

# Ponderings

Official  
Newsletter of  
The Tucson  
Watergardeners

Volume XI, Issue 9

October 2009

## End of our Season!



### Ponders Calendar



#### NOTEWORTHY:

Committee Chairs are needed for our 2010 club season. Your volunteer time to help the club would be greatly appreciated. Please consider either chairing a committee or serving on a committee. Your opinions and views are what keep our club refreshed and moving forward!

*See you in the Spring!*

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Welcome to our new members who have joined since the September Public Water Garden Tour! We all look forward to a most interesting 2010 water gardening season!

#### Final Board Meeting Date/Location

Sunday, **November 15th**, Roberts Residence, 8209 E. Big Horn Trail. The meeting is at 2:00 PM. This is a *joint* Board meeting of the outgoing '09 and incoming '10 Boards. *Please note that this is a change from the original meeting date of Sunday, November 8th.*

*All members are invited to attend Board meetings.*

Our 2010 General Meetings begin on Thursday, February 25th, 2010. General meetings are the 4th Thursday evening of the month from February through October, 7:30 PM, Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Road.

## Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

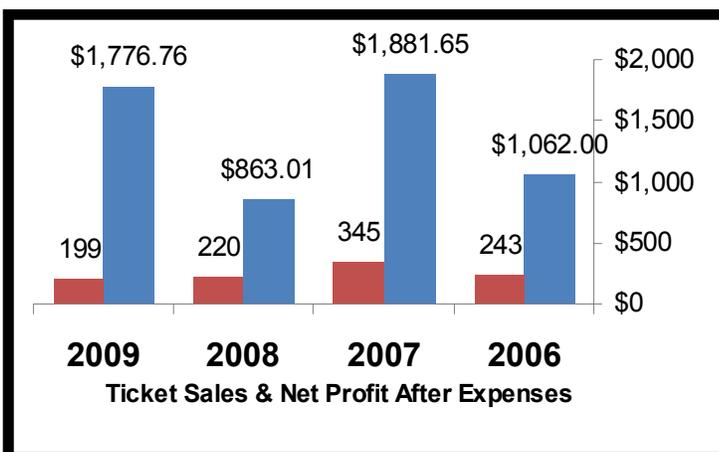
### Fall

- Get decaying leaves and debris out of the pond, as their decomposition can upset the ecological balance.
- Keep skimmer baskets and filters clean. Remove excess bottom sludge if over 1".
- This is a good time for adding cold water beneficial bacteria.
- Brown and dying aquatic plant foliage should be removed as plants are going dormant.
- Stop fertilizing plants when the water temperature drops below 70°.
- Prune yellow waterlily pads within several inches of the crown, and drop tropical lilies into the deepest part of the pond.
- For your sensitive tropical plants, transfer them to a warmer place or even indoors.
- When water temperature drops below 60°, switch fish to lower protein food; below 50°, stop feeding.
- Do a 10% water change to last through the winter.

### Spring

- Visually check to see if your pond is holding its water level.
- Look for any cracks in pump housing. If the filter media looks worn and dirty, replace it with new media.
- Test your water quality.
- Use a beneficial bacteria to jump start the biological cycle.
- Clean up dead plants and fallen leaves around the pond.
- Move plants that have been hibernating in the deeper parts of the pond closer to the pond surface for spring sun.
- Begin feeding fish with a low protein diet when the water temperature is consistently above 50°.
- Assess your mix of aquatic plants to achieve a balance of oxygenators, floaters, and marginals to help control algae.
- Begin fertilizing aquatic plants when the pond temperatures reach 55° -60°.
- Don't drain your pond completely to cure algae problems!

### Public Water Garden Tour Stats & Facts



Checklist taken from "The Tucson Watergardeners Guide To Watergardening in Southern Arizona", March 2009.

The graph at left depicts the last four years of the club's Public Garden Tour, in terms of ticket sales and net profit after expenses. For 2009, recurring expenses were less than all previous years shown, leaving a net profit of \$2,172.81. However, there was the additional capital expense of new street signs and holders which is reflected in the final net profit figure on the graph. Ticket prices for 2006/2007 remained at \$7.00 per ticket; 2008 saw a raise to \$8.00 per ticket. The Board raised the ticket price in 2009 to \$10.00 per ticket. For the first time in 2008, commercial sponsorship was also accepted to help defray ticket printing costs. Proceeds from this tour will be placed in the club's Grant Fund.

## Wanted: 2010 Chairs

### President's Corner

The close of the 2009 watergardening season is a good time to reflect on our year. It has been most rewarding to serve as your President, and I certainly look forward to my second term! To help jump start ideas, a "2009 Watergardening Season Questionnaire" is included with this issue. It is your opportunity to give us feedback and suggestions for the coming year. As our joint Board Meeting is scheduled for November 15th, return of your questionnaire by November 11th to the address given on the form would be most appreciated! That way, we can compile the information and report back to our Board.

Thank you for your gifts of talent and time to make this year so successful!

Paul Roberts

Chairs, as well as Committee Volunteers, are vital to club functions. *Kudos* to those who have already agreed to contribute their time and energy for 2010 activities. Now, let's complete the rest of our roster before our first General Meeting in February! Please contact Paul Roberts to discuss duties and volunteer as a Chair. There will also be a sign up Board at our first meeting for those wanting to serve on a particular committee or provide refreshments for a specific meeting.

**Program Chair:** *Urgently needed now!*

**Grants Chair:** Chair Needed

**Publicity Chair:** Renee Shane-Boyd

**Property & Storage Co-Chairs:** Bill Hudson  
Ken Canada

**Membership Services Chair:** *Urgently needed now!*  
Badges: Anne-Lee Tomczyk  
Database: Smokie Steffe

**Plant Sale:** Dan Jenks (Chair) Co-Chair

**Public Pond Tour:** Chair & Co-Chair

**Publications:** JoAn Stolley

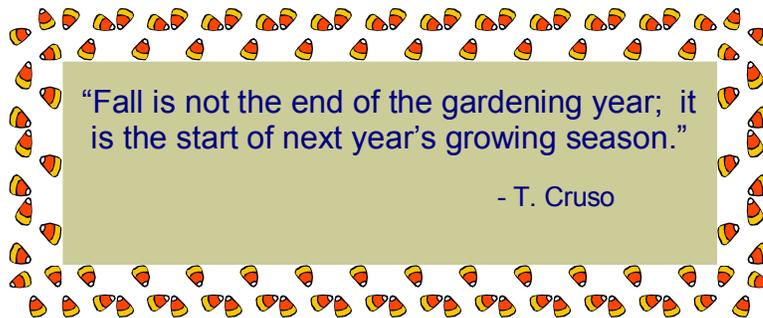


### Watergardening Classifieds

*Congratulations* goes to Brenda Hettinger for winning the Grand Door Prize awarded in conjunction with the annual Public Water Garden Tour!



Cute wash tub pond for sale. Stands 2 ft. high, 14" wide. Has 2 fancy goldfish and 2 mosquito fish in it, as well as lizard tail, miniature waterlily & cattail, papyrus, water lettuce & snails. Lovely gift idea! Asking \$125. Call Karen at 979-6201.



### 2010 Contacts

<b>President:</b>	Paul Roberts	paulrwi@aol.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dan Jenks	pdq211@cox.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mary McMacken	azwhiner@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Regina Nassen	rnassen@cox.net
<b>Membership</b>		
<b>Recruitment:</b>	Tony Shrader	bluee3t@yahoo.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	HL Swain	hl@swain.net
<b>Editor:</b>	JoAn Stolley	jstolley@cox.net
<b>Board Members:</b>		
	2010-2011 Term: HL Swain, Ken Canada, Cynthia Rae	
	2009-2010 Term: Betty Blackstock, Klara Cserny, JoAn Stolley*	

**Southern Arizona Koi Association** (SAKA) Annual Koi Show. Scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM Kino Veterans Memorial Park. More information at: <http://www.sakoia.org/>

\*Denotes President's one-year appointment to replace M. McMacken.



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



Check Out Our Web Site: <http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>



## Aquatic Plant Profile



**Water Clover** Family: Marsileaceae

*Photo courtesy the Southern Arizona Koi Association May Pond Tour.*

Water Clover is not a clover at all! This delightful plant is an aquatic fern that thrives in moist, wet soil and loves our desert environment. It is especially suited to living on the edge of stream beds, but can also be grown directly in water, as shade and protection for fish. The leaves can be either floating or emerged, and is a great excess nutrient absorber.