



Koi Ahoy

July 2006

President's Message -Jerry Kyle

I will miss the July meeting at Kirk and Ellen's home. Regretfully, since this is the first time we have had a meeting at their pond and one of the reasons many of us joined this club is to see new ponds. Look at the pictures and I am sure many of you will want to see and learn all about what Kirk has done.

I will be in Portland to see the Koi Show up there and look and learn and talk to the vendors. Jason will be our guiding light this month and he has some timely information for us about our koi and ponds in the summer.

Don't forget to plan ahead for August at Mary Beth's. It will feature our Pot Luck and our Koi Auction. Some of us need to be thinking, as our koi get bigger, which ones will we be bringing to auction as we reduce the fish load on our overcrowded ponds. This is a marvelous opportunity for newer members to get some new and perhaps larger koi at very affordable prices. I hope you all are having a pleasant summer.

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The June Meeting was held at Eddie LaBrado's house. The topic was pond construction. Above, Jerry thanks everyone for coming and prepares to introduce Eddie.

2006 Camellia Koi Club Show and Vendor Faire Update - Gary Chin

The following Vendors have committed to the event. Nisei Koi Farm, home of Quality Koi Co. from New Jersey will be a Bronze Level Sponsor by sponsoring a high-end Tategoi for the event. Star Milling Co., the manufacturer of Ultra Balance Koi Food is returning to our event, has purchased a full page color ad in the Program Booklet, and will be donating Ultra Balance Koi food in the All Season Diet and Wheat Germ Diet varieties. Our own Bob Caruso the owner of West Coast Koi will be training a new volunteer coordinator in return for a booth at the club's Koi Show. Bob has supported the club and its activities in many ways over the years.

Jerry Kyle as Vendor Coordinator will be handling follow-up with the Vendors who have supported the show in the past and those who were initially contacted earlier this year. So if you know of a Vendor who we should attract to the event, please let Jerry know.

The Sacramento Koi Show budget for this year allocated the cost for three Judges. Since our Head Judge's expenses are being covered by someone else and the Head Judge is such a prestigious Koi Breeder in Japan. I would like to give someone else an opportunity to gain insight from our Head Judge.

So Steve Drake of the Koi Club of San Diego will be our fourth Judge this year; here is his bio.



Name: Steve Drake

e-mail: SteveDrake@aol.com

Profession: Technical Director - Ophthalmic Optics

Size of Pond: My pond and water system measures 3000 gallons.

Year Certified as Judge; 1999

Years in Hobby: 16 years

Affiliated Club and how many years: Koi Club of San Diego since 1989

Positions held in club: President, VP of Program, VP of Venue, Show Chairman

Other koi related Activities: I have been to Japan 6 times and have brought Koi home from other countries as well. I have written articles on a number of topics for KOI USA including Koi Terms, Buying and transporting Koi from Asia, Japanese versus English shows, etc. My pond was selected for a feature photo layout in a Koi publication in the UK. I have been the auctioneer several times at San Diego's largest Koi auction, I was chosen with only two others from our county to speak about Koi, my pond and my garden on a KPBS TV program. It has been shown, so far, for three years due to its popularity with the general public.

Accomplishments: My involvement with Koi has been, by both scale and expense, within the average suburban homeowners capability. The investment of my time to study Koi and their care has been very satisfying. While I love to study and judge large Koi, I specialize in buying smaller fish and raising them for shows in classes up to 21 inches long. My fish have won many high level Koi show awards. I consider my Koi as fine art, which understandably, are much more appreciated because they are framed by a collection of rare palm trees, ferns and other garden features.

**Club Meeting Dates And Locations****July 30:** Evans Pond, Sacramento, CA**Aug 27:** Avila Pond, Rio Linda, Ca - (Koi Auction & Club Pot Luck)**Sept 30 / Oct 1:** Koi Show, Pond Building, Garden Club, & Vendor Faire, Roseville, Ca**Oct 29:** Ragasa Pond, Rocklin, Ca**Nov 19:** Looking for location (Election of 2007 Officers)**Dec 3:** Annual Holiday Dinner (Presentation of new officers)**Treasurer's Report**

Beginning Balance: 7,515.12

Income: 4,200.00

Expenses: - 212.11**June balance: \$11,503.01****Pond Tour Final Report:**

Ticket Sales: \$4,874.0

Club Store Income: 123.50

Expenses: -955.01**Pond Tour Profit: \$3,795.49****Editor's Note**

This month while on vacation in San Diego, I attended the monthly meeting of the San Diego Koi Club. I introduced myself as a Camellia Koi Club member, and people seemed happy that I took the time to check out their club. The meeting was held at the home of koi vet Dr. Roseanne Brown, DVM. She is also a turtle enthusiast and had a few outdoor turtle habitats, in addition to a beautiful pond and waterfall set-up. I felt like I was at the San Diego Zoo! Jack Chapman gave a talk on the qualities of a good Bekko, and then Dr. Brown spoke about koi health and disease prevention. San Diego will be hosting the 2009 AKCA Seminar, and the club is already in the planning/brainstorming phase for that. They are hoping to combine the seminar with their annual koi show that year. Someone mentioned a local vendor that was selling a new kind of Q-tank, an all-inclusive set-up with filters, etc. included, 4' x 4' x 4' for \$500 each.

I think attending meetings and events from other koi clubs around the country helps us gain a fresh perspective on our own club. What could we do to shake things up? What are some good meeting topic ideas? If we really want people from all-over to come to our koi shows, it's a nice gesture to reciprocate and attend their events as well. So I applaud our president for taking the time and money to go to Portland on July 29-30 to check out the Northwest Koi and Goldfish Show. (<http://www.nwkg.org>)

You may have noticed some changes to the website lately. Webmasters Dennis and Marilee Marshall have turned the privilege of designing and maintaining the website over to me. I am doing my best in the spare time that I have to update the site and give it a fresh look. I hope to post the newsletter there, add more pictures from past club events, and implement a couple other ideas I have. We should all thank Dennis and Marilee for all the hard work they've put into the website over the past several years, it's served the club well as an information hub for all things Camellia Koi.

Finally, Kirk and I will be hosting the July meeting. I hope you can make it to our house in Sacramento and visit a pond that will be new for the majority of you. We have a 3 year old 4,500 gal. liner pond, 500 gal. veggie filter/Q-tank, and an assortment of gadgets (ozone, trickle towers, protein skimmer), plus 11 koi. Jason will be discussing trickle towers. See you there!

**Ramblings** — Jerry Kyle

It must be summer. Kids out of school, vacations, ponds warming up, grass growing and needing mowing, string algae growing and needing mowing, and on and on. Even with longer daylight hours there is not enough time to do all that needs doing. It's too darn hot to do everything but a couple of things need to be delt with.

This is the growing season and with warmer water our kids (koi variety) are so hungry that once a day feeding may not be enough to satisfy them. That's OK since one of my great pleasures in life is feeding them. I grab a fistful of food and holding my hand just in the water I wait for the most curious to check it out. Then I dribble just a little food into the water but do not move my hand. If they want that food they will just have to eat it with that hand sitting there. If they don't another koi who is braver will beat them to it. Then I dribble a little more. When the koi quit coming over and braving the hand, the hand quits dribbling food and goes away. The only food available comes from that dribbling hand. Within a few days the koi recognize the hand that feeds them and rush to be first fed. Within a week they will be sucking on the hand trying to get more food out of it. When the grandkids and nieces and nephews come to visit I enjoy the glee and squeals of delight and the excited telling of how the fish sucked on fingers. Most children (and adults, too) have never experienced this delight. My neighbor had the roof replaced last month and the installers saw me feeding my koi. Since I am a show off I held my hand above the water so the koi had to raise their heads out of the water to get to the food. Construction came to a complete halt while the workers watched the wonderous sight of the old man feeding and petting his koi just like a dog or cat.

Koi health relates directly to water health (quality) and all this feeding and growing and more eating means more waste products in the water. That's OK since we all have such superior filter systems to convert the potentially dangerous waste products to less dangerous nitrates. Right? The fact is that in the summer it is more necessary than ever to clean that filter regularly due to the fish poop load we put on it. Nitrates that build up in the water are fertilizer for the plants and help them grow. Algae is a plant too and will grow out of control with light and fertilizer.

If you love your koi please keep them happy and healthy by cleaning the filters and giving them fresh water weekly. A ten percent water replacement weekly is recommended. Some will say as long as you change 40 percent a month that is fine. I do not disagree. I am just too lazy to want to make that big of a change all at once so go for a 10 percent weekly since it is easier. In those areas that have to deal with chlorinated water, a 40 percent all at once requires a lot of chemical to neutralize the chlorine. Some of us use a nozzle to lightly spray a fine mist of water over the pond once a week. In my case a fine spray with a low volume of water is run once a week long enough (overnight) to effect the water change required. This spray application system helps gas off the chlorine making it not a problem. To use this method one needs an overflow on the pond. If you do not have one it is a cheap fix and should be added. Of all the things we do not do that we know we should do, water changes usually heads the list.

If you have not done a partial water change in a month you are forcing your koi to swim in their own waste water. How would you like to have to live in a toilet and be able to do nothing about it? Think about this and then like Dr. Laura says, "Go do the right thing."

**Board of Directors Minutes** — *Duane Carlson*

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Kyle, President at 12:15 pm at Eddie Labrado's home, the site of the June 2006 general meeting. Officers present were President - Jerry Kyle, Vice President - Jason Sargeant, Secretary - Duane Carlson, and Directors - Gary Fabian and Phyllis Kyle. Guests present were Steve Eckard.

The Board of Directors meeting minutes for April 2006 were read. Jerry Kyle gave a report that the 2006 Pond Tour made a profit of \$3,919.07. There will be a post pond tour committee meeting held some time in the future to analyze this tour and develop ideas for future tours.

Jerry Kyle announced that the voting was close for the Koi Person of the Year. Jim Phillips received the most votes and will be awarded the trophy at the next meeting.

Jason announced that the November meeting place is still undetermined but will ask the Salem's if they will host it.

Next discussion was about a request from Jim Phillips for \$1,300.00 to purchase nets and show tanks. There was much discussion on new, used tanks and the quality of net material. A vendor has offered to purchase these tanks and sell them to us at his cost, which is about \$330.00 each. Duane Carlson made a motion to add \$1,500.00 to the \$2,000.00 in this years budget for the purposes of buying ten new show tanks and nets or supplies to make the nets needed for these plus the nets needed for our other tanks. This will be voted on by the membership at the general meeting following this Board Meeting.

Phyllis Kyle announced the club store is out of some sizes of club "T" shirts. She would like to lower the price of our remaining shirts to move them out, making room and freeing up money to purchase a new style. The determination was made that no action was needed as she already has the authority to set prices.

Steve Eckard will give his report on the Koi Show at the general meeting. So far there are 4 major sponsors. Received about \$6,000.00 in cash and stuff. Looking for some assistant chairmen. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.



Board of Directors

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Next Meeting

**July General Meeting will be on Sunday July 30 at 1:00.
(Board Meeting at noon)**

**Home of KIRK & ELLEN EVANS
5932 2nd Ave
Sacramento, CA 95817**

TOPIC: Trickle Tower Bio Filters

DIRECTIONS: From I-80 or I-99: Get on I-50E (towards South Lake Tahoe). Exit at 59th St off-ramp. Turn right at light at top of off-ramp, onto 59th St. Continue through light at T St. Pass U St. and take next left, which is 2nd Ave. Look for koi sock.

From I-50W, take 65th St. exit (there is no 59th St. exit from this direction). Continue straight through light at 65th St, onto S St. Pass Chevron station and SMUD offices. Make left at light at 59th St. Continue through light at T St. Pass U St. and take next left, which is 2nd Ave. Look for koi sock.

Koi Ahoy

Ellen Evans
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