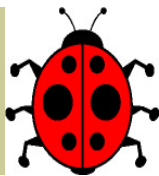


Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners

Summertime Gardening!



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, June 23rd 7:30 PM at the
Junior League of Tucson 2099 E. River
Road

Program: "Desert Butterflies"



By Dr. Elizabeth Willott, Curator,
Butterfly Magic, Tucson Botanical
Gardens

*Read a few butterfly facts
and about our speaker on page 3.*

Refreshments: Arnelle & Bob Publicover

Thank you!

*Access to water in
our desert
environment is
critical to these
important
pollinators,
particularly as
riparian areas
disappear; and,
draining of wetlands
and lowering of our
water tables
continue.*

Board Meetings Date/Location

Next Board
meeting date to be
set.

Volume XIII, Issue 5

June 2011



NOTEWORTHY:

*Look for your 2011
Membership Directory in the
mail. There is one copy
allocated per household.*



Those Colorful Cannas!

Inside this issue:

May Plant Sale	2
Can you serve?	3
Azolla	4



Logistics of transporting the hardy water lilies!

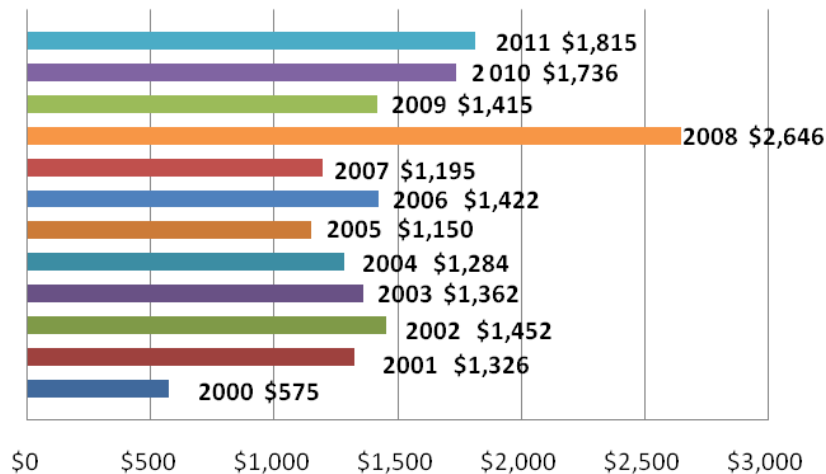


Early arrival of the water truck and setting up. Where's the coffee and those donuts?



Tubs & pots brimming with wonderful aquatics!

Watergardeners Annual Plant Sale



Net Proceeds After Expenses



Lots of interest and customers!



Water lettuce and giant cattails galore!

Plant Sale—A Success!

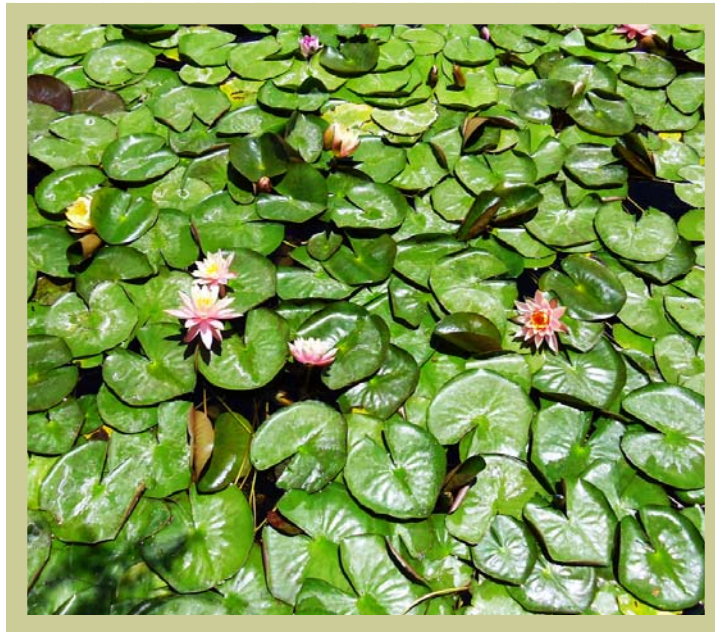
This was our second best year in the club's history! Thank you to everyone who supported our May sale —either by donating plants or working! A particular heartfelt thanks go out to our two water lily "Moms", Casey Case and Jane Canada, who nurtured so many plants through our tough winter, and to Jane and Ken Canada and Dan Jenks for Co-Chairing this year's sale. Also, thanks to our Treasurer, Mary McMacken, for doing all the accounting work. Now....sit back and watch those plants grow and thrive in our desert summer watergardens!

Butterfly Facts

- Did you know that there are over 250 species of butterflies in the Sonoran Desert? A varied topography means a corresponding variety of microclimates, rainfall patterns, plant distributions, and therefore butterfly distributions.
- Butterfly lives have four distinct stages: egg, caterpillar (or larva), chrysalis (or pupa), and adult.
- Butterflies produce one or more generations (broods) per year. The length of the complete life cycle varies greatly, ranging from weeks to a couple of years or more in desert adapted species.

About our Speaker:

Elizabeth Willott is curator for Butterfly Magic. She came to the Gardens July 2009 from the University of Arizona where she was doing research on the tobacco hornworm, *Manduca sexta*, and mosquitoes, as well as teaching biology and environmental ethics. She has co-edited a book: "Environmental Ethics: what really matters, what really works" (Oxford, 2002; 2nd edition out soon) and has published on a variety of topics related to ethics and ecology. She continues to do mosquito surveillance and research through a National Science Foundation grant to several investigators in Geography at the University of Arizona.



*What is possible for summer desert watergardeners!
The Canada's hardy water lily collection.*

This 'n That

2012 Officers & Board Members. Most of our Officers and three Board member positions will have to be replaced for 2012. *Without these positions filled, the club can't function.* Please give donation of your time and energy to our club some serious thought! Remember...everything we accomplish is because of volunteers' time and efforts. **Can you serve?**

Monsoon Season Is Here! Monsoon season is mosquito control time. Gambusia fish, Mosquito Dunks™, and good water circulation are vitally important. Remember, no standing, stagnant water.

Officer & Board Directory

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Our web address: <http://tucsonwatergardeners.org/>

Aquatic Plant Profile



Azolla (Azolla caroliniana)



We had an entire kiddie pool brimming with this fascinating tiny floating aquatic fern at our May sale. *Azolla* is also known as mosquito fern, duckweed fern, fairy moss, or water fern. *Azolla* is able to multiply its weight extremely rapidly during the summer months, creating a virtual carpet among the other water plants. It can become pink, red, or dark brown as the plant matures, and, when exposed to strong sunlight. Its tiny leaves resemble a cedar leaf, and can also be a supplemental source of food for koi and goldfish. Don't be afraid that it will take over your water garden...there's always the compost pile if your *azolla* "carpet" gets too big, too thick, or, just too much!