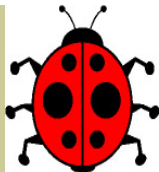


Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners



Ponders Calendar

Volume XIII, Issue 8

September 2011



NOTEWORTHY:

Two big events this month for our members. Details are in this issue of Ponderings. We hope to see everyone out and about!



General Meeting

Sunday, September 25th, Courtyard Of The International Wildlife Museum, 2:00 PM 4800 W. Gates Pass Road, Tucson

Note: This replaces the 4th Thursday evening of the month public meeting. Members attending this meeting are eligible for discounted museum tickets.

Program: "History of the Museum Pond" by Katie Olson, Museum Staff Member

Refreshments: IMPORTANT! We need a head count to plan refreshments for this meeting. Please RSVP to Jane Canada by **Monday, September 19th**. Her phone numbers: 760-1036 (H) or 975-3593 (cell) ; email address: janemcan@cox.net

Bring Your Own Chair

Board Meetings Date/Location

A Fall Board meeting date to be set.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Members' Tour</i> | 2 |
| <i>Members' Potluck</i> | 3 |
| <i>Club Bulletin Board</i> | 4 |

Members' 2011 Tour

Sunday September 18th 1:00 PM—5:00 PM



POND A. Dan Jenks & Paul Mosman 4066 E. Camino de Palmas, Tucson 85711 (Major Crossroads: S. Alvernon Way & E. 22nd Street)

This stop has five water features, and has been on past public tours. In fact, Dan freely confesses that he is a bit of a pond addict! The largest 2000 gallon, vinyl lined pond was built in 2008, when backyard space became available because of a dying cottonwood tree. The pond includes a waterfall and a reservoir directly in the waterfall for marginal plants. There is also a skimmer and a biofilter. A Laguna 4100 GPH pump supports this pond. With all these water features, Dan is able to split and enjoy a wide variety of plants in each setting. Connecting the various ponds and sitting areas are concrete pathways that have been hand-formed and hand-tinted. “They [the ponds] are the life of my yard, and they bring so much joy and pleasure to me everyday” reiterates Dan.

POND B. Steve & Jean Walkosak, 246 E. Laguna Street, Tucson 85705 (Major Crossroads: North 1st Street & East Grant Road)

Built in late '09 by the owner, this pond has a unique under gravel filter system, using two Maxi-Jet 1200 power heads, one for each filter plate. The small water fall is supported by a Pondmaster Model 7 700 GPH pump. Aquatic marginal plants thrive in this setting, with the more unusual being a Berlin Tiger Iris and a large stand of Primrose. There are also tropical and hardy water lilies. This is also home to several different goldfish that know breakfast is regularly served between 6:30 –7:00 AM! “The pond is a relaxing place to go and enjoy mother nature at her best. The activities include all plants, birds, dragonflies, ghost shrimp and sound of the water—and just the beauty of it all—with just a small amount of maintenance required” is Steve’s reflection on his creation.

More About The Pond Tour

- A *suggested* tour route has been included as a separate enclosure to this issue. This suggested route begins with Pond A, at the most southwest point of the tour and concludes at Pond D, at the most northwest tour point. Directions are also given to proceed south, again, from Pond D to the potluck.
- You may choose as many ponds to visit as you wish, and in what order they are to be visited.
- All ponds will be available from 1:00—5:00 PM on Sunday, September 18th.
- Recommend you carry our 2011 Club Membership Directory with you in case you get lost getting to a particular pond.



Grant Awarded

The Tucson Watergardeners Officers & Board of Directors has recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to build a small pond and stream for the Forever Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center, a 501(c)(5) organization dedicated to rehabilitating injured or orphaned wild animals, and is fully licensed by Arizona Game and Fish. Part of the stream will serve as a water source for desert tortoises. This cooperative effort between the club and Forever Wild is expected to begin October of this year.

You are welcome to come to the pot luck, whether you opt for an afternoon of pond touring, or not.

POT LUCK

Sunday
September 18th
5:00 PM—8:00 PM

Following our tour, please join the club for a fabulous pot luck at Dennis & Mary McMacken's residence, **4876 N. Sun Copper Court, Tucson 85745**. Our host and hostess will be furnishing the main entrées, namely an Italian meat lasagna and a Greek vegetarian spanakopita. *Yum!* Salads will also be provided.

You are welcome to bring any appetizer, snacks, side dishes, desserts—or whatever. Your dishes can also be dropped off at Dennis and Mary's in the afternoon, ahead of your pond tour adventure.

Please bring your own beverages.

*Come, meet
fellow
ponders, and
have some
FUN!*



POND C. Robin Baker & Bruce Matlock, 1801 W. Rudasill Road, Tucson 85704 (*Major Crossroads: North La Canada Drive & West Orange Grove Road*)

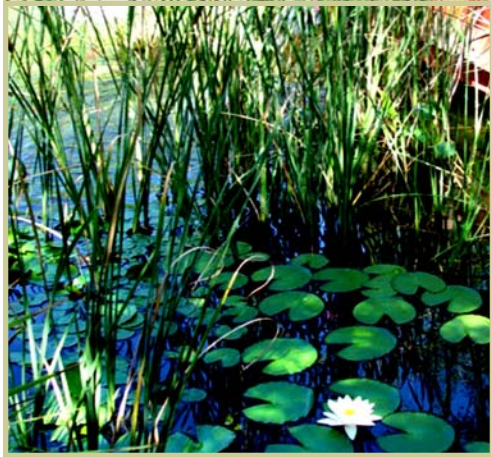
With inspiration from our 2010 pond tour and a Bobcat tractor, this pond was created in January 2011. While Robin and Bruce had a small, pre-formed pond, they just knew bigger was better! This 3500 gallon pond, with a depth of 3 feet in the center, is supported by a Hayward pump system that includes a sand filter—with a similar set up to a swimming pool system. There is a waterfall and two stationary frogs that help aerate the water. This habitat is home to a variety of aquatic life, including koi, Shubunkin goldfish, and red-eared slider turtles, as well as mosquito fish. There are numerous aquatic marginal plants. Oh yes, they still have the smaller pre-formed pond which is home to an Oscar fish. “This is our peaceful, serene tropical oasis” offers Robin, “and our dream in progress!” The ideas for enhancements keep coming!

POND D. Barbara Phillips, 831 E. Desert Glen Drive, Oro Valley 85755 (*Major Crossroads: East Rancho Vistoso Boulevard & North Sun City Boulevard*)

Barbara bought the property in '08, with the pond already in place. It is about 2,000 gallons and measures 14 x 8 feet, with the deepest portion being 3 feet. There is a skimmer and bio falls, and the pond is supported by its original Tsurumi model 215 pump. Barbara has faced a major rehabilitation challenge after coati entered her yard, and, after futile attempts to get the fish, knocked all the rock into the bottom of the pond! To add insult to injury, the pond then began to leak. Arizona Pond Company replaced the old liner and added red rip-rap rock along the walls and pond perimeter. She has a wide variety of marginal plants primarily purchased from the club's spring aquatic plant sales. Her pond setting is a continuous source of pleasure for her. “Peaceful, relaxing and always a source of adventure” is how she best describes her watergarden.



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



A Summer Desert Pond

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



Club Bulletin Board

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

Final Call

We need to pull together our **2012 Officer and Board of Director Slate** for voting at our final public meeting on October 27th. *Nominations need to be completed by September 30th.*

Vacancies yet to be filled for 2012:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Two Board Members

While serving in an elected position takes personal time and energy, the rewards are many. *Please help the club!*