



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Marilee Marshall

It's almost the end of the year, and almost the end of my term as President of the Camellia Koi Club. Over the past 2 years our club has put on 2 great shows at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville, and 2 spectacular pond tours. From my perspective the greatest aspect is the wonderful people I've gotten to know and appreciate even more. Over the years many relationships have developed that require time, sharing our lives, and our common love of koi and their ponds. We've been able to mentor new hobbyists and pond builders with expertise learned from a hundred years of combined experience. Our club enjoys the expertise of the largest percentage of members that are KHA (Koi Health Advisor) certified by the national association AKCA; two AKCA certified koi judges; and a highly regarded water quality expert. What a rich baton I will hand over to a new Board in January.

Inside this Issue

Pres. Message	1
Coming Events.....	3
BoD Minutes	4
AKCA report	5
Question	6
Let's Party	7
2010 Board	8

The October meeting at Phyllis and Jerry's house had a nice turnout. We enjoyed a great spaghetti feed from the Kyle stove, plus a lovely array of salads and desserts from attendees. Jerry and Jim Phillips demonstrated cost effective filters made from common hardware materials that are great solutions for quarantine tanks, emergency ponds, or for new koi club members in need of transition filters now that they find their old pond woefully deficient of bottom drains and inadequate filtration. It also demonstrated for new members in the process of building their own ponds the basic mechanics of bio-filtration. Take a look at some photos of the beautiful day in Lodi.

October Meeting Highlights



Meeting was on Halloween. Here is real pumpkin art



Jerry & Phyllis pond.



Jerry explaining easy homemade biofilter.



Information was new for some, familiar to others.



Koi Ahoy

November 2010

Page 2



The weather was a perfect fall day.



Conversations were enjoyed by all.



Kyle's great spaghetti was a welcome item for a fall day.



Quiet and cool morning.

NEXT MEETING IS.....



November 21st

at the home of
Joan & Martin
7569 Wickham Dr.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

General meeting begins at 1:00 pm. Bring nibbles to share, and a chair.
Board of Director meeting at noon (everyone is invited).



Coming Events

November 21, 2010

Meeting at Martin and Joan's
1:00 pm
(Board of Directors – 12:00 noon,
Everyone welcome)
Bring a snack

Joan & Martin
7569 Wickham Dr.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610



December 19, 2010

Annual Camellia Koi Club Dinner

Golden Dragon Restaurant
731 Pleasant Grove Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95677

Time: 2:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per person for meal and sodas
(Beer and wine extra)
Please RSVP to Georgia Vonk
georgiav@earthlink.net
(916) 408-0573





Board of Director Meeting

Treasurer Report

By: Georgia Vonk, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$7681.19
Expenses	-\$364.16 (spaghetti feed \$321.82, \$40 host fee & \$2.34 paypal)
Income	\$619 (auction items and memberships)
Ending balance	\$7941.03

Minutes CKC Board of Directors – October 31, 2010

By: Jerry Kyle, Sec.

Present was Pres. Marilee Marshall; Secretary, Jerold Kyle; Directors, Jim Phillips, Duane Carlson, and Sharon Osborn

Minutes of the last meeting were dispensed of by Marilee as it mostly dealt with information concerning the Koi Show which was held in September. Marilee reported Georgia, Treasurer, had submitted the October beginning balance as \$7681.19 and after receiving balances of some auction items, membership fees, and paying final expenses for the Koi Show plus this month's host fee, ending balance is \$7941.03. The Koi Show had a total loss to date of \$1153.50 which will be reduced to \$653.50 when the club receives the \$500 security deposit from the fairgrounds. Marilee stated that in the current economic climate and reduction of sponsors she felt the club did well to provide the show at a cost of only \$653.50 to the club. All present agreed.

Jim gave a report on the Koi Show in which he stated too few had to do too much. Despite all the volunteers who supplied the work force needed to run the outside venue of Koi tanks and the inside with greeters, club booth information/sales, raffle booth, silent auction, and evening Spaghetti Feed, we needed more volunteers. Jerry stated some members said belonging to the CKC was becoming too labor intensive. It was reported that the Mid Atlantic Koi Club (MAKC), which has one of the largest Koi Shows in the country, cancelled their show this year because of concerns of potential financial loss and lack of commitment by both members who show Koi and vendors who are sponsors. It was reported that our Show Vendors did well and were pleased with the attendance.

The board decided not to sponsor labor intensive programs for a year and concentrate on serving members and building the membership. A Koi Show will not be scheduled for 2011. A Pond Tour also will not be scheduled but the Pond Tour will be left on the table in case members come forward and want to do it. This can be decided by the new board and members in 2011. One suggestion was to have occasional "mini tours" to include a few new ponds to see in the general area of a club host when meeting at their pond. Without the potential burden of the cost of a Koi Show and in consideration of current economic times, it was decided to recommend reducing the annual dues from \$35 to only \$25. Those who have already paid would be refunded \$10. Members will vote on this at the November Meeting.

The CKC has loaned our equipment to other clubs for their shows at no cost. It was decided that in the future, show equipment will have a \$25 each charge per item. A show tank with net top is \$25. An air pump is \$25. Acting as the nominating committee, the board discussed and presented nominations for club officers; Jerold (Jerry) Kyle as President for 2011-2012 term; Duane Carlson (current director) to complete the Vice President term for 2011; Marilee Marshall (current president) for Secretary 2011-2012; Jim Phillips (current director) as director for 2011- 2012. Georgia Vonk, Treasurer, is elected through 2011. Sharon Oswald, Director, is elected through 2011. There are two director positions to fill.* Marilee will ask for nominations at the club meeting following the board meeting and official voting by club members will take place at the November meeting with installation of the new board members at the Annual Club Christmas Dinner.

*At the club meeting after the board meeting, Jose Delgadillo and Dan Alarid offered their names as Director for 2011-2012 and were nominated.



October Board of Director Minutes Correction

In the minutes it is reported the Board voted to lower the annual club dues for club approval at the November meeting. Earlier this year the Board had already voted to reduce the annual membership dues for 2011 down to \$30. Members attending the November Board Meeting were not aware of the change already in place when they also agreed to reduce the fee. In addition to the originally approved reduction of the fee, authorization was also given to produce a new club brochure for distribution at local vendors. Changing the fee from what has already been approved will incur costs to replace brochures. This will be addressed at the November meeting for clarification.

Camellia Koi Club Monthly Report to AKCA

By: J. Kyle, club Rep 11-12-2010

The CKC is planning changes for 2011. At the present time no Koi Show is planned for 2011 and the Semi Annual Pond Tour is currently tabled. A new slate of officers will be approved by members this month and it is anticipated 2011 club activities will be scaled back to better focus on members' needs regarding their personal ponds and Koi. Members helping members, teaching good husbandry principals, and social aspects are expected to grow the membership to the point that belonging to the club is not so individually labor intensive. The Koi Show while financially successful and drawing hundreds of visitors to see the Koi and participating vendors have grown to the point where it is labor intensive with the next year planning beginning immediately following the current show. The work force is taking a year off. They deserve the rest.

Last Call for Koi Health Advisor (KHA) Class

This is the last call for members of AKCA Clubs who are interested in taking the Koi Health Advisor (KHA) Class which some have already started. Requirements are having a 2 year subscription to KoiUSA – who funds the program for us – and being a member of an AKCA associated club of which The Camellia Koi Club qualifies. It is an on line class with a hands on, Vet instructed, Lab Class at the conclusion of the course. The knowledge gained in Pond Design, Water Quality, Pond Filtration, Koi Anatomy, Koi Physiology, Koi Nutrition, and Koi Health where we learn to recognize and deal with pathogens and other problems. Go to www.akca.org, click on KHA at the top of the page and learn more. The class is not just a little information and will take some commitment and a few months to complete but, is well worth the effort.

Have you checked the pH and Alkalinity of your Pond?

By: August Cubillo

Fall brings poor air quality to the area. Burning and the lack of wind cause a thick haze to permeate the air. Early winter storms wash the early November gunk out of the air... and into our ponds. The recent rains have brought potential problems to koi hobbyists in the form of acid rain. Acid rain is a broad term referring to higher than normal amounts of sulphuric and nitric acids. Generally, the amounts are small and do not affect us. However, the acid rain can quickly create a deadly problem in a pond if certain conditions exist.

Two properties of water must be considered. The first is pH, or power of Hydrogen. Low pH readings are acid (Less than 7). High pH is considered base (Greater than 7). A pH of 7 is neutral. Pure, distilled water has a pH of 7. Most water has dissolved minerals and calcium which raise the pH slightly. Your water supplier might also add chemicals to raise the pH slightly to keep pipes from corroding. The pH of your pond is **probably** in the 7.2 to 8.5 range. Common acidic liquids include vinegar, orange juice and coffee. Basic items include milk of magnesia, baking soda and bleach!

Alkalinity is the property that helps us control, or stabilize, the pH. Alkalinity keeps the pH in the water from changing too much, or too quickly. If the alkalinity is low, even a small amount of acid can cause a deadly pH crash which may wipe out the bio-filter and cause death.

Bottom line – High alkalinity “neutralizes”, or “buffers”, acidic pollution. That is why it is very important to maintain alkalinity at a level from at least 50 (and not below 50!) – 170 (or a little bit more). Alkalinity and pH work to make your pond safe. For emergencies, keep a couple of boxes of baking soda to raise pH, and several easy-to-make plaster of paris pH pills (see Erik L. Johnson, *Koi Health and Disease*, page 17-22) to raise alkalinity. However, regular water changes are the best prevention, and an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.



Question from a club member

We're new to the Koi club and have yet to make it to a monthly meeting. We're having a problem with our Koi flashing. We just had a total pond cleaning done, new biologicals added, etc. The flashing started one week after the service. Can you by any chance know of a local pond service that will make an onsite visit to assess what's going on? Any referral would be appreciated.

Thank you

Answer –

This was passed on to me. You got my attention with total pond cleaning. That is OK but, I always wonder what the motivating factor to do this was? What did the guy who cleaned your pond suggest was the problem?

I am one of a number of our club's Certified AKCA Koi Health Advisors (KHA). We all took a ton of classes to learn and be of help to other club members. Problem is, we are not vets. In California, only a vet can legally diagnose an illness and prescribe a medication for an animal (Fish too). If you feel you need a vet, there is a contact number on the club web site. What I can do, however, is help correct environmental issues -- water quality -- which is the root cause of much (most?) of the problems we have in this hobby. Healthy Koi is a result of Healthy Water. It is typical that a start up pond has Koi that eat and produce waste (ammonia) faster than a bio-filter can grow bacteria to consume it. "New biologicals" do not act overnight and can take weeks to sufficiently multiply if the water is cold. If the ammonia level gets too high it can burn the gills and cause death. Are the fish gasping at the surface or at the waterfall? If the ammonia is high it needs to be reduced with 20% water changes daily until it get down below .5% with de-chlorination products used to neutralize the chlorine.

Response –

We do a total pond cleaning every year because we have heavy oak leaf/acorn sediment. We do partial water changes and pond vacuuming about every 3 months during the summer. We've been monitoring the pH, ammonia, nitrate, salt, etc. since the cleaning. pH is running from 8.2 up to 8.7, which is not an ideal fluctuation. Ammonia readings are 0, as is nitrate. Alkaline reading is in the 100 ppm range. We increased the salt to 3.5 in hopes that if it is a parasite, that will take care of it without introducing stronger chems. We have not introduced any new fish. In terms of flashing, they are rubbing against the rocks and exposing the under belly. Since it involves more than 1-2 individuals, we are assuming it is a parasite as opposed to a H2O issue. We are not feeding them at present. Thanks for the email and for the extensive info you provided.

Answer –

It looks like you have a good idea of what you are doing. The fact you have been monitoring the water shows that. For future reference, I would suggest you do water changes in the winter also as the rain in our area is so acid it may lower the pH. A slow .5 pH fluctuation over a week or more is probably not a problem but if it happens faster or consistently we need to look at it closer. Next year I suggest you do your pond clean out as soon as the oak leaves have finished falling as the mulm left in the bottom of the pond is a perfect environment for ciliated parasites to overwinter and flourish until spring warm up when they come up looking for hosts. You stated you increased salt. Do you salt all year long or just in spring? I am one of those who believe in salt for this time of the year as a precaution for those ciliates. Salt will usually get many of the ciliates but, if not or it is something else (Flukes?) something stronger will be needed. Salt year around helps develop salt resistant strains of pests.

I told you to stop feeding. Since the Ammonia and Nitrite reading are 0, you can safely feed lightly this time of the year if monitoring water.

About water changes – We are taught to use de-chlorination products when we do changes to bind up or neutralize chlorine. Did you know that small -- less than 10% -- changes don't pose a chlorine problem? The rule of thumb is twice over the waterfall gasses off the chlorine if amounts are small. Some folks use a sprinkler to spray water into the pond so it gasses off in the air. I have a frog spitter that I turn on very low and let it continually spit a small stream into the pond all year long. What I did was let it spit into a 3 gallon bucket and timed how long it took to fill. It took 10 min which multiplied by 6 is 18 gal/hr times 24 hrs/day is 432 gal times 30 day month is 12,960 gal a month. WOW, surprised it added up that fast. I turned the spitter down to a dribble so it took twice as long to fill bucket. It looks like nothing but, running 24/7 adds up to 100% water change a month. Only 40% is a passing grade (barely) but 100% is an "A." And, I don't have to buy de-chlorination stuff and wonder how much is enough. Excess water just goes out the overflow pipe. Some connect it to a hose and let the water dribble into the garden if there is no salt. I'm too lazy so run it to the sewer. Just food for thought for you. No more worrisome water changes to take up your time, leaves don't turn water to tea, trace mineral get replaced for good koi health, alkalinity stays constant, and nitrates which are an immune suppressor don't build up. Your alkalinity is fine but that is because you have new water. As time goes by the bio-filter bacteria will use up the alkalinity and it will decrease. The alkalinity buffers the pH and prevents it from dropping too rapidly. If pH gets too low, everything dies. You



probably knew much of what I just wrote. I tend to over explain to be safe. Will you be at this Sundays Camellia Koi Club meeting? It is not too far from Loomis. Georgia has a nice little pond in Sun City area of Lincoln. We are all just laid back folks who share an interest in having a pond and Koi. Mary Beth even has turtles but she doesn't keep them in the pond anymore. If the Koi do not stop flashing we need to catch a couple and see what we can find with the microscope. Have you ever done that?

Response -

Thank you so much, Jerry. We are trying to learn more all the time and the information you have provided is very much appreciated. We are planning to attend the March meeting and hope we get a chance to thank you, in person, for you taking the time to help us.

Thank you

Answer –

Looking forward to meeting you. In “Doc” Johnson’s book, “Koi Health & Disease,” there is a section (Pg 106) Symptoms Of Note concerning Flashing/Scratching. It may be of interest to you if you had no previous problems and the flashing suddenly started soon after the pond cleaning which included a massive water change. Following are excerpts:

“Fish’ll flash and scratch when they have -- -- -- almost any parasitism -- -- --”.

“Another important consideration is that changes in water quality can cause flashing. A large freshwater change can cause flashing as the fish’s skin adapts to a slightly higher or lower pH. Residual chlorine or other metals in new water can cause flashing. New water -- can really irritate the skin. Still, you have to keep in mind that a parasite could potentially be causing the flashing and caution and quarantine would be a great idea.”

There are a lot of books out there. Some are better than others. This book is not the end all answer to all man’s questions but, is renowned as one of the simplest to read and understand and at \$39.95 at Koi Stores is, dollar for dollar, one of the most affordable. Even though I have some Vet level books, I still like to see what the “Doc” has to say in basic English.

Let’s Party

What a year! We worked our tails off. We had a Successful Koi Show when others did not. Once again we proved why others look up to the Camellia Koi Club with deserved recognition. This was our 30 Year Anniversary. “I wish I lived closer to Sacramento,” has been heard. It is recognition of a successful club. Locals who had not shown before brought Koi to the show. Others drove for hours to bring Koi. Some made contributions that resulted in a record setting raffle. Many people volunteered to work the club and raffle booths. Some who had been thinking of it joined the club including those with ponds and others who want to see ours and learn how to build their own. That is what we do best.

The Board has decided we have worked hard enough and deserve a little time off. The monthly club report to AKCA gives the details. We will still be very active next year with emphasis on helping each other within the club, finding and viewing ponds and Koi, and considering events that will not be so labor intensive. A full slate of officers have stepped up and volunteered to serve and will be voted on at the November meeting held a week earlier than the usual last Sunday of the month to keep Thanksgiving weekend free for family matters. On **November 21**, we will visit the final pond of this year at Martin and Joan’s home and officially elect officers for next year. Camaraderie and building our membership will be the prime focus with the idea that with an increased greater number of active members we may be in a better position to once again consider a Koi Show. For now we are taking some time off for R & R.

There will not be a Koi Ahoy in December as the Annual Christmas Dinner Meeting is held early so this is the last newsletter of the year. Held at the Golden Dragon at [731 Pleasant Grove Blvd, Roseville](#), the dinner will celebrate a remarkable year of accomplishment and set the tone for next year. An informal five star quality Chinese Buffet will set the stage to celebrate with friends, thank and honor the outgoing officers, induct the new club officers, win a few prizes, and party. Be sure to join us for this fun event on **Sunday, December 19 at 2:00 pm.**



2010 Board of Directors

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