



# PONDERINGS

Official Newsletter of The Tucson Watergardeners (TTW)

VOL IX OCTOBER 2007 No. 9

[www.tucsonwatergardeners.org](http://www.tucsonwatergardeners.org)



## This Is It For 2007!

### Happy Desert Watergardening!

As we ease into the cooler fall desert evenings, now is a good time to reflect on our year. I am proud to say that our club remains strong and vital, and that we continue to attract new members.

This is also a time to express appreciation to our membership for all of your contributions. In particular, I would like to extend my personal thanks to the TTW Officers, Board of Directors, and Chairs of our various committees and special events for giving your time and talents to making our year so great!

We have several people retiring from important club positions, after having served a number of years. A special thank you for your outstanding work and spirit of volunteerism. Hopefully we will get new folks involved in key roles for our 2008 season. Also, to our unsung heroes who provided refreshments at every meeting, it was all delicious!

Kudos to each of you who opened your water gardens to us, as well as to the public! I hope to see all of my fellow water gardeners back next year!

*Elizabeth Good*

#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**General Meeting:** Thursday, October 25th  
7:30pm @ Jr League of Tucson  
2099 E River Road

#### 2008 Elections At Meeting!

*Come! Vote! Be Heard!*

*Have Fun!*

**Program:** **Celebrating End Of Our Watergardening Season!**  
(Slide Show)

**Refreshments:** By Dennis McMacken (Thank you for being our "chef extraordinaire" for this event!)

**Door Prizes:** Share your "extra" plants & stuff

**Board Meeting.** Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM  
Hostess: Elizabeth Good  
(New & Old Board Joint Meeting)

*"Water is the driver of nature."*

*--Leonardo da Vince*



**NOMINATION & ELECTION  
2008 OFFICER & DIRECTOR SLATE**

**OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Elizabeth Good
<b>Vice President</b>	Ken Canada
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Hudson
<b>Secretary</b>	Wayne Tomczyk
<b>Past President</b>	Ed Campbell <sup>1</sup>

**DIRECTORS**

<b>To October 2008</b>	<b>To October 2009<sup>2</sup></b>
Ann Marie Bonito	
Renee Shane-Boyd	
JoAn Stolley	

At our October General Meeting we will elect our 2008 Officers and three new Directors for 2008-09. Nominations may also be made from the floor, providing the nominee has agreed to run prior to being nominated.

**A Special Thank You**

Thank you to Don Clay, Rex Eaton, and Carolyn Eaton whose terms, each as a Director, expires this October. We have appreciated your service to our club!

<sup>1</sup> The immediate past president automatically serves as a TTW corporate officer and is not elected.

<sup>2</sup> Names of the Directors Candidate slate will be provided at the meeting. Three Directors are to be voted on, in addition to voting on the Officer slate.

*Proposed By-Laws Changes  
To Be Voted On At  
October Meeting*

At the September TTW Board meeting, a recommendation was made to reduce the total number of Director positions from nine (9) elected club members to six (6) elected club members. This recommendation was made, based on the fact that over the past year, it has been extremely difficult to fill all vacant Director positions. Retaining six Director positions, plus the original number of Officer positions, still provides breadth and depth of views in making important club decisions.

**Proposed By-laws Revision:**

New wording is in **BOLD** print – wording to be deleted is in *italics* and marked with ~~strikeout~~.

**ARTICLE VI**

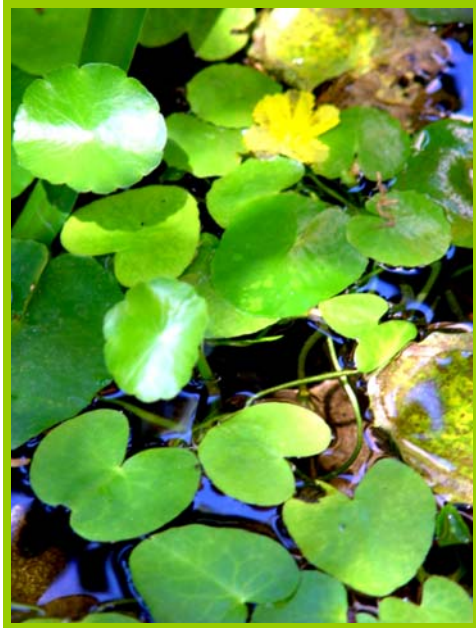
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 2. Number:** The Board shall consist of **eleven** ~~fourteen~~ ~~(11-14)~~ people including **six** ~~nine~~ ~~(6-9)~~ elected club members (herein referred to as “Directors”), the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, Treasurer and the Immediate Past President (herein referred to collectively as the “Officers”). Any interested active member may attend the meetings of the Board as a non-voting member.

**SECTION 3. Term:** In alternate years, **three** ~~four or five~~ of the **six** Directors shall be elected by the Club membership each October, to serve for terms of two years beginning the first day of the following November.

# Aquatic Plant Profile

*Featuring Plants That Love Our Desert Water Gardens*



**Yellow Floatingheart** (*Nymphoides peltata*)  
*(Photo courtesy of Dennis Rost's (member) garden.)*

Yellow Floatingheart is a perennial, waterlily-like plant from the Menyanthaceae Family. Another common name for it is “water fringe.” Originally introduced from Eurasia, it has distinctive long-stalked heart shaped leaves about the size of a silver dollar. Growing in dense patches, its yellow flowers rise a few inches above the water, with five petals and fringe-like edges. Yellow Floatingheart does best in full sun. It is usually planted in a container and placed in the bottom of a shallow water area and spreads by runners.

This plant is an aggressive grower and can become invasive in marsh or shallow water areas. It is on the list of noxious plants in select states, but not in Arizona. Yellow Floatingheart should also not be confused with Spatterdock, which has large, heart-shaped leaves and yellow ball-shaped flowers.

In doing your spring water garden planning, consider adding the interesting shapes of Yellow Floatingheart as a great plant for small ponds.

## Fall Checklist

While our Sonoran Desert fall and winters are milder than our northern neighbors, here are a few reminders.

- Get those decaying leaves out of the pond. Their decomposition can throw off the ecological balance and lead to spring algae problems. If your pond has an inch or more accumulation of silt, leaves and debris, it's a good idea to clean it up now.
- Stop fertilizing your plants when it gets cooler, particularly when the water temperature drops below 60°.
- Drop your tropical water lilies into the deepest part of your pond for the winter.
- Prune yellow lily pads within several inches of the crown. However, don't prune the new foliage, which consists of very short, small leaves produced near the lily crown.
- Cut back on the amount of food given to your fish. When the temperatures drop below 60°, feed only two to three times a week. When the temperature drops below 50°, stop feeding until spring.
- In the case of hard freezes and shallow ponds, be sure there is an opening in the ice to keep a fresh oxygen supply for your fish or other pond creatures. Solid ice traps toxic gases and can kill.
- Use these months to plan for a new pond or water feature. See you in the spring!

# This and That....



## Watergardening Classifieds

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### Watergardeners Word Search

Have fun! See you next year!

Y I V F T D X G E L A S I C T  
 M L W W R R O H R L Z E Z O Y  
 A K F A X L A E J A N B O L K  
 F N O N D L T Z T F I R A M Q  
 N B A F O L L O W R T Y T S I  
 W N I C I G U L O E R L X E Y  
 R S O F H R A F Q T O Q J M O  
 H J O O U A J R O A G N R F H  
 M I J G S D R I D W E O V A P  
 B P O N D N Y I G J N S E Q E  
 N I A T N U O F S T N C F S K  
 A K L T Q B L M D W F U Z G G  
 P P C B Q O A I Q V R T L L O  
 H O R S E T A I L V O E H M E  
 K E A C H S B F C Y G V H C J

ANACHARIS  
 BIOFILTER  
 BOARD  
 DRAGONFLY  
 FOUNTAIN  
 FROG  
 GOLDFISH  
 HORSETAIL

KOI  
 LILY  
 MONSOON  
 NITROGEN  
 POND  
 SALE  
 TOUR  
 TUCSON  
 WATERFALL

### Answers:

Word	Over/Down/Direction
Anacharis	1,3,SE
Biofilter	1,10,NE
Board	2,5,NE
Dragonfly	9,9,NW
Fountain	8,11,W
Frog	11,12,S
Goldfish	8,1,SW
Horsetail	1,14,E
Koi	15,3,NW
Lily	7,12,SE
Monsoon	8,12,NW
Nitrogen	11,3,S
Pond	2,10,E
Sale	12,1,W
Tour	9,4,SW
Tucson	12,13,N
Waterfall	10,9,N

### 2008 Program Ideas?

You have an opportunity to help develop the TTW 2008 Programs. If there is something you feel our club should learn more about or know of a great speaker with a topic related to water gardening, give either Elizabeth Good (President) or Mary McMacken (Program Chair) a call or email. Their numbers and email addresses are in the 2007 TTW Club Member Directory & Information Guide. *It's not too early to plan and commit speakers!*

### An Editor's Note of Thanks!

It's been a privilege to take over editorship of *Ponderings* from Gail Barnhill for this year, and give our club founder a much-deserved rest. Thanks to everyone who generously contributed, gave me feedback, and allowed me into their homes and gardens. Don't be shy if you would like to write a guest column; contribute special articles; submit photographs; or, offer helpful water gardening hints for the 2008 edition of our newsletter! Also, we are looking for an Assistant Editor. *Something to think about!*

### FOR INFO TO GO

*Stuck? Check out the index and compendium of Ponderings articles to help you!*

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## TTW Contacts

President:

Vice Pres:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Membership:

Webmaster:

Editor:

Circulation: