

Ponderings

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Sunday, May 17th — Reid Park

Volume XI, Issue 4

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**20% Member Discount
On Plants!**

Our annual Plant Sale will be from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM on Sunday, May 17th, at Reid Park. The sale will be back in its traditional location which is the ramada at the southwest corner of Reid Park at the intersection of Country Club Road and 22nd Street. Co-Chairs for this event are Pam Glenn and Dan Jenks (members).

See full story on page 3.



NOTEWORTHY:

This is a very busy month! The Club is sponsoring its annual plant sale, with one-stop-shopping—to include a variety of aquatic and marginal plants, as well as water plant baskets, fertilizer spikes, and barley straw. Our General Meeting Program features Dr. Soule, a trained botanist and club member. See you at both events!



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, **May 28th** 7:30 PM @ Junior League of Tucson 2099 E River Road

Program: Mints for Aquascapes by Dr. Jacqueline A. Soule (Member). *See Dr. Soule's article on page 2.*

Refreshments: The McMackens & The Canadas
Share your extra plants & stuff!

Board Meetings Date/Location

Sunday, **June 14th**,
W. Tomczyk Residence, 1:30 PM

Sunday, **August 16th**, E. Good Residence, 1:30 PM

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Mints for Aquascapes

by Dr. Jacqueline Soule

Mints are a wonderful herb for many uses, including tea, jelly, salads, candy-making, medicine, and more. There are many mints to choose from. In fact, well over 100 species and varieties are found around the world. Add to this number, the cultivars and hybrids that exist, and common names can get confusing.



To the water gardener, mints are one of those "other" plants that are not true aquatics. In reality, most mints are terrestrial, but they have a high water demand. Here in the arid Old Pueblo, mints grow best with their "toes" in water.

In her talk, Jacqueline will discuss some of the more common mints you can grow in your water garden; how to help them thrive; plus share some ways to use this prolific herb. Incidentally, the oils in most mints are not detrimental to fish or frogs, but there are some to avoid placing in your pond. Jacqueline will also discuss those.

***Biography.** Dr. Soule is a trained botanist. She teaches workshops on plants and writes science and garden articles. Jacqueline has been using, growing, researching and writing about herbs for over three decades.*

Web Stuff <http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>

Pond Tour 2008 pictures now available!

Downloadable in Portable Document Format:

"Guide to Watergardening in Southern Arizona"

Membership Application Form

ALGAE-EATERS

It's been a long time for *Ponderings* to return to the topic of Gastropoda –the snail and slug family. A question came up at our April 19th General Meeting regarding snails. Fresh water snails do have a lot to contribute to the health of your pond, as they consume algae, left over fish food, and other decaying matter.

The tropical Apple Snail (Ampullariidae), sometimes called Mystery Snail, does well in our summer desert watergardens (62-85°F); but, in order to survive, this snail has to be wintered in a warmer, aquarium setting. Their eggs are laid above the water line and are a milky pink color. In fact, the Apple Snail even merits its own web site: www.applesnail.net. Another common snail variety for ponds is the Melanthero Snail. These snails have long, spiral shells and are much harder in surviving the colder winter pond water.

Fresh water snails for your pond can be acquired through local pet stores, or ordered from a reputable water garden or aquarium supply company. New arrivals to your pond should be floated in their container on the surface of your pond for at least 30 minutes to reduce the risk of shock during the introduction process.

There's a most interesting "Algae-Eating Animals Comparison Table" addressing fresh water fish, shrimp, and snails at the following web site: <http://www.fishpondinfo.com/plants/algaetable.htm> The table includes the minimum water temperature for survival—and even the creature's temperament! *Check it out!*

Annual Water Plant Sale

This is what we all have been waiting for —the opportunity to acquire new aquatic and marginal plants! **The Tucson Watergardeners Annual Plant Sale is now set for Sunday, May 17th from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Reid Park.**

Both hardy and tropical waterlilies will be offered, either bareroot or potted. The water lilies will run between \$8.00 and \$20.00, depending on the type of waterlily, its size, if the color is known or unknown; and, whether or not it is potted. Pam Glenn, Chair, indicated that named waterlilies, including Burgundy Princess (cherry red), Lemon Mist (pale yellow),

All members are encouraged to bring their "extra" plants to our sale. Drop your plants at Reid Park between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM on the day of the sale. We are in need of "floaters" such as frog's-bit, water primrose, and water lettuce.

We are also looking for Louisiana Iris, including the fancy varieties, such as Kissie and Black Gamecock. We hope to see all our members at Reid Park. Bring a friend, or, better yet —several ponding friends!

Paul Roberts

Berit Strawn (orange-peach), Dallas (pink/yellow centers), Laydekeri Fulgens (vivid red), Munkala Ubon (peach), Sulphurea (yellow) —to name some of the hardies, will be available.

Marginal plants and "floaters" such as Water Lettuce and giant Sensitive Plants will also be available. Other water gardening essentials, including fertilizer spikes and tabs, plant baskets, and barley straw will be offered for sale!

This is your opportunity for one-stop shopping! As a reminder, 2009 members received a 20% discount on all plants purchased!



Watergardening Classifieds

We have four water gardens — how about some more? 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: gandegood@msn.com or Renee Shane-Boyd, Co-Chair, 326-5897, email: rshaneboyd@gmail.com.

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.

"The only limit to your [water] garden is at the boundaries of your imagination."

-Thomas D. Church

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

Aquatic Plant Profile



Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis
Family: Campanulaceae

(Photo courtesy P. Glenn garden)

Do you want to attract hummingbirds this summer?

Then, this truest of red bloomers among the cornucopia of marginal plants that love our desert water gardens may be your inspiration!

The Cardinal Flower of the Bellflower Family is a herbaceous perennial that thrives in consistently moist soil and can be grown in sun to partial shade conditions. This native to the Americas is a clumping plant that grows 1-3' tall and produces a number

of stems, each with brilliant scarlet-red flowers, blooming from mid-summer to fall. Its root ball can be divided.

There are also several cultivars with white, pink, salmon, and cream flowers. As a word of caution, the Cardinal Flower contains poisonous alkaloids that can be potentially toxic if ingested.

The Cardinal Flower is a terrific mix for color and variety among your marginals at the pond's edge!