

Meet Our Members..... Michael Muston & Eduardo Massa

Beautiful! The pond and water garden of Eduardo Massa and Michael Muston have been a well kept secret. The four thousand gallon Willow Glen pond was built fourteen years ago - one shovelful at a time. Starting with seventeen koi, each six inches or smaller, their fish now measure about twenty-four inches in length, each stunningly beautiful.

The pond is a formal rectangle and is encased in an attractive 18 inch brick wall. Water depth is six feet and as a result raccoons have had little success in their evening search for food. Of particular note is the above ground construction of the perimeter. The knee high element gives an added dimension to the pond. Many owners of koi ponds find this approach highly desirable, as opposed to yard-level designs.

Prior to buying the home in 1995, Eduardo says, "I always wanted a pond." One of the first things considered was joining the Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club. Michael says, "We wanted to do it right." Club members strongly suggested they think big, and they did.

The filtration system is entirely home-grown and utilizes a settling tank and two biofiltering tanks with a very effective trickle filter.

The Koi bring life and an added dimension to the yard, promoting relaxation in a peaceful setting.

Eduardo and Michael are also avid gardeners and, in the summer, the garden is lush with roses and iris.

Today, challenges are few. "The fish are our pets - friends. We call and they swim our way. We enjoy petting and hand feeding our fish."

Eduardo, a native of Argentina, moved to the United States in 1980. His training is in fine art and he owns and operates *Burbank Antiques* on San Carlos Street, in San Jose. He is also a member of the board of Directors of the SCVKWG.

Michael moved from Texas to the bay area 24 years ago. He is an immigration attorney and a partner in the law offices of *Muston & Jack*, located on The Alameda in San Jose.

In addition to their lovely home and koi pond, Eduardo and Michael enjoy traveling the world. They try to take several trips each year. Their sightseeing focus is always on the most beautiful botanical gardens and ponds.

