

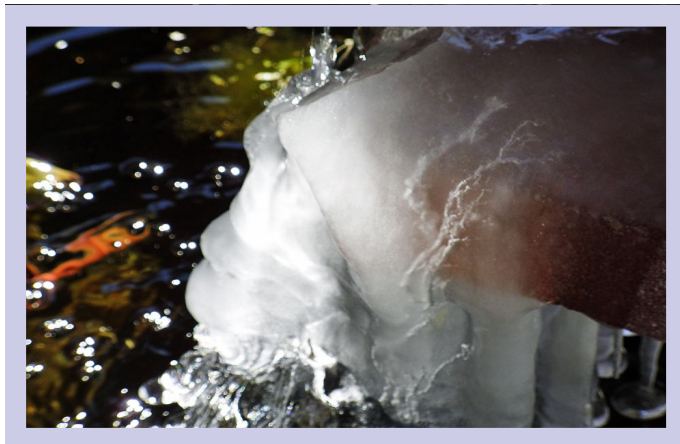
Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners

Volume XIII, Issue 1

February 2011

Is Our Winter Over?



After a very cold desert winter, it's now time to be dreaming about our summer water gardens and what we will have to do this spring to encourage vibrant, lush aquatic foliage and heavy blooms. Let's get started with our 2011 season!



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, Feb 24th 7:30 PM @ Junior League of Tucson 2099 E River Road

Program: Frost Damage On Terrestrial Plants & Master Gardeners' Pond Project Update By Toni Moore, Master Gardener and Tucson Watergardeners Member.

Committee Volunteers Discussion

Refreshments by The Minami's
Share your extra pond stuff!

Board Notes

Meeting: **Friday
March 11th
6:30 PM**
at the Himmel Park
Branch Library, 1035
N. Treat Avenue.

Note: This is a *Joint*
2010 & 2011 Board
meeting.

Please be prompt!

NOTEWORTHY:

- *Welcome back to our 13th water gardening season as a club! Hoorah!*

- *Annual dues:*

2011 Rates*:

\$ 20.00 Individual

\$ 25.00 Household

**Please see article on page 2 for changes in dues deadlines and Board decisions.*

Inside this issue:

<i>2011 Club Calendar of Events</i>	<i>Clip & Save!</i>	2
<i>Your 2011 Board</i>		3
<i>Pond Start-Up</i>		4

Clip & Save!

Watergardeners 2011 Calendar*

FEB 24th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

MAR 24th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

APRIL General Meeting
Sunday 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
Date TBD At Member's Residence

MAY 15th **Annual Plant Sale**
Sunday Reid Park 8:00 AM-1:30 PM

MAY 26th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

JUN 23rd General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

JLY 28th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

AUG 25th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

SEPTEMBER General Meeting
Sunday 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
Date TBD At Member's Residence

SEP 17th/18th **Public Water
Garden Tour**
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Daily
Locations to be announced.

OCTOBER **Members' Potluck**
Date & Location To Be Announced

OCT 27th General Meeting 7:30 PM
Thursday Junior League of Tucson

* *Dates & locations for Board meetings to be announced in Ponderings.*

Annual Membership Dues— Some Changes

If you have thawed out enough from the very cold desert nights, you may have had a chance to check your email boxes regarding our 2011 annual membership dues.

A notice and invoice was sent out electronically on January 21, 2011, by Smokie Steffe (smokie@dakotacom.net) who maintains our membership database, regarding dates for paying 2011 dues. The Board is asking that 2011 dues be paid by February 17th—and, at the very latest, by our first meeting on February 24th. Our By-Laws specifically state the "Annual dues in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors shall be assessed against all members of the Club, and shall be due and payable by the date of the first general meeting of the year." (Article IV Membership, Section 2. Dues)

It is *very important* to note that a decision was made by the 2010 Tucson Watergardeners Board at their October 5th

Please note that the correct address for mailing your membership dues is:

*Treasurer, Tucson Watergardeners
PO Box 57664
Tucson, AZ 85732-7664*

meeting regarding deadlines for paying annual membership fees. The decision states that if members have not paid their annual dues by March 31st of any given year, their dues assessment will be raised by

\$5.00. Dues for the 2011 season will remain at the 2010 rates—\$20.00 individual membership and \$25.00 household membership. *However, if dues are not paid by the March 31st date, the 2011 membership dues assessment, beginning April 1st will be \$25.00 individual membership and \$30.00 household membership.*

Without firmer payment deadlines, it becomes very difficult to publish an accurate *and timely* Club Membership Directory, for example. This Directory is helpful for a number of purposes throughout the year—and publishing it very late in the season makes it far less useful to the membership. Also, projecting annual membership income is important to the club's budget planning.

We thank you for your cooperation with these changes!

Welcome to the 2011 water gardening season!

We are all awaiting the arrival of spring. This time of year brings great anticipation of warmer weather and the awaking of our ponds and water features. Our fish are still hiding and our plants are still in hibernation. Hopefully most of our plants have survived the colder than normal winter we have experienced.

The 2011 season should prove to be filled with many water gardening activities. Just a reminder to all of our mem-

bers, this is a volunteer organization.... so, we will be looking for volunteers to help on committees and functions, such as the Plant Sale, Pond Tour, programs and special events. I know everyone has busy schedules, but give some thought to donating the most valuable thing you have to offer... your time. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming involved in any of these committees. We will have our sign up board at the February meeting for everyone to sign up for their favorite event or function.

Happy ponding!

Paul Roberts

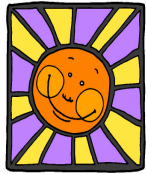


A Believe It Or Not Moment! After such a harsh winter, the Minami's potted Calla Lily decided to bloom early February. The plant is in an enclosed pond space, but with limited heating and no heating of the pond water.

"The Tucson Watergardeners Guide To Watergardening In Southern Arizona" is an excellent source of technical information for those considering new ponds this spring —covers everything from pond structures to aquatic plants! *(Full text available at our web site.)*

Your 2011 Board Officers & Directors

Handy reference to clip & save!



Watergardening Classifieds

One-Gallon Pots Needed. If you have an abundance of one gallon plastic pots, please give Jane Canada a call at 760-1036. The club's "Hardy Water Lily Mom" is thinking ahead for the May Annual Plant Sale and will take as many pots as we can round up for her this spring!

Think Water Lettuce! If you are one of the lucky ponders who has successfully harbored water lettuce over the winter, please let Paul Roberts know if you will have a "crop" and are willing to share for the May Plant Sale. This is always a plant that is in high demand in the spring.

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.

President: Paul Roberts paulrwi@aol.com
Vice President: Dan Jenks pdq211@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Mary McMacken azwhiner@yahoo.com
Secretary: Wayne Tomczyk waynet@us.ibm.com
Past President: Elizabeth Good gandegood@msn.com

Board:
Ken Canada kencanada@aol.com
Bill Hudson lloydhudson@cox.net
Cynthia Rae amsearae@juno.com
Tony Shrader bluee3t@yahoo.com
HL Swain hl@swain.net (also **Webmaster**)
Steve Walkosak jwalk1231@gmail.com

Other Positions:
Membership: Smokie Steffe smokie@dakotacom.net
Editor: JoAn Stolley jstolley@cox.net

Our web address:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>



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



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

Pond Start Up—Worth Repeating

Algae. With the change in water temperatures, algae can come into full bloom. *Don't drain your pond completely to cure algae problems!* Existing String or “Hair” algae has to be removed by hand—a brush or rake is handy. Some of us love sacks of barley straw sunk to the bottom of the pond to lower the pH of the water and to prevent *new* string algae growth. Side slim algae are the good guys, providing oxygen, as well as nibbling and nursery opportunities. Leave this algae alone. “Pea soup” algae, where your water turns green, can overrun a pond in the spring. There are chemical products and pond dyes to treat this situation. Biofilters are also extremely helpful in controlling “pea soup” algae growth.

Beneficial bacteria. Use beneficial bacteria to jump start the pond's biological cycle.

Fish. Begin feeding fish with a low protein diet when the water temperature is consistently above 50°.

Plants. Clean up dead plants and fallen leaves both in and around your pond. Move plants that have been hibernating in the deeper parts of the pond closer to the pond surface for spring sun. Begin fertilizing aquatic plants (*The club will be selling fertilizer spikes at its general meetings.*) when the pond temperatures reach 55° to 60°. *When you begin dividing plants, remember donations for our May Aquatic Plant Sale.* Assess your pondscape to see if you have a good mix of oxygenators, floaters, and marginals to help control algae through the pond season.

Pond Infrastructure. Check to see that the pond is holding its water level and that there aren't any leaks in the pond or waterfall. Look for any cracks in pump housing. If the filter media looks worn and dirty, replace it with new media, *and* use beneficial bacteria to restart the pond's biological cycle.