

*Shasta Koi and
Water Garden Club*
P.O. Box 493425
Redding, CA 96049
ShastaKoiClub.com



Volume 12, Issue 4

APRIL 2015

Talk'n bout Koi & Water Gardens

2015 Officers

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John Watkins

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Bob Hart

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Abby King

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Eda Ebe

Member-at-Large:
Marilyn Swanson

Webmaster:
Jon Laubin

Newsletter Editor:
Renee Ottzman

Shasta Koi & Water Garden Club's Next Meeting

Will be held on

*Saturday, April 18, 2015
At 10 a.m.*

At the business of

*Victoria Dolan, Sunset Koi
20676 Sunset Lane
Redding, CA 96002
530-365-5151*

*Directions from Red Bluff:
Use Exit 670 for Riverside Drive.
Turn LEFT at the North Street light. North Street becomes
Airport Road across the Sacramento River.
Travel north PAST the Dersch Road intersection. Turn
RIGHT onto Sunset Lane. Look for the Sunset Koi sign,
20676 will be on your left.
Please bring a chair to this meeting.*

President's Message

Dredgings From The Pond

HAPPY EASTER! What a wonderful time of year. We haven't had to heat or cool our home for the last six weeks or so. And as you might have guessed, our pond temperatures are benefiting from this warm early spring. My front pond is currently 65 degrees, well within the range to be feeding the fish. I actually started feeding them a few weeks ago. The water temps climbed into the high 50's and the fish were coming up to the surface, mouthing to me, as if to say, "Hey, how about some food down here!"

I was feeding them a winter, low protein mix, once or twice a week. After about a week, I noticed one of the fish had a redness on its side, and each day it grew larger. Sunset Koi provided me with some Proform C and medicated koi food. Since it was the first time for me to use Proform C, I followed the directions carefully. With the medicated food, I saw immediate improvement. It has now been 14 days. The water is crystal clear again and the fish looks great. Tomorrow will finish the two-week treatment of medicated food.

This time of year can present hazards; our fish are beginning to eat, but their immune systems are not fully engaged. This leaves them vulnerable to parasites and bacteria that are flourishing in the warmer water temperatures. Be on the lookout for problems and be ready to react quickly before things get out of hand.

My back pond, because of additional heating, is in the low to mid 70's, so their immune systems are in full gear. The water is beautifully clear, showing off a healthy coat of algae growing on the sides of the pond. When they talk about "living water," this is it. High turnover rates, good circulation, plenty of aeration and lots of filtration lead to healthy living water. The ecosystem is in balance with beneficial biological reactions occurring throughout the pond. The fish are being fed 8-10 times per day and their growing period will extend until the end of September.

I have a renewed appreciation of what goes into achieving healthy koi due to the "Koi Health Advisor" class being offered by AKCA. If any of you are interested in taking this class, contact Julie Miller. Her e-mail address is jam1150@hotmail.com.

As always, call me if you have questions or suggestions.

Happy Koi Growing!

John Watkins
SK&WC President

Meeting Minutes

SHASTA KOI & WATER GARDEN CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by President John Watkins.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 21 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Eda gave the treasurer's report, which was approved.

OLD

BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW

BUSINESS: Tammy Cole made a motion to increase membership dues from \$20 to \$25 per family, starting in 2016. After much discussion, the motion was approved with four dissenting votes. John is trying to get Zak Schmidt of Pan Intercorp in Washington state to come to our April meeting and bring four koi to be judged by the club members.

PROGRAM: John spoke about his ponds and his experiences at the ZNA Koi Show in San Jose. He then gave a talk about how to raise large koi. Three important things are needed:

GENETICS: The most important aspect of a koi's growth potential.

WATER QUALITY: In a pond of 10,000 gallons a 1x per hour turnover would be optimal and can also be achieved in a 5000 gallon pond by turning the water over 2x per hour. Adding water in a small trickle keeps the water fresh and keeping the bottom free of debris is essential.

NUTRITION: Always feed fresh food. John also feeds his fish tofu and sweet potato for variety.

DEFINITIONS:

Tosai, a koi in its first year, 0 to 1 year old.

Nisai: a koi in its second year, 1 to 2 years old.

Sansai, a koi in its third year, 2 to 3 years old

Yonsai, a koi in its fourth year, 3 to 4 years old

Jumbo Tosai: a few select koi that have been raised in warm water and fed all winter to achieve their maximum growth potential in their first year.

ADJOURN: John ended the meeting by showing videos of this year's ZNA koi show.

Bob Hart
Acting Secretary

Water News...

Dear Club Members,

I love reading happy articles about koi and ponds, shows and tours. Every single aspect of our hobby involves water. The old saying “healthy water equals healthy koi” keeps us on our toes to achieve this goal.

Here comes the unhappy part. Californians are facing another dry hot summer and Redding is especially hot as everyone knows. We have been under water-use restrictions for over a year in my water district.

I started out to write an article about water rationing and how it effects our hobby. To that end, I've been reading article after article about the drought conditions in California and how our government officials are looking at dealing with the situation.

You may have read that Gov. Brown has signed a \$1 Billion Emergency Drought Package to address infrastructure issues, green-house gas emissions, irrigation and pumping systems, groundwater management and expansion of water use efficiency and conservation.

This is a complicated and far reaching endeavor. You can read the bill on Gov. Brown's website. Because of the amount of money being allocated, I'm hopeful the money will be well-spent and not vaporize like the snow pack in the mountains. Fingers crossed here.

I read another article about private bottled-water companies which have been granted access to springs in California's national forests. This has been going on since the 1980's with..”not a lot being done to regulate the amount of water being taken. In fact, these companies are still taking water for their profit with little or no public awareness” even in the face of a historic four-year drought.

After reading this article I Googled the companies mentioned to check this out. Nestle's **Arrowhead** brand accesses the San Bernadino National Forest. Ian James of The Desert Sun wrote an article entitled “Lawmakers see issues in bottled-water, expired permits.”

WATER NEWS (Continued)

It reads in part: "The US Forest Service has been allowing Nestle Waters North America to keep using a pipeline to transport spring water out of the San Bernadino National Forest even though it's permit expired in 1988." Please read the entire article at ian.james@desertsun.com.

Closer to home, **Crystal Geyser Alpine Spring Water** is right here in the Shasta Trinity National Forest. According to their website, their plant near Weed, Ca. "services the west coast as well as export to Japan." This begs the question: How much water is being exported? I don't mean as relief after Japan's horrendous tsunami but as a year-in, year-out practice in light of drought conditions in Calif.

Crystal Geyser's facility on Olancho Peak in the Sierra Nevada mountains "began production in 1990. Since then two more plants have been built in Olancho to meet demand." Crystal Geyser is a national brand with plants in several other states. So, where is all of this water going?

I know I'm sounding like an activist at this point. I'm actually a surprised citizen. I'm guilty. I have purchased the very brands mentioned, but I won't be buying bottled water in the future.

Here's the thing, we are about to spend a BILLION dollars for water conservation, ground water management, etc., while the Forest Service has been turning a blind eye to an egregious water sell off.

One sentence from the Sun Desert article:

"The Forest Service has allowed the company (Nestle) to keep using the expired permit while charging an annual permit fee of \$524." There is no reporting on the amount of water this fee has "purchased." Do the math. This means HUGE profits for Nestle. The water is virtually FREE! This boggles my mind. Does it boggle yours?

According to the Forest Service, they are working on a backlog of 360 expired permits, which means this is only the tip of the iceberg. I say put a cork in that pipeline people. I will never look at bottled-water on the shelf in my grocery store the same way again.

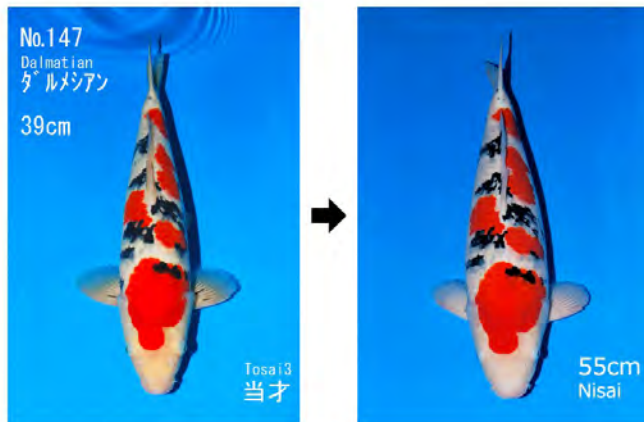
Our club holds its annual koi auction in October. I've heard from three or four ponders who are going to sell off their fish and close their ponds. I understand this reasoning and have even considered doing it myself, but I've had my pond for 15 years and would really like to keep it going.

Thanks for listening.
Renee Ottzman

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Just for fun...

ALL JAPAN YOUNG KOI SHOW



Video of this koi can be seen on my Facebook page.

I plan to leave her in Japan for another year or two in the hope she will improve enough to compete in a future show.

J. Watkins, March 30, 2015

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My little two-year old koi received an award at this past weekend's All Japan Young Koi Show. This is the second largest koi show in Japan and probably in the world for that matter.

Each spring over a thousand of the best young koi from breeders all over Japan vie for the title of Grand Champion.

There are several sizes of fish to be considered, but the largest is 63 bu (24.8"). My koi competed in the 58 bu (22.8") category. It didn't win the Best-In-Size, but did receive a "Junyusho" (runner up) award. As usual, everything is different in Japan. There can be more than one runner up considered and awarded. But still, considering the competition, to be awarded is a high honor.

SK&WC T-Shirt Challenge!

Do you recognize this waterfall? Hint: This river flows into Shasta Lake.



If you correctly identify it, you can win a club T-shirt. E-mail your guess to me at rlottsman@gmail.com. The first correct answer received, wins the shirt.

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>HOST 2015</i>	<i>REFRESHMENTS</i>
JAN-17	Ottsman	Ottsman
FEB-21	Stoker	Cole
MAR-21	Watkins	Watkins
APR-18	Sunset Koi	
MAY-16	Karen Wing	Wing
JUNE-20	Shanna Andrew	
JULY-18		
AUG-15	Kim Pearson	
SEPT-19	Club BBQ-Hart	Potluck
OCT-17	Koi Auction	
NOV-21		
DEC-19	Christmas Party	

Hosting

If you are interested in providing the refreshments for any upcoming meetings that have not been filled, please e-mail Renee Ottsman

ROttsman@ymail.com