family. Without full blooms, it is easy to pass the plant by, but take another look at this fasci-

nating plant for our desert water gardens.

During the summer months, this perennial is a prolific producer of small, poppy-like yellow flowers that stand above the water. While each flower lasts only one day, there is an abundance of blooms, with their contrasting red and brown centers, all summer long!

The Poppy's foliage is thick, shiny dark green, and prefers full sun to partial shade. The Common Water Poppy can float on the water's surface, but especially likes to be planted in soil, as a marginal, in shallow (less than 6" ) of water depth. The Poppy is very similar in appearance to the Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), with major differences being that the Floatingheart has blossoms with fringe-like edges and its leaves are more heart shaped. The Common Water Poppy is a tropical native of South America, and is considered to be invasive in some geographic areas.

*Editor's Note: Do you have a favorite aquatic plant that you would like to share with other club members? Let us know!*