

# Ponderings

Official  
Newsletter of  
The Tucson  
Watergardeners

Volume XV, Issue 7

August 2013



Frog's eye view of a  
summer desert pond!



## NOTEWORTHY:

*Please note that we have some important date and event changes for September, October & November. These changes are discussed on page 3 of this issue.*

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## Ponders Calendar

### General Meeting

Thursday, August 22nd, 7:30 PM at the  
Junior League of Tucson  
2099 E. River Road

**Program:** *Hearing From Our 2013  
Grantees!* (More info on page 2)

#### Refreshments & Thanks to:

Wayne & Anne-Lee Tomczyk  
Pam Glenn & Maria Figueroa

Pick up your ticket at the door for the August raffle.  
*Bring & share your extra plants & stuff.*

### Board Meetings Date/Location

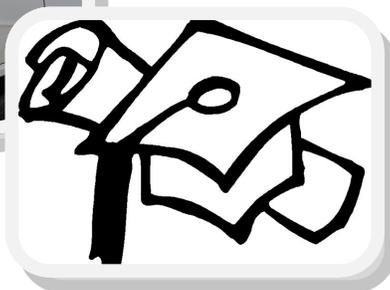
#### Joint 2013/2014 Board

**Nov 21st  
Thursday  
7:00 PM**  
at the Junior  
League of  
Tucson

#### Board Room

*All club members  
are welcome to  
attend & partici-  
pate.*

## Our 2013 Grantees



*What on earth would a pelican, a wildlife ambulance, and a graduation cap and diploma have in common? The answer lies in the two Grants that The Tucson Watergardeners Board of Directors recently awarded.*

An award of \$2,500 has been made to the non-profit based Tucson Wildlife Center, Inc. (<http://tucsonwildlife.com/>) to be used to build a pond in the new eagle flight enclosure. In the summer, the pond will be used by pelicans that have been blown off course in the summer monsoons; in the winter, Golden Eagles undergoing rehabilitation will occupy this space. The pond is being built according to the State of Arizona wildlife enclosure specifications. Tucson Electric Power has been a major donor for the actual enclosure — the first of its kind in Southern Arizona. Lisa Bates, President of the Center, will be accepting the check at our August meeting, and, speaking to the club about the Center. All Center services are free to the public.

Our ponds and watergardens attract wildlife that are either permanent residents of the Sonoran Desert — or migrating through. The club's most recent grant will help provide the much needed aquatic habitat for wildlife rehabilitation and, hopefully, eventual release.

So...what does the Center's wildlife rescue ambulance have to do with our grant? Nothing, really. However, when you see this vehicle around town, please be reminded that our club has played a small part in providing the right kind of habitats, so that our desert wildlife may heal and go free, again.

Established in 1999, this year our club is experiencing yet another *FIRST!* The Tucson Watergardeners Board of Directors is pleased to announce the award of its first \$1,000 scholarship to Mr. Thomas "TJ" Johns. On track

to graduate with highest honors in a Pre-Engineering program at Pima College, Mr. Johns will be pursuing a degree from the University of Arizona in Bio Systems Engineering, with an emphasis on Controlled Environmental Agriculture which uses water as a primary method of growing plants. Mr. Johns will also be at our August meeting to accept his scholarship from the club — and to speak about his career goals.

Education is an important part of the club's charter.



*Thank you to all our club members who have put so much hard work into fund raising over the past years to make these grant awards possible. Please come and offer congratulations to our Grantees!*



### WANTED.

We need to have our **2014 Officer & Board of Directors** slate in place by the end of this September. So far, we have volunteers for the Treasurer and one Board member position. Without folks volunteering to assume the other positions up for nomination — **President, Vice President, Secretary** and **two remaining Board positions**, the club may no longer be able to continue with its regular public programs and special events. *Let's not let that happen!*



## 2013 Calendar & Events Changes

### SEPTEMBER

*Reminder:* No public meeting this month.

**PUBLIC TOUR—Saturday, September 14th ONLY. There will be no tour on Sunday, September 15th. SATURDAY ONLY. The September newsletter will be your Tour Guide.**

### OCTOBER

**Thursday, October 24th**  
This will be a regular **public meeting, 7:30 PM, Junior League of Tucson.** *It will not be a meeting combined with the annual pot luck.* Remember — meeting only; no potluck this month.

### NOVEMBER

**Sunday, November 3rd**

**ANNUAL POT LUCK at Dennis & Mary McMackens. Times: 3:00 PM to ???**

*Come celebrate the close of another successful watergardening season in our desert!*



### Watergardening Classifieds

**Pond Kit For Sale.** Small Sunterra pond kit for sale—never been installed. Purchased through Costco. Asking \$100. Contact lanaemcjade@hotmail.com

### STAFFING FOR POND TOUR

Sign up sheets will be at our August meeting to ensure that club members are available at each of our four tour gardens, as well as Tour Central. This year's tour will focus on central Tucson and gardens in the Northwest area. The tour hours will be from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM —offering two 3-hour shifts per site. Please help both the club and our tour garden owners out by taking a shift.

### Your 2013 Board —Officers & Directors

**President:** JoAn Stolley jstolley@cox.net  
**Vice President:** Pam Glenn pglenn4@cox.net  
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**Secretary:** Ray March rmarch123@comcast.net  
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**Webmaster:** HL Swain hl@swain.net  
**Refreshments:** Dennis McMacken dkmcmacken@yahoo.com  
 Mary McMacken azwhiner@yahoo.com

### September Tour

## Raffle Prize



Raffle tickets \$1 each; or, 6 tickets for \$5. Winning ticket will be drawn in September in conjunction with our Pond Tour. *Buy your tickets at our August meeting!*



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



*Ruby-Eye Arrowhead*  
*Sagittaria montevidensis*

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

## Aquatic Plant Profile



*Photo courtesy Pam Glenn.*

**Bloody Dock**  
*Rumex sanguineus*  
Polygonaceae (Buckwheat) Family

Although considered a perennial herb, Bloody Dock is a marginal plant that is grown mostly for its interesting and colorful, ornamental foliage. It has deep red or purple veins running the length of its spear-like leaves. When grouped with other marginals along the side of a stream or the edge of a pond, Bloody Dock provides terrific visual and textural accents among marginal plantings.

The leaves of most species contain oxalic acid and tannin — making it a very, very bitter herb —not generally recommended for human consumption.

Its other names include: Wood Dock, Redvein Dock, and Bloody Sorrel.