



Koi Ahoy

September 2006

President's Message -Jerry Kyle

It's time. A special thanks to our pond show co-chairs, Garry Chin and Steve Eckard and a special thanks to their wives for putting up with them as they, along with their committee, worked so diligently putting together the framework for our upcoming show. Notice that I said they have built a framework. They have not built a show. They built a framework. It is up to us, all of us, to build the show around the framework. It is a fine well thought out framework so we will be able to do a fine job.

Friday Sept 29 is set up day. The more helpers we have the easier the job will be and the more fun we will have. You do not have to know what or how to do anything as others already know and can and will direct you. With everyone's effort the job will be easier. Want to learn about koi identification? Volunteer to help the benching team. Want to learn about water quality? Someone will teach you how to test and treat, if necessary, the water. The plan is to teach as many as we can different things so in the future the jobs get even easier. Want to stay dry? Help Phyllis set up the club booth and store along with the raffle. Just want to help any way you can? We need you.

Saturday and Sunday is the show and more help is needed those days. Easy stuff. Can you take a turn just watching the tanks of koi and gently reminding someone to please not put hands in the water or be a runner and take the slips of paper from the judges to Jason at the computer. Phyllis needs help selling raffle tickets or store items. Tell guests about our club. The work is not difficult unless it is left up to only a handful of people and then the hours become a drag and the enjoyment is reduced. Don't let that happen. Be part of the fun. Volunteer.

Sunday afternoon we need to take everything down. Last year Jim made some racks to wash and dry tanks. This year they have been improved to work even easier and we have twice as many. More than at any other time having lots of bodies Sunday afternoon will simplify the job and make it go quickly. Please make the effort to be there Sunday afternoon so the job goes quickly and easily. We need you. Jim needs you. It will not be fair to Jim, our official "Koi Person of the Year" to dump on him and not give him help cleaning up.

People will be coming to our show from around the world. It is our time to shine. Shine with us. Thank you for making me so proud.

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Pictures from August Club Koi Auction—Ellen Evans



MaryBeth acted as auctioneer, and Jerry gave color-commentary to entice bidders.



The bidding became quite intense at times!



An interesting large-scaled soragoi.



Some of the fish up for auction. The Kumonryu on the top left fetched the highest price of the day, \$125.



MaryBeth Avila's Pond

**2006 Camellia Koi Club Show and Vendor Faire Update - Steve Eckard**

Getting closer. As I write this on September 9 we are just 20 days away from the 2006 Sacramento Koi Show. Things continue to move along at a good pace with vendors committed to all of our booth space and then some. We are expecting dealers, breeders, a new transport tank dealer, art work/clothing displays, and other koi related items. There will be a bonsai display this year to complement the Koi.

Our Head Judge, Toshio Sakai, has promised a new and exciting lecture for Sunday afternoon. Along with Sakai san as our head judge we will have Larry Gill, Bob Winkler, and Steve Drake as assistant judges. This judging team promises to be another highly qualified group for our show. You can read their biographies on the club web site. We have Russell and Kari Peters of Peters and Sons Koi to thank for Sakai Sans appearance as our Head Judge. We are proud to have Peters and Sons Koi as our Corporate Sponsor for this year's show. Their support has been invaluable and I encourage everyone to stop by their booth and give them your appreciation.

We still need volunteers to help with the show. Set-up and Teardown are critical needs for bodies to lend a hand. But also equally important, help is needed in the club booth and in the show ring. Folks are needed as docents to answer questions about the club, koi, and to help make sure visitor's hands are kept out of the water. So do not be bashful about volunteering your help when asked. We have stuff for everyone's taste, plus we will feed you.

Speaking of feeding everyone...Dan and Cheryl Alarid will once again be setting up and running the hospitality area. The main meals will be supplied by Koi Enterprises with Dan and Cheryl providing snacks. Help is needed here also. Dan and Cheryl can not be there all of the time due to some prior commitments. We need to step up and help. Easy work and the inside track on good food...it don't get no better for a volunteer position.

This year we will be having a Saturday evening banquet/BBQ. The menu is an exciting one. While the menu is a departure from our pizza party in the past, we hope that the conversation and mingling will continue. It is our intention that we continue have a party where koi kichi can get together to talk koi, laugh, and generally enjoy themselves with other like minded folks. —Steve Eckard

*Note: ***If you have volunteered to help Friday during set-up***, bring your Koi with you in the morning. We will store your Koi in a cool area and set-up your Koi Show Tank early so that your Koi may be place into their tank. However, please notify Jim Phillips (916) 771-3111 or Garry Chin (916) 922-2525 so proper planning can take place to accommodate your Koi. This will save you a trip home for your Koi. —Garry Chin

Please copy and post the included flier advertising the show anywhere that you think people who might enjoy coming will see it!



2006 Sacramento Koi Show

Also featuring Pond Builders, Vendors, and Garden Clubs!

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

9am-5pm

Placer County Fairgrounds (Jones Hall)

800 All America City Blvd

Roseville, CA

Presented by Camellia Koi Club

Sponsored by Peters & Sons Koi of Martinez, CA

Visit http://www.camelliakoi.org/koi_show.html

for more information.

**2006 Camellia Koi Club Show: Members Only Info!**—Garry Chin

Once again the Sacramento Koi Show, Pond Builders, Garden Club and Vendor Faire will have a couple of activities available only to Member of the Camellia Koi Club. These activities are the “Best Eye” Contest and voting for the Camellia Koi Club’s Koi of the Year.

BEST EYE CONTEST

(Open to Camellia Koi Club Members only)

How many of you have at one time or another purchased a koi for under \$50 or maybe spawned a few of your koi? Now after awhile, you look at the koi and say to yourself. “That’s a mighty fine looking KOI!” “If I take the koi to a koi show I bet it can win an award”.

Well here is your chance!! The SACRAMENTO KOI SHOW that our club is sponsoring is having a “BEST EYE” CONTEST. This contest is open only to members of The CAMELLIA KOI CLUB and to their koi that cost less than or equal to \$50 or was home bred.

When your koi are being benched for the koi show, you will be asked which of your koi you would like to enter into The “BEST EYE” CONTEST. Your answer will be marked on the benching form. REMEMBER THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE KOI IS NOT TO EXCEED \$50 (Note: No you can’t sell that expensive koi to your spouse or friend for \$49.99 or less and enter it)

AFTER THE JUDGING FOR THE REGULAR KOI SHOW HAS BEEN COMPLETED, JUDGING ON THE “BEST EYE” WILL COMMENCE.

A prize will be awarded to the owner of the winning koi. (Note: Koi entered into this contest will not be separated by size or variety. All koi in this contest will compete against one another regardless of size or variety).

AKCA KOI OF THE YEAR

This year the Camellia Koi Club’s Koi of the Year contest will occur in conjunction with the Sacramento Koi Show. This contest is opened to any koi (Note: Except the Grand Champion) entered into this event; however, VOTING will be by members of the Camellia Koi Club in “Good Standing”. So stop by the Registration Table any time Saturday September 30 or Sunday October 1 until 11:00am to pick up a ballot and then vote on the koi you feel is should be our Koi of the Year. The winner will receive a plaque and the winning koi picture will be sent to the 2007 AKCA Seminar for display.



Goin' to the Sacramento Koi Show—*Garry Chin*

The Sacramento Koi Show at Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville, September 30th and October 1st is almost here. As you stand next to your pond and look at your colorful and splendid friends, particularly those special ones, you can't help but want others to see them too. At the show others can see them and it gives you an opportunity to look at your koi alongside some of the best to see how they measure up.

What about the problems of moving them and keeping them in an unfamiliar environment for a couple of days? What if they get sick? If we worried too much about things like that we would never have sent our children to school. Many Koi keepers believe that exposure of their koi to different conditions actually strengthens them. Any event that is not part of the ordinary daily routine of your Koi such as catching them, moving them, and releasing them into different water conditions does subject them to some stress. The object is to keep the stress level of both the Koi and yourself to a minimum. Make preparations for the trip early, and make sure all the equipment you will need is available and ready for use. Most of the things you need should already be on hand for those just-in-case situations. First thing to decide is when to bring the fish to the show site. You can check in your fish either late Friday (4 PM to 9 PM) by appointment or early Saturday morning (7:00 AM to 9:00 AM), whichever is more convenient for you. Remember, it is not fashionable to be late for check in and any fish that arrive after 9:00 AM Saturday will not be judged.

Don't forget to fast them for a few days (5-7) before the trip. Few Koi need all the food they are normally fed except the small ones during high growth periods. This reduces their ammonia production rate, making the transportation safer. No, you are not being cruel and starving them and they will be more comfortable during the trip and the show.

The next step is to catch and bag the fish and this can be a major challenge in itself (particularly in a large pond). In larger ponds, a small mesh, soft seine net, with floats on the top and weights on the bottom that is dropped into the water and adjusted to confine the fish into a smaller and more workable area of the pond helps in getting the koi netted quicker, thus reducing stress on the koi and yourself. Then get your koi handling net whose diameter should be about twice the length of the largest fish and with a handle long enough to easily reach the far side of the capture area. A Koi, particularly a larger one, should never be actually lifted from the water in a net. The net should primarily be used to gently guide the fish to the location of a floating tub. This takes practice with no sudden movements of the net. The tub should be about the same size as the net, and almost full of water. The next step is to "roll" the fish into the tub. One edge of the net is used to submerge one side of the tub, and with a smooth rotation of the net, the fish will end up in the tub with the net covering the top. The fish was never lifted out of the water and it doesn't actually roll into the tub, it just slides in with the water. Keeping the tub covered with the net pull it to the side of the pond. Slip a plastic bag under the net and gather in the fish with some of the water out of the tub. Now that was simple, and the Koi didn't even splash around. If you are able to con your spouse or a koi friend into assisting you this task is a little easier. One person handles the net and the other works the bag. The "masters" routinely do this whereby the fish do not know he/she was being caught until the bag was lifted out of the tub. The plastic bag should be clean, of heavy construction (at least 4 mil, not the 1-2 mil trash bags), obviously with

**Goin' to the Sacramento Koi Show (cont'd)—Garry Chin**

no leaks, and at least a little wider than the length of the fish. If putting more than one fish in a bag, the width of the bag should be at least the combined length of the fish.

Prior to sealing the bag is the time to closely inspect your potential champion. Look at it from top to bottom, side to side. Check closely around the mouth and gills. Make sure your fish is in good health. It won't be allowed in the show if it is not healthy, and you will be asked to take the koi back home. If there is any little problem or you are not sure, better leave the koi at home.

Now it is time to transport your koi. After the koi has been determined to be in excellent health while in the plastic bag, add enough water to just cover the dorsal fin. If you are traveling a short distance, the same amount of just plain air in the bag is sufficient. If you are traveling a long distance or the weather is abnormally warm, then you should add oxygen to the plastic bag with your koi. To do this just squeeze out the current air, then add 5-10 times the amount of oxygen as water. This is normally sufficient oxygen for at least 6 hours with reports of over 24 hours. Twist the top of the bag to seal and secure tightly with a rubber band. As an added precaution place the bagged fish into another bag and separately seal it with another rubber band. When moving koi in plastic bags, carry the bags sideways, using one hand to hold the top closed, and the other hand grasping a bottom corner, if you are moving large koi it is advisable to have one person hold the top of the bag and another person hold the bottom corner. Do not carry it just by the top as plastic bags have been known to split. Once your koi has been safely bagged and sealed then temperature control and stress become issues. The bag needs mechanical support during transport and although a cardboard box will suffice, putting the bag into a picnic cooler or a Styrofoam lined box will better help control the temperature. Covering the bag so the fish can't see what's happening will also reduce stress. Try to arrange the container so the fish is aligned with the direction of travel. Side to side sloshing is less stressful than end to end. If possible, place the container in the passenger compartment, not in the warmer (or colder) trunk area. A spare plastic bag or two and extra rubber bands should be packed in the Koi overnight bag. Load your containers of koi into your vehicle, drive directly to the Koi Show Site. Do not turn the trip to the Koi Show Site into the "milk run", by making a number of stops enroute to the site.

How long can your koi stay in a plastic bag? Remember, if you got your koi from a Koi Dealer, it probably came from Japan where the koi was placed into a plastic bag at the breeder's facility. Then the plastic bag with koi was boxed, transported to the airport, waited to be loaded onto an airplane after going through the necessary government processes, flew 12-17 hours across the Pacific Ocean, unloaded from the airplane after a period of time, underwent Customs processing at the airport, loaded onto the Koi Dealer's transportation vehicle, and then transported to the Dealer's Facility. Altogether, it was a 24-30 hour trip in a plastic bag. So, unless your trip was the "Milk Run" and/or it's unusually hot for a September, time in a plastic bag should not be an issue. If your concerns are about the fish acclimating to the new temperature, you should know that actual acclimation of a fish to the new temperature range takes several days, similar to us dealing with jet lag. It is not only the temperature the fish needs to be accustomed to but also the pH, hardness, alkalinity, "the taste", etc. of it's new environment. The fish will not be there long enough to acclimate but will be home in a couple of days, have a little rest and be fine.

**Goin' to the Sacramento Koi Show (cont'd)—Garry Chin**

You have reached the show site. The Koi traveled well, but now what? Go to the Show Registration Table and notify someone from the Registration team that you are there with koi to enter into the show. They will let you know whether or not to begin unloading your boxes of koi. If you have pre-registered and the benching team is awaiting your arrival they will pull up your registration form, while you unload your vehicle. If you are checking in Friday, then you have an appointment and someone from Rob Barrera's Benching Team will lead you to your assigned Koi Show Tank. If you are checking in on Saturday morning, again notify someone from the Registration team that you are there with koi to enter into the show. If you have pre-registered they will pull up your registration form, while you unload your vehicle. In either case if you have not pre-registered then you will need to complete an entry form, so that you may be entered into the Show's Computer. Then you will be given instructions on what to do and information on getting your koi to their assigned Koi Show Tank.

When the time is right to take your koi out of the bags, the benching team lead by Rob Barrera will try to get the fish into the new water while keeping the transport water in the bag. The goal is NOT to put any transport water into a show tank. With the bag floating where the fish is to be released, they will open the bag, and with wet hands, help the fish to almost swim out of the bag. Someone will then dispose of the transport water at the provided disposal area or on some nearby plant that needs some moisture and nutrition. A member of the benching team will then place each individual koi into a measuring tub, where it will be classified, measured and photographed. If you are entering a regular koi the measurement is from the tip of the koi nose to the end of the tail. If you are entering a Longfin, the measurement is from the tip of the koi nose to the beginning of the tail. You should be alongside to help identify your fish in the event there are questions and find out what class and size they are being assigned so you can keep track of their progress during the show. Once your koi have been benched, accompany your benching form and flash card with your koi digital photograph to the Registration table. Where your bill will be tallied and you make final payments to get your koi "Officially" entered into the Sacramento Koi Show.

Sit back and enjoy the show while the water quality team is making every effort to take excellent care of your friends. During judging, the koi handlers overseen by Rob will be giving special treatment to them as well. Look at your Koi alongside others of the same class and size. Why did the judges, lead by Head Judge Toshio Sakai and ably assisted by Larry Gill, Bob Winkler and Steve Drake choose yours for first place over all the others? Why was one of your favorites selected for second place instead of first? This is a great opportunity for learning how to identify top quality Koi.

Sunday, when the show is over for another year, you will begin the process of getting your champion koi back to their home pond. Make sure you are at the show site at check out time. Did you remember to bring your koi handling paraphernalia? When everyone has verified they have all their fish in their assigned tanks, the word will be given that it is time to head for home. The journey begins with the process of getting the koi into the plastic bags, which should not be as daunting since you are working with a 6' Koi Show Tank. Within the confines of a show tank, you can easily use the net to guide the fish directly into a plastic bag. As when you moved your bagged koi prior to the Koi Show, when moving fish in plastic bags, carry the bags sideways, using one hand to hold the top closed, and the

**Goin' to the Sacramento Koi Show (cont'd)—Garry Chin**

other hand grasping a bottom corner. Do not carry it just by the top as plastic bags have been known to split. Water is heavy so, again, use just enough to cover the dorsal fin. Bags, rubber bands, and oxygen are supplied if you don't have or don't want to use your own. Special tanks of good water for transport will also be available although just the show tank water can be used if the trip home is not too far. The rest of your day is a repeat of the trip to the show, just in the other direction.

When you get home, and your fish are happily back in their own pond, they will be telling their pond mates about their neat experiences at the Sacramento Koi Show. As you stand by the pond looking proudly at them, I'm sure all your prizewinners and those that you thought should have been prizewinners would now enjoy a good meal.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you and your finny friends at the show. See ya' there.

August 27, 2006 Board of Directors Minutes — Duane Carlson

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Kyle, President at 12:15 pm at Mary Beth Avila's home, site of the August 2006 general meeting/ koi auction/ pot luck. Officers present were President – Jerry Kyle, Secretary - Duane Carlson, Treasurer – Marilee

Marshall and Directors – Gary Fabian, Phyllis Kyle and Jim Phillips. Guests present were Steve Eckard and Melody Carlson.

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting for June 2006 were read by all and accepted as printed. Marilee Marshall presented the treasurers report. Total income for the period \$1,125.00, total expenses were \$68.36 leaving a balance of \$12,610.84. Marilee asks that it be noted that the club has paid to the Roseville Fairgrounds \$2,202.13 for the facility rental with the extra room and cleaning deposit. Jim asked that another \$400.00 be added to the show budget to rent the extra room on Sunday for the Sakai presentation. Mr. Sakai has put together a new presentation. Jerry reported that all booths for the koi show, plus one, have been sold. There was much discussion on how to reposition the booths to allow for the extra booth. It was decided to move the club booth to a new spot by the lobby entrance. Marilee noted the need to keep raffle and the club store monies separated for better control and reporting. Jerry reported that there will not be any garden clubs participating at our show but Flora Tropicana will be displaying a lot of plants and garden décor items. Flora Tropicana is receiving one of the two booths free in exchange for arranging for TV coverage of the koi show event. Jerry announced the need to create a Nominating Committee to replace the officers that will be completing their terms this year. Officers needed to be replaced are: President, Secretary and two Directors. Dan Alarid volunteered to form and head up this committee. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52pm.

Upcoming Koi Events

- Sept. 24th Inland Koi Society 9th Annual Pond Tour. Riverside, CA. www.inlandkoisociety.org
- Sept. 23, 24 Cherry Hill Koi and Water Gardens presents "Art By the Pond" featuring koi artwork, handmade paper, tiles, and notecards. San Jose, CA. www.cherryhillkoi.com
- Sept. 30—Oct. 1 2006 Sacramento Koi Show, Roseville, CA. www.camelliakoi.org
- Oct. 6-8 1st Annual Las Vegas Koi Show. Held at Plant World Nursery. <http://lasvegaskoiclub.com>
- Oct. 14 SFBKAC Pond Tour, Brentwood, CA www.sfbakc.org or (925) 308-7045 (John Case).
- Oct. 20-22 7th annual Golden Empire Koi Show, Bakersfield, CA. Contact Dave Cope (661)399-6195 or dcope@bak.rr.com

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$7,634.21

Expenses: -\$2,874.49

August balance: \$6,102.22



Norma Marrin of Redlands, CA designed this logo for Inland Koi Society's 2006 Pond Tour.

NOTICE!!! ITEMS NEEDED FOR CLUB BOOTH!!!

Phyllis is asking for help for the club booth. Last year some members recycled their old KoiUSA magazines by donating them to the club store booth. These used magazines were sold to the public for only 50 cents and we made some money while promoting our hobby. She would like to do this again. See what you can bring.

Check your closets and garages. Find that new or like new item that you will never use and is just taking up space but is too nice to throw away. It doesn't even have to be a koi item. A donation to the raffle will find it a good home and be for a good cause as we need to raise as much money as possible since we are not charging admission to the show. Bring it to the club booth Friday.

Webmaster's Note —Ellen Evans

The web site is 99.5% up and running again. A few notes: Since I am doing the koi show program booklet as well as the website and the Koi Ahoy I have not had much time to spend resurrecting the Koi Vacations page to its former glory. However, as my time allows I am also adding a new page showcasing photos from past meetings. It can be reached by going to the "Photos" page from the main home page. If you get the printed, black and white newsletter, this is a good opportunity to see some of the pictures from Koi Ahoy in color. The host server is currently not letting us password protect the Members page, so the roster has been removed in order to keep personal information private. The board will work on a system to ensure all members have access to an updated roster, but this will have to wait until after the koi show. If you haven't yet, check out the photos from the 2005 show to get yourself excited about the '06 show!

**Ramblings** — Jerry Kyle

Once upon a time long, long ago I wanted another tropical fish tank. I only had one 55 gallon aquarium along with a 35 gallon show tank and two 35 gallon tanks all crammed into the entry area to the family room.

“Phyllis?” I said, “I would like to get a larger fish tank.”

“What will you do with the ones you already have?”

“Keep them,” I said.

“No!”

“What do you mean, No?” I asked.

“No.”

Since I am older and well into second childhood my natural reaction was to respond like a child. Having a young great granddaughter to learn from is a help. The key is to stick the lower lip out only a little. If stuck out too far it becomes obvious and may make an adult mad. Just a little bit with the chin tucked back into the neck, again, only a little. Don't be too obvious and don't say anything. Being mad, talking back, or arguing upsets them. The trick is to not appear to be sulking which is bad, but to just look sad. Pitifully sad. Grandmothers don't feel comfortable being the cause of making someone sad. It may take a little time but hang in there and be quietly sad.

After some time (it took awhile as this grandmother is tough) I heard, “There is no room for another tank.”

“What?” innocently, straining not to smile.

“If you can find a place where there is room to put it you can have another tank.”

Loving this great grandma as she is so much easier to get along with since I entered second childhood, I looked for a place to put my new tank thinking maybe a 100 gallon tank is not large enough since, after all, the reason for a big tank is to have big fish. A tank in a spare bedroom is out of sight and out of mind and cannot be continuously enjoyed hidden from view. It was my idea to have the two large sofas and a club chair with ottoman in the living room making that room too full of furniture already. Back in the family room I wondered aloud if she would like to replace the “old fashioned” ten foot long sofa with a new (shorter) more stylish one. I secretly thought that might free up enough wall space for my big tank with big fish.

“No!” she said but now with a little fire in her eyes. She was on to me. I had pushed this thing as far as it could go, I was against the wall as the deal was clearly finding “a place where there is room to put it.”

**Ramblings (cont'd)** — *Jerry Kyle*

I was not faking as I sat pitifully sad in the family room and gazed dully out the eight foot window into the small back yard. I had played the game as best I knew and lost. The only space big enough for a big tank is where the window is and one cannot block the window. She had won and the corners of her mouth were twitching ever so slightly as she fought to keep from grinning. The only space big enough for a big tank with big fish was outside in the yard on the other side of the window and that would have been dumb. Or would it?

I was nearing retirement and had planned to do something in the yard as I liked digging in the dirt for relaxation and stress relief. The space was directly outside the window in clear view and just lawn. It could be even bigger than 100 gallons! At the park in the Japanese Gardens there are big colorful fish that are really neat looking and way bigger than tropical fish. They are called koi and I thought they were a kind of giant goldfish. I did not know a thing about them but was willing to find out.

“Dear?” Notice I did not call her Phyllis.

“Ummm?”

“I found a place.”

“Where?”

“Right there. Outside. You said if I could find a place and I found a place. There in the yard. A pond will look nice outside the window.”

“Who is going to dig it?”

“Me.”

“OK,” with another one of those secret smiles.

I was on fire. This was going to be great. After all, how hard could it be to dig a hole and fill it with water? By doing my own work it would be cheap to build and would look good. Everyone would be impressed and I would have big beautiful fish. They might be a little more expensive than regular goldfish but some of my tropical fish cost ten or fifteen dollars so I could afford it. After all I would have had to spend a few hundred dollars for a big aquarium. It was time to do a little research about these koi and see what I could find out as I began this adventure which has sometimes obsessed me for nearly five years.

To be continued...



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www.camelliakoi.org

Next Meeting

**There will be no meeting in
September due to the koi show.**

Please come to the koi show!

Sept. 30—Oct. 1

**Jones Hall
Placer County Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd
Roseville, CA**

**The next meeting will be October 29 at the Ragasa pond in
Rocklin. Details will follow in the October newsletter.**

Koi Ahoy

Ellen Evans
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