



Central California Koi Society

August 2015

Issue 23

EDITOR:

ROSIMERI TRAN

CO-EDITOR:

DANIEL TRAN

- August 11th at 7:00 p.m., Seng & Rosimeri Tran, 5832 E. Erin Ave, Fresno, CA 93727
- September 8th at 7:00 p.m., Robert & Fam Rangel, 2949 N. McKelvey Ave, Fresno 93727
- **September 26th-27th 37th Annual CCKS Koi Show at Fig Garden Village, Palm/Shaw-Page#10**
- October mtg—TBD
- November mtg—TBD
- December Holiday Party—TBD

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Preparing Koi for Koi Show— By Rosimeri Tran

Water Quality:

The key to having a beautiful koi is water quality, always, always this is paramount in bringing out their skin gloss and coloration. Some steps you can take months in advance are:

At least 2 months or more before show start with 25% water change weekly and then reduce gradually to 10-15% weekly but become more frequent, at least once a day or every other day till the last two weeks before show time. If you can maintain their optimal water temperature of 70-75°F which will increase their appetite along with digestion and will help them grow faster.

Some koi keepers will bump the salt level up to 0.5% a week in advance of koi show, this will help remove the mucous layer and bring out brighter color before tapering it down gradually.

Feeding:

There are all different ideas and methods out there, and the veteran koi exhibitors all have their own recipe and regime to feed, which some start at least six months in advance of koi show to get their koi girth up and to aid in color enhancements, I will not go over any specific koi food as this can be speculation and I myself have not experimented with all the different types of feed available, some of which can be quite pricey. So instead I will discuss the method:

Beware of color enhancing food, this can turn white on koi into yellow and bring out secondary Beni (red) color in koi that you don't want to, such as in Shiro Utsuri or Shiro Bekko, and even Tancho Kohaku can develop Beni which is a bad thing.

Some will stop feeding high protein food two months before show and then reduced to 50%.

Preparing Koi for Koi Show– By Rosimeri Tran (continued from page 1)

Fasting is highly recommended and all koi should be fasted at a minimum of 5 days before koi show as this will cut down on their waste product of ammonia which will develop in koi bag during transport and in show tank. This will also help keep your show tank cleaner, as no one likes to see their koi swimming in a tank with fish waste floating around. This to me is a priority as the safety of our koi is essential during these shows; we must strive to keep the ammonia level down so that the koi do not get sick during transport and during the koi show. Many koi show staff will do their best to test and observe the water quality and will add ammonia binders to aid in this, but if you bring a koi with a lot of ammonia already in bag, that koi is already going to be in a bad situation, so please FAST, FAST, FAST!!!

Netting and bagging:

Koi should not be stressed during the capture and bagging, any stressed koi will not show well and can die during transport or when put in tank. So first of all you will need to learn how to catch and net and bag your koi. This is best done with two people, one uses the net and the other can have the bowl ready for guiding koi into it. We use a Japanese net which is round and can accommodate most large koi, DO NOT use a swimming pool net, they are very weak and will tear and cause damage to your koi, so invest in a good net with a pole that is expandable will help for those deeper ponds, but in some cases of larger ponds you may need a seine net to corner all the koi into a smaller section to make catching them easier.

Never chase a skittish koi into a net or in the pond, this will cause skin damage to koi, such as missing scales, damaged dorsal and pectoral fins, which will not aid in the show quality of the koi. Practice makes perfect so weeks before the show, start practicing your technique so you can be ready on the day of capture. Every koi will respond differently, we have some koi that are easy to catch and others that swim like crazy all over the place, and if you have a jumper be very careful, koi can jump out of net and hit the pond wall, so once in the bowl, cover it with a net until you are ready to bag. Using a sock net is best too as you can transport koi from bowl into bag easier. Be careful though using sock net with larger koi, as you can damage them if not used properly and a large koi with water in the sock net will be VERY heavy so use caution.

The bags should be large enough so there is at least 6” of space around the koi you can fill with oxygen so that at least half the volume of bag is oxygen. If you are putting two in a bag make sure there is enough room so that they are comfortable without touching each other. We double bag and always use newer bag inside and use NEW rubber bands, once used tossed the used rubber bands.

The koi that are bagged should be put in horizontal in an ice chest or a cardboard box, if transporting in cardboard box make sure to line it with a plastic garbage bag or towels so that the box stays dry. Ice chest is good because you can add water to it before placing bag inside to keep the water temperature comfortable for koi.

When putting the boxes or ice chest in car, make sure to position it so koi will move from side to side not front to back, as they can bump their noses and tails and cause damage.

“How to Increase Your Knowledge of Koi”

Baby Koi Part II

By Chai Taevanitcharoen

(Credits: *Text taken from AKCA “Judging and Buying Koi”*)

1. Get knowledge from books or magazines

Read as many koi books and magazines to gain knowledge of koi and what makes a koi a Grand Champion. Some magazines such as KOI USA, and ZNA magazine Nichirin are great resources and they have judging pictures with comments so you can actually see the koi pictures and why the judges made their choices. *“Ask yourself if you agree or disagree with the judge. Be sure to ask yourself why it is a grand champion and why the others are not. Which fish did you like better? Try to find the differences in quality, body conformation, and pattern. What are the differences in the quality and pattern of fish that compete in Japan’s big koi shows and other koi shows around the world? Ask yourself, “If I can buy only one of these fish in the magazine, which one would I buy?”* Consider these reasons for purchasing the fish: quality body conformation, and pattern.

2. Visit Koi Shows

“Visit koi shows as often as possible. When you’re at the koi show, don’t just look from tank to tank. Once again, imagine yourself as the judge and analyze each winning fish; from Grand Champion, runner Up, Best Mature, Best Young and so forth—all the way from the first place fish to the third place fish—each category and each size. Determine which fish looks the best or worst (from your point of view). Compare and contrast fish, especially quality of color—red, white, black the kiwa, and sheen (particularly in the Hikari family) and so forth. Also compare body conformation and ask yourself if you agree or disagree with the judges. If possible, ask questions of the judges (but not during judging), senior koi keepers, and trust worthy dealers. Remember to keep an open mind.”

3. Visit knowledgeable Koi keepers’ and dealers’ ponds

“If you see and compare only fish from your own pond, you won’t realize that there are better and worse fish out there. Comparing your fish to others will reinforce learning and increase your desire to own quality fish. Visit koi dealers as often as possible. You will see many types and qualities of fish in one place. Try to pick out a fish with the best quality of hi (red), black white, sheen, fins, body conformation, and so forth in each category, but not necessarily pattern this time. Concentrate first on the quality of color. It is not necessary to purchase the fish. The more often you visit and the longer you observe the better. Looking at 100-500 fish in each tank and trying to compare the best and worst quality fish in each tank will help increase your knowledge. Your greatest challenge will be the ability to choose a koi with the best and worst color quality among a group of koi of varying categories. Koi knowledge will come to you sooner than you think. If you’re willing to learn, a dealer is the best place. Remember you are observing; be courteous to the dealer.”

4. Get involved in koi shows

“Be a bag handler or fish handler during the judging. Listen to the judges discuss how one koi is better than another. You will get the opportunity to see many excellent koi and meet knowledgeable koi keepers.”

“How to Increase Your Knowledge of Koi” Baby Koi Part II

By Chai Taevanitcharoen

(Credits: *Text taken from AKCA “Judging and Buying Koi”*) continued from page 3

5. Buy Koi and study them

“This is the simplest way to learn about koi and tategoi. Always compare, observe and ask questions from knowledgeable koi keepers and dealers. Buy fish to compare the differences in body structure, conformation and color. Notice the sheen how shiny it is, sashi, the kiwa, and so forth. Learn how to distinguish between good-quality and poor-quality black, red, and white. Check your fish’s progress and changes month-by-month, year-by-year. This is what is involved in learning and understanding quality and body conformation.

Each type of fish has its own characteristics of color and the way it changes, so be sure to observe color changes accordingly. One exercise to do is to buy at least three yearlings of one kind of your choice from different dealers. Do not spend a lot of money on this exercise. Take pictures of each fish before you release them into your pond. Have a data sheet and record what kind of fish it is. Record where and when you bought it, the colors, shape, size, and any other information you decide to record. Seeing the differences from now and years later, you will begin to understand how fish and fish’s color develop and change. After one to three years of studying these fish, sell or trade them, especially if it is not a good fish. Buy a new type of fish and keep repeating the cycle. Remember the words “compare” and “observe” as keys to your knowledge. No book in the world will teach you better or faster than your own experiences.”

6. Improve the quality of Koi in your pond as your eyes improve

“Find new homes for your old koi when you think you have bought a better koi. Improve your eyes by observing better quality fish. You may get too attached to your koi, but to improve your eyes and control the population; you have to get rid of it!”

7. Enter your Koi in shows

“Take your koi to koi shows. Don’t be embarrassed because you don’t have a winning fish. You’ll be surprised how much knowledge you will gain by comparing your fish to other fish at the show. Comparing and asking questions will help you understand what it takes to win at the show. Don’t let yourself believe money will buy the trophy. Sometimes, if there is only one fish in a category, it is an automatic first place winner for that category. In these cases I would strongly suggest you investigate why your fish won. Your fish may have placed because there was no other fish entered in this same category, despite your fish having poor quality or a bad deformity.”

8. Breed Koi

“If you have the room and time, try to breed koi yourself. Compare the similarities and differences of quality of the same offspring. Understand it may be difficult to breed a trophy fish. You will learn, appreciate, and respect Nishikigoi a lot more, because it is so difficult to find high-quality fish out of one breeding.”

9. Price of Koi

“Don’t let the price of koi stop you from searching for more knowledge. The more you know, the less you spend on a quality fish. Many times low cost fish (\$25-\$50) win first place or occasionally, best in size at some of the biggest koi shows in the U.S. Some people may spend a lot of money on a fish that’s worth something today, but may not be worth as much tomorrow.”

CALENDAR OF CCKS GENERAL MEETINGS

August 11th at 7:00 p.m. Seng & Rosimeri Tran 5832 E. Erin Ave
Fresno, CA 93727

September 8th at 7:00 p.m. Robert & Fam Rangel 2949 E. McKelvey Ave
Fresno, CA 93727

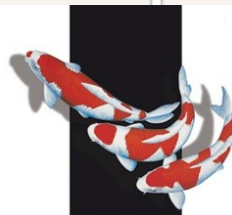
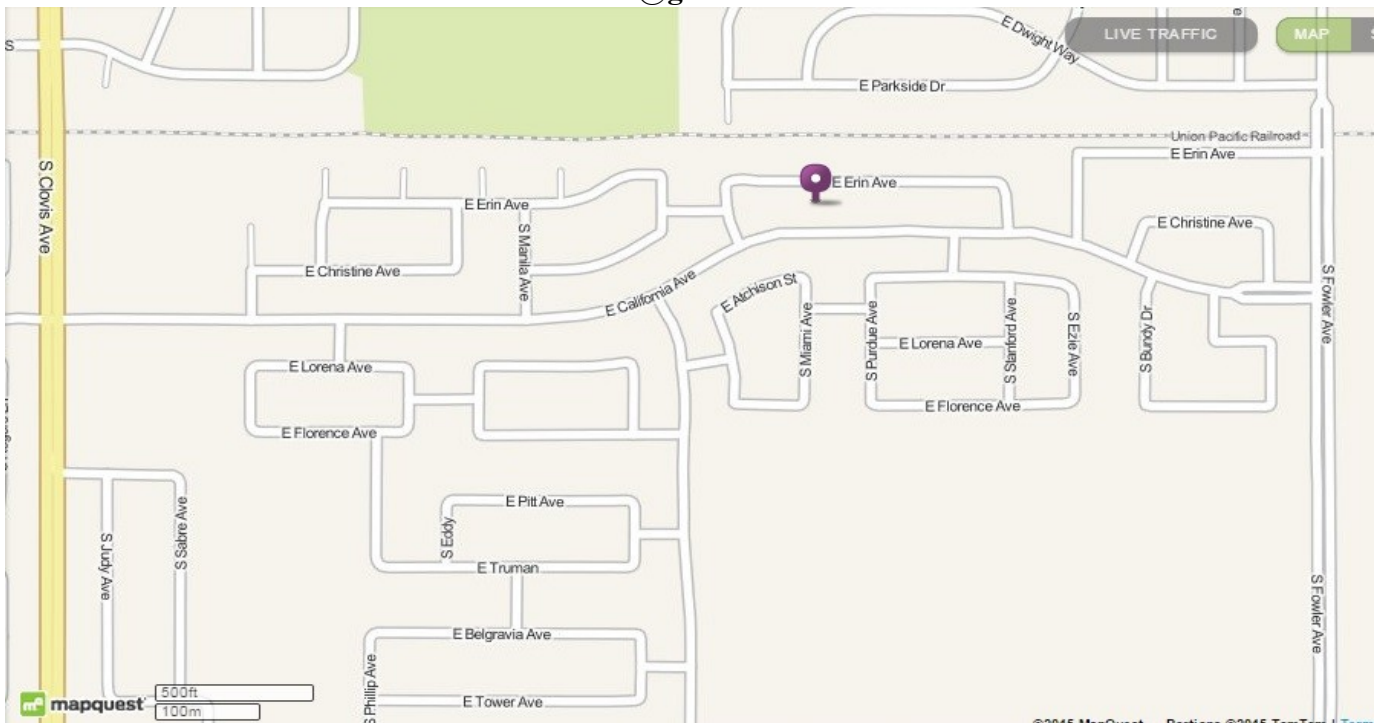
October **NEED HOST**

November **NEED HOST**

December **NEED HOST**

We still have **OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER** available for meeting hosts, so let me know if you are available to host a meeting, we would love to get together at your home.

August 11th meeting at 7PM at home of Seng & Rosimeri Tran, 5832 E. Erin Ave, Fresno 93727
RSVP: 559-970-8508 or via email at cencalkoi@gmail.com



July 14th Board of Director's meeting—by Rosimeri Tran

Attending:
Rosimeri & Seng Tran
Tom Callahan
J.R. Romagnoli

Absent:
John Kendall
Tony & Nancy Palazzo

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,413.33.

The show awards have been ordered from Don & Dale Whaley of Jacksonville Fl and have been shipped and received, we have received \$250.00 in trophy sponsorship and expect more as we get closer to the show date and this helps offset the cost of the awards.

I have asked Tony Palazzo to contact the fire department to ensure that they will be able to open the fire hydrant at Fig Garden Village. If not we will need to look into getting a water truck, which J.R. said he could help us with this as he has contacts that provide this type of service.

We have sent payment to AKCA for premium insurance and will provide Fig Garden Village mgmt with proof once we receive it.

General Meeting Minutes:

July 14th General meeting minutes – submitted by Rosimeri Tran

The July meeting was held at the beautiful home of Tom & Elaine Callahan, members enjoyed viewing Tom's downsized koi pond. We welcomed back Mary Helen and her sister Jessie, as well as Dr. Gilbert Moran and son Ryan, and much to my surprise Greg and Gloria Mariano popped in to surprise the members and myself, this was the best part of the meeting!

I discussed some topics that were covered at the Sacramento AKCA Wet lab, such as using a salt meter to measure the salt reading in the pond, along with the key points that Steve Walker from Sacramento Koi discussed regarding how to handle the drought and water changes in the koi pond. I passed around a handout regarding Hikkui which I have included in the newsletter as well. I asked for suggestions for the raffle at the koi show and will begin purchasing raffle items and hope to have raffle tickets available at the August meeting.

Marilyn Miller discussed a product she purchased in bulk and is selling at a good price to members, Praziquental at 99.2% in 100 gram jars for \$60.00, so please contact her regarding purchasing this, it is a treatment to get rid of skin and gill flukes.

The meeting adjourned and members enjoyed the raffle and refreshments.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS



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Rosimeri Tran



PRESIDENTS CORNER—Rosimeri Tran

Well we are closely approaching our September 26th-27th koi show date and we will need as much help as you can provide as the show is as successful as the people who help out. I will have signup sheets at the August meeting but if you are unable to attend, we begin setting up on Friday morning at 7am at Fig Garden Village on September 25th, in front of CVS parking lot the more volunteers the faster the work will get done. The shade and tanks are priority to get assembled as the earlier we get the tanks ready the better. There is opportunity to volunteer at the information booth to help pass out flyers regarding our club, sell raffle tickets and just answer questions, don't worry if you do not know the answer you just tell them you will get the information to them. I will discuss the opportunities in the August 11th meeting as well as the September 8th meeting. We will be raffling a 32" TV as well as a 7" HD Kindle Fire, and a \$100.00 VISA gift card; I hope to have the Raffle tickets by the August meeting. If you have any ideas on how we can market this koi show, please let me know via email, phone or at the upcoming meetings, plus any suggestions on how we can improve the show will be also greatly appreciated.

Our July meeting had a surprise, the surprise was that Greg and Gloria Mariano showed up, for those that did not know Greg was the former CCKS President and Gloria was the Treasurer, we had a lot of koi adventures together and both contributed a lot of hours into our club to make it the success it is today. They moved to Georgia to be closer to their children and grandchildren, and we all miss our friends and hope they come back again one day.

So let's do our best to attend the next two meetings as there will be lots of koi show preparation needed and any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated by the board of directors as well as me and the club. See you in August 11th at the Tran's home.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOI for Sale:

We are thinning out our pond and have various koi for sale some show quality, please contact Seng at 559-999-1706 for pricing and if interested in viewing. We also have some nice baby koi, different color, For Sale, baby koi prices are \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00, and \$30.00 each.

2015 Show Pin \$6.00 each have arrived.



1996—2013 \$4.00 each
1995 and older pins are \$2.00 each

Contact Rosimeri at cencalkoi@gmail.com or call her at 559-970-8508 if interested in purchasing any.

Praziquantel Powder -

Pete and Marilyn Miller are selling 100 gram containers of 99.2% pure Praziquantel powder for a discounted price of \$60.00. This product is used in the treatment of eliminating Gill and Skin Flukes. 10 grams treats 1,000 gallons. So if you are interested, please contact the Millers at 559-645-1080.

POND MAINTENANCE

If you have ever used or are using a pond maintenance or repair service, please share what you know. We have members, prospective members, and the public asking frequently for references, suggestions, or just any information about anyone in this business. Pond maintenance companies allow us to relax a bit with our ponding duties, we are always in search of new ideas of pond maintenance. If you have anything to contribute, please send us an email at: cencalkoi@gmail.com

CCKS Club Store:

Potassium Permanganate \$15.00 (1 lb jar)

Call Seng Tran at 559-999-1706, or email seng-tran@gmail.com if interested in purchasing, we will also have these available at every club meeting.

Ultra Balance Koi Foods

Wants your koi hobbyists stories
I'm sure everyone of you has a unique story to tell regarding experiences you have had since you began this crazy hobby, both good and bad. Star Milling/Ultra Balance Premium Koi Foods would like to publish your stories on their website www.koifood.com. Check out their website. Under the Library link you will be able to get an idea. If you're interested please send your stories to Iva at the following address: IVA@STARMILLING.COM. I'm sure we will all enjoy reading them! A short story and a photo (pdf) is all we need. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions]

Sumner Avenue Water Gardens

Newsletter advertiser Mike Przewoznik of Sumner Avenue Water Garden offers the following to CCKS members: "I would like to support your club and I appreciate the business I have received from you and your club members. I would like to initiate the following program for your club members going forward: FREE shipping on all orders \$75.00 or more. Club members can combine orders to reach the \$75.00 if they wish as long as I ship to one address. Items that require truck shipping or items that are extremely heavy will be looked at on case by case situation."

Central California Koi Society Koi Show



Central California Koi Society 37th Annual Koi Show



Saturday and Sunday September 26 & 27, 2015
Fig Garden Village 5082 N. Palm Ave, Palm & Shaw,
Fresno, California



2014 Grand Champion



Koi competition and Judging
Pond and Koi vendors
Raffles and auctions

Saturday, Sept 26: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(Judging starts at 10:00 a.m.)
Sunday, Sept 27: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

KOI SHOW CHAIRPERSON:

To Reserve Show Tanks/Vendor
Booths

*Contact— Rosimeri Tran
Ph# 559-970-8508*

Website: cencalkoi.com

Email: cencalkoi@gmail.com

Our September koi show is not far away, if you are interested in showing koi or as a vendor please contact Rosimeri Tran at 559-970-8508 or email at cencalkoi@gmail.com. Our show exhibitor/vendor package is now available for download from our club website at cencalkoi.com. Let's make this a great show for the Central Valley to remember.

Introducing our 2015 Judging Team

Larry Gill—AKCA Head Judge

