



Koi Ahoy

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—*Marilee Marshall*

Wow, if you didn't make it to last month's meeting you missed some really exciting news. Thank you Bob Sisson for the use of your great-room, and for making that tummy-warming soup. The rest of the food was great too. Heather's presentation on basic water quality really demonstrated that no matter how informed you become as a koi pond owner; you can always use a review of the basics.

More than that was the creative energy the new Board of Director's demonstrated at our planning meeting. We have lined up some excellent programs for this year thanks to all of you that responded to the e-questionnaire. It really helped us to determine what you want to see as a member of Camellia Koi Club.

We are planning on a koi growth challenge in the next couple of months which will conclude at our annual Koi Show in the fall. These tosaï will be available for about \$10/ea at the March meeting.

We have two more contests this year. First, the family that attends the most CKC functions during the year will win a prize, so be sure to look for the sign-in sheet at future meetings and events. Second, CKC is going to have official 2009 Membership cards available at the next meeting, which you will use to get discounts at many of our vendor/suppliers. A grand prize will be awarded at the Christmas party for the card with the most signatures from those vendors that have signed and dated the back of the card (if you run out of space, clip a piece of paper to your card to make more room!).

You all said you wanted a koi show this fall, and attempts to consider scaling it down have gone unheeded because of the outstanding positive response from vendors who are eager to come September 12-13. Put it on your calendar... it may be our biggest event yet! Thanks to Jim Phillips, this year's Show Chairman for all his hard work so far. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, don't get left behind! If you'd like to have the club see your pond, consider hosting a meeting this year. See you at Georgia's this month.

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Dues for 2009 are \$35 per family. You can renew by:

- Credit card at our website, www.camelliakoi.org (we use Paypal)
- Send a check payable to Camellia Koi Club to 881 Greenridge Ct., Lincoln, CA 95648.
- Bring a check to the February meeting and give to Georgia Vonk, our Treasurer.

**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS****Host ponds needed for July 26 and November 22 meetings!**

We would really like to visit some ponds we have not seen before! More information about hosting is on the Club Calendar on page 8.

6' TANKS FOR SALE

Need a quarantine set-up? These tanks are a good first step (now you just need air and a small filter!) The tanks that are for sale are the ones CKC acquired from a club in Arizona a few years back. They are the Japanese style tanks with an exposed top ring. They have had hooks installed on them to hold the nets on. The nets will be included. We simply prefer to go with another style at our koi shows. Some of them will need some repair work for the velcro strips that hold the ring in place. We are asking \$75 each and that money goes to the club. Email Jim Phillips at hairbear@infs.net if interested.

2009 CKC CONTESTS!!!**GROWTH CONTEST:**

Purchase a small tosai (we will price them cheap!) at our March 29 meeting, use all your tricks to get it to grow bigger this summer, and bring it to our show in September to have its final measurements taken. The member whose fish gains the most length will win a prize (to be determined).

PARTICIPATION CONTEST:

The family that attends the most CKC functions during the year will win a prize, so be sure to look for the sign-in sheet at future meetings and events. Prize to be determined.

VENDOR SUPPORT CONTEST:

Times are tough, business is down everywhere, and we want those who have helped our club in the past to feel that our club supports them in return. This year we are printing official 2009 Membership cards. When you make a purchase, show your card to a vendor and ask them to sign and date the back for the contest. You may even be surprised to find that vendor gives discounts to club members (something we are working on publicizing better).

The cards will be available for pick-up at the February meeting so that you can get started collecting signatures as soon as possible. The cards will be collected in November or December and the signatures tallied. A grand prize will be awarded at the Christmas party for the card with the most signatures. If you run out of space, just keep the signatures on another piece of paper.

The top three members with the most signatures will receive a gift certificate to the koi vendor of their choice. First place = \$125 value, Second Place = \$100 value, Third Place = \$75 value.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEEKING CLUB SECRETARY

The Board position of Secretary still needs to be filled. Secretary is responsible for taking notes at Board meetings (which occur before regular monthly meetings), typing them up and emailing them to the newsletter editor. Please email Marilee at dammmm6@sbcglobal.net for more info or to volunteer.

SURVEY RESULTS

If you responded to the email survey sent out last month, thank you. The Board reviewed the responses and concluded the following:

- Whether large or small, members definitely want to have a show, with vendors. A large show is preferred.
- Members enjoy educational seminars (different from regular meetings) put on by the club and would like to see more seminars with vets, pond experts, and/or koi experts.
- Members like the opportunity a club buying trip offers and prefer a local trip over a Bay Area/San Jose trip.
- Members like having a koi auction and would like to allow non-members to bid on fish.
- Members enjoy having meetings in homes and getting to see the hosts's pond.
- Members do not like when the meeting dates are changed and would like meetings to consistently be on the last Sunday of every month (with exceptions for holidays). Members also do not want the club to skip its monthly meeting just because another event (i.e. buying trip) is going on that month.

KOI USA MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Koi USA Magazine costs \$24.95 to subscribe to. The magazine offers members of AKCA member clubs (and CKC is one) the annual, 6 issue subscription for \$20.00. The magazine *used to be* offered at an additional discount at \$17 per year if a club included the subscription cost in their dues so that 100% of a club subscribed. The magazine discontinued that program a few years ago, and when they did, CKC members voted to handle subscriptions on their own since there was no longer a benefit of doing it through the club and in fact maintaining subscriptions for 100 families was burdensome for the treasurer to manage.

We would like to remind you that if you subscribe to or wish to subscribe to Koi USA, you should receive it for \$20/year. A subscription form will be included in this newsletter should you wish to fill it out. The form includes contact information if you want to verify that you are paying the correct price.



KOI USA Subscription
Mail to
P.O. Box 469070
Escondido, CA 92046

or
Subscribe on-line at
subscribe@koiusa.com
or
subscribe by phone at
1-888-660-2073

For 1 year subscription (6 issues)

_____ \$24.95US for any person in US or Canada
_____ \$20.00US special price for AKCA member Club members

For 2 year subscription (12 issues)

_____ \$42.95US for any person in US or Canada
_____ \$36.00US special price for AKCA affiliated Club members

As of 11/1/08 Added postage surcharge/yr Canada \$15 Mexico \$10 Other countries \$20

Club affiliation (for special price) _____

Subscriber's name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Method of payment

___ check made out to "KOI USA"

___ Visa or Master card _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

expiration date _____ - _____ - _____

month year

**2009 SACRAMENTO KOI SHOW & VENDOR FAIRE IS A GO! —Jerry Kyle**

A number of years ago this club undertook an ambitious project to develop a Major West Coast Koi Show and had the success of growing from a 12 (not all full) tanks and two vendor event in Elk Grove to nearly 40 tanks and 23 vendors in Roseville. It was a lot of work and some financial risk and we were and are recognized throughout the AKCA for our efforts and success. It was never a venture to make money but, to educate and fulfill our founders' mission mandate. We were happy to come close to financially breaking even. Early on we realized the importance of including the vendors and changed our name to Sacramento Koi Show & Vendor Faire. Shows across the country feature vendors and their latest products as there is so much educational gain for the average hobbyist to see and feel the new products and ask questions. Each year at the annual AKCA Seminar, vendors are invited as a way of promoting our hobby. The vendors without the koi or the koi without the vendors is only half a show and does not adequately support and promote the hobby as a whole.

After being spoiled with steady growth, last year the club saw reduced participation just as other shows across the country saw a reduction of involvement due to economic pressures. Head Judge, Larry Christenson, from the Portland area, when visiting our show after seeing others, was amazed that with the economic turn of events we had as many tanks and vendors as we did. Some may have seen under-utilization of the hall and mistook that for no people but the inside club booth and raffle brought in more money than in any previous show ever and the vendors made money.

Due to the economy it is only reasonable that we expect to downsize just as the entire industry is downsizing. Downsizing is not quitting and going away. We have been too successful to go away. Our club mission statement is to promote the hobby of good koi husbandry and show our koi. That is the mandate and why the CKC was formed. It is why it exists. It makes us proud.

The CKC will rent the Johnson Hall at the fairgrounds again and move the show inside with a reduced number of koi show tanks in the center with less work. The walls will be filled solid with vendors. Being indoors will simplify security issues and eliminate renting an expensive security fence. With everyone together inside instead of spread out we will be elbow to elbow and feel the crowd. We also won't worry about rain. The show will retain its annual continuity and be in position to continue with vendor support into the future. With fewer spaces available, vendors are already making reservations and it is expected all spaces will be sold out. This inside, scaled down, less work, show will be easier to set up and more fun to produce. It will let us fulfill our club mission to promote good koi husbandry and show our koi. [**Editor's note: despite this "scaled back" plan, vendors' demand for booth space has become so great that the show committee is now considering placing the tanks outside after all.*]

The CKC Board of Directors is acting as the Show Advisory Committee with Jim Phillips as Show Chair and, in order to promote broader member involvement, will include interested members who would like to participate and contribute their time, ideas, and/or efforts. Some members remember when the show was more fun than work and President Marilee Marshall and the entire Board would like to put more of that fun back into it.



JANUARY 25, 2009 BOD MINUTES—*Marilee Marshall*

Location: Bob Sisson's house 11:00 a.m.

Present: Marilee Marshall (President), Heather Marshall (Vice-President), Georgia Vonk (Treasurer), Jim Phillips (Director), Ellen Evans (Director), Ken Tiedemann (Director), Duane Carlson (Director) Jerry Kyle, Melody Carlson, Bob Sisson (members)

Treasurer's Report:

\$7,931.56 beginning January bank balance
Georgia briefly reviewed 2009 budget

Business:

Club Interest Survey Results was review and found to be helpful in know how to plan out programming for 2009. Not every question was answered by every response.

- 7 people felt it highly important to have an annual koi show with vendors. 5 thought somewhat important.
- 2 people thought a small show with no vendors was important. 6 thought somewhat. 4 thought not important at all.
- Seminar was generally considered of interest.
- Koi buying trip locally was generally desired. Not so with bay area shopping.
- Overwhelmingly folks want home meetings and regularly scheduled times.

Lengthy discussion on the 2009 Koi Show. In view of current financial climate, we will make the show as simple and cost-effective as possible. Club likely to break-even financially (at best)

- Consensus was to have it again at the fairgrounds. Phillips will check on availability.
- Considering financial difficulties with vendors we may give space to them at no charge; no tanks or double space unless charged extra. They will only be required to contribute to the CKC auction.
- BoD will head the Show Committee, appoint willing members for responsibilities. Phillips will be our Point-person for how things need to be organized.

Membership cards will be designed by Ellen, and professionally printed. Members should have vendors sign back of the card (or keep receipts) every time they patronize one of our vendors. In December



JANUARY 2009 BOD MINUTES—*Marilee Marshall*

there will be a cash prize for the top 3 members with the most signatures (\$125 first place, \$100 second place, \$75 third place). Membership card will be available to members at the next meeting.

Library: Since this feature is not being utilized much, it was decided to sell the materials at the Koi Show, and use some of the more “coffee table” items as prizes.

BoD's are planning on another Growth Contest. We will check on availability of tosai and plan on making them available to the membership for probably \$10/ea. probably at the March meeting at the Carlson's with prizes determined at the 2009 Koi Show.

BoD unanimously voted to extend annual membership to Mary Beth Avila's family for year 2009 in recognition of their generous hosting of our 2 club trailers.

To encourage member participation at our meetings and events, we're having a participation contest. You just sign in and prizes to be given out at our holiday party for the members with the highest attendance.

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JANUARY FINANCIAL SUMMARY —*Georgia Vonk*

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$7931.56 |
| Expenses | (\$225.04) |
| Income | \$385.00 |
| Ending Balance | \$8091.52 |



2009 Club Calendar

Please note that these locations/topics are subject to change. Be sure to check the newsletter or website each month for the most current meeting information.

Green = firm, Yellow = tentative, Red = need host/topic.

| DATE | TOPIC | LOCATION |
|--------------------|---|--|
| February 22, 2009 | "Nasty Nitrates" | Vonk (Lincoln) |
| March 29, 2009 | Growth Contest & Quarantining Lecture | Carlson (Granite Bay) |
| April 26, 2009 | Parasite Management & Microscope Demo | <i>Need host!</i> |
| Spring TBA | <i>Possibly tour of UC Davis Fish Health Clinic</i> | |
| May 31, 2009 | Koi Auction | Sakai (Roseville) <i>tentative</i> |
| June 28, 2009 | "Foam Monsters!" A seminar on foam in your pond | Tran (Sacramento) |
| July 26, 2009 | TBA | <i>Need host!</i> |
| August 30, 2009 | Annual Potluck | Avila (Rio Linda) |
| September 27, 2009 | ANNUAL KOI SHOW | PLACER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (Roseville) |
| October 25, 2009 | DIY FILTRATION | Cubillo (Antelope) |
| November 22, 200 | TBA | <i>Need host!</i> |
| December TBA | ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER | To Be Announced |

Please email Marilee (address below) if you have a topic you would like to suggest for a meeting!

Hosting is a great opportunity to show off your finished pond and fish or to get input on a project in progress! If you would like to host a meeting, please contact Marilee Marshall at dammmm6@sbcglobal.net. Meeting hosts get \$40 to buy some snacks and drinks, and members bring more snacks and their own chairs. For wet months it is a good idea to have enough indoor space to squeeze 10-20 people in case of rain. For hot summer months, a shady spot is appreciated.

**WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THIS MONTH'S MEETING!** —*Jerry Kyle***The Unknown Deadly Side of Nitrates**

by Jerry Kyle, KHA

Most koi keepers know first hand the dangers of ammonia or nitrite poisoning but most have no clue of the real danger of nitrates. The potential deadliness. Nitrates are often thought of as the end product of the nitrification cycle (ammonia to nitrites to nitrates) that, as an end product, helps feed algae and other plants. While earlier suspected, the knowledge of the deadly side of nitrates is relatively new.

The primary goal of the Koi Health Adviser Program (KHA) is to promote koi health – not cure sick fish. KHA tries to take advantage of any and all opportunities to teach proper koi husbandry. Knowledge of preventive measures and good koi husbandry are the best defense against koi health problems.

The Feb. 22, 2009, meeting of the CKC will have as a program the danger of nitrates and how they actually contribute to fish deaths and what can be done to prevent it. Simple inexpensive solutions will be presented. This is the kind of information many join koi clubs to learn so they can be better shepherds of their koi. The KHA mission is to get this kind of information out in order to promote good koi husbandry which is also part of the mission of the CKC. At this month's meeting there will be a nice pond with nice koi to see, an informative koi health presentation by an AKCA Certified KHA, and snacks to eat. This is what the CKC is truly about. Neighbors and friends are welcome even if they are not club members since, besides sharing our knowledge, we want them to see who we are, what we do, and how much fun we have.

When Dr. Eric (Doc) Johnson, Lecturer at the Koi Health Seminar in Athens, GA, this month learned of this planned presentation, he personally contributed the key part of a perfectly controlled flow through water system to be demonstrated on the pond at the meeting location. This simple addition, unveiled at the Seminar, will make any pond a pond of the future instead of the past. This meeting will be worth bringing a chair to.

A Message from Dr. Eric Johnson

When informed of the topic for this month CKC meeting "Doc" sent the following:

"Most of you know that nitrates are not a 'quick' fish killer....But the news is that they have long term side effects. Levels higher than those found in nature can contribute to failures in fish growth, reproduction and health. Sustained, high levels of nitrate may be the BIGGEST contributor to "background" pollution and it's damage to fish well being.

One solution is a revolution in the way we replace old water with new water. It's been the tradition to discharge a lot of water, and replace a lot of water. But there's a method that is simpler, safer, less disruptive, and infinitely better for fish health. By way of a hint, ORP lovers will rejoice. This method will be demonstrated and explained. Even advanced hobbyists will be impressed by the simplicity of this 'better way of doing an old chore.'"



Board of Directors

President: Marilee Marshall 530 269-2742
damm6@sbglobal.net

Vice President: Heather Marshall 530 269-2742
geofaultline@yahoo.com

Secretary: *open*

Treasurer: Georgia Vonk 916/408-0573
georgiav@earthlink.net

Director:: Jim Phillips 916 771-3111
hairbear@infostations.com

Director: Duane Carlson 916 791-7607
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jade_chagoi@comcast.net

Koi Ahoy Editor & Webmaster

Ellen Evans 916 501-4946
jade_chagoi@comcast.net

www.camelliakoi.org

Next Meeting

Members are welcome to attend the Board of Directors' meeting at 11:00. Please bring your own chair if possible. ***Please bring snacks to share!!!***

February 22, 2009

Nitrate Lecture

Pick up 2009 Membership Card and/or Pay 2009 Dues

Home of Georgia Vonk

881 Greenridge Ct.

Lincoln, CA 95648

(916) 408-0573

**Please use the front door to avoid disturbing by a 160 lb. Neapolitan Mastiff!*

Directions:

From I-80 Eastbound toward Reno: Take the CA-65 exit toward LINCOLN/MARYSVILLE and go 9 miles. Turn RIGHT on STERLING PKY, then RIGHT on E LINCOLN PKY. Turn LEFT on DEL WEBB BLVD, go 0.8 miles, then turn LEFT on STROLLING HILLS LN and LEFT again on GREENRIDGE CT.

Koi Ahoy

Ellen Evans

5932 2nd Ave

Sacramento, CA 95817