

Ponderings

Official
Newsletter of
The Tucson
Watergardeners



Let Our Desert Pondering Season Begin!

The Arum Lily thriving in a shady spot.

Volume X, Issue 1

February 2013



NOTEWORTHY:

Membership rates continue at the 2012 level: **Household is \$15.00 and Individual is \$10.00.** Web site where the 2013 application can be obtained is on page 2. We ask that renewals be sent in by the end of March.



Ponders Calendar

General Meeting

Thursday, February 28th, 7:30 PM

at the Junior League of Tucson 2099 E.
River Road

**Program: Ponds—What Can Go Right &
Wrong by Bruce McDonald**
Tucson Koi & Water Gardens

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

Refreshments: The McMackens &
Stolley/Minami

Great prizes in the raffle of
our first seasonal meeting!

Board Meetings Date/Location

Next Meeting:

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

Board Room

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2013 Club Calendar of Events

Clip & Save!

Watergardeners 2013 Calendar

FEB 28th General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

MAR 28th General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

APR 25th General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

MAY 19th Annual Plant Sale

Sunday Reid Park 8:00 AM-1:30 PM

MAY No General Meeting This Month

JUN 27th General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

JLY 25th General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

AUG 22nd General Meeting 7:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

SEPT 14-15 Public Water Garden Tour

Saturday & 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Daily

Sunday Locations to be announced.

SEPT No General Meeting This Month

OCT 24th General Meeting 5:30 PM

Thursday Junior League of Tucson

NOTE: *Our October meeting includes both the 2014 elections and the club's annual potluck. This is a change from previous years.*

Board Meeting Schedule

March 21st, Thursday, 7:00 PM

July 18th, Thursday, 7:00 PM

November 21st, Thursday, 7:00 PM

All Board meetings are scheduled for the Junior League of Tucson Board Room, 2099 East River Road.

Club members are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussions.

2013 Membership Application is available at:

<http://tucsonwatergardeners.tripod.com/MembershipApp.pdf>

About Our Speaker.

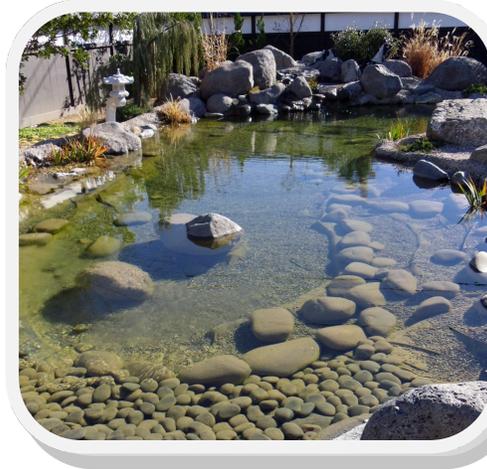
Bruce McDonald. I originally hailed from Chicago and Wisconsin. My first pond was in Green Bay and true to its name, it was filled with algae (probably from me overfeeding the fish.) I moved to Tucson with my wife Suzanne in the late 80's. and soon we had a daughter Victoria. I worked at Comcast in Technical operations and Management. Recently I have started a company called AZliquortraining which sounds more fun than it is since we don't teach you how to drink, but how to serve responsibly through an online environment, Most recently I have started managing Tucson Koi and Water Gardens where I have been able to use my skills helping to construct, convert and renovate ponds, water gardens and water features. I have always liked a challenge and it seems that this is the right environment since every project is one of a kind.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to our 2013 watergardening season! After our January and February prolonged cold, resulting in mostly bedraggled aquatic plants—at least in my ponds, I'm most anxious for spring weather and to get going with pruning, dividing, and repotting my plant collection. At this point, I *do* have hope in the form of water lettuce that has been protected from the elements this winter—and is *still* looking quite green—maybe a head start for our May aquatic plant sale?

Speaking of our special events, we need our membership to contribute any time and talent you can to *all* of our planned activities. The 2012/2013 Board did an excellent job of planning our 2013 calendar, so keep the layout of events and calendar dates presented on page 2 of this issue close at hand. Your ideas for how we can do things better—or differently this year are most welcome. Also, if there's topics you feel we should cover at our general meetings, please let me know.



I'm going to try to devote at least 5-10 minutes per public meeting on questions from the floor—*your questions!* Hopefully, I'll have a lot of support from the audience to help answer!

We'd also like to welcome a new commercial pond into Tucson. The

recently opened Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson, which is south of the Tucson Botanical Gardens on Alvernon, includes a beautiful, and very reflective koi pond. I had the opportunity to attend the January dedication of this garden.

See you on February 28th!

JoAn

Your 2013 Board Officers & Directors



Watergardening Classifieds

Fertilizer Tabs & Spikes. It's not too early to be thinking of dividing and fertilizing our aquatic plants. Price is \$7.00 per package for spikes; \$5.00 for tabs. Exact change at the meeting is appreciated. *Stock up!*

Sell or Trade Watergarden Related Items. Ad space is FREE to our members. Write-ups on your water garden items must be submitted to the editor by the 4th of each month.

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Bog-loving Louisiana Iris—Honey Galore

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

Spring Pond Maintenance Check List

- Visually check to see if your pond is holding its water level.
- Look for any cracks in pump housing. If the filter media looks worn and dirty, clean or replace it with new media.
- Test your water quality.
- Use a beneficial bacteria to jump start the pond's biological cycle.
- Clean up dead plants and fallen leaves around the pond.
- As the weather warms, move plants that have been hibernating in the deeper parts of the pond closer to the pond surface for spring sun.
- Begin feeding fish with a low protein diet when the water temperature is consistently above 50°.
- Assess your mix of aquatic plants to achieve a balance of oxygenators, floaters, and marginal to help control algae.
- Begin fertilizing aquatic plants when the pond temperatures reach 55° - 60° .
- Don't drain your pond completely to cure algae problems —will just make matters worse!