



# Koi Ahoy

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## President's Message

By Jean Jahr



Thanks everyone, I have nearly made it through my first year as your President. It would have been impossible without a lot of help from my great Board of Directors and the support of the rest of you all. This club is a great

group of people with which to be associated. Welcoming and friendly, you are also some of the greatest cooks and gardeners around and have gorgeous finny friends!

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Nearly every month we meet at a different pond to learn with and from each other. Oh yeah, and to eat. Last month we were in Elk Grove at Dan and Cheryl Alarid's lovely home. Anthony Quintero from Koi Enterprise in West Sacramento spoke to us about preparing our ponds and koi to help them safely through the cold winter months ahead.

This month we gather at the home of Doug and Carol Porter at 311 Snapdragon Lane in Lincoln, on Sunday, November 24. Board of Directors meet at 12pm, regular meeting is at 1pm. All members are invited to attend both discussions. The speaker for the November meeting will be Sue Golden from Golden Ponds on Sierra College Boulevard in Loomis. She will be talking to us about aquatic plant and plants that are toxic to fish.

Agenda items will include election of officers for the coming year and meeting locations for 2014. We are especially looking for ponds that we have not previously visited. Hosting a meeting at your house is a great way to show off your hard work creating a beautiful pond and your jewel-like pets. Volunteers? First come, first pick of the month!

Bring a guest. See you there!

*Jean*



## This Month in the Koi Pond

by Jerold Kyle, KHA

Not long ago they would scramble over each other to get that first hand full of food. Then, scramble again for the second hand full. Today they still go for the first handful but get disinterested after the first big gulp. Pay attention. That is their body language talking to you. They are really not all that hungry. That immediate coming up is a conditioned reflex built up over the summer. It is not a sign they are starving. Look at them. They are the fattest and best they have ever looked thanks to your caring. Now it is time to care enough to cut back. For most of our ponds once a day is now enough. Check the water temperature. When it gets below 60°F every other day is enough and still follow the only what they will eat in 5 minutes rule. Below 55°F is an only 2-3 times a week feed. Below 50°F we stop. You knew this but may not have known exactly why.

Someone always asks WHY? The answer is Koi do not digest food like we do. They have live bacteria in their long gut that consumes the food and the Koi take in the bacterial by product which has the nutrients needed. That's why good balanced diet is best. Balanced diet gets balanced nutritional by products to absorb. The problem is bacteria growth and activity slows down with drop in temperature so they ( the bacteria ) take longer to consume the food. In the summer food is digested (eaten by bacteria?) in an hour or so and numerous feedings per day are in order for great growth. In colder temperature the bacteria take hours, even days, to consume the food. "Days?" a member asks? "Won't the food rot in there if not consumed for days?" Exactly, and that is the why of it. It is not rocket science, it is just common sense. It is also why we switch to a more wheat germ based food in cooler months. Protein takes longer to digest (OK, to be consumed by the bacteria) while wheat germ is more easily (faster?) digested. Allowing food to sit for days and rot to release toxic waste in the gut cannot be healthy.

Feeding because they come up and look like they are begging is not love. If you can't stand the begging a little cheerios is considered by some as a nice compromise as it is relatively easy to digest but, please, not too much.

*Editor's note: When Jerry sent me this as an email, I requested more information. Just thinking about this today. All five times I went out to feed the boys. I have questions: Have you ever seen a fish that died from this "over-feeding-in-the-winter syndrome"? Would the average ponder be able to identify this as the cause of death?*

Good question. If you fed 5 times today I hope your pond is heated into the 70s. Average ponder will not see this as cause of death. They will see a failed filter as cause since the food just goes through the fish and is converted to ammonia by the



bio filter. If high ammonia causes gill burning they will see gill infection as cause. Because the bio bacteria growth in the filter also are reduced by cold they do not convert to ammonia to nitrites as readily and/or convert nitrites to nitrates so readily so a buildup is possible. The problem is invisible and high ammonia or nitrites are an invisible killer. The rotting in the gut is not such a problem in our area but in the hills where the water does get colder in winter undigested food in gut is potential problem. In areas where water is so cold there can be ice danger is greatest as in article. NJ ponds already have ice. Friend in Georgia reports daytime temperature last week at 48°F. We don't always realize how well off we are - weather wise. Of course they don't pay our tax rates.



*Dan Alarid's koi, begging for food.*



## Dan and Cheryl's Pond

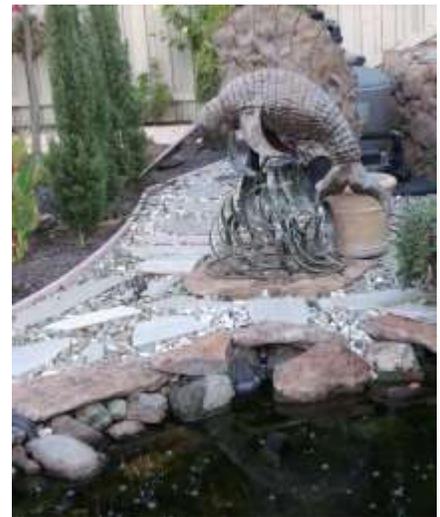


Our October meeting was at the home of Dan and Cheryl in Elk Grove. It's a large gunite pond of about 6,000 to 6500 gallons. Generally oval shaped and beautifully landscaped. At one end is a double waterfall (one on the left and another on the right) where the water falls about four feet into the pond for maximum aeration. It's about five feet deep at one end and six feet at the other with bottom drains at both ends. I asked him how many fish he has and he admits that he doesn't know, but estimates about 35. I also asked him if he has a favorite fish and I got the same answer that I always get with that question.

He doesn't have one favorite, there's a group of favorites. A kohaku, a goshiki, and a showa. I also asked if he had one he dislikes and at first he said no. Then I pressured him and suggested that out of 35 fish there has to be at least one that he wouldn't mind getting rid of. He admitted that there was one. Kind of shows you how much we love our koi.

## November Meeting

Our next meeting will be at the home of Doug and Carol in Lincoln. Doug tells me that it was a 1,000 gallon pond that was rebuilt in July of 2011 to about 2,000 gallons, and it has a ten foot waterfall. This I gotta see. When I asked Doug and Carol about their favorite fish, I got the same response. Not one, but three come to mind. They have a shusui named "Cha-Ching!" that won best in its size at the young koi show last May. Also a shiro utsuri named "Orca" that was the very first fish in the pond, and "Miracle", the only survivor of a pond spawn. Again, we love our koi. Photo at the right is a sneak preview of Doug's pond. Is that the shusui? We'll have to wait and get the low down from Doug and Carol at the meeting. Our scheduled speaker is Sue Golden, of Golden Nursery.



Home of Carol and Doug  
311 Snapdragon Ln.  
Lincoln, CA 95648

[Click for Map](#)

12:00 noon Board of Director's Meeting



1:00 General Club Meeting

Everyone is welcome to join the Board of Director's Meeting. Come tell us your thoughts and ideas.

### Meet Pauline Sakai, Master Gardener



Pauline will be on channel 3 Sunday, November 17 at about 9:20 am. I think she's on the program about once a month. She lays out gardening tips for the viewers. This month it's citrus tips for the Sacramento area.

### Fall Pond Maintenance



Our presenter for October was Anthony Quintero of Koi Enterprise. It was a pretty straight forward approach. Keep the leaves and debris that the fall winds blow around out of the pond. Clean out your filters better than you usually do, but be sure to not kill the bio converter. Continue to do your regular water changes throughout the winter.

If you think your pond plumbing (bottom drain) might need to be back flushed, you can get a power plunger attachment for your garden hose that should do the trick. Available at Home Depot and Lowes, they must be the right size for the diameter of your plumbing. Anthony also suggested that fall might be a good time to have your pump rebuilt. The water is colder now and holds more oxygen and the fish might do okay without the pump for a couple of days. He uses Rosenau Motors and says they know all about pond pumps and motors, so you don't have to explain it to them. And of course, the cost to rebuild is a fraction of the cost of new.

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1940 Auburn Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95815

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<http://www.rosenaumotors.com/>



We also had some good one on one Q & A time with Anthony. Discussed how to better medicate for flukes. I learned that missing scales aren't going to grow back, that phosphates in my source water can cause string algae, and bee populace\* is a good food supplement.

\*"Populace" is what my worn out ears heard. Further inquiry reveals that it's *bee propolis*. It seems to be a kind of caulking compound that bees use to seal small holes in the hive. They'll also use it as an anti-fungal or anti-bacterial if something yukky gets into the hive, hence the advantage of rolling your koi pellets in it. Humans have recently discovered other uses for it. Everything from Cancer to car wax. Before you go out and buy some, note that it can cause asthma and other allergic reactions in Humans. I got all of this from Wikipedia. Then I went to [www.vitaminshoppe.com](http://www.vitaminshoppe.com) and found 28 products containing bee propolis. -Ed/Bob



## Board of Directors' Minutes

October 27, 2013, 12:09pm

Jean Jahr, President Duane Carlson, V. P. Georgia Vonk, Treasurer  
Gary Waldsmith, Sharon Oswald, Jose Delgadillo, Bob Haugland, Directors.

- Reviewed GroupOn advantages re: new memberships and the Sept. Pond Tour
- Agreed to use the Nov. BoD meeting to set the 2014 calendar
- Sharon suggested we arrange the Nov. 2014 meeting to less conflict with Thanksgiving, and also organize the Christmas gift bank better.
- Discussion about nominations for officers

Adjourned at 1:01pm...then we ate...



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## General Membership Meeting Minutes

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Called to order at 1:39pm

-Open discussion about which new officers need to be nominated

-Nominations that occurred are:

-for Vice President, Mike Tsuchida

-for Treasurer, Georgia Vonk

-for Director, Doug Porter

-for Director, Carol Porter

Election of new officers will take place at the November General Meeting.

-Encouraged members to reserve &/or pay for Christmas Party/Dinner at Umeko's Restaurant Sunday, Dec. 8, 1;00pm.

-A sign-up sheet circulated for Pond Tour volunteers.

-Anthony from Koi Enterprise gave a presentation on fall pond maintenance. A lively Q & A session followed.

-Dan Alarid gave us some of the details of his pond.

Minutes by Bob Haugland

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## Financials

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Beginning Balance:           \$7525.78

Expenses                       64.46   \$40 host fee and \$15.46 2 name badges

Income                         80.00   Prepay Holiday Dinner

Ending Balance               \$7541.32

Financials by Georgia Vonk



## Photos from the October meeting by Pauline and Bob

Best lasagna ever! Had all the appropriate fixins. Dan dipped into his wine collection and served a terrific Temperrallo.









**Editor's Note:**

Following is this month's CKC Report to AKCA which will be added to AKCA monthly minutes and also printed on AKCA Website under CLUBS. Scroll down to California and then select the California Club you are interested in to find all the monthly Reports from that club's AKCA Rep. It is a way for others to see what we are doing and for us to see what others are doing.

**Camellia Koi Club Report to AKCA, Nov. 2013**

by Jerold Kyle, AKCA Club Rep

Life is good in the Koi hobby. Last month we reported the Camellia Koi Club voted to have a public pond tour in 2014 to reach out to the community to show what we do. At the meeting Anthony Quintero of Koi Enterprise spoke on pond and Koi health getting ready for winter. This month Sue Golden from Golden Pond will talk on what plants are possible and how to have them with Koi. This month we also will elect half of our board officers to lead the way in 2014. By having 2 year terms and only electing half of our officers each year we insure a continuation of experience and knowledge at the helm. We will do this at yet another new member's pond and finalize plans for the annual Holiday Dinner in December where we will seat the new officers to be ready for the New Year. Pond tour, presentations on pond and Koi care, new member's ponds to visit, and eating well helps explain why the club is energized and experiencing larger turnouts at meetings. Visitors are always welcome to come see what we do.



**2013 Club Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
January 27	Jim Phillips – Water Quality	Leslie & Gus’
February 24	Anthony Quintero – Koi Show	Michelle’s
March 24 (3rd Sunday)		John G.’s
April 28		Pauline’s
May 19 (3rd Sunday)	Young Koi Show	West Sacramento
June 30	Penn Martin- Plan It Solar	Sharon & Gary
July 28	Iva Gaglione- Ultra Balance Koi Food	Janet & Jose
August 25	Annual Koi Auction / Ice Cream Social	Melody & Duane
September 29	Duane Carlson – Water Forum	Kami & Sam
October 27	Anthony Quintero – Winter Prep	Cheryl & Dan
November 24	Sue Golden – Pond Plants	Carol & Doug
December 8	Annual Holiday Dinner	Umeko Chinese

If you would like to host your pond and house in 2013, please let [Duane Carlson](#) know. We will be delighted to schedule you.



**2013 Board of Directors & Staff**

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