



Splash

Volume 32, Number 02, February 2016

Next meeting is February 16th at 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. Our speaker will be Dr. Jessie Sanders, DMV of Aquatic Veterinary Services of Northern California. Her topic will be “Fish Health and Spring: How Biological Processes Relate to Koi.”



Dr. Jessie Sanders received her B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island and DVM from Tufts University. Dr. Sanders is a Certified Aquatic Veterinarian through the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, and a member of the American Association of Fish Veterinarians, the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine and the American Veterinary Medical Association. Let's all welcome Dr. Jessie Sanders and learn about how Spring impacts Koi health.

At our general meeting last month was our club's annual meeting. We voted in our bylaw revisions that we have been working on for the past several months. Thank you to the board and club member Dennis Jacobson for helping out with this project.

We also had the honor of installing our new club officers! Thank you Cal Hansen, Mel Bretzke, Diane Selma, Cece Stearns, Rita Hughes, and Frank Mullaney. The board looks forward with the members participation of hosting our big three events, the Cherry Blossom Festival booth, the 25th Annual Pond Tour, and the Santa Clara County Fair booth for 2016 along with regular meetings and pond socials.



Visit our Web Site at: www.sckoi.com

Club Meetings:

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month except July (Third Friday) and December (No Meeting) in the Willow Glen Public Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. At meetings we get acquainted with members and guests, address any pond issues and generally follow with a presentation related to pond or water gardening. Finally, we enjoy refreshments and open discussion.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 16 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Speaker: Dr. Jessie Sanders, DMV, Aquatic Veterinary Services
Topic: Fish health and Spring: How biological processes relate to Koi
- Mar 1 SCVKWGC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome. (Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
- March 16 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Scheduled Speaker: TBA
- Apr 23-24 Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino -- The annual Cherry Blossom Festival honoring Cupertino's sister city of Toyokawa, Japan. The club plans to have an educational display and membership outreach. Volunteers needed.
- Jun 18-19 AKCA Business Meeting, Wet Lab, and Banquet: Cedar Falls, IA
- Jul 16 25th Annual SCVKWGC Pond Tour, Saturday, July 16, 2016, 9 AM to 4 PM
- Jul 28-31 (Tentative) 2016 Santa Clara County Fair -- The club plans to have an educational display and membership outreach. Volunteers needed.
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Koi Basics – Equipment

[Published by AKCA]

By Ann Harants, Oregon Koi Club

We'll start with test kits. Lots of people have never used a water test kit, bumbling happily along never knowing their baseline water chemistry. Disaster may not strike until something triggers an overload and suddenly Koi are keeling over left and right.

PH TEST KIT:

Buy a wide range kit, one that will measure from at least 6.0 to 8.5 pH. Biological filtration products are acidic and your water can drop in pH quite suddenly with an overloaded pond or filter. You should know your baseline pH. Start by testing your pond water first thing in the morning. By late afternoon algae photosynthesis may have raised your pH considerably. Also, draw a sample of your tap water, let it stand overnight and test it. Both readings should be fairly close. My preference is from 6.8 to 7.4, leaning towards alkaline rather than acidic. Baseline readings from 6.5 to 8.2 will also work if that happens to be where you tap water lies. Sudden pH shifts will stress your fish, extremes may kill them. Low pH symptoms include loss of appetite, huddling at the bottom, quivering followed by spasms and convulsions. High pH causes skin and gill irritation and the koi may jump or flash repeatedly. These are not disease signals but a water quality problem that can be just as lethal. Adding parasite treatments to the pond in these extremes only compounds the problem.

WATER HARDNESS KIT

Probably something you will check very infrequently but still vital. Some areas of the country have water which is very low in buffers; those substances with moderate pH shifts. If you're in one of those areas, you should include a water hardness test whenever you suspect a water quality problem. The addition of

crushed oyster shell, coral, or dolomite may be required for long-term buffering. Sodium bicarbonate will give you a quick fix.

AMMONIA TEST KIT

High ammonia levels cause gill damage, raise the levels of in the blood and induce stress that makes the koi susceptible to other diseases. High ammonia levels can kill. Ammonia should especially be monitored whenever the filter has been cleaned, following the addition of several new Koi, spring start-up, or when starting up a new system.

NITRITE TEST KIT

Nitrite is the first product from the aerobic breakdown of ammonia and will spike soon after an ammonia spike has occurred. High levels can be lethal by causing a condition known as brown blood disease. The nitrite binds to the hemoglobin and prevents the intake of oxygen. Koi suffering from nitrite poisoning may appear in good health, but any sudden stress will cause them to fall over dead. Having just done this to 200 three inch Koi placed a month previously in a new 400 gallon system with a resulting 15 percent mortality; I would say no one is immune to foul-ups. To remedy the effects, add salt a tone pound per 100 gallons and a minimum half water change, repeated in 24 hours. Do not catch the Koi and move them to new water – more will die.

WATER CONDITIONERS

Chlorine remover - An absolute must to have on hand. Keep enough to treat at least half of the volume of your pond; you can always fill the rest up later. **Salt** - Nice to have as a tonic for sick or stressed fish and new arrivals, for emergencies and mass water changes. **Sodium bicarbonate** – Very handy water buffer to raise pH. I usually keep a two pound box around for quick fixes. Always check your ammonia levels before raising the pH above neutral.

FISH BAGS AND RUBBER BANDS

Great for emergency transport and/or checking out the bottom half of a prized fish. It's also nice to have your own oxygen tank for a quick fill, or go halves and share one with a friend.

BASIC MEDICATIONS

Parasite treatments should be kept on hand, antibiotics should be quickly available. For inject able antibiotics, cultivate your veterinarian as a source. Also needed; a pail for mixing and a measuring spoon, neither to be used elsewhere. If you have an appreciable amount investing in your Koi, monetarily or emotionally, a gram scale can be invaluable.

THERMOMETER

Your guide to what and when to feed your Koi, floating thermometers with tethers are nice, electric ones with remote probes are really nice and readily available in electronics stores.

QUARANTINE TANK

An essential item. Something to house your new purchase in for at least two weeks while you check them out, or a place to medicate a focus Koi. Even if bath type medications are not being used, it is easier on the Koi if they don't have to be chased all over the pond every time they need an injection. However, water quality must be kept up, which means using an efficient filter system as well. You will also need a secure cover, with the water level several inches below it, otherwise jumping Koi can easily scalp themselves. Quarantine tank size should be relative to the size of Koi you plan to house. Koi smaller than eight inches can usually be housed in two by four foot tanks, eight to fourteen inch Koi should have at least four by four

foot. Larger fish will require greater depth to facilitate feeding and are best kept in round tanks if possible to avoid nose injuries.

NETS

A landing net just won't do, not even if a knot is tied in it. Maximum depth of the net should be eight inches, width at least two inches larger than your biggest Koi. Circular shape preferred. The net's edge should be smooth to protect the Koi, a strong handle with good balance is important too. The net's mesh should be 3/8 inches or less and non-abrasive.

TUBS

Koi should never be lifted from the water in a net. It follows then, that one needs something to contain the Koi long enough to examine and/or bag it. A proper tub is a very useful piece of equipment. What makes a good Koi tub? Firstly, it must float, even when it is almost full of water itself. Dipping the tub perpendicular to the water should be the only way of sinking it. A tub that sinks without provocation is useless and frustrating. It must also be sturdy and not bow or fold when lifted from the water. The design itself should be round, shallow, and larger than the intended occupant. Oversized Koi will play rock the boat and be gone in a flash, certainly before you can get your wits about you. Trying to contain them in a too small tub may also result in broken tails, which will probably be a permanent disfigurement.

THE FINAL, MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF KOI KEEPING EQUIPMENT

This one makes burdens lighter, tasks shorter, and the joys of Koi keeping greater. What is it?.....
FRIENDS!!!!!!

Water Plant of the Month – Parrot's Feather [*Myriophyllum aquaticum*]

Parrot feather is an emerged plant that frequently trails along the ground or water surface of ponds, lakes and canals. It is native to South America and blooms from the spring to fall. Its delicate, feathery, bright green leaves grow in profusion. This invasive plant continues to be sold in many garden centers, often under incorrect names.

Myriophyllum aquaticum leaves are oblong, deeply cut and feathery looking. The leaf color is bright blue-green. Like most water milfoils, parrot feather leaves are arranged in whorls about the stem. Its leaves are in whorls of four to six. Stems can be five feet long. Stems trail along the ground or water surface, becoming erect and leafy at the ends.



It prefers good light, slightly alkaline and high-nutrient environments. Parrot's Feather is an aquatic plant with stout elongate stems suspended in the water column and/or floating; both stems and submerged leaves may be reddish tinted; gray-green tips of the stems with leaves may protrude above the water.

Source: UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/>

Saving Mr. Sparkles

It's always a good idea to quarantine and treat new Koi before putting into your existing pond

By Eve Bretzke



It all started with a phone call. "Help, we need to find a new home for Mr. Sparkles, our pet store purchased Koi fish!" The small Koi was outgrowing the little aquarium he was being kept in and was showing signs of distress. Mr. Sparkles needed to be rescued. The problem was that the owners had inadequate filtration and water volume. Wanting to save Mr. Sparkles from certain demise, we offered to take him in.

But before we could put Mr. Sparkles into our Koi pond we had to quarantine and treat him to insure that he wouldn't bring any unwanted disease or parasites into our pond. We set up a tub, gave Mr. Sparkles a 7-10 minute salt dip to disinfect him, then put him in the quarantine tank for observation. Once Mr. Sparkles passed the quarantine period we were able to put him in with the other Koi. Per the photo, we were able to show the young boys how to do this and teach them about basic fish health and why it is important to treat and quarantine a Koi before introducing them into an existing pond with existing fish.

Sadly, we often hear of this similar situation...someone buys a fish or two from the pet store, brings them home, and adds them to their pond before making sure the fish are illness-free. Then the worst happens. The non-quarantined fish introduces disease to the existing fish population with possible illness and loss occurring. To prevent the likeliness of this happening, basic prevention steps should be taken prior to introducing the new fish into your established pond.



Pond Tour 2016

We are in the process of identifying and reviewing ponds for our 25th Annual Pond Tour taking place Saturday, July 16, 2016 between 9 AM and 4 PM. Members please save the date and consider volunteering for this big club event. It takes many volunteers and it is a great way to meet fellow members, pond hobbyists, and Koi keepers. We will be having a special pond social for all volunteers, more information to be announced as we get closer to the event date. If you have a pond, or know of a pond, that you would like to be considered for this year's tour or have questions about the pond tour send a photo, short description, and location via to email scvkwg@gmail.com.

Membership

Club dues are \$30.00 per year and you can join anytime. Our membership year is July 1 to June 30, so if you join before then, your dues will be prorated at the rate of \$2.50 per month until the next membership term starts. To join, send your name, address, phone number and email address along with your check for dues to SCVKWG, PO Box 9006, San Jose, CA 95157 or via email at scvkwg@gmail.com.

General Meeting Review – January 2016



We installed our new officers and voted on our bylaw revisions which were past. Other business discussed were the Cherry Blossom Festival, ponds for the Pond Tour, and speakers / topics for upcoming meetings. Thank you to all the members who came out and supported our newly elected officers and thank you Cal for being our President for 2016. Eve and Mel brought refreshments this month; the Koi fish shaped cake was fun! We enjoyed the socializing and even got to share a Happy Birthday wish with Diane, our club Secretary. If you missed this meeting, don't worry. We will be hosting more events for 2016. If you are wondering about club activities be sure to check the website or newsletter for more information.

Board Meeting Review – February 2016

The February Board meeting was held Tuesday, 02/02/16, Cal, Eve, Mel, Maus, Cece, Diane, Kay, were in attendance. We discussed our 2016 plan and event schedule. We have begun preparations for the 2016 Pond Tour and have a number of ponds that we are evaluating. If you have or know of a pond that you would like to see on the pond tour please let us know. Please send a photo, short description, and location via to email scvkwg@gmail.com. Better yet, attend one of our meetings and tell us in person. You club officers are getting up to speed with their new duties. Please bear with us during the transition time. We all are getting up to speed with our new duties.


Monthly Club Report to Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA)

Our February meeting will have Dr. Jessie Sanders, DVM, from Santa Cruz Koi speaking to us. Her topic will be "Fish health and spring: How biological processes relate to Koi", we are planning to participate in some local events and hold our 25th Annual Pond Tour on Saturday, July 16, 2016. We held our annual club business meeting and installed our officers for 2016.

NOTE: The above report will be added to AKCA board Minutes and will be posted on AKCA website for all to see under our name as Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club. Check <http://www.akca.org> and click on Koi Clubs.

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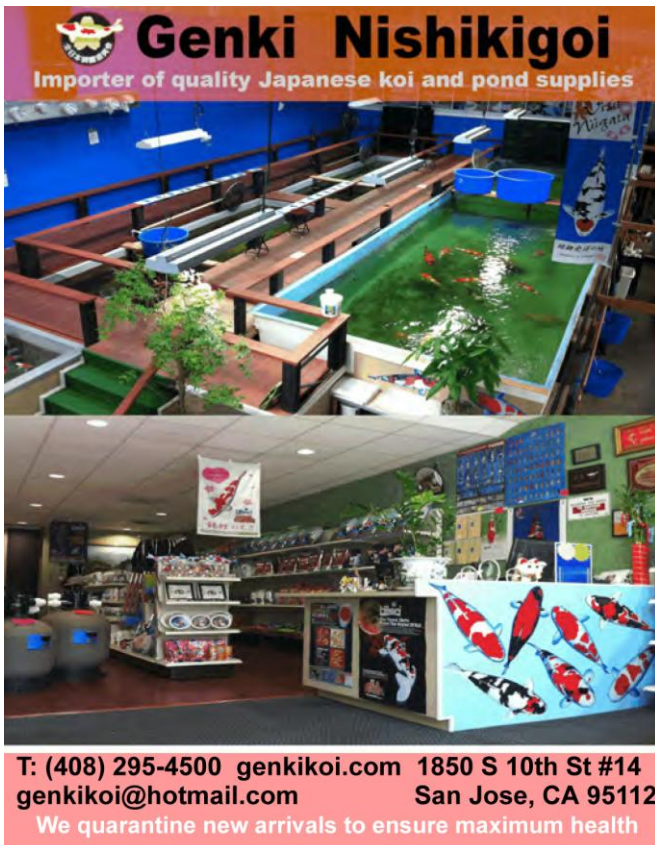
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