

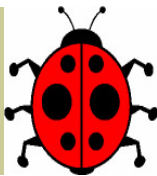
Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners

**Aquatic Plant Sale May 16th
Reid Park—See You There!**

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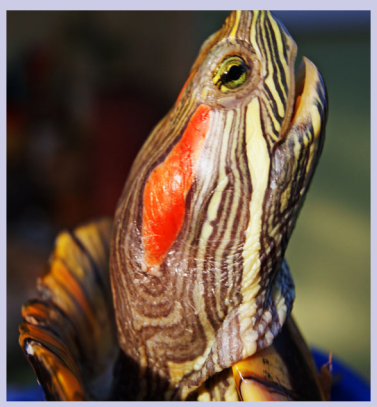


Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, **May 27th** 7:30 PM @ Junior
League of Tucson 2099 E River Road

**Program: "The Pleasures and Pitfalls
of Turtles in Your Pond"** by Lee Oler.



Freshwater turtle
The Red-eared Slider

Refreshments: The Minami's
Share your extra plants & stuff!

Ms. Oler is a member of The Tucson Watergardeners, as well as a charter member of The Tucson Herpetological Society.

Turtle Talk

- *Learn the do's and don't of keeping turtles.*
- *Understand the parts of a turtle—what's a carapace and a plastron?*
- *What kinds of turtles are in the Tucson area?*
- *How to create a turtle-friendly pond.*

Board Meetings Date/Location

Thursday, **June 17th**
7:00 PM
No location yet.



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 other water gardening supplies. Our General Meeting Program features one of our club members and her expertise on the subject of turtles. See you at both events!

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Club Gets Involved with Biosphere 2 Projects

The Tucson Watergardeners recently had the opportunity to support two projects being developed as part of the University of Arizona Biosphere 2 (B2) Earthscience Program. The objective of this B2 program is to bridge the gap between laboratory- and field-scale studies, by utilizing the unique infrastructure of the Biosphere 2.

Ms. Alandra Kahl, a PhD candidate in the Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department, and Ms. Chris Goforth, a PhD candidate in the Department of Entomology, are both 2009-2010 B2 Science & Society Fellows. Each candidate is establishing a B2 permanent educational display that will eventually be open to the public through the Biosphere 2 Tour.

The Watergardeners were able to provide aquatic plants and some pond life for these projects, as well as leg work in doing the actual wetlands planting one Saturday this past April at the Biosphere 2.



Our B2 Project Watergardeners (left to right): Maria Figueroa, Casey Case, Pam Glenn, Wayne & Anne-Lee Tomczyk, Ken Canada, and Paul Roberts.

While both women contacted our club for aquatic plants, these PhD candidates have very different project goals and scientific interests!

As an environmental engineer, Ms. Kahl is building a demonstration subsurface wetland as a permanent exhibit at Biosphere 2 to demonstrate how wetlands clean water. Plants are a big part of that system. She is primarily using 150 gallon stock tanks to support her exhibit. "I work with trace organic compounds (chemicals in very small quantities) and how



they react in wetlands (swamps or marshes). Some of these compounds can be harmful to our bodies and I'm working on understanding how they

behave in water systems, so we have a better idea of what we can do with them in the future," writes Alandra on her blog. Check out the set of pictures on the day in April that the Tucson Watergardeners spent with her: <http://alandrkb2.wordpress.com/2010/04/>

Ms. Goforth labels herself as a passionate teacher. Chris studies aquatic insects and is always looking for opportunities to teach people about these amazing animals. "My pond is designed with the insects in mind, providing habitat for a wide variety of pond insects that are common in the area. These insects will colonize the pond I'm building on their own. There are signs that teach B2 visitors about aquatic insects and encourage them to identify the things they see in the pond as part of the display," Chris writes in her blog. She goes on to write, "My research focuses on aquatic insects, particularly the giant water bugs, so I spend a good part of my time sloshing around in water of various qualities collecting or observing my precious aquatic bugs." Read more about dragonflies, entomology and other arthropods in her blog: <http://dragonflywoman.wordpress.com/>

Editors Note: Both Alandra and Chris will be speaking to the club at our July 22nd public meeting. Mark your calendars now for this most interesting program!

Annual Water Plant Sale

The Tucson Watergardeners Annual Plant Sale is now set for Sunday, May 16th from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Reid Park. Sale will be at the Ramada, southwest corner of the park, at the intersection of Country Club Drive and 22nd Street.

This is what we all have been waiting for—the opportunity to acquire new aquatic and marginal plants! There will be an exceptionally large selection of hardy and tropical water lilies at this year's sale—and even tropical lily planting kits!

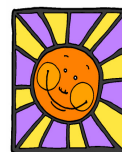
This is your opportunity for one-stop shopping! As a reminder, 2010 members in good standing receive a 20% discount on all plants purchased!

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 still in need of "floaters" such as frog's-bit, water primrose, and water lettuce.

Thank you to our Plant Wranglers & Cashiers for volunteering your time. Every donated hour helps!

We hope to see all our members at Reid Park. Bring a friend, or, better yet—several ponding friends!

Paul Roberts



Watergardening Classifieds

Plant Wranglers Needed. We need two more Plant Wrangler's—that is, **VOLUNTEERS** for the club's May 16th Plant Sale to work the 10:30AM—2:30 PM shift. Contact Dan Jenks, Plant Sale Chair, at 245-1324.

Part or Full Time Position. Primary goal of position is maintenance & potting of water plants, maintenance of fish and sale of these items. Great learning experience! Contact Carl Ragel, Natural Pools and Gardens, 449-3539.

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.

Web Stuff

For those new to the club, here's our web site:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>

Here are some of the resources you can find at this site:

Terrific photos from past Public Pond Tours!

Downloadable in Portable Document Format (PDF):

“Guide to Watergardening in Southern Arizona”
Membership Application Form

Short, informative tutorials on Watergardening “101”

President: Paul Roberts
paul.robertstwg@yahoo.com
Note new email address for Paul.

Vice President: Dan Jenks
pdq211@cox.net

Treasurer: Mary McMacken
azwhiner@yahoo.com

Secretary: Regina Nassen
rnassen@cox.net

Membership Master File: Smokie Steffe
smokie@dakotacom.net

Webmaster: HL Swain
hl@swain.net

Editor: JoAn Stolley
jstolley@cox.net



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



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

President's Corner

PLANTS & FISH

It is that time of year to add new plants and fish to your pond.

Plants. I'm sure you would like to see at least one beautiful water lily gracing your pond. These plants, as well as water-loving marginals, bog plants and oxygenators can be bought at the Plant Sale on May 16th. *Don't miss this opportunity to get some great plants at some great prices!* We will have both hardy and tropical lilies at the Plant Sale. There will also be fertilizer tabs for sale to make those lilies bloom and be beautiful. Look for the tropical lily "kits". This is something new this year and will include everything you need to grow great lilies!

Adding New Fish. A few tips to keep in mind when adding new fish to your pond or water feature:

1. Do not add too many at once.
2. Let the temperature of the water in the holding bag equilibrate with the pond water temperature by allowing the bag (tied up) to float in the pond for a while.
3. Stop feeding the existing fish for a few days before you expect to introduce the new fish and do not feed the fish at all for a few days after the new addition. Then, when restarting to feed, do this often, and use tiny quantities for each offering.
4. If you're going to add expensive koi, then these new fish should be quarantined for about 2 weeks before introducing them into the pond with other fish.

Happy Ponding! Paul