

Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners



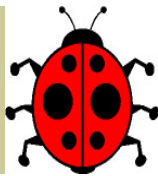
Volume XIII, Issue 9

October 2011



NOTEWORTHY:

Our October meeting includes voting for our 2012 slate of Officers and Board Members. Our final meeting for this season is an opportunity for a fantastic program; delicious food; and, to meet your 2012 Officers and Board.



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, October 27th, 7:30 PM at the Junior League of Tucson 2099 E. River Road

Program: "Dragons and Damsels: Ancient Insects in your Backyard" by Mr. Jeff Babson.

(See page 2 for a bit more about Jeff.)

Refreshments: *It's a tradition now....*Dennis and Mary McMacken help us celebrate the end of our season with a buffet of tasty homemade treats! Thank you so much!

Last chance to share your extra plants & stuff!

Board Meetings Date/Location

The 2011 Board met October 6th.

Important!

The Joint 2011/2012 Board is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, November 10th, 7:00 PM** at the Junior League of Tucson.

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2012 Officer & Board of Directors Candidate Slate For Voting

The following is the 2012 slate to be voted on by the general membership at our October 27th public meeting:

President: JoAn Stolley

Vice President: Pam Glenn

Secretary: Wayne Tomczyk

Treasurer: Bill Hudson

Three Directors for a two-year term of October 2011 through October 2013: Jane Canada, Barbara Phillips, Mary McMacken

Notes:

1. Paul Roberts, President from 2009-2011, moves into the Board's Immediate Past President position vice Elizabeth Good.
2. At the October General Meeting, nominations may also be made from the floor, providing the nominee has agreed to run prior to being nominated.
3. The following two elected Directors will continue to serve through the end of 2012: Tony Shrader and Steve Walkosak.
4. Ray March is appointed for a one-year term (2012) to replace Bill Hudson who will begin a term as the club's Treasurer.

About Our Speaker.

Jeff Babson is a naturalist, with expertise in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. He lives in Vail, AZ, just southeast of Tucson. He got his start in birding when his grandfather gave him a field guide when he was in kindergarten. That was the beginning of a lifelong passion for birds. That passion quickly grew to include just about everything that moves or has roots. Prior to moving to Vail, Jeff lived in the Bahamas for eight years, enjoying many Caribbean specialties and North American migrants. Now, Jeff owns *Sky Island Tours*, a natural history education and eco-tour company. (www.SkyIslandTours.com) He has been teaching classes and leading field trips in southern Arizona for over 10 years privately and through local, renowned organizations, such as the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, and many others. He loves sharing his enthusiasm for the natural world and tries to inspire others to enjoy, appreciate and learn about the creatures that share our world.

Roll Call of Thank You's!

Wow, here it goes....

To all the Officers & Board Members who put energy into planning and organizing our 2011 events.

To Dan Jenks & Ken & Jane Canada for chairing our May Plant Sale; and, to everyone who contributed aquatic plants to make this sale successful.

To our water lily "Moms" - Casey Case and Jane Canada; and to charter member Bert Detwiler for sharing his Louisiana Iris expertise at the Plant Sale.

To our self-titled "E-mail Slave" - we all know who you are!

To HL Swain for her continued support of our web site.

To Smokie Steffe for maintaining and updating our membership files.

To all those who brought wonderful refreshments to our meetings and to Dennis & Mary McMacken for hosting our September potluck.

To Wayne & Anne-Lee Tomczyk for hosting the April Sunday meeting at their home & pond.

To our four September Members' Only Tour pond sites: Dan Jenks, Paul Mosman, Steve & Jean Walkosak, Robin Baker & Bruce Matlock, and Barbara Phillips and Jane Hoyt.

To the Canada's for storing all our club "stuff."

Most importantly, to our membership for bringing enthusiasm and knowledge whenever we share time together!

FALL POND TASKS

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. A 10% pond water change for the winter is also recommended.

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 water lily 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.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Southern Arizona Koi Association) SAKA presents its

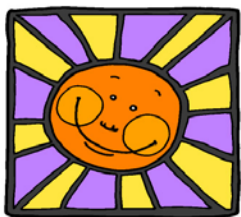
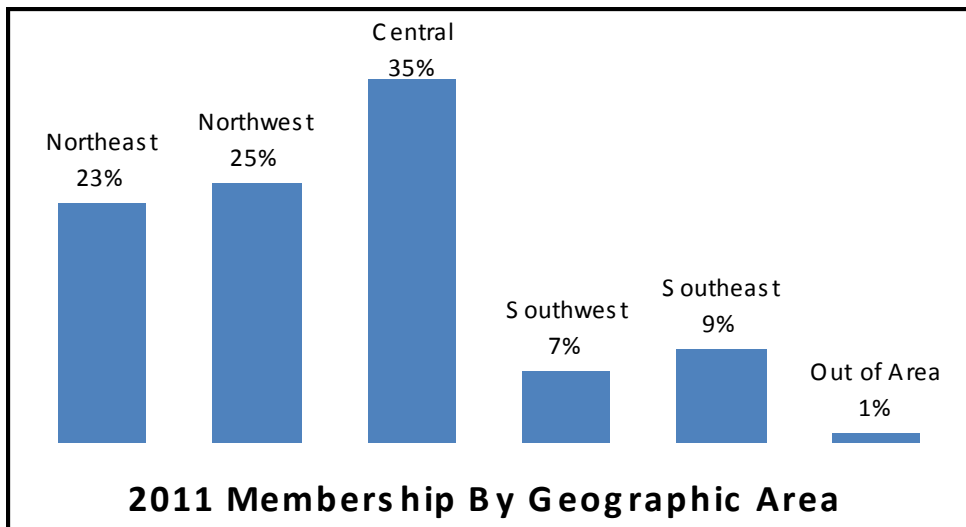
32nd Annual Koi Show November 12-13

Public Viewing:
9:00 AM—4:00 PM daily

Kino Veterans Memorial
Community Center
2805 East Ajo Way

2011 Membership Profile

The club concludes its 2011 watergardening season with 84 memberships: 6 Honorary, 24 Individual, and 54 Household. Our ponds and gardens are situated across the Tucson Valley, as shown by the chart on the left. We experience a wide variety of ecosystems living in the Sonoran Desert — but share the common experiences and joys of ponding!



Watergardening Classifieds

Fertilizer Spikes & Tabs. If you are running low, these items will be available at our last monthly meeting. \$5.00 per pack. *Stock up for spring!*

Fish Mate UV+Bio Pond Filter 16 W. A gently used pond filter, purchased in 2007, has been graciously donated to the club for resale. Asking price is \$50.00/OBO; original price just under \$200.00. Contact your Editor.

Officer & Board Directory

President: Paul Roberts paul.robertstwg@yahoo.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 steve@x-streamponds.com

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



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Season Finale—Fall Cattails

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

Aquatic Plant Profile



Curly Willow Tree

(*Salix matsudana "tortuosa"*)

Ever think of developing a curly willow tree as part of your pondscape? The curly willow tree is also known as the corkscrew willow, pekin willow, hankow willow, twisted-twig willow, contorted willow, and dragon's claw willow. As a result of the ornamental shape of the branches and twigs, this cultivar is commonly used as a bonsai plant and for floral arrangements.

Propagate a curly willow from cuttings by placing them in a container with moist soil and a slow-release fertilizer. Cuttings should take root directly in the pot before you transplant them. You can also cut a branch and put it in a bucket of water, and it will start putting out roots within a few weeks. When deciding where to place your tree, plan carefully. Recommended for our desert water gardens is a large pot placed in the water so the soil remains moist—and the roots remain contained. It loves our sun! If you are thinking of planting directly in the ground, don't plant a curly willow near septic tanks, water lines or pond liners. Their roots will clog and destroy. If the willow tree is planted in the open, this is not an exceptionally tall tree, being around thirty feet high when fully grown. Its wood is not particularly strong, making it prone to storm damage.