

Koi Ahoy

Camellia Koi Club
Sacramento

January 2005

First Meeting of the Year

The January 30th meeting will be at the Rocklin Library at 1PM-3PM. A Board of Directors meeting will precede the club meeting at 12PM. All members are invited to attend if they are interested. If this meeting is not concluded by 1pm it will be recessed until the conclusion of the club meeting.. The club meeting topic will be "Planning The Future." It will be an interactive meeting between the Board and the club with the intent of getting everyone involved in the general planning of the agenda for the year. This will be an excellent opportunity for members at large to voice their desires for what they would like to experience this coming year. The idea is to encourage the membership to determine what they like so the new Board can implement a program that is interesting to all. What a concept! Instead of the Board deciding what to do and everyone following along we will have the members deciding what to do and the Board doing what they can to make it happen. The Board is here to serve the members. This will be an important meeting for all to attend and be heard if desired.

Renew Your Membership in the Club

- 2005 Dues and AKCA membership can be paid at the meeting on Sunday.
- Please see Marilee Marshall with your checks.
- Make checks out to Camellia Koi Club

Inside this issue:

December Treasurer's Report	2
2004 End of Year Report	2
An Adventure in Japan	3-6
President's Message	7
Ramblings	8
Building a Pond Heater	9-11
Contact US Meeting Info	12

**Treasurer's Report
December 2004**

Beginning Balance:	\$8,892.46
Income:	
Koi Show Donation	\$100.00
Christmas Dinner (2 fins used \$10.)	\$740.00
Total Income:	\$840.00
Expenses:	
G.Chin (After K.S.meeting)	\$42.78
J.Kyle (After K.S. meeting)	\$25.86
Koi U.S.A. (Koi Show Ad.in mag.)	\$530.00
S.Sylvester (Koi Show Printing and 5 months N.L. & stamps)	\$769.51 \$311.42
Back 40 Texas BBQ (Bal. on Chr. Dnr.)	\$289.94
All Action Awards (Friendship Awards)	\$179.51
Total Expenses:	\$2,149.02
Ending Balance:	\$7,583.44
Check for Website never cashed	\$145.10
Journal Entry Correction carried forward balance from 1999	\$321.63
Ending Balance for 2004:	\$8,005.81

2004 Year End Report

Income:	
Bookstore:	\$1,083.50
Memberships:	\$4,815.00
Fish Auction:	\$251.00
Pond Building Seminar:	\$550.00
San Jose Van Trip:	\$295.00
Pond Tour:	\$4,245.00
Christmas dinner:	\$740.00
Koi Show:	\$2,918.00
Misc.	\$784.95
Total:	\$15,682.45
Expenses:	
Koi USA Magazine:	\$2,320.00
Koi Ahoy Newsletter:	\$823.11
Bookstore:	\$1,012.08
AKCA Dues:	\$100.00
KHA Program:	\$270.00
Internet site:	\$145.10
Pond Building Seminar:	\$765.21
San Jose Van Trip:	\$360.10
Pond Tour:	\$1,386.45
Koi Show:	\$4,306.74
Christmas dinner:	\$1,123.94
Equipment:	\$756.03
Meeting Hosts:	\$240.00
Fish Auction:	\$142.58
KHV Donation:	\$500.00
Miscellaneous:	\$860.75
Total:	\$15,045.06

AN ADVENTURE IN JAPAN *by Carolyn Swanson*

To Go Or Not To Go

Going to Japan to buy fish and participate in the fall dealer frenzy can be a wonderful experience. However, it requires quite a bit of trust OR an adventurous spirit. Probably the best and easiest way is to go with a guide or a koi dealer going on his own trip. They know all about the trains, will drive you around, can book you into suitable hotels, and can entertain with colorful stories about Japan, the people, and his own adventures. The guide can also assist with shipping your fish back to the U.S. It is important to be able to trust your guide. The commission system is convoluted, with commissions piled on top of each other. The guide may have prior arrangements with the breeders, which may not work to your advantage. You should also agree on the quality of fish you wish to look at: you will be unhappy if you have a small budget and your guide is looking at high-end fish. I was in contact with one dealer who was arranging a trip. He specified a minimum amount to be spent on fish. Unless other arrangements are made, they are compensated from the commissions you pay on the fish. It is unfair to them to use their services and leave them empty-handed.

The other alternative is to go on your own. I'm having

a panic attack just thinking about it. Getting to Japan is easy; leaving the security of the airport is a huge adventure. The trains, while on time and very efficient, are a mystery the first time (and probably several times). Once you get to Ojiya, there are taxis to take you to the hotel. After the earthquake, there may not be very much available. If you are going to rent a car, the same procedure applies as in the U.S. It helps to get your International Driver's License before you leave the U.S. (available at AAA and other auto clubs). You can get it in Japan, but it is much more complicated. Getting around is almost impossible. Even dealers who travel to Japan frequently can't find important breeders. The street signs, if there are any, are in *Kanji* (Japanese characters). Driving

is easy and there isn't much traffic. The Japanese have a much more stringent licensing system and are better drivers. However, driving is on the left, and there is the temptation, in times of stress, to revert to driving on the right, with disastrous consequences. The 20% commission paid to a guide is completely a bargain.

Getting There

The plane fare from Sacramento is in the \$700 range, round trip. The trip takes 12 hours and hopefully you will be met by someone who can herd you through the trains. You must have a destination for the immigration people. They are probably looking for a hotel name in Tokyo, and it can take several minutes to convince them where you are actually going. It helps to know where



Adventure ... (continued from previous page)

you are going, but confusing for a first-timer. The trains depart from the lowest level of the airport. Your first train goes to the Shinjuku Station in Tokyo. The second will get you to Niigata. Both tickets can be bought at one time. There are "ticket adjustment" windows at every entrance (signs in English) in case you didn't buy the correct ticket. Going in, there is a machine that will swallow your tickets and disgorge the ones they don't want. You will want to take the Green Cars (first class) and the car and seat will be on the ticket. There are screens like those in airports with the track and departure information. When you arrive at your platform, there are numbers on the ground corresponding to the car number, and the train stops precisely. The trains are very comfortable, and ride so smoothly that, in the dark, you can't even tell in which direction you are moving. A snack lady comes down the aisles occasionally with hot coffee and all kinds of snacks

It is possible to fly to Niigata and rent a car to get to koi country, but you have to leave from Haneda Airport. The trip to the Haneda Airport by bus is an hour and a half, or much longer in rush hour. Driving to Niigata on the Tokyo Highway might be scenic, but it is a toll highway and very expensive. It is cheaper to fly for one or two persons than

to drive.

Getting Along

It is important to remember, that, whatever you do, nobody will laugh at you. This may be because the Japanese are a polite people, or they may just think we are uncivilized morons: nothing surprises them. Ojiya, even though it is not a small town,



seems to be a farming community. The pace is much slower than that of the big city and people are not fashion-conscious. While you may find some nightlife if you search long enough, even the 7-11 closes at 9 p.m. The people are not surprised by *gaijin*, and any attempt at speaking Japanese is appreciated. It is important to remember that most Japanese

read English much better than they can speak it. The menus in restaurants usually have pictures and pointing works well.

There are no restrictions on how much money you can bring into the country, but it is more convenient to have money wired to a contact in Japan (your guide will know). While money can be changed in the airport, you can buy yen at your bank in the U.S. Travelers Checks, while safer, are not universally accepted and must sometimes be changed at a bank. The koi breeders only take cash. While you may see the occasional ATM machine, directions are in *kanji*, so useless to us. Credit cards are accepted in hotels, etc., but not in small businesses like restaurants.

Food is available everywhere. The cost in the small towns is about equivalent to that in the U.S. Pre-packaged food is available at convenience stores, and a visit to a supermarket is worth the price of the whole trip. As there were only Japanese there, I was the tallest person, something I enjoyed. Another wonderful feature is the prevalence of vending machines. They are everywhere, and they stock everything from batteries to sake. Canned coffee is a favorite, and some machines will sell both hot and cold coffee from the same machine. You may be driving along a country road, and **bam**,

Adventure ... (continued from preceding page)



there's a coffee machine.

Even though in California there's a sushi bar on every corner, the Japanese food is much different than in Sacramento. While the noodle dishes are the same, there is a prevalence of things made of entrails, etc. And, we didn't see one California or Philadelphia Roll.

I suppose that it is not p.c. to frequent American fast-food restaurants, but doing so may give you more insight into the Japanese culture. We ate donuts filled with curry, and wondered what the green stuff was on the cheeseburger—it certainly wasn't guacamole. There is even a squid pizza. At McDonald's, the menu was certainly entertaining. There were no burgers that were the same as the U.S. Each had its

own Japanese touch.

Going Japanese

We've just got to face it. We're Americans and used to our comforts. The toilets in Japan are a challenge to our sensibilities and physique. In the Western-style hotels, public transportation, and places where Westerners frequent, there are flush toilets. Otherwise, it is either a pit in the ground or a ceramic flush bowl over a pit. The public bathrooms are frequently uni-sex. We Americans are generally bigger than the Japanese, and their bathrooms are small. It takes less space to squat down than to get up. It has happened that Americans have gotten stuck. Maybe this maneuver is something to be practiced at home before you leave. Also public toilets frequently run out of toilet paper, so it is best to take some along. Little packets are sold in convenience stores, etc.

Electrical current in Japan is 100 volts, but the cycle rating differs regionally. American appliances will work, but sometimes with reduced efficiency. The current in the north is 50 cycles, 60 in the south. You may wish to take a voltage regulator with you, or some hotels have them on hand. The plugs have 2 holes, so if you have three-

pronged appliances, you may wish to take a converter plug.

In Japan, gift giving is good manners, and it is a pleasure for both giver and receiver. It is customary to give gifts to some of the breeders, depending on your involvement. Examples of appropriate gifts (given with both hands and a little bow) are: American liquor, gift packs of American foods (almonds, fruits, candies), or our regional crafts. There is no tipping in Japan, so if you wish to reward a maid or acquaintance, a small gift will do.

The Japanese are extremely honest. If something is found on the street, someone will



Adventure ... (conclusion)

frequently look for the owner, at least turning it at the police station. I left my camera sitting around in a group of people with no thought to its safety.

Manners

It is not necessarily true that the Japanese have better manners than Americans: they just may be different. Here are a few examples:

- Shoes are not generally worn in the home. They are parked in the entry, toes pointed toward the door. There are special shoes to be worn in the bathroom.
- Adults don't address each other by their first names unless they have been friends almost from childhood. Use the last name, adding the title *san* (Hoshino-san).
- When dining, it is impolite to fill your own glass and important to make sure that your neighbor's is filled. If you don't want any more to drink, turn your glass upside down or just stop drinking.
- It is also impolite to pass food from person to person using chopsticks and if served from a common dish to serve yourself with chopsticks. Use serving utensils or the top end of the chopsticks.
- When dining, wait for the most respected or senior person to start.
- Lay your chopsticks down and stop eating while being served

helpings.

- It is mandatory that you slurp your noodles.
- When finished eating, the chopsticks are to be put across the plate or bowl.
- The chopsticks are not to be stuck upright in the rice, used to push dishes around, or to play with. Don't put them up your nose and act like a seal.
- When eating both in private homes and restaurants, there is a "seat of honor," reserved for the person of highest rank. The Japanese are very sensitive to this ranking and will guide the Westerner to the appropriate seat. In a home, this seat is the one nearest the "beauty alcove."
- When paying for something in stores, etc., money is to be placed in the little tray provided. The clerk will return the change via the tray also.
- Public displays of affection are not encountered. Compliments are fre-

additional

quently received with a deprecating remark, and seem to make the recipient uncomfortable. With just a little thought, it is possible not to offend too many people.

No matter what your experience in Japan, you are sure to come away with a new appreciation of a different part of the world. You may want to incorporate some customs into your own life. I came away with an increased appreciation for indoor





President's Message by Jerry Kyle

It is both with excitement and trepidation that I assume the position of Camellia Koi Club President. The club has just completed a hugely successful activity filled year and I was feeling that this was going to be a tough act for me to follow. However, on reflection, I realize it is not an act for ME to follow. After all, this is not MY club. It is YOUR club. I'm just the person who stands up in front of everyone and calls the meeting to order. Your meeting. Then I introduce the member hosts (you) and invite them (you) to tell us about their pond and fish. This is one of the reasons we joined the CKC—to see different ponds and koi and to learn from each other. The social camaraderie and fellowship and wonderful friends just make it better. No one has yet to build the “perfect pond” but everyone has one little something that we each can learn from in our own way.

Then I have the privilege of introducing one of you who is more knowledgeable on some aspect to share your knowledge and, perhaps, guide us in solving problems and better understanding this fascinating hobby of ours. For more knowledge we may invite speakers from outside the club. We do a number of things. The key word here is WE. Not just you and not me but “we”. “We” is what makes us one of the most active and respected clubs in the AKCA and I am proud to

be the newly elected president of our club.

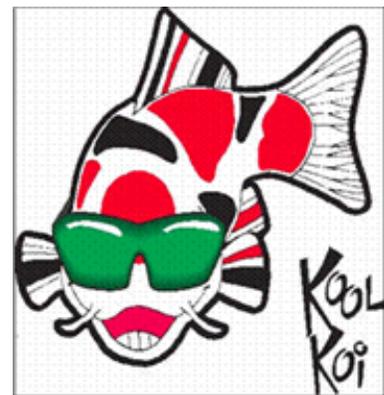
We cannot do this alone and fortunately, we do not have to. Jason Sargeant, who knows a whole lot more about koi husbandry than I is here to help as the new CKC Vice President. Thank you, Jason. Diane Dahlberg was CKC Secretary last year and is returning as secretary. Thank you Diane. Marilee Marshall who was a director last year is stepping up as CKC Treasurer. Thank you Marilee. Duane Carlson is returning as a CKC Director. Thank you Duane. Jack Flockhart who is a former board member and vice president, is returning as a CKC Director. Thank you, Jack. The board is completed with two new CKC Directors: Carla Casinelli and Phyllis Kyle. Thank you Carla. Thank you Phyllis. Last but not least, a big thank you to Sandy Sylvester who will continue to be the KOI AHoy Editor. The team is complete and I could not have asked for a better one. Again, thank you all.

This team will be busy planning and putting together a program for 2005. They need to know what you, the membership, want from them. They are willing to work but would appreciate some direction from those who are part of the “we” of this club. We expect to have a very enjoyable, constructive, social year. In

other words, we once again expect to share, learn, and have fun.

Now this is what I expect from you. E-mail me at jerold-kyle@yahoo.com. Let us know if you will invite us to hold a meeting at your pond. This will be an opportunity for you to get some ideas if you wish and for others to see what they might learn. The board will reimburse you \$30 for refreshment expenses to help defray out of pocket expenses. The next thing I need from you is any ideas you may have for a meeting program. If you have no new ideas, that is fine. Just tell me what you saw that you liked or something you liked but have an idea to make it a little better. All this information will be passed on to the board members for their consideration when planning the year. Let's all get ready to have fun.

Please help the new board by doing your part. We already have the reputation of being a major player in the ACKA. We need your input.



Dues - \$10.00 per year - \$5.00 per koi



2004 was a watershed year. Too often in clubs such as ours we see too much being done by too few. Last year we saw all that beginning to change with more and more Camellia Koi Club members getting involved and joining in the fun. That resulted in more being accomplished with less stress. As Bob Caruso said, "Many hands make light work." He sure was right. They did and it was. We are a club that is here to support our purpose and we did it well last year.

The By Laws of the AKCA, Article II, Purpose: To promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, and appreciating and exhibiting Koi; to disseminate information about Koi activities world wide to its membership; to issue publications which will provide information on Koi culture not only to members but also to the public-at-large; to provide information to the public-at-large through news releases to the media and other public relations endeavors; to encourage and promote the chartering or organizations of clubs where interest is ex-

pressed and to assist them in becoming and remaining viable.

The Camellia Koi Club certainly fits in and, as they say, fills the bill. With more attendees at last years AKCA Seminar than any other club, more KHA Health Advisors, an AKCA Head Judge, a successful Pond Building Seminar, a presentation at the Asian Pacific Rim Heritage Day, a Pond Tour, a terrific Sacramento Koi Show, meetings at member's ponds, the Koi Ahoy Newsletter, a club web site, and much more, this club is recognized as one of the premier clubs in the AKCA. All this and we have a lot of fun.

January 30 will see the first meeting of this year at the Rocklin Library Meeting Room. Everyone is invited to attend and bring your ideas and wish lists to the meeting. Our newly elected vice president, Jason Sergeant, will be asking all of us what we would like to see happen this year. If you want another seminar to learn from, see new ponds, an auction, another Koi Show

(that's a given), social trips to dealers, or anything else of interest, it will be a time to let your thoughts be known. The new Board of Directors is interested in letting the membership decide this year what we shall do. It will promote more involvement and sharing of ideas from club members. This meeting will be a planning and sharing of ideas time. Perhaps you will wish to invite us to see your pond at a meeting at your home. Those are always the most enjoyable meetings. Those of us who have been in the club for a while would especially like to see some of the newer member's ponds where we can all learn and share ideas. No pond is too small or too large. If you can not make the meeting but would like to have a meeting at your home, e-mail me: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com and I will pass the information on to Jason along with any other ideas you would like to contribute. The board members are excited with the idea this is going to be a great year to belong to the Camellia Koi Club. If you have not sent in your membership dues, please do it right now.

Building a Pond Heater by Sandy Sylvester

Most serious koi hobbyists would prefer to be able to heat their ponds. Many of us have invested a lot of time and money in our ponds and fish. We continually strive to improve water quality but ignore an important part of water quality, which is temperature, because we think it would be too expensive or too difficult to heat the pond. The purpose of this article is to dispel those beliefs and to describe in detail, how to custom design a gas heating system for your pond, for approximately \$1500.00 in equipment plus labor and miscellaneous pipe, unions and valves, regardless of the size of the pond. This article will include the names, costs, and sources of the specific components of this system.

I designed and installed the heating system described in this article last year. It has been in operation since then. It works flawlessly and safely. It is ethically pleasing because it is “invisible” from the pond. I consider it very wise to invest \$1500 one time for something that yields daily benefits for years to come.

There are many ways to heat a pond. In our club, some members have designed passive solar heating systems by putting their ponds in greenhouses. Other members have purchased commercial pre-assembled units with gas heaters and heat exchangers. These units are costly. Some require the placement of coils, which are unsightly and become dirty over time, thus being yet another thing to clean.

What are the pros and cons of heating a pond?

Pros:

- **Fish can be kept at temperatures for optimum health and growth.**
- **Winter temperatures can be controlled.**
- **In the case of herpes or other illness, water temperature can be brought up to therapeutic level and maintained at these levels for any desired length of time.**
- **Koi like stability of temperature and water quality. This can be more easily obtained with a heated pond.**

Cons:

- **It is prohibitively expensive to heat a pond with electricity even though electric heaters are less expensive to install.**
- **It is expensive to *install* gas heaters.**
- **It is difficult to design and retrofit a heating system for a pond.**

Pond Heater (Continued)

Equipment needed: To heat a pond you need:

- a heat source,
- a heat exchanger,
- a pump,
- an expansion tank
- and one or two temperature controllers.

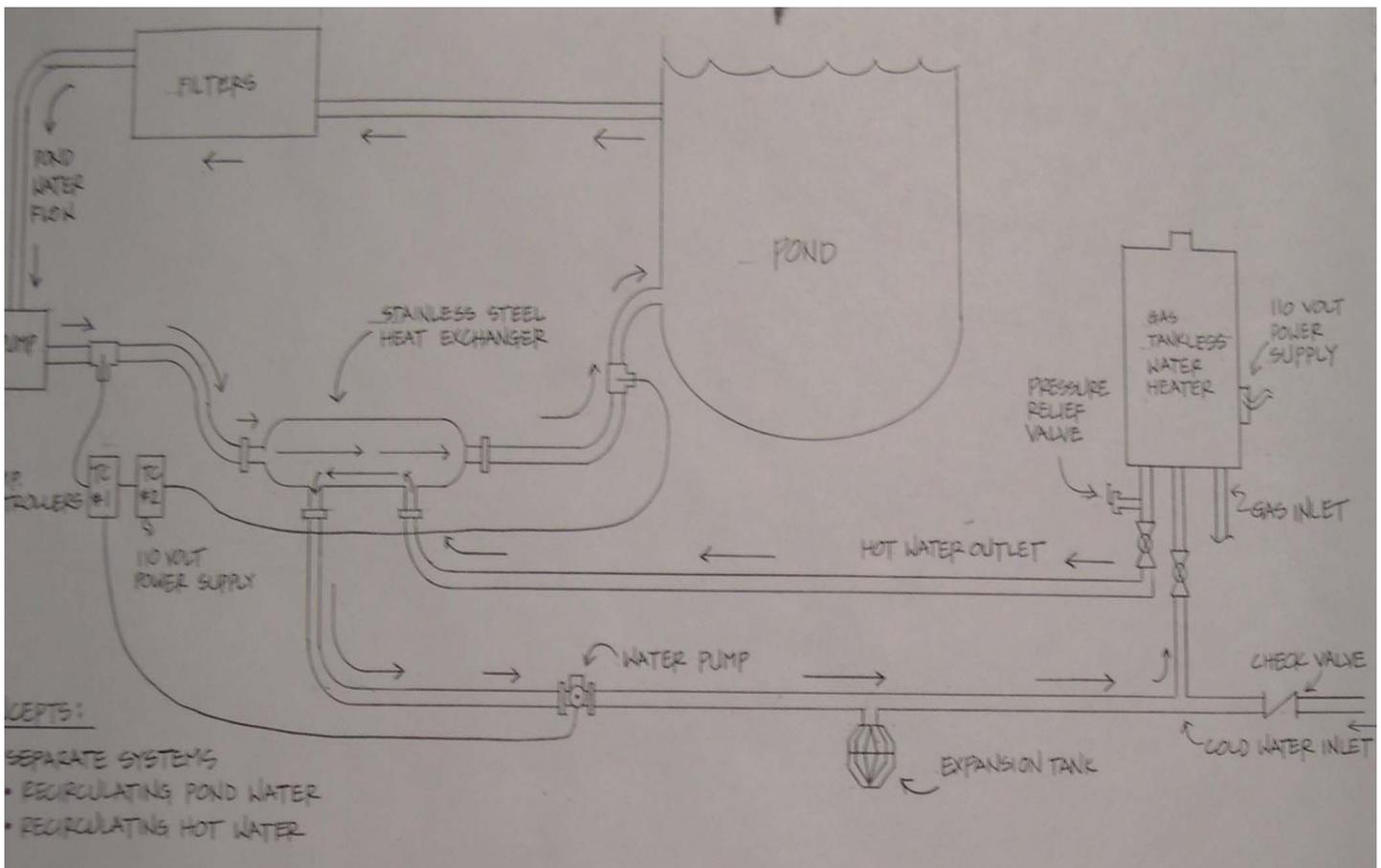
Then you need to plumb all of this equipment into your existing system. (Since you do not need to heat the pond faster than 1 or 2 degrees in 24 hours, you do not need a huge boiler. A

small tankless water heater is much more efficient and much less expensive.)

One the water is at temperature, it takes very little additional heat to maintain that temperature. My heater usually kicks on only at night during the early Spring, Winter, and late Fall, unless there is a lot of wind, or the temperatures are exceptionally cold.

This is how it works:

(Look at the diagram below.) A temperature controller (TC #1) senses the temperature of the water in the pond. If the temperature is below the set point of the pond, the temperature controller turns on a water pump which circulates water through the tankless water heater. When the water heater senses a flow of water, the water heater fires up and heats the water which moves through a stainless steel heat exchanger which



Pond Heater (Continued)

exchanges heat to the pond water which is constantly flowing through it. (Note: the hot water going through the heater is totally separate from the pond water, only **heat** between the two is exchanged.)

The second temperature controller (TC #2) senses the temperature of the water flowing from the heat exchanger back to the pond. I set this temperature 2 degrees above the set point for the pond. This is a "kill switch" which turns off the water pump to the water heater. This serves as a fail safe emergency switch so that there is no danger of the pond getting hotter than you want it to be.

(The diagram is illustrative only. I just illustrates the path of flow. It does not conform to scale or position.)

Think of this as two separate systems:

1. Pond water circulates from the output of the

filters through the heat exchanger and back to the pond. This is a closed system

2. Tap water circulates from the tankless water heater through the heat exchanger, where it loses its heat, and then back through the tankless water heater where it gets heated again. This is a closed system.

The prices below are from 2004. Freight and shipping is not included. These charges are minimal. Also not included is the charge of running a gas line to the water heater and the costs of unions, valves, and pipe to plump the units. (I did all of the pond plumbing with PVC and had plumbers run the gas and copper.)

What to buy and where to buy it:

- Purchased from Cinnabar Equipment Co.: www.notank.net
 - Takagi TK-Junior Tankless Gas Water Heater. \$ 609.00
 - Pressure Relief Valve 7.50
- Purchased from Famous Parts: www.famousparts.com
 - Taco 001 I-BF4 Flanged Bronze Circulator Pump 270.53
 - Flange Set 20.12
 - Expansion Tank 35.00
- Purchased from AquLogic
 - Digital Temp Controllers 2 @ 120.00
- Heat Exchanger from Aquatic Eco 309.00



Contact us:

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: Diane Dahlberg 209 333-0403
didahlberg@comcast.net

Duane Carlson 916 791-7607
duane.c@worldnet.att.net

Phyllis Kyle 209 368-9411
Carla Casinelli 209 369-9380

c.cassinelli@comcast.net

Jack Flockhart 209 334-5705
hijack@softcom.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

January 30 Board Meeting
12:00 Noon
General Meeting
1:00—3:00 PM

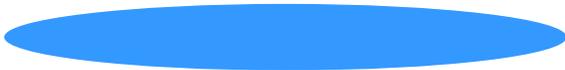
Meeting Topic: Planning the Future
Rocklin Library

5460 5th St

Rocklin, CA 95677

Driving Directions:

- I-80 to Taylor Road Exit
- Take the TAYLOR RD exit toward ROCKLIN
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto TAYLOR RD
- TAYLOR RD becomes PACIFIC ST
- Turn LEFT onto FARRON ST
- FARRON ST becomes 5TH ST
- End at 5460 5th St, Rocklin, CA



Koi Ahoy

4840 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

