



Koi Ahoy

January 2007

President's Message—*Ellen Evans*

Happy New Year everyone! It's a new year for the club, and there are some fresh new faces on the Board of Directors, including me, your new president. I would like to thank the outgoing board members for their service. The last two years have been very productive for the club, with informative meetings, well-coordinated pond tours and our ever-improving annual koi show. So thank you Duane Carlson, Jack Flockhart, Phyllis Kyle and especially former president Jerry Kyle for maintaining the high standards of meetings and events that members of the Camellia Koi Club have come to expect.

I myself only joined the club three years ago with my husband Kirk. We bought a house in Sacramento in April 2003 and were trying to build find someone who would build us a koi pond. I recall a frustrating consultation with a local business that insisted that although Kirk and I wanted a 5' deep pond, you really don't need to go deeper than 24"--but if we "really" wanted, they could go as deep as 30". So we decided to build the pond ourselves. After a particularly frustrating trip to the downtown permit and planning office (during which I was told we would need to pay a swimming pool architect thousands of dollars to draw up pond blueprints if we wanted a permit), I googled something like "Sacramento Koi Pond", found CKC's website, and called someone in the club for advice. We became members soon afterwards and have been learning ever since.

I am very excited about 2007. This year the club will be bringing back the Spring Bay Area Buying Trip.



Jerry Kyle and others inspect the door prizes at the club's Holiday Party in December.

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A koi growth contest is in the works. Garry Chin and Steve Eckard have implemented a host of new ideas to improve our annual koi show even further. We may put on an educational koi seminar for the general public. We are still looking for suggestions for meeting topics and for volunteers for a few key positions in the club (p. 2).

Please come to this month's meeting at the Marshall's in Auburn (p. 8). You can give Marilee your dues renewal check in person, learn how they have fixed their leaky pond while on a budget. If you have done something similar, bring your advice! See you there!



2007 Club Calendar

Please note that these locations are subject to change. Be sure to check the newsletter or website each month for the most current meeting information.

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
January 28, 2007	"How to fix a leaky pond when all else fails and you don't have \$\$\$."	Marshall's (Auburn)
February 25, 2007		Alarid's (Elk Grove)
March 25, 2007	"Maximizing Koi Growth"/ KOI GROWTH CONTEST	
April TBA	SPRING BUYING TRIP	BAY AREA
May 27, 2007		Kyle's (Lodi) *Spaghetti Feed!
June 24, 2007		Georgia Vonk (Lincoln)
July 29, 2007		Diane Coit (Sacramento)
August 26, 2007	ANNUAL KOI AUCTION	Avila's (Rio Linda) *Potluck!
September TBA	ANNUAL KOI SHOW	PLACER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
October 28, 2007	GROWTH CONTEST RESULTS	Tammy Nelsen (Roseville)
November 18, 2007		Tim Bauer (Granite Bay)
December TBA	ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY	TBA

CALL FOR HOSTS!

As you can see, we are still looking for a meeting host for March. During this part of the year it can still be cold and wet, so you need to be able to accommodate 20-30 people in one area of your house. Members can bring portable chairs. Please contact Jason Sargeant (sarge@starstream.net) if you are interested in hosting.

CALL FOR TOPICS!

As a former club president was fond of saying, "This is *your* club!" What do you want to do this year? What would you like to learn more about? What guest speakers would you like to hear? What would make the meetings better? We are still planning this year's calendar. Please email Jason or Ellen (kde2@comcast.net) with your suggestions.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

There are several opportunities to step up your involvement with the club. We are seeking a "PR Chairperson" to coordinate publicity for the club. We also need someone to run the koi store this year, at the show and possibly at meetings. We will need a chairperson to organize the Spring Buying Trip. If you are interested in any of these positions, please email Ellen (kde2@comcast.net).

**RAMBLINGS**— *Jerry Kyle***COLD WEATHER KOI**

Although you may not be feeding your fish right now, pond and filter cleaning should still be high priorities.

Burrrrrrrrr, it's cold. My pond water temperature dropped to just under 50 degrees. Even I quit feeding my koi at that temperature. I understand there is a general rule somewhere that says we do not feed our koi during the winter. I believe that pertains to people in areas like North Dakota or Montana but not to me in central California.

In the summer my koi get fed when I get fed morning, noon, and night with all they can consume in 5 minutes. Sure, when the kids come over everyone gets snacks including the koi. The temperature is warm and the koi are active and need to be more heavily fed a balanced diet to grow and remain healthy. However, as the pond cools the activity level of cold blooded koi slows down and they do not require as much nourishment. Also the bacteria in their gut that help digest the food slows down so they cannot readily digest food even if they wanted to. If overfed, the koi pass food through undigested to fall to the bottom of the pond to add to another problem I will discuss later.

I let my koi tell me when they need food. They will always come to the surface, stick their mouths and heads out of the water, and beg. Hungry or not, it is a trained reaction. But when the water temperature is below 60 degrees they will feed leisurely instead of climbing over each other to be the first to feed. As the aggressive eating diminishes, so does the amount I feed until by about 55 degrees they get fed only every third or fourth day and very little as just what they will consume in only five minutes once a day. At 50 degrees they do not get fed at all as most of the food will just be passed through to feed the pond mulm.

Ciliated parasites such as Chilodonella can reproduce in cold water and prefer temperatures around 50 degrees. That is also when the koi immune system is suppressed. As the temperature begins to increase the ciliated parasites begin to more actively attack the weakened koi but as the temperature increases the koi immune system also begins to increase. If the temperature steadily increased and the koi immune system steadily increased Mother Nature would not need our help. But spring warm up is not steady. The temperatures fluctuate greatly. *(Continued on p. 5.)*

UPCOMING KOI EVENTS

January 28-29: **Professional Koi Pond Building Seminar.** Featuring experts such as Burt Ballou and Norm Meck. Mira Loma, CA. (702) 845-6782 livingwatersolutions@msn.com

February 17-18: **Koi Club of San Diego's 20th Anniversary Koi Show.** Del Mar Fairgrounds. www.koiclubsandiego.org

February 24-25: **Toshio Sakai Seminar on Judging Koi** and Learning to Select Finished Koi vs. Future Koi. Martinez, CA. www.pskoi.com

March 24-25: **33rd Annual ZNA SoCal Chapter Koi Show.** Gardena Civic Center. donkobash@aol.com

**RAMBLINGS (continued)**— *Jerry Kyle*

The immune system which was increasing plummets a month later when the weather cools temporarily before once again beginning the warming trend towards summer. During this cooling off trend the parasites just keep on multiplying while the koi immune system are temporarily depressed and the koi could be in trouble. (Although we cleaned our ponds and filters last fall getting ready for winter our ponds are not completely clean. The winter storms and winds have blown in dirt and leaves which are now on the bottom of the pond and, for those of us who have a bottom drain, lurking unseen in the pipe running from the bottom drain. There is more hiding in that pipe than most would expect and it has to go.

“Specific pathogens such as *Pseudomonas* and *Aeromonas* *depend* upon fouled water to attack fish,” wrote Erick L. Johnson, D.V.M. in his book *Koi Health and Disease*. He explains that many parasites do better with a thick mulm layer on the bottom of the pond. It is imperative that we clean our ponds extra carefully at the end of January or early February. The pond bottom needs to be swept or vacuumed, the bottom drain line must be flushed, filters flushed, and gravel removed from gravel filter systems to be spread on the driveway and well washed with a hose. Within a couple of days your water will be clear and the bacteria will not have any reasonable fuel. The koi will be minimally stressed, if at all, and since we are not feeding at this time the biofilters will have time to reactivate as we lightly begin feeding in the spring.

In my opinion, some people are just too lazy to do as I suggest and will choose instead to look for a “magic bullet” such as Formalin or Potassium Permanganate to use on their pond. These items are poisons. They are poisonous to the pathogens, poisonous to the koi, and poisonous to humans. Yes, you had better use rubber gloves. These poisons will not kill one hundred percent of the pathogens unless used in sufficient concentrations to also kill one hundred percent of the koi and perhaps the humans. If you have such an infestation that there is no other way then perhaps poisons must be used but, only as a last resort. It then becomes a guessing game as to the best concentration to kill the most pathogens with the least koi kill. That decision is for a vet and depends on a lot of varying circumstances. The bottom line is that for less than a one hundred percent kill we may so badly burn our koi’s gills that we may simply trade one problem for another perhaps more deadly problem. All Veterinarians must take the same oath, “Do no harm.” And we must follow this example.

I like salt. An 0.3 percent solution administered for two weeks will kill the most dangerous ciliated pathogens including *Chilodinella*, *Costia*, and *Thrichodina*. These cold water parasites are our biggest concerns coming out of winter and will not survive for two weeks in 0.3 percent salt solution water. Most will not survive the first few hours. Salt is not dangerous to the koi or humans and it is cheap. As a matter of fact, the cheaper stuff is usually the best as it has less or no additives which we do not want anyway. When we must use stronger medications we also salt the pond as it greatly reduces stress and helps the koi immune system do the job. I often wonder how often someone uses a caustic medication and adds salt to reduce stress and credits the medication for success when it was simply the salt reducing stress that did the job. Salt or not as you like. I will remove plants and salt the first of February and maintain 0.3 percent solution until pond warms up. Then I will remove salt through water changes as I do not want a continually salted pond but, that is another article.

In conclusion, clean it thoroughly. That alone will do more good than any other thing you do to your pond this year. But, you must do it now.

**Board of Directors Minutes—Diane Coit**

Date: Saturday, December 30, 2006

Location: Ellen's home

Attendees: Ellen Evans, President; Marilee Marshall, Treasurer; Diane Coit, Secretary; Garry Chin, Koi Show Co-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. This meeting was a prelude to our official first Board meeting to be held at noon on January 28, 2007. The following matters were discussed:

2007 CKC Budget Proposal: Marilee presented a draft of the budget. Only a few minor revisions were made. The budget proposal will be presented to the Board at the January meeting for discussion and approval. Marilee distributed a copy of the 2006 Financial Summary report to aid in our review of the 2007 budget proposal. A copy will be handed out at the January meeting.

2007 Koi Show: Garry provided a handout listing changes and additions for the 2007 show. Changes in sponsorship opportunities were also discussed. Any impact on the 2007 proposed budget was addressed accordingly. Gary will provide an update at regular meeting.

Meeting and Event Programs: It was recommended that a high priority be placed on obtaining meeting locations and topics. In addition to the koi show in September, some suggested special events for 2007 were: spring buying trip to Bay Area and a one-day educational seminar for the public. Once determined what events will be held, a chairperson needs to be recruited right away.

Website Matters: Ellen is working with our website provider to upgrade subscription level so that we have a member's only page where the club roster will be available through password access. It was suggested that a detailed calendar of monthly meetings and future events be published on the website. The details could include: locations and names of event chairman and co-chairman and contact info. Ellen would like to update the currently posted library resources and club store inventory, they may not be current. On the club website, payments for membership dues, show entrance fees, etc can be bought using PayPal. Although Marilee is receiving the money in the bank, some documentation is lacking, particularly info (example: Spouse's name) that we typically obtain when people fill out our new membership application. We need to ensure that new members fill out applications in addition to paying. To that end, membership application on website should be changed from .pdf document to MS Word document so form can be filled out electronically and emailed. Paypal's fee system complicates the bookkeeping system. An upgrade in the club's subscription level with the webhost should allow us to have our own secure "shopping cart" and eliminate the need to use Paypal when accepting credit cards.

Newsletter Matters: It was requested that a brief calendar of all future meetings, topics and event dates be published in every issue. If after a few months Ellen feels overwhelmed by club responsibilities, she will request a volunteer to act as newsletter co-editor.

Club Library: Discussion on adding new library resources and retiring obsolete materials. Since new librarian, Bob Sisson, was not present, discussion was brief. Bob will be requested to address at a future board meeting. Dollars have been added to the 2007 proposed budget for library material purchases.

**Board of Directors Minutes (continued)** —Diane Coit

Club Store: We need an assessment of the store inventory needs for club operations and sales at events, such as the koi show. A new storekeeper is also needed. A new source for wind socks may be needed. Koi socks will be provided to the monthly meeting hosts free of charge if they lack one. We may also want extras for sale.

Advertising: To assure successful turnout at our meetings and events and promotion of the hobby, we need to address where we do our advertising and the timeliness of submissions. Suggested sources: Koi USA, Sunset magazine, Sacramento Bee's Cal Life (Saturday publication) and also the Bee's Community Event section. The club needs a volunteer to be a PR representative and coordinate advertising/press.

Miscellaneous: Bylaws of the Camellia Koi Club should be reviewed and updated as needed.

The meeting adjourned approximately 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Coit

SEEKING SUGGESTIONS FOR LIBRARY BOOKS

"We are looking for suggestions on books or magazines to add to the Club Library, Please email me your ideas or talk to me at the January meeting." —Bob Sisson, robert.sisson@gmail.com

FISH FOR SALE

"I have rescued a sizable number of really beautiful Sarassa goldfish and numerous baby Koi (quite a few are baby Tanchos with prominent Hi). These were rescued from the owner of a pond that needed to be converted to a raised flower bed, since the home where it is located is going to become a rental (they didn't want the liability and maintenance of a pond on the property).

I have limited room for all these extremely nice fish, but if you know anyone just starting out who has suitable accommodations and doesn't want to begin with expensive fish, please give them my name and number: Tim Bauer; 916-771-5468. Suitable accommodations include a pond at least 500 gallons and 3+ feet in depth. My prices are merely to cover cost of feeding these guys and the prophylactic medicating and quarantining they have undergone. Thank you!"

Large wispy-tailed Sarassa Goldfish:	\$10 ea.
Small Orange Koi 3" in length:	\$10 ea.
Small Tancho Koi 3" in length:	\$15 ea.

Deadline for offering: January 31, 2007



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Next Meeting

Sunday, January 28 at 1:00.

**Home of Dennis & Marilee Marshall
10075 Linnet Lane
Auburn, CA 95602
(530) 269-2742**

Members are welcome to attend the Board of Directors' meeting at 11:30.

Please bring snacks to share!!!

Topic: "What to do to stop your pond from leaking when all else fails and you don't have a fortune!" Members are encouraged to bring their own ideas, stories, and products that have worked for them.

Directions: See page 3 of Koi Ahoy.

Koi Ahoy

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