



Koi Ahoy

November
2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Jerry Kyle

November 2011

Message from the President; by Jerold Kyle.....November 2011

This will be our last regular meeting for the year and a better place cannot be found. Those who have seen the Alarid's patio and pond already know. The rest of you have to come to this meeting. The beauty of this location is that Elk grove is central to many of us, the pond and Koi are beautiful, and the home's great room is large enough to accommodate all of us if the weather is bad. So, don't let the weather concern you – good or bad, be there.



Inside this Issue	
Pres. Message.....	1
AKCA Report	1
October Meeting	2
Next Meeting	4
BoD Minutes.....	5
Garry's	
<i>Did you know?</i>	6
Club calendar	9

Jim Phillips has resigned as an active Director. After years of having weekends off his work schedule now is too uncertain to count on Sundays off. Gary Waldsmith has been appointed to fill out the rest of Jim's term as Director. Jim, known as Mr. Water Quality, has been a go to guy for all questions that have to do with water quality and Koi health and is still here and still a guy to ask but we may not see him at many meetings.

At the Nov meeting we will be electing officers for 2012 -- 2013 and our entire active current group is re-nominated as they all want to continue to help make us strong. 2012 will be an active year.

Mark your calendar early for the Annual Christmas CKC Club Dinner. We are going to have it at the Umeko Buffet, 8353 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, CA. Look at their website. They have over 100 varied choices and a 4 star rating. Another good reason to move to this location is we will once again have a private room so we are not bothered by other diners and can have our door prizes and raffles and more entertainment. Eating well and having fun is getting to be our mantra. Other than alcoholic beverages, the Board has agreed to pick up any costs above \$10 so you and your guest can eat to your hearts content on a budget. Georgia would appreciate it if you will let her know if you are coming. Pay her in advance or paying her at the door is just fine but, letting us know in advance that you are coming will certainly make it easier planning and setting up. To not conflict with your family holiday affairs in December the Umeko Buffet Christmas Dinner date will be December 4th. Mark it now.

Camellia Koi Club Monthly Report to AKCA by Jerold Kyle, AKCA Rep

The CKC concluded their Koi Grow Out Contest last month. With 9" of growth, Jerry Kyle's Koi was the winner barely winning over Betty Martin with 8" of growth. Of note is there is still a month of growing season remaining in the Sacramento Valley area which demonstrates what attention to water quality and food quality can produce by a local hobbyist. October will see



Koi Ahoy

November
2011

nominations for club officers for next year as this active Calif Central Valley club already is getting ready for 2012.

October 23th meeting at Sharon and Gary's Pond. Thank you Pauline Sakai and Betty Martin for their great photos.



Gentle steps
to the house.



Lovely areas
for thoughtful
conversation



Music of
water falling
and artful
listeners.



Fishy jewels.



Koi Ahoy

November
2011



Welcoming
arbor



Frog with the
best view in
of the pond.



Perfect
location for
discussions



The food
was
amazing,
and enjoyed
by all.



Hosts Gary
and Sharon
with august
leader Jerry.



Koi Ahoy

November
2011



NOVEMBER MEETING IS AT THE ALARID'S

Dan (excited to tell us all about trip to Australia and New Zealand) reports that Cheryl is making a big pot of stew for our cool fall meeting. Appetizers, salads, and desserts will be appreciated. Oh, and maybe chairs. Dress in layers because you never know what the weather might be at this time of the year.

November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting 12:00
at
Dan & Cheryl house
9442 Sierra River Dr.
Elk Grove 95624

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYBODY





Koi Ahoy

November
2011

Board of Director Meeting for 10/23/11

Meeting called to order at Noon with Jerold Kyle, Pres; Georgia Vonk, Treasurer; Directors, Betty Martin, Sharon Oswald, Jose Delgadillo, and club members Phyllis Kyle, Gary Waldsmith, Janet Delgadillo. Minutes and Treasurer's report were approved as printed in Koi Ahoy.

Old Business:

Nov meeting will be a week early due to Thanksgiving and hosted by the Alarids in Elk Grove.

Georgia reported reservation confirmation for CKC Christmas Dinner for club members and their guests. Date will be Dec 4, 2011 and location will be Umeko Buffet, 8353 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, CA. at 2:00pm. This location will offer a private room for our club. Jerry will check club trailer for decorations which he says are stored from past years when we rented private rooms. Dinner will cost only \$10 each and the CKC club will pick up any difference. Betty reported she checked the location and the food is exceptionally good with a variety of over 100 items.

New Business:

Georgia recommended considering fee options and procedures for CKC website links. Will investigate options and procedures and get webmaster feed back to consider at next meeting.

The BoD acting as Club Nominating Committee offered nominations for Election of Officers to be held at Nov meeting.

Nominees are;

- Vice President – Duane Carlson
- Treasurer – Georgia Vonk
- Director – Jose Delgadillo
- Director – Sharon Olson

*At the following general meeting nominations were opened for additional names but members accepted committee nominations without additions.

Serving the second year of their two year terms are;

- President – Jerold Kyle
- Secretary – Marilee Patterson
- Director – Dan Alarid
- Director – Betty Martin

Director -- Jim Phillips reported he is conflicted with time with his new and constantly changing work schedule which now includes working unspecified weekends which coupled with preparing his home to possibly sell and downsize, does not give him the time to devote to CKC as he has done in the past. He sent his resignation which was accepted by the board. Jerry appointed, with the Board's approval, Garry Waldsmith to complete Jim's term through 2012.

ZNA Nor Cal wishes to use 12 of our tanks for their show Nov 11. A contract will charge \$20 per tank with a \$20 per tank security deposit and an agreement to pay \$500 for any damaged tank deemed not usable in a show. Duane developed a clear list with pictorial directions on preparing and folding tanks after a show that will be followed as a condition of rental.



Garry's Did You Know?

by Garry Chin

You've probably enjoyed the peace and tranquility of your koi pond all summer and fall. But now winter is coming and the temperature is falling fast. What do you do to protect your beloved aquatic pets?

Not to mention your invested time and money?

Many club members live in an area where the winters are mild with an occasional light snowfall it will be much easier and take far fewer steps to make the seasonal transition. Our problem being we are prone to heavy amounts of rain. No matter where you live cleanliness, diet and water-circulation are three of the basic details for you to focus on while preparing for your koi pond for winter.

Cleanliness

If you performed a regular pond cleaning program during the summer your "fall cleaning" was much easier. The more debris you remove periodically throughout the summer, the less you will have to remove to get your pond ready for winter. Your fall cleaning should have involved thoroughly cleaning of your pond, removing all the dead leaves and other debris from the bottom and your overflow. You can use a net to fish out the larger particles and a vacuum to remove the finer waste. When you were done cleaning, if your pond is prone to having lots of leaves dropped then cover your pond to make sure that no more leaves can fall in.

Since many of us are prone to heavy amounts of rain it's not a bad idea to perform a partial water change as part of your winterizing routine. I do water changes during the rainy season due to concerns about what the rain might bring into my pond such as acid rain, debris and in the beginning dust. Your guide to the amount and frequency of water changes should be the size of your pond by volume of water, your pond's bio-mass and amount of rain. Ponds with less volume and heavier bio-mass will be adversely affected quicker than ponds with greater volume of water.

For those of you who keep aquatic plants in their ponds. Many of these plants are tropical or sub-tropical in origin and may require special care during the winter months. These pond owners should consult their aquatic garden specialist to find out what appropriate care to give to their valuable plants.

Diet

In our warmer climate our Koi pond can stay somewhat active all winter. The metabolism of koi is directly related to the water temperature. They reflect the falling water temperature with a relative decrease in metabolism. This means that they need less food, and specifically, less protein.

When water temperatures drop below 50 degrees Fahrenheit many people no longer feed their koi.



When the temperatures are in the low 50's to mid 60's you should be feeding a low protein, wheat germ based diet in addition to feeding less frequently than in the summer. In winter your koi, providing your pond is deep enough will hang out at the bottom where the water is warmer and "sleep". The deeper the pond, the more warm water space they will have at the bottom to wait out the cold weather.

Water-circulation

Another step in winterizing your Koi pond is to make sure all the equipment is in good working order. Check your filters and pumps to ensure they are in working order. During this time of year I keep the jets and diffusers going to keep the water from becoming stagnate and move the water from the lower levels towards the surface.

Winterizing your Koi pond is an important step in insuring that your pond remains in good working order all year long. Do the prep work before winter starts and your pond will be ready to go come spring!

Other Considerations if you live at higher elevations

Those club members who live at higher elevations that are prone to a harsher winter need to take additional steps to winterize their ponds.

Depending on the climate of their area and the size of their pond if they live in areas where the temperature rarely dips below freezing for periods longer than a few hours, and little more than a thin sheet of ice forms around the edge of their pond, additional measures are not usually necessary. The reason for this is that when the water temperature drops, koi, being poikilotherms (cold blooded), have a reduced metabolic rate. This decreased metabolic rate means they use less oxygen. In addition, cold water holds more oxygen than warm water. These two factors combined allow the fish to survive under a totally thin layer of ice for short periods.

If the club member lives in an area that experiences harsher winters the main activity may be to prevent the formation of thick layers of ice on the pond surface. This can be achieved in a couple ways; first by agitating the water and secondly by heating the water.

It is much more difficult to freeze moving water than standing water. For this reason keeping pond water moving can prevent the formation of ice. Depending on the climate and the amount of flow, a filtration system may provide enough movement to hinder ice formation.

The important consideration in agitating the water is to break the surface tension of the water, which will inhibit ice from formation. One method of doing this would be to use air bubbles (diffusers) to break the surface of the water. A second method is through the use of a fountain or other device that sprays water over the surface of the pond. Either of these techniques is quite effective.

There are several ways of heating the water to prevent the formation of surface ice. Large-scale in-line heaters are available for virtually any sized home pond and are capable of maintaining pond temperatures above freezing even in the most severe conditions. They are available in different styles and use different sources of energy, from electricity to propane.



Koi Ahoy

November
2011

The downside to these heaters is that they are expensive not only to buy but also to run. And as you'd probably expect, heating water in an outdoor pond is not very efficient. Solar heaters can be adapted for this purpose. While these are less costly to run they are still expensive to purchase and are not readily available. In addition, a prolonged period of overcast skies could hinder their operation. Finally, there are floating and sinking pond heaters. These are electric heaters that do an adequate job of providing localized heat in small ponds. If the overall goal is to heat the entire pond and the pond is large, these are not wise investments. If however, the goal is simply looking to keep an area free of ice they will work very well. It is important when using this type of heater in a lined pond that a guard be used to prevent damage to the liner.

Those club members who experience extremely harsh winters winterization may include building a koi shed to just insulating the pond.

The koi shed would be a formal structure with a frame of wood, metal, etc. surrounded by heavy plastic, paneling etc. to keep out the heavy snow. This can be quite costly, but considering you're dealing with a living creature.... Insulating the koi pond may be accomplished by laying boards across the pond, cover them with plastic, and insulate it with Styrofoam, or anything else that would provide insulation.

The final option would be to remove the koi from the pond. These people would have large tanks or aquaria set up in their basements or garages where they keep their koi during the winter months. This is a good way to deal with the cold weather and may be the only way to manage the problem in extremely cold climates where severe weather is the norm. The obvious drawback to this approach is the large space requirement and the expense of the tanks and filtration systems.

If their pond is less than three feet deep this is probably the best option, especially if the water may freeze over. There won't be enough of a warm water layer at the bottom to keep their koi from freezing.

Other Considerations

Also, stock up on any chemicals or medicine you might need for the pond in case your dealer closes down for the winter and you cannot resupply. Make sure you have all your testing stuff, nets, and medications handy for the winter season.



Koi Ahoy

November
2011

2011 Club Calendar (to date)

Date	Topic	Location
February 27	Feeding for color & growth Tosai grow-out contest Picnic lunch - Bring a guest contest	Koi Enterprise West Sacramento
March 27	Q&A Health issues and concerns of coming out of winter Bring a guest contest	Betty & John Auburn
April 17 (3 rd Sunday)	Pot Luck Meeting Bring a guest contest	Pauline Roseville
May 22 (4 th Sunday)	Party Time - BBQ - talk on plants with ponds. Bring a guest contest	FloraTropicana Elk Grove
June 26		Gus & Leslie Antelope
July 31	Seminar-- Slide presentation /talk Building the perfect pond Common Koi health issues Bring a guest contest	Sacramento Koi Rocklin
August 28	Annual club koi auction	Duane & Melody
September 25		Janet & Jose
October 23		Sharon & Gary
November 20 (3 rd Sunday)		Dan & Cheryl
December 4	Christmas Party 2:00 p.m.	Umeko Buffet 8353 Folsom, Sacramento 95826

If you would like to host your pond and house next year, please let Duane Carlson know. We will be delighted to schedule your convenient month.



Koi Ahoy

November
2011

2011 Board of Directors

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