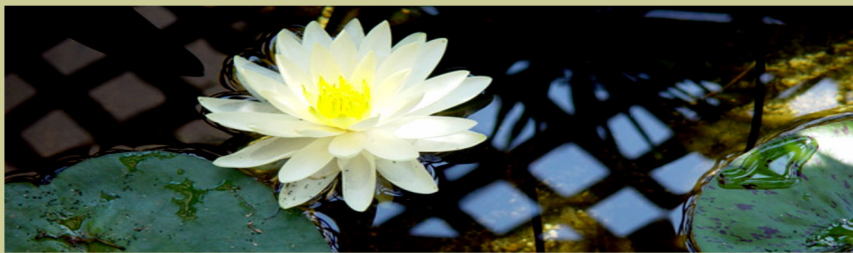


# Ponderings



Official  
Newsletter of  
The Tucson  
Watergardeners

Volume X, Issue 8  
September 2008

## NOTEWORTHY:

- Our **Water Garden Tour 2008** is now scheduled for **Sunday, September 14th**, from **8:00 A.M.** until **4:00 P.M.** Membership tour tickets are being distributed through both our general August meeting and the mail. We need coverage in 2-hour increments for ticket taking and answering questions at each of the eight gardens. If you didn't get your ticket, call Bill at 237-1548.

## Candidate Slate Needed For October

"Our club is like the letter Q. In order to spell anything the letter Q must have U. Our club also must have YOU in order to mean anything at all."

- Toastmaster's Treasury

September is the month that we need to develop our 2009 Officer and Board of Director candidate slate. That slate will be voted on by the general membership at our October meeting.

All the officer positions, namely **President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary** need to have candidates identified. Also, three **Board member** positions expire in October '08, and candidates will have to be identified for serving the 2009/2010 2-year Board term.

This is a terrific opportunity to assume leadership roles in our club, and to build on our past successes. Give some serious thought to placing your name in nomination. Please call me to further discuss and/or to suggest names of possible candidates.

*Elizabeth Good, Outgoing President*



## Ponders Calendar

### General Meeting

Thursday, **Sept 25th**, 7:30 PM @ Junior League of Tucson 2099 E River Road

**Program:** "Alternative Methods of Filtering" by Bill Hudson, Member

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

### Board Notes

The next TTW Board meeting is at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 18th. Host is Wayne Tomczyk.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Save \$5.00 on '09 Dues!</i>	2
<i>Parade of Tour Gardens</i>	3
<i>Water Fern</i>	4

## Bring Your Checkbook or Cash for '09 Membership Renewal

Save \$5.00 and bring your '09 membership renewal to our October general meeting. The 2009 Membership Application Form is included with this month's newsletter. If you can't make the meeting, mail it in. The Board voted to provide an incentive cost structure to encourage completing membership renewals prior to our initial February 2009 meeting. This will allow us to complete the *2009 Club Membership Directory & Information Guide* in a more timely manner, as well as to improve program planning for the '09 season. Members renewing after August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 are good through the '09 season. We appreciate your cooperation in renewing *early!*

**About Our September Speaker.** Bill Hudson joined the Tucson Watergardeners in August 2004 when he was building his pond. What was in his plans for a small, pondless creek expanded considerably into a 1500 gallon "Sabino Canyon" type creek, with a waterfall, splash pond, and 800 gallon fish and lily pond! Bill served on the TTW Board in 2006, then stepped into the elected office of club Treasurer. In addition, he has dedicated countless hours to the club through his work as our Circulation Manager. In 2006 he co-chaired the annual Pond Tour with the TTW President. He will be addressing his approach to home-made biofilters, as well as bottom drains and use of gravel filters. Part of his emphasis will be on the importance of plants to filtering and maintaining a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem—all done economically.



### 2008 Last Season Program

**OCTOBER: Celebrating End of  
Our Watergardening Club  
Season!**

**Come, Be Heard & VOTE!  
Refreshments, too!**

**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)  
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**Circulation:** Bill Hudson [lloydhudson@cox.net](mailto:lloydhudson@cox.net)



## Watergardening Classifieds

**Plants for the Taking!** Karen in Green Valley has a pond full of plants that badly need thinning out, such as green and white stripped grass, pennywort—and more. She can be reached at email [jk8889@cox.net](mailto:jk8889@cox.net) or phone 248.514.9490.

**Umbrella Grass Wanted!** We will take any excess umbrella grass you are willing to give up, as we are working on a new bog garden area. Call Rod or JoAn, 760-5565.

**Sell or Trade Water Garden Items.** Ad space is free to members! Act now for the last issue.

### Humor for the Month:

The real meaning of plant catalog terminology:

"A favorite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks or clotheslines.

"Grows more beautiful each year" means "Looks like roadkill for the foreseeable future."

"Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."

"Zone 5 with protection" is a variation on the phrase "Russian roulette."

Visit our web site:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>

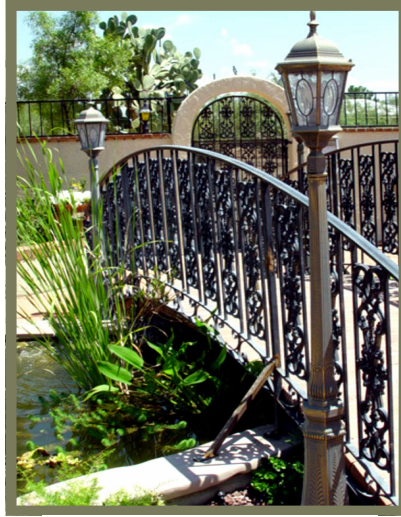
### MEMBER ONLY POT LUCK Sunday, October 5th 5:00 P.M.

Our outgoing President, Elizabeth Good, will be hosting this pot luck at her home, 4500 E San Carlos Place South. RSVP to Elizabeth by Friday, September 26th. We ask each member to bring either an appetizer, salad, or dessert. The main dish will be furnished. A pot luck sign-up sheet will also be at the general meeting, September 25th.

# Parade of the '08 Tour Gardens — Congratulations !



Simon & Millie Burgheimer



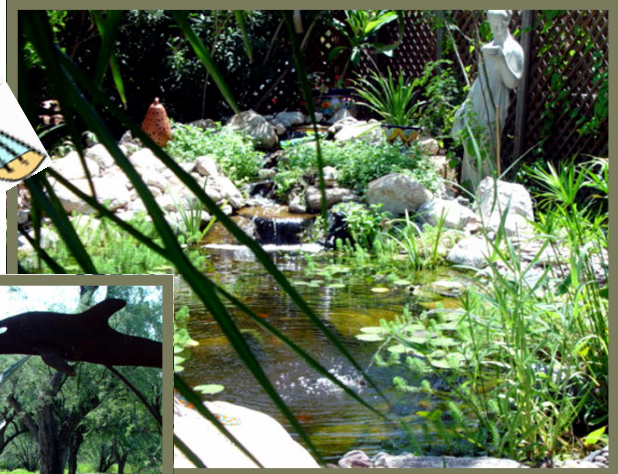
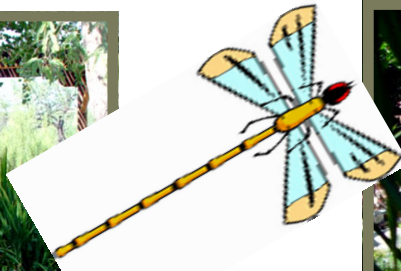
Sandy & Rose Chirco



Ken & Jane Canada



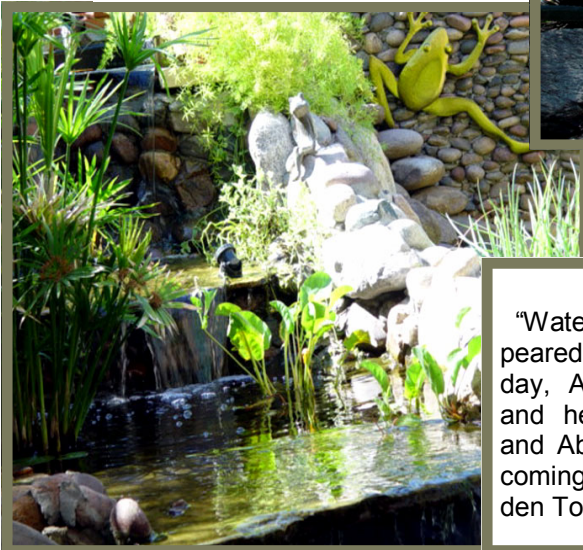
Ray & Lisa Novak



Stan & Michelle Klebe



Nathan & Adrienne Novak



Dan Jenks & Paul Mosman

**Terrific Tour Publicity!**  
"Water is for growing things" appeared in the Arizona Daily Star, Sunday, August 24th. Elizabeth Good and her two granddaughters, Piper and Abby, helped promote our upcoming September 14th Water Garden Tour 2008!



Michael Bamba & Eric Cuestas-Thompson

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



*To promote responsible ideals of water gardening among our members...*



## Aquatic Plant Profile



### **Water Fern** (*Azolla Caroliniana*)

*(Shown with water lettuce on lower right)*

*Photo courtesy Jenks & Mosman water garden.*

*Azolla Caroliniana*, a member of the Azollaceae family, is a free-floating aquatic fern. It also goes by other names, such as Fairy Moss, Water Velvet, and Carolina Mosquito Fern.

The Water Fern floats on the surface, with its root system hanging in the water. It has no flowers, and remains green in a shaded environment, but reddish in full sun or in the fall. Fish love to nibble this plant! It can also be used as an aquarium plant. The Water



Water Fern as a naturalizer!

Fern is a good naturalizer in ponds, but quickly colonizes and can get out of control in larger ponds, particularly if its habitat is over a foot deep. In some states, but not in Arizona, *Azolla Caroliniana* is listed as a noxious weed.