



Koi Ahoy

Camellia Koi Club
Sacramento

November 2004

Camellia Koi Club Annual Holiday Dinner

December 12th 5:00-8:00 PM

*Barbara Morse Wackford Community
& Aquatic Complex*

9014 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove 95758

*Texas BBQ Dinner catered by Back
Forty*

Cost of tickets: \$15.00 per person

*Make checks payable to Camellia Koi
Club*

*Mail checks to Marilyn Chin 2247
Atrisco Circle, Sacramento 95833*

• Number count due by December 3rd

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Visit to Japan during the Earthquake by Carolyn Swanson

Editor’s note: Carolyn Swanson, a member of our club, visited Japan for the first time. This is her first hand account of her adventure in the earthquake. Thank you, Carolyn!

On October 13, 2004 the Japanese civil earthquake authority issued a report stating that the Niigata region had less than a two percent chance of a major earthquake in the next thirty years. Just as a prudent person, after getting a clean bill of health from the doctor should go shopping for a plot, the people in Niigata should have expected something big. At 5:53 p.m., just ten days later, the biggest earthquake to hit Japan since 1968 occurred in the countryside around the town of Ojiya.

We were in the middle of a fish-buying trip with Keirin Koi’s Carl Forss, stopped at a signal when the first series of jolts hit our little Toyota. At first, we didn’t even think of an earthquake. Maybe someone had hit us, the engine was out of whack, or that prankster Koda had followed us and was jumping up and down on the car. Since all the other cars were doing to same thing, we hit on the earthquake theory and drove to the nearest parking lot, where the first words out of my mouth were, “Did the earth move for you too?” There were a lot of cars parked in the lot, with groups of people sitting and talking. The electricity had been turned off immediately but there was some light from the moon and stores with back-up generators.

There were three main quakes: 6.8, 6.1, and 5.8. It was amazing to us *gaijin* that everyone was apparently calm, doors were left open and nobody took advantage. When everything had calmed down a bit, Carl decided that we should assist his breeder friends. We started out of town, but were turned back every time we tried a new way. There were groups of people gathered at the road-sides, crying and looking for their families. In the countryside, most of the older homes had collapsed, some sliding off their foundations. Nobody slept inside that night.

We spent the night sleeping in that little Toyota in the 7-11 parking lot with about twenty other groups. Parked there also was Orna Koi with there big vans with TV. We had been staying at **(Continued on page 4)**

Treasurer’s Report

		Expenses:	
Beginning Balance	\$10,098.74	Koi Show Awards (G.Chin)	295.00
		Equipment (J.Phillips)	55.26
		October Meeting Host (J.Phillips)	30.00
Income:		Holiday Dinner Deposit (Elk Grove	
Koi Show	510.00	Community Center)	400.00
Misc.	25.50	Holiday Dinner Deposit (Back 40)	434.00
		Koi Show Banner (B.Caruso)	180.00
Total Income	535.50	Total Expenses:	1894.26
		Ending Balance:	\$ 8,739.98

Koi Show Re-Cap



On November 6-7, we hosted a Koi Show at Green Acres Nursery in Roseville. Our new sign announced this very successful event.

We had approximately 100 fish entered in the show, and a dozen vendors. Chuck Poppe, Bob Finnegan and Joan Finnegan served as judges. The quality of the fish was outstanding.



Pictures of the winning fish and a list of awards appears on the club web site. Visit the web site:
www.camelliakoi.org.





the New Plaza Hotel with the other koi dealers and most of them decided to stay together in the hotel parking lot. It seemed dangerous to stay in a place surrounded by tall buildings, so we decided to stay with the 7-11 crowd. Things settled down during the night with a series of after-shocks. Carl is a big guy, and reclining, had his “feet through the headlights”, and his head taking up half the back seat. He is also a very enthusiastic sleeper, snoring like an asthmatic buffalo. He would stop snoring occasionally, and we stayed awake to make sure that he would resume breathing. This may sound like a nightmare, but Carl is so big and brave and strong we were not worried at all as long as he was with us. We would much rather have Carl snoring with us than snoring somewhere else.

The electricity was anticipated by the authorities to be on by 8:00 a.m. but it didn't seem possible. We walked back to our hotel early the next morning to retrieve our things and the staff had set out a breakfast for us, when it would be perfectly understandable for them to be home with their families. One lady had stayed there all night after her house collapsed, both to be with her friends from work and to help with the guests. We were allowed to go into the hotel briefly to collect our things. Televisions were across the rooms, air conditioners off the walls, and toilet tanks askew. We will take care of the bill later as the computers were of course down. Carl remarked that they would probably refuse payment because we were “inconvenienced”.

Cellular phone service was out, and we had no idea what was happening with the breeders and their fish. We set out to get to at least one of Carl's friends, thinking that we could be of some kind of help and learn the fate of the others. Carl is a wizard driver and kept finding the way around obstructions. He even rebuilt a section of a buckled road to get by. On our way we saw widespread devastation, with no building unaffected. The damage ranged from debris strewn around to complete collapse. We were again amazed by the calmness and honesty of the people. Several times we passed a place where a huge pile of beer in boxes had been stack. The stack had fallen, most of the bottles intact, but not one bottle was taken.

We finally reached the Kase farm. They were prudent in having several generators on hand and all the fish were not happy, but were still alive. One of their mud ponds had cracked and the water was leaking out slowly. Carl helped them harvest their fish and we spent a pleasant afternoon taking drowsy naps in the sun. Kase was able to report that Matsuhara Hoshino and this family were fine as were the people at the Hosokai farm. We later found out that the son at Koda's had been air-lifted to the hospital with a leg crushed by an oxygen cylinder and was to remain there for five days. Their tosaï greenhouse was down the mountain as were the mud ponds filled with fish. The house was essentially destroyed, but he was able to get air to the fish in his main greenhouse. We had tried to get to Koda's and Hosokai's, but the roads were all blocked. There was no access for several days and we never did reach Hosokai's but found out later that there was only minor damage.

On our travels on the day of the earthquake, we had stopped at Dainichi's to photograph some of our new fish. The family house was enormous and beautiful with many wonderful architectural details. The greenhouse was made out of glass and there were at least a hundred of his best fish inside and someone remarked that there was one tank with his parent fish. The house had collapsed as well as the greenhouse and all the fish were dead. The greenhouse where our fish were was alright as were several more.

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**Ramblings** by Jerry Kyle

Is it over? Already? Time flies when you are having fun and just like I said last year at this time -- the year seemed to just fly by. It was a good year. It was a very good year. Reminds me of a song. Obviously, I had a most enjoyable time being a member of this Camellia Koi Club and I know you share that feeling.

I will not wax poetically over all this club accomplished in the last year but will leave that to others. Instead, I asked Mr. Webster for the meaning of a "club." Other than a card or something to whack someone over the head with, a club is an "association" of persons for a common purpose. Then I asked Mr. Thesaurus for some other words that might also describe us as an association and the ones I liked the best were: affiliation, partnership, alliance, tie-up, togetherness, collaboration, cooperation, teamwork, conviviality, joviality, sociability, brotherhood, fellowship, and finally, cahoots. I like cahoots. It sounds old west and I like history. All the cahoots came together like seldom before and with conviviality, joviality, sociability, cooperation, and all those other words, this club accomplished much in the promotion of the common purpose of promoting the love of all things Koi. Along the way we had a lot of fun. For sheer accomplishment and working together this year will be long remembered.

What about next year? All you cahoots need to speak up. What do you desire? Remember "partnership" and "teamwork?" This is not a one or even a few-man show. You all proved that this year. As a club you are an "association" and you along with everyone has a say in what the club does. Remember the old saying, "Speak up or forever hold your peace?" Well, forget that! The new saying is, "Speak up!" That's right – just, "Speak up!" We have a new group of officers to lead the club in 2005 and they want more of you to join in and speak up. They will support you and your ideas if you just speak up.

Come to the Holiday Dinner Dec. 12th and have a good time with good friends and speak up. There will be sign up sheets for members to volunteer to host a monthly meeting next year at your pond. We can see your koi and KHAers will be happy to give your pond an evaluation (or not) as you desire. Just as you like to see new or different ponds and koi, this will give the rest of us the chance to admire what you are working on. As host, you are not expected to bare all the costs of refreshments. The club will reimburse you \$30 to help defray your costs of being a host. That's what club cooperation is all about. We also want to hear your ideas on what you would like to see or learn at meetings or seminars or koi shows or whatever. If you cannot make the dinner because of conflicting plans then e-mail me at jpa-kyle@netzero.com and pass on any thoughts you may have about anything koi or anything C.K.C..

Fun. You have all read many times about me having fun as a member of The Camellia Koi Club. You know that word is an over simplification of what I feel but, as members, you understand what I mean. This year we have come together and accomplished much. Now we need to grow the club membership and continue to build on what has begun. Hopefully, we will see you at the Holiday Dinner and pond-side in 05.

**President's Message** by Garry Chin

As I now wrap up my second two-year term as your club president I would like to wish Gerald Kyle the best of luck and I hope being President of the club will be as fun for him as it was for me. Also good luck to our new officers Jason Sargeant, Vice-President; Marilee Marshall, Treasurer and Carla Casinelli, Jack Flockhart and Phyllis Kyle, Directors and to our returning officers Diana Dahlberg, Secretary and Duane Carlson Director - have a great year!

My how time flies when you are having fun. Just thinking about all of the activities our club has been involved with the last four years such as the Annual Associated Koi Clubs of America Seminar, Pond Tours, One Day Seminars, Annual Pot-Lucks, Numerous Holiday Dinners, Koi Shows as well as the Monthly General Meetings really boggles the mind. The number of people who have worked hard the last several years to produce these events is staggering and I doubt if Sandy Sylvester would allow me that much space in the Koi Ahoy. So I would like to thank every one who has supported me; I could not have managed without your help and encouragement. It has been fun and it is hard to believe it has been four years already. Thank you!

Finally, I have been asked this question more than a few times over the last four years "Are You Having Fun?" Well my answer to all who have asked....HECK YES, I HAD A GREAT TIME..IT WAS A BLAST! I will still be around at various club activities, so I hope to see you soon.

Visit (Continued)

We had also visited Jimbei and bought two wonderful fish there. The Jimbei line has been in development for decades and has been the foundation for several famous, award-winning fish. The sumi quality is superb. They have been totally wiped out, all the fish are dead, and he will not be starting over. Also totally gone are Morisada and Shintaro. Probably no breeder was unaffected. A typhoon had blown through a few days prior to the quake and the soil was saturated. Whole hillsides slid down. Hosokai alone had almost a hundred mud ponds, and the harvesting was only partially completed. We traveled on some hillside roads that were covered in dead fish. The business may never be the same. Many of the smaller breeders may not start again. A whole season of Niigata tosa has been destroyed as well as a large percentage of parent fish.

The electricity was restored after only a few days and rebuilding started. It took a few days for the people to start sleeping inside. Most stayed at shelters, rejoicing when hot water was available for showers. Snow is anticipated in the next several weeks—hopefully things will be sorted out by then. The method for snow removal in the city is a system of sprinklers which are turned on to melt the snow. All the pipes are broken and may not be fixed by the time the snow falls.

Since we couldn't reach anyone, we continued on our trip. The Tokyo highway had buckled in several places and was closed. We stopped at a convenience store to ask directions and one of the men volunteered to lead us to the airport in Nigata. It was anticipated that the trip would take half an hour. We called the Momotaro Koi Farm and they tried to get us a flight out that evening. It was re-

(Continued on the following page)



Visit (Continued)

alized that we couldn't rely on getting to the airport in time so decided to stay in Nigata overnight. The JAL people hooked us up with a wonderful hotel and we stayed on the 25th floor with a wonderful view of the city and lots of hot water. At 6:05 the next morning, we were awakened by another earthquake. Carl determined that our floor had swayed 15 feet. There had been a 5.6 quake in Ojiya.

We continued on our journey to Momotaroville. We attended a successful koi auction and then continued on to the U.S. Carl remained in Japan to return to Ojiya to help his friends rebuild. **(Carolyn has promised a follow-up article on her impressions as a first time visitor Japan as well as helpful information about navigating in Japan, as a non-Japanese speaking tourist. We look forward to this article.)**



Contact us:

Board of Directors

President: Garry Chin 916 922-2525
scvkoi@yahoo.com
Vice President: Bob Caruso 916 645-3562
bobcaruso.csm@starstream.net
Treasurer: Mary Beth Avila 916 991-0511
avila860@cs.com
Secretary: Diane Dahlberg 209 333-0403
didahlberg@comcast.net
Jerry Kyle 209 368-9411
jerroldkyle@yahoo.com
Duane Carlson 916 791-7607
duane.c@worldnet.att.net
Marilee Marshall 530 269-2742
dammmm@pacbell.net
Jason Sargeant 916 630-1033
sarge@starstream.net

Koi Ahoy Editor

Sandra Sylvester 916 452-5030
ssylvester@pacbell.net

Webmaster

Dennis & Marilee Marshall 530 269-2742
dammmm@pacbell.net

www.camelliakoi.org

Club Calendar

**December 12: Holiday Party at Barbara Moore
Wackford Community and Aquatic Center
9014 Bruceville Road
Elk Grove, 95758**

5:00—8:00 PM

**Directions: Hwy 99 South to Sheldon Road Exit
Go toward Sheldon Road
Turn a slight left onto Stockton Blvd.
Turn Right onto Sheldon Road
Turn Left onto Bruceville Road**

Koi Ahoy

Sandra Sylvester
4840 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95819