

# Ponderings

Official  
Newsletter of  
The Tucson  
Watergardeners



Costa's Hummingbird @George Vlahakis 2013  
Photo used for educational purposes only.

Volume XV, Issue 5

June 2013



## NOTEWORTHY:

*A warm welcome to our new and renewing members! We are currently a club with 70 memberships:*

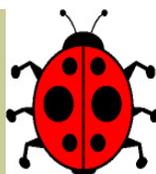
*36 Household*

*28 Individual*

*6 Honorary*

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## Ponders Calendar

### General Meeting

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

**Program: Tucson Mountain Hummingbird Rescue by Noreen Geyer-Kordosky** *(More about Noreen on page 2)*

**Refreshments & Thanks to:**  
Casey Case & Smokie Steffe

*Hummingbird Related Items For June Raffle!  
Bring & share your extra plants & stuff.*

### Board Meetings Date/Location

#### Next Meeting:

**July 18th  
Thursday  
7:00 PM**  
at the Junior  
League of  
Tucson

#### Board Room



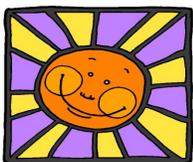
## Ah! Those Wonderful Hummers

Our gardens, with their blooming marginals at the edges of our ponds, biofilters, and streams, attract a variety of hummingbirds that are either migratory or live here permanently. It's a wonderful experience to witness them —and quite the opposite feeling when we perceive there's a hummingbird in distress. The goal of our June program comes from our speaker's own words, "I believe the key to improving the lives of this iconic species begins with education."

A few interesting hummingbird facts:

- ◆ Hummers have a unique ability to fly up, down, sideways, and even backwards.
- ◆ Hummers are unable to walk or hop.
- ◆ At least 15 different hummingbird species spend all or part of each year in the deserts and mountains of southeastern Arizona.
- ◆ The average hummingbird's life span is 3-5 years.
- ◆ Adult hummers tend to lead a very solitary existence, with the female hummer doing all the nest building, incubation and tending of the young.

Photo courtesy the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Digital Library "Calypte costae" ©Roger Hirschman, ID ASDM23292.



## Watergardening Classifieds

**Bags of Lava Rock For Sale.** 14 bags of lava rock in expensive black mesh bags that cost \$10 ea w/o the rock. Now selling for \$6 each with rock. \$75 takes all! Contact Casey at casey@dakotacom.net

## Marginal Aquatic Plants That Attract Hummingbirds

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Chiapas Sage (*Salvia chiapensis*)

Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) The "Catkin" - its brown flower cluster, is used by hummers to build their spring nests.

Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)

Ruellia (*Ruellia brittoniana*)

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

### About Our Speaker.

Noreen Geyer-Kordosky is the founder of Tucson Mountain Hummingbird Rescue. She is an Arizona State Licensed/ Federal Migratory Bird Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator for hummingbirds. She has professional relationships with other local wildlife rehab centers and Valley Animal Hospital. Noreen has loved the Sonoran Desert since first coming in 1973. She will give an overview of her program/project goals and answer questions on the challenging task of hummingbird rescue, re-nesting and care.

### 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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#### Board:

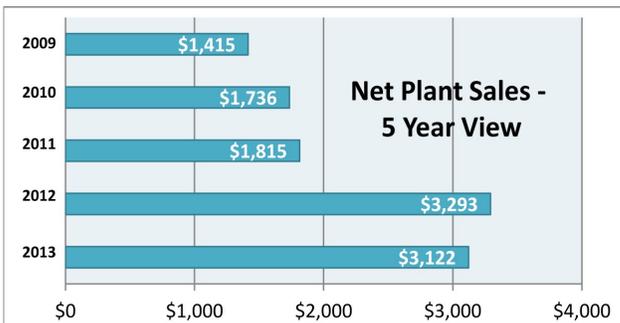
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## Our 2013 May Plant Sale

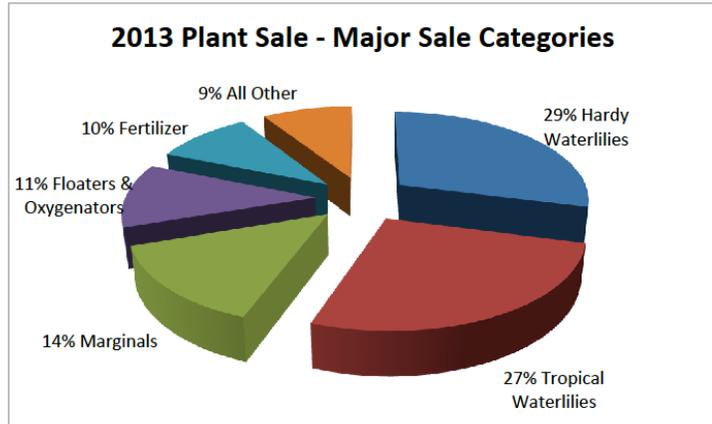
A very large **thank you** to all club members who made this sale possible — *and a very successful sale it was!* This is the second year in a row that we have exceeded \$3,000 in net profit —after sale expenses. The proceeds from our sale support the club’s general expenses, as well as adding to our Grant Fund. There is a significant amount of background work leading to the sale, as well as having folks “on the ground” during sale time.



On closer examination of the pie chart (next column), a very interesting breakout of sale items is shown. Thanks to our “Waterlily Moms”, Jane Canada and Casey Case, those fabulous hardy and tropical waterlilies accounted for 56% of our sales! The surprise item was that “floaters & oxygenators” accounted for 11% of our total sales. These popular, small aquatic plants, e.g., Water Lettuce, Anacharis, Azolla, Parrot’s Feather, etc. — with very low individual prices, made an impact on our overall bottom line. This year we also had variety in our “Marginals” inventory —mostly donated aquatic plants from club members. One of the great selling points for all our aquatic plants is that they have been grown in this environment —and are better conditioned to our weather extremes. The “Other” category included items such as the barley straw bags, plant baskets, our Guide in CD format, clothing items, raffle tickets, etc. Plant discounts totaling \$137 were also afforded to our membership!

It’s hard work; it’s very tiring; there’s a ton of sale preparation & hauling — BUT, in the end, this sale not only brings our club together, it also gives us a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about watergardening and ponding in the desert!

JoAnn



Kudos to everyone!

## June Meeting Mini Sale

If you missed our May Plant Sale —or want additional items, come to our June public meeting with **CASH** in hand!

### What’s for sale:

Barley Straw Bags—large \$10 & small \$8; Plant Baskets—kidney shaped \$5 & round/square \$3; Aquatic fertilizer—tabs \$5 & spikes \$7; Club logo clothing—*still half off*—t-shirts \$5, caps & visors \$6; and other good buys!



Come see this year’s **RAFFLE PRIZE**—a beautiful side table, wrought iron with an original stained glass watergarden design by Casey Case, our very own Tropical Waterlily Mom! Raffle tickets \$1 each; or, 6 tickets for \$5. Winning ticket will be drawn in September in conjunction with our Pond Tour.

Plants from our sale will be up for adoption—**FREE** to good homes. Come prepared to adopt!



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



*Lizard's Tongue - One of several species of water plants known as Grassworts*

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

## Aquatic Plant Profile



*Chiapas Sage (Salvia chiapensis)*

Chiapas Sage is a perennial from the Salvia Genus in the Mint Family. There are over 900 salvias! The Chiapas Sage was originally discovered in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, by a group collecting for the University of California Berkeley Botanic Garden.

Its tubular magenta-colored flowers are excellent for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. In our desert environment, the Chiapas Sage does well as a marginal in a partially shaded pond environment. The plant's glossy leaves add an interesting texture when grouped among other marginal plants.

As a word of caution, this is an ornamental plant, and not for culinary use. It is poisonous, if ingested, and handling it can cause skin irritation.