



Koi Ahoy

February 2006

President's Message -Jerry Kyle

Thank you to the members who attended the January meeting at Nanci's home and pond to contribute your ideas toward planning this year's club activities. This is not my club or the Board's club. It is your club and I appreciate your getting involved. So far we know we will have a Pond Tour and it will be doubled in scope from previous years to cover two days and twice as many ponds for more to enjoy. All our friends and supporters, including local pond and koi businesses, are joining the effort this year to promote and provide a superior tour May 20-21.

Our Koi Show & Vendor Faire will move indoors at the Placer County Fairgrounds & Event Center to have more room for more tanks and more vendors on Sept 30th-Oct 1st. We will be inviting local garden clubs to participate to have a broader venue and promote even larger attendance.

You said you want another club member's auction as it provides a good way for established pond owners to clear space for new koi and helps newcomers get more and larger koi at low cost as they get started in this hobby. All of my first koi came from club auctions and it was a great help financially in getting started. It was also satisfying to have a few large koi instead of all babies.

You said you want a club Bay Area Buying trip so one will be planned for this spring.

This month's meeting will be hosted by Marcos at Flora Tropicana in Elk Grove. This is a pond and water garden business with greenhouses full of koi tanks and water plants. There are many ponds on display each displaying different ideas. There are plants, fountains, bubbling rocks, and other items of interest to enjoy. Jason and the KHAers will talk to us about the things we, as koi owners, need to be aware of as the weather warms up and affects our ponds and koi. There are steps we can take to prevent problems and steps we can take to recognize and correct problems that arise.

This should be a nice meeting even if it rains since it never rains inside greenhouses. If it rains bring an umbrella as you will still want to go outside and look at the many ponds on display. We still are looking for a couple of locations to have a meeting this year. If you want to be a host let Jason or I know. See you in Elk Grove.

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Pond Tour Update</i>	2
<i>Ramblings</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Koi Events</i>	
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	4
<i>"Mutt" - A Fish Story</i>	5
<i>Club Calendar</i>	6



Jerry says a word at Nanci Manceau's house during the January club meeting.

**Pond Tour Update** - Dan Alarid

On Feb 1, pond tour board members consisting of Jeannene & Bob Pershing, Pauline Sakai, Marilee Marshall, Phyllis Kyle and Nancy Manceau met at Dan & Cheryl Alarid's along with invited guest Sandy Sylvester.

Sandy presented us with a binder that covered all aspects of last year pond tour along with invaluable insights as to when real well on the last pond tour and what could be improved upon for this year.

We proceeded with a discussion on "the do list" and identified who could cover those tasks. We all agreed that the first major step was to review all of our list of ponds in both the North and South areas for final selection. Dan, Nancy, Pauline, Marilee and the Pershings all agreed to perform the review. Ron Kong has also assisted in doing preliminary reviews of the "North" ponds.

The review will commence during the week of Feb. 13th.

We would like to add that anyone in Sac. south area and below who would like to have their pond on the tour to please contact any member of this board ASAP.

Spring Event 2006

Saturday, March 25th

(rain or shine)

10am - 4pm

Featuring

Burt Ballou, AKCA Judge

Maruyama Jumbo Tosai

Growing Contest

Lecture

Raffle

Great Food!



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3850 Alhambra Avenue

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**Ramblings** -by Jerry Kyle (Written for the www.camelliakoi.org web site for the public)

Once upon a time, long, long ago someone told me experience is the best teacher. That is especially true in the koi hobby. Experience keeps teaching me something new. First was the fact that it takes all summer for a nice healthy algae mat to form on the walls of the pond. It does not happen overnight and one must have patience as Mother Nature will do her job in her own time. But it finally developed, the water cleared up, and I felt as if I was in control and beginning to be proud of myself even though I had nothing to do with it. The pond water was every pond owners dream – clean and clear. It was Mother Nature's doing but I took the credit. Big mistake! Don't mess with Mother Nature.

I have a Fruitless Mulberry tree. The nice thing is that those large leaves, unlike other varieties, float for a while when they land so the plan was to have a large skimmer with a big mouth built into the wall with a big catch net and excellent surface circulation to move the leaves quickly to be captured. Underwater eductors grab any sinking leaves and propel them to the surface right in front of the skimmer opening for an easy catch. Great planning leads to more pride in oneself. Should work great, right? Wrong! Here came "Mother" and experience to teach me that no skimmer on earth is big enough to handle the leaves from a Fruitless Mulberry when "Mother" decides it's time to bury the pond under leaves. She is the boss and if she wants to bury she will bury. She will even send the leaves from all the neighbors, far and near, to help in the burying process. I think those high winds last month was "Mother" reminding me she is in charge and capable of bringing leaves in from the next county if she desires. She wanted to remind me she is the boss.

A temporary plastic covering from the middle of December to the middle of January kept the leaves out of the pond. Mother dumped a ton of water on the covering and collapsed the frame a couple of times trying to remind me who is in charge but there were no more leaves in the pond and Mother was out of leaves. Ha, I beat her and removed the covering to see the water was clear, pond and filters clean and ready for spring, and the koi were happy campers. I was proud once again until Mother figured another way to get at me.

Continued on page 4.

Upcoming Koi Events in Our Region—As posted in KOI USA magazine (Jan/Feb 2006)**March 4-5**

Koi Club of San Diego Koi Show
Del Mar Fair Grounds, San Diego
www.koiclubsandiego.org

March 18-19

ZNA Southern California Chapter Koi Show
Gardena Civic Center
<http://home.earthlink.net/~filmlabrat/>

April 1-2

1st Annual Bay Area Koi Show
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Pleasanton, CA
<http://www.abaksgenki.com/>

April 22-23

Koi Health & Water Quality Seminar with
Dr. Eric Johnson in Reno, Nevada
\$60 Sat. 8AM-5PM Book early, space is limited
Contact Mona (775) 267-3458 trackone@charter.net



Ramblings—Jerry Kyle (continued from page 3)

Cold. Mother threw cold at me. My beautiful crystal clear water was not so beautiful any longer. It was full of little particles floating at all levels. There were little bits of dead moss not heavy enough to completely sink and too heavy to float to the skimmer. She got me again! I aimed the eductors down so the bottom drain is getting the stuff. Thank goodness for bottom drains. The small vortex pre-filter had six inches of matter on the bottom in just a few days. If you have not done so already, go outside and clean your filters just in case Mother got to you too. That debris can cause big trouble when the water warms up. I thought I was all ready for spring but now realize I can never let my guard down now that Mother knows where I live.

As I write this I am relaxing, dreaming of how I will complete the waterfall and landscape the pond this spring, and looking out the big picture window at my koi swimming lazily in the sun. I feel pleased with my world. The worst is over, spring is coming, my ferns look happy, the camellia is still in bloom, and the neighbor's Almond tree in the background looks beautiful in full bloom. The slight breeze is floating the flower petals to the ground like new falling snow. It's looks magically beautiful.

The breeze is shifting slightly in my direction and the petals look so pretty as they drift slowly towards me. They are drifting towards me and my pond. Thousands of little flower petals that don't float. She is after me again!

If you receive your Koi Ahoy by snail mail, please send webmasters Dennis and Marilee Marshall (damm6@sbcglobal.net) your email address so that they can be sure to get necessary club information to you in a timely manner. They will be sending out new passwords for the Members Only section of the website soon!



Treasurer's Report —Marilee Marshall

End of January 2006 Balance: **\$6605.20**

January Income: **\$270.00**

January Expenses: **\$532.71**

Have you sent in your membership renewal for 2006? Website passwords will be changed soon and mailed only to current members!

Send a check for \$45 to Club Treasurer Marilee Marshall, 10075 Linnet Lane, Auburn, CA, 95602.

“Mutt”:A Fish Story—Gary Fabian

I have just taken on a Board position with our organization. How did I ever get there ? Having moved into a “new” 53 year-old home two years ago, I inherited a pond out back. Sure, it was an idyllic setting...the water noise was nice....oh, and the fish. Yeah, they were pretty to look at. No big deal.

It took 7 weeks for me to move in, so there wasn't a lot of yard activity. One day I spied a 20-inch fish (I barley knew they were koi then) lying on the lawn. Thrash marks on the side, I soon learned it was the work of raccoons. I was upset. Two weeks later, 2 more would disappear. I was mad. Sat out at night with a pellet gun. It wasn't that I loved the fish; it was just that I didn't see fairness in it all, and that I felt a sense of responsibility of habitat for the fish.

Then I learned of the habits of the Blue Heron, one day the following March....first hand. That damn bird will never set down here again, as I surprised him so intensely that I'm sure he remembered it.

So I searched for assistance, wanting to understand these fish called “Koi”. Got connected with the Club, joined, and have been on a steep learning curve ever since. I find it good to observe other installations; and to chat with others who share an interest in these creatures. I find I get great utility out of it all, even though I look at these fish at a very different level than you likely do. For me, it's a pet. Just like I go to the Pound, to get my dogs & cats, (and usually they are 'mutts'), my fish are just that...pets. But I insist on treating them well, giving them a wonderful existence, as I would any pet. And while I don't show them, or sell them, they are no less important to me. I don't believe they have strong conformation, or intense color. I couldn't care less if they are Sankes, Showas, or a variety of Ogon, they are simply loved pets.

And that is why, in spite of having gone from 17 down to ONE fish in my pond, I have undertaken a 200-manhour complete rebuild of the pond....to make it right. There is a little bit of advice from each one of you going into this project. The Club obviously has brought value to my new interest.

And I take care of my one “muttfish”, as if it were family. That's a lot of energy to expend for what likely is a \$20 koi. There has to be a reason. And for each of us, the reason is different. The main thing is that we know what that reason is, and thus pursue and prevail....discover and then share....with passion.

Do you have a story about your pond (or pictures) you would like to share with other club members? Send it to the editor (kde2@comcast.net) and I will put it in an upcoming newsletter. -Ellen





Board of Directors

President: Jerry Kyle 209 368-9411
jerroldkyle@yahoo.com
Vice President: Jason Sargeant 916 630 1033
sarge@starstream.net
Treasurer: Marilee Marshall 530 269-2742
dammmm6@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Position Open!

Gary Fabian 916 443-4829
Gary_fabian@skwaia.com
Jim Phillips 916 771-3111
hairbear@infostations.com
Jack Flockhart 209 334-5705
hijack@softcom.net
Phyllis Kyle 209 368-9411
jerroldkyle@yahoo.com

Koi Ahoy Editor

Ellen Evans 916 501-4946
kde2@comcast.net

Webmaster

Dennis Marshall 530 269-2742
dammmm6@sbcglobal.net

www.camelliakoi.org

Club Calendar

February General Meeting will be on Sunday Feb. 26 from 1:00-3:00. (Board Meeting at noon)

**FLORA TROPICANA
10255 GRANTLINE RD
ELK GROVE, CA.**

TOPIC: Tour and KHA led discussion on reducing spring-time pond and koi health care problems

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 99 to Grantline Rd in Elk Grove. Travel East on Grantline 8/10th mi to a "Flora Tropicana" sign and a lot of display ponds on the right.

Koi Ahoy

Ellen Evans
5932 2nd Ave
Sacramento, CA 95817