



Koi Ahoy

January
2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Jerry Kyle

January 2012

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a nice holiday season. Our annual club dinner in December was well attended and showed enthusiasm is still strong. Our club officers for 2011 were introduced and installed. Jerold Kyle (hey, that's me) who was president in 2005-2006 will again be president in 2011-2012. Duane Carlson, who completed his term as a director will fill the vacated Vice Pres seat. Marilee Marshall, having completed her term as president and wanting to stay involved, was elected as Secretary. Georgia Vonk will continue to complete her term as Treasurer. Jim Phillips, Dan Alarid, and Betty Martin were elected for new 2 year terms as Directors. Completing the second year of a two year term are Jose Delgado and Sharon Oswald. I am pleased to see a mix of experienced long time members coupled with energetic newer members willing to get involved. It is this kind of mix that makes us strong.

Some have said we have been so successful in our endeavors we have become too labor intensive. To that end we want to put some more fun in what we do. You know the old adage, "All work and no play" Well, what can we do to create more play? Do you have a pond? Plan to build one? Looking for ideas? Consider hosting a meeting to ask questions, gain all sorts of ideas, and we will all learn and gain. Know of a pond we have not seen in a while? We would love to see it. That is one reason many of us originally joined – to see new ponds and get ideas. Now we have a new generation of members joining and we have a wealth of knowledge to draw on to help them as others helped us to be better Koi keepers. Our club keeps evolving and with the wide range of skills different members have there is a wealth of knowledge to draw from. What suggestion do you have? What would you like to see? To learn? To experience? What changes or improvements do you envision as we go forward? What can we do to learn and have more fun? To attract new members? To continue what others worked so hard to start so many years ago.

Duane, as Vice President, has a challenging job as he is the Program Director and is charged with finding meeting locations and program ideas. I have been there and done that and assure you it is not a one man job. He will do best with a little help. The program for the January meeting will be for members to discuss ideas for possible programs, projects, or anything else members might be interested in for 2011. If there was ever a time to speak up it is now. The more members that can attend in January, the more ideas we can conceive and the richer we can make our activities. If you can not attend the January meeting, I challenge you to email Duane and me with some small or large idea you think we and attending members might consider. Would you like to host a meeting? I am jeroldkyle@yahoo.com and Duane is found at GraniteBayKoi@yahoo.com

I feel honored to be chosen to be the new president of such a wonderful club. To be effective, I need your help. Help me help you get the enjoyment we crave in our hobby. Send me and Duane something right now so we – you – all of us - can have more fun this year. I am looking forward to an exciting year. What would you like to see?

November's meeting at Dan & Cheryl's Pond. Wow, that last meeting seemed an awfully long time ago. Here are some highlight photos.

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Alarid's very nice koi collection & pond.



Their koi were still interesting in eating.



Music of water falling and artful listeners.



Close up of waterfall with well thought out acoustics.



Details of bridge.



Dan describing his pond design.



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Group
discussion.



Perfect
location for
discussions

And then there was the Christmas Party at
Umeko Buffet.



Presents
piling up for
the gift
exchange &
pirate raffle.





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Jerry kicks
off the Pirate
Gift
drawing.



Jerry laughs
while
presenting
Marilee with
Koi Person
of the Year
while she
photographs
it.



Sharon and
Gary
received a
\$100 Gift
Card from a
dealer of
their choice
for bringing
the most
guest to
meetings.
The dealer
they chose
was Flora
Tropicana.

JANUARY MEETING IS

Rain or shine let's catch up on our pond activities with a good review. Marilee is making her annual tortilla soup in case there is a chill.

January 29th at 1:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting 12:00
at
Marilee & Jim's house on the Bear River
10075 Linnet Lane
Auburn 95602

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY



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Board of Director Meeting for 11/20/11

Present: Jerry, Sharon, Duane, Betty, Georgia, Marilee, Dan, Sharon

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Treasurer Report:

Beginning Balance	\$8566.55
Expenses	592.06 Holiday buffet @ \$369.60 and Prizes @ \$222.46
Income	280.00 Dues \$150 and Holiday Dinner \$130
Ending Balance	<u>\$8254.49</u>

Old Business:

Report on tanks rented to ZNA Nov 12th. Returned fine, but tanks were reported as possibly leaking. They will be checked out. Tanks to be checked are #'s 0506, 0801, 0807. Betty motioned that the club should comp gas expenses if our member delivers the tanks that are rented. Receipts will be reimbursed. Seconded and passed.

Sharon and Garry offered to store the club trailers should it become necessary.

Discussion on having a possible show for 2012. Considered an in-club show only.

Georgia reported that the awarded gas gift card to the person that attended the most meetings, is not currently a member. The award was voided, but it was agreed to carry the gift card forward to year 2012.

Marilee reported on plans for Christmas party set for December 4th at Umeko. Decorations and door prizes were discussed. We will have a drawing and exchange/robbing scheme was worked out. Marilee will buy poinsettias again for tables.

Garry's Did You Know?

by Garry Chin

WATER

Water, more than anything else plays a dominant role in the health and beauty of Nishikigoi. Water is more responsible for the intensity of color, sheen and condition of the fish than all the exotic and expensive foods that some feed in the mistaken belief that food plays a large part in enhancing Nishikigoi. On a scale of 100, up to 85% of a Nishikigoi's color comes from heredity. The remaining 15% of a Nishikigoi's color comes from water, food, temperature, oxygen, crowded condition and other factors. The subject of water is so important to the health and well-being of our beloved Nishikigoi that I will briefly cover various topics that impact water with the intention of expanding upon these topics further during the year (Note: Topics are not listed in order of importance).

Temperature

Nishikigoi are basically very tolerant being able to endure a wide temperature range of 36-85 degrees F. During our winter months their metabolism slows down a great deal...So much that they are hibernation. During growing season koi find it difficult to digest high protein food below 65 degrees F., but their metabolism functions best at temperatures above 70 degrees F. Feeding of koi is usually avoided at temperatures above 85 degrees F.



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pH

Is the negative logarithm, to the base ten, of the hydrogen ion activity in moles per liter at a given temperature. The more hydrogen ions, the more acid the water and the lower the pH value (below 7.0). When the number of hydrogen ions and hydroxyl ions are balanced, the pH is neutral (7.0). When hydroxyl ions outnumber hydrogen ions the water is more alkaline. As to whether what normal pH should be, there is no such figure for a Koi pond. The main thing for your Koi pond is that the pond water pH stays consistent. Constantly changing pH in a pond IS NOT practical and, usually not good for the fish.

Hardness

Inorganic and organic substances such as minerals, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium and etc. picked up by water as it traverses over soil, rocks collectively contribute to its hardness. Koi can tolerate a wide variation of hardness. Harder water intensifies the black in koi, while softer water enhances the red and white on the koi.

Oxygen

Nishikigoi like all other animals need oxygen to live, they obtain all of their oxygen from water through their gills. The amount of oxygen in water is temperature dependent. During higher water temperature the amount of available oxygen in the pond is lower. During lower water temperature the amount of oxygen is higher. It is not surprising then that the larger koi are lost during the summer months. Hence we need to look for ways to get more oxygen into the water. Most koi hobbyists handle the problem by returning filtered water over a waterfall. Others install a venturi on pond jets, or use air pumps to send air down into air wands.

Chlorine

A disinfectant used in water to kill various living organisms, such as larvae, protozoans, bacteria and viruses. A small portion of chlorine remains in water as "free chlorine" and is unstable in water. This can be highly toxic to Koi and other fish, with respiratory distress being an obvious sign. This can be removed by spraying water in air, running the water through a carbon filter or the addition of sodium thiosulfate.

Nitrogen Cycle

The natural biochemical reaction for breaking down toxic waste products such as ammonia from koi or uneaten food into less harmful substance. Whenever we establish a new pond, we are actually creating a mini version of a natural habitat. Each koi produces a toxic nitrogen compound as waste products of its metabolism. Nature's way of dealing with this problem is to provide bacteria and other microscopic organisms that convert the toxic nitrogen compound to a relatively harmless compound. This process is known as the Nitrogen Cycle. When the Koi is fed one product is ammonia. Since this is very toxic to tissues, it is quickly excreted from the Koi's body through the urinary system. In the Nitrogen Cycle a bacteria known as nitrosomas digests this ammonia. However, the waste product of the nitrosomas bacteria is nitrite, which is also toxic to the Koi (though less toxic than ammonia). To remove this toxin from the system, nature produces other bacteria known as nitrobacters which digests the nitrite. The waste product of the nitrobacter is nitrates, a relatively harmless byproduct. The nitrate can be removed from the pond through regular water changes. Each time water is replaced with new water the remaining nitrate level is diluted.

A pond may take more than six month to complete a Nitrogen Cycle. Many factors contribute to this cycle, such as biological (Koi) loads, temperature, food input, etc. A product of the Nitrogen Cycle most familiar to aquatic hobbyists occurs during a bacteria "bloom", which causes the water to become cloudy. This is also known as new pond syndrome.



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2011 Club Calendar (to date)

Date	Topic	Location
January 20	Winter update	Marilee & Jim's Auburn
February 26		
March 25		
April 29	Possible intraclub pond tour	
May 20 (3rd Sunday)	Possible Bay Area koi buying trip	
June 24		
July 29		
August 26	Annual club koi auction	
September 30		
October 28		
November 18 (3 rd Sunday)		
December	Christmas Party 2:00 p.m.	

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.



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2011 Board of Directors

President: Jerry Kyle jeroldkyle@yahoo.com	(209) 368-9411	Director: Gary Waldsmith gary@mountaincottagevineyard.com	(916) 933-5501
Vice President: Duane Carlson ducC@surewest.net	(916) 791-7607	Director: Dan Alarid runrdan@frontier.com	(916) 714-1499
Secretary: Marilee Patterson marileemm@att.net	(530) 269-2742	Director: Betty Martin betty@martinracing.com	(530-320-9410)
Treasurer: Georgia Vonk georgiav@earthlink.net	(916) 408-0573	Director: Jose Delgadillo raiders-fan@comcast.net	(916) 683-6446
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