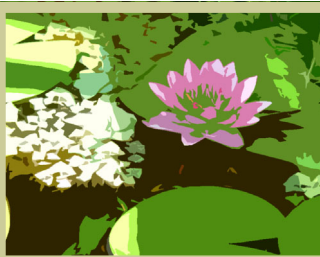
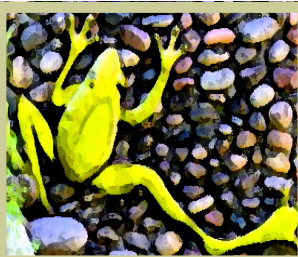
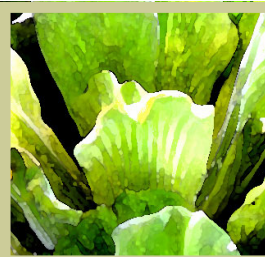


Ponderings

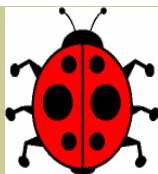


Volume XI, Issue 3

April 2009



Come experience four ponds & lots of imagination at our April meeting!



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Sunday, April 19th 2:00 PM—4:00 PM

D. Jenks/P. Mosman Residence, 4066 E
Camino de Palmas - Major crossroads:

East/West: East 22nd Street

North/South: South Alvernon Way

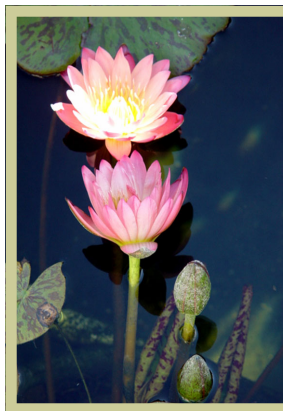
South Swan Road

Program:

- Dan Jenks talks about *all* his pond projects! *Get ideas! Ask questions!*
- Give feedback on our web presence — and make content suggestions!
- Opportunity to purchase fertilizer spikes, planting baskets, and printed "Guide to Watergardening in Southern Arizona."
- *Please bring your own lawn chairs!*

Refreshments!

Share your extra plants & stuff!



Board Meetings Date/Location

Sunday, June 14th,
W. Tomczyk Resi-
dence, 1:30 PM

Inside this issue:

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Odonata!

Is this your summer for “Oding” around your pond? Yes, that’s an activity similar to birding and butterfly watching. However, the objective of “Oding” is to track those fascinating insects, the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Tracking should keep you quite busy, as there are over 200 species found in the Southwest. In fact, the presence of dragonflies and damselflies is an indicator of the health and diversity of your water garden ecosystem.

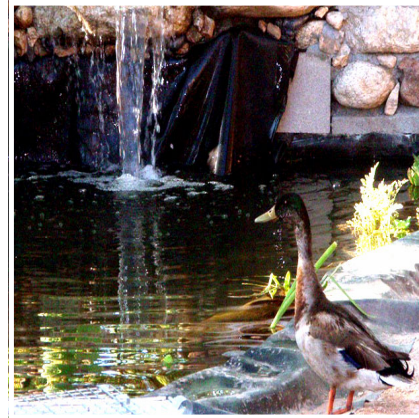
Dragonflies and damselflies have several differences. Dragonflies are usually larger and more heavy-bodied. Their huge compound eyes often touch each other, and they perch with their wings horizontal. Their eggs are usually laid directly in the water. On the other hand, damselflies have smaller, thinner bodies, with their eyes always separated. Most damselflies perch with wings folded vertically. They lay their eggs in plants.



Photo courtesy of Paul Roberts.

There are several characteristics that make us curious about these modern creatures that have withstood the test of time, with their giant relatives embedded in fossils that go back millions of years. Being fantastic flyers is one of their most noticeable traits, with forward, backwards, and sideways flight patterns. Another characteristic is that they take advantage of two very different environments during their life cycle.

Photo Feature



Share with our readers what comes to *your* desert water garden! Mallard duck surveys the Roberts & Shrader pond.

Depending on the species, Odonata can spend from a couple of months to 3 years in the larval stage crawling around the bottom of your pond! These larvae “nymphs” are aquatic creatures that are, indeed, voracious—eating anything, including young fish populations, other insects, and worms. While resident in this aquatic world, the larvae molt their skins from nine to fifteen times, growing a bit larger each time. If not careful when performing seasonal maintenance on *all* the bottom “muck” in your pond, you could inadvertently destroy future dragonflies or damselflies! Our pond reeds and grasses also perform a critical function for these aquatic nymphs, as they crawl up the stalks to emerge into the air and into adulthood.

One of the great pleasures of desert water gardening is the ability to create habitats and then watch what that habitat attracts. Dragonflies and damselflies are certainly a colorful part of the rich tapestry of desert wildlife that frequents our ponds.

Editor's Note. Dragonflies & Damselflies of the Southwest (\$12.95) by Robert A. Behrstock is an excellent book on the subject and is published locally in Tucson by Rio Nuevo Publishers. The book also includes nature festivals, organizations, and places to visit for dragonfly watching!

Reserve your “extras” for our **May 17th Annual Plant Sale!** Remember that bringing already potted aquatic plants to our sale allows the club to charge a bit more and helps our Grant Fund coffer.



Watergardening Classifieds

Free 1 inch red cinders. Great for bio-filters. Call Jane at 520 760-1036.

Cave Creek Recreation Area in Arizona is searching for *Nymphaea mexicana* Zucc., with its common names being “yellow waterlily,” “Mexican waterlily,” or “Banana waterlily.” The Conservation Manager has asked help from our club. If you know where we can obtain these plants, please contact JoAn at 520 760-5565, or email: jstolley@cox.net.

Wanted: Water & Bog Gardens for our September 19th-20th Public Tour! All types of water and bog gardens will be considered throughout the Tucson Valley. Call Elizabeth Good, Tour Chair, 722-6449, email: gandeegood@msn.com or Renee Shane-Boyd, Co-Chair, 326-5897, email: rshaneboyd@gmail.com. Avoid the rush! Sign up now!

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.

Available at:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>

Guide to Watergardening in Southern Arizona

March 2009

This is a new club publication that has recently been posted to our web site in 8 1/2" x 11" PDF format. The Guide covers the many basics of water gardening; is in larger, more readable print; and, has both a table of contents and index. *Share with a friend or new water gardener.* Best of all, it's free in this format!

Membership Application

New Rates

As of January 1, 2009:

\$ 20.00 Individual

\$ 25.00 Household

President's Corner

Your opinions matter! One of the many ideas and suggestions that came out of the members' survey, last fall, was the fact that a large percentage of the membership wanted to have a meeting(s) at member pond(s).

In response to this request, the Board has been able to schedule two meetings this year at member ponds. The first meeting at a member pond this year will be held at the Jenks/Mosman residence on Sunday, April 19th. First, I want to thank Paul and Dan for volunteering to host this event. Second, I encourage everyone to attend this meeting. A meeting in this setting lends itself to a lot of member interaction and question and answer time. Bring a friend, guest, or potential new member.

Keep the feedback coming!

Paul Roberts

“The most noteworthy thing about **gardeners** is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, *and never satisfied*. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.”

- Vita Sackville-West

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
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| Treasurer: | Bill Hudson | lloydhudson@cox.net |
| Secretary: | Wayne Tomczyk | waynet@us.ibm.com |
| Membership Recruitment: | Tony Shrader | bluee3t@yahoo.com |
| Programs: | <i>Still looking for a Committee Chair!</i> | |
| Webmaster: | HL Swain | hl@swain.net |
| Editor: | JoAn Stolley | jstolley@cox.net |



The Tucson Watergardeners
7033 E Paseo San Andres
Tucson, AZ 85710



To help develop an interest in the creation and care of water gardens...

Aquatic Plant Profile



Corkscrew Rush
Juncus effusus 'Spiralis'
Family: Juncaceae

(Photo courtesy C. Case garden)

Go *wild* this spring with a twisting, spiraling evergreen perennial! The Corkscrew Rush is one of hundreds of ornamental grasses that do well in both our desert bog and water gardens.

This is a good accent plant at the edge of a pond, and does equally well in a bog garden environment. A pot of Corkscrew Rush can be placed up to 6" below the water surface. If you choose to pot this plant and keep it out of the water, the soil must be kept moist at all times.

The Corkscrew Rush is a clumping plant and spreads by underground rhizomes. The roots can be divided

like any other grass in the spring. It will take full sun to partial shade, and grows to a height of about 24". The Corkscrew Rush bears light green flowers near the tip of the stem. Its cut leaves also add interest to fresh or dried flower arrangements.

With its architectural interest, be sure to plant the Corkscrew Rush close-up to really enjoy the foliage.