



Splash

Volume 32, Number 04, April 2016

Next meeting is April 19 at 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. We will be discussing the topic “Aquaponics”.

Unfortunately our scheduled guest speaker Peter Shaw had to cancel for this month but we hope to reschedule for another time.

Aquaponics refers to any system that combines conventional aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as snails, fish, crayfish or prawns in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment. In normal aquaculture, excretions from the animals being raised can accumulate in the water, increasing toxicity. In an aquaponic system, water from an aquaculture system is fed to a hydroponic system where the by-products are broken down by nitrification bacteria into nitrates and nitrites, which are utilized by the plants as nutrients, and the water is then recirculated back to the aquaculture system.



We are planning a tour for our club to visit the Cabrillo College campus in Santa Cruz to their aquaponics system on April 30th. More details at the meeting April 19th. Our guide will be Dr. Shaw who is an expert on Aquaponics and oversees the colleges programs and production facilities. Come out and learn more about the wonderful world of aquaponic gardening.

Other Events: The Cherry Blossom Festival is April 23 and 24th, next week. We still need of a few volunteers. Contact Diane if you are able to help at 415 235 5205. Our 25th Annual Pond Tour is being planned now and we are in the process of selecting our six ponds to be on the tour. If you have a pond that you would like to be considered email scvkwg@gmail.com.



Visit us on the web 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 that people may have then enjoy a pond or water gardening related presentation. Afterwards we enjoy refreshments and open discussion.

Upcoming Events

- Apr 19 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Scheduled Topic: Aquaponics
- Apr 23-24 Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino -- The annual Cherry Blossom Festival honoring Cupertino's sister city of Toyokawa, Japan. The club will have an educational display about Koi and promote our club. Volunteers still needed - call Diane 415 235 5205.
- Apr 30 Visit to the Aquaponics facility at Cabrillo College, host will be Dr. Peter Shaw. More information at the general meeting April 19th. Check website for updates.
- May 3 SCVKWGC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome. (Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
- May 17 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Speaker: Mel Bretzke, Advanced Landscape Systems
Topic: "Winter Pond Cleaning Basics"
- 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 2016 Santa Clara County Fair -- The club will have an educational display about Koi and promote our club. Volunteers needed.
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Have You Ever Seen a Koi Like That? What to Look for When Visiting a Koi Show.

By Eve Bretzke, Santa Clara Koi and Water Garden Club



For those of you who were able to attend the recent ZNA Koi Show April 2 and 3, it was a wonderful event. I am always amazed to see such beautiful Koi showcased all in one place. The true "Koi kichi" shined through and attendees got to experience Koi in a big way.

Koi is carp. Yes, the brilliantly colored fish, seen in magazines or online, is exactly the same species as the dull, gray, miserable, bottom-feeding, gefilte-fish ingredient. This divergence within *Cyprinus carpio* began in the early Nineteenth Century in an isolated, mountainous region on Japan's northern coast. Farmers in Niigata prefecture started noticing that some carp, which lived in rice fields, had unusual color markings. These fish, with black dots and red stripes, attracted the unwelcome attention of predatory birds. To protect the crop — carp is a popular food in Japan — farmers placed these unusual creatures in sheltered ponds.

Once segregated, the mutant fish bred with each other, spawning fish with even more unusual markings. Farmers, charmed by the aesthetics, eventually began to mate carp to create unusual patterns. The special Koi became pets. Farmers then discovered another characteristic of these newly domesticated fish: They

lived not for years, but for decades. (Some Japanese farmers have even claimed that Koi have lived more than 100 years.) People in Niigata called these distinctive carp Nishikigoi.

Over the next 100 years, the art was refined. Farmers experimented with not only color but also other characteristics; they combined, for instance, scaled and nonscaled fish. By the late Nineteenth Century, there were several named varieties of Nishikigoi. Red-and-white fish, for instance, were kohakus; black-and-white were showas. Still, Koi farming was largely limited to a single province. In 1914 that changed. The Niigata Koi were presented to Emperor Hirohito at a Tokyo exhibition. Today, we are fortunate to have Koi shows and events right here in our local area and see these wonderful animals up close.

Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Some of the major colors are white, black, red, yellow, blue, and cream. While the possible color variations are virtually limitless, breeders have identified and named a number of specific categories. The most popular category is Gosanke, which is made up of the Kohaku, Taisho Sanshoku, and Showa Sanshoku varieties.

The major named varieties include:

- Kōhaku - A white-skinned koi, with large red markings on the top. The name means "red and white;" kohaku was the first ornamental variety to be established in Japan (late 19th century).
- Taishō Sanshoku (or Taisho Sanke) - Very similar to the Kohaku, except for the addition of small black markings called sumi, In America, the name is often abbreviated to just "Sanke".
- Shōwa Sanshoku (or Showa Sanke) - A black koi with red and white markings. In America, the name is often abbreviated to just Showa. The amount of shiroji on Showa Sanke has increased in modern times to the point that it can be difficult to distinguish from Taisho Sanke.

Other varieties include:

- Tanchō - Any koi with a solitary red patch on its head. The fish may be a Tancho Showa, Tancho Sanke, or even Tancho Goshiki. Named for the Japanese crane (*Grus japonensis*) which also has a red spot on its head.
- Asagi - A koi that is light blue above and usually red, but also occasionally pale yellow, or cream generally below the lateral line and on the cheeks. The Japanese name means "pale greenish blue."
- Utsurimono - A black koi with a white, red, or yellow markings. The red and white versions are called Hi Utsuri and Shiro Utsuri respectively. The word utsuri means to print (the black markings are reminiscent of ink stains). Genetically the same as Showa but lacking either red pigment (Shiro Utsuri) or white pigment (Hi Utsuri/Ki Utsuri)
- Bekko - A white-, red-, or yellow-skinned koi with black markings sumi. The Japanese name means "tortoise shell." The white- red- and yellow varieties are called Shiro Bekko, Aka Bekko, and Ki Bekko respectively. Sometimes confused with the Utsuri.

Koi are symbolic of "Love and Friendship". Next time when you get a chance be sure to attend one of these shows for the "love" of Koi, and for the "friendship" of being with other Koi and water garden enthusiasts.

The local chapter of the Zen Nippon Airinkai (ZNA) contributes enrichment of the Japanese culture and improvement of the people's artistic sentiments by promoting nishikigoi keeping, directing the way of its appreciation, and pursuing its beauty.

Thank you for sharing your Koi Show event with all of us!

Water Plant of the Month – Horsetail [*Equisetum hyemale*]

Erect, jointed stems grow to 4 feet tall. Some stems will form cones on their ends during the spring and summer. Excellent in shaded or sunny areas, adds an interesting effect to many sites.



Horsetail is a very primitive perennial plant with dark-green hollow, jointed or segmented stems 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick with no true leaves. Stems may be singular or have whorls of branches. Only single stems produce the cone-shaped spore producing body at the tip. Horsetails can be standing in water or in wet areas. Horsetail stems contain silicon crystals (i.e. sand) embedded in its tissue.



This gritty texture gives it a common name of "scouring rush". Will grow in water or on land. Can become invasive if allowed to do so.

Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.). After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called "detritus") for many aquatic invertebrates. Horsetail has no known direct food

Source: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/horsetail/>

Did you know??

- Nutritional deficiencies in fish mimic many other diseases.
- Snails can harbor lice and anchor worms. If you have trouble ridding the pond of these parasites, that may be the problem.
- A pond does not grow excess algae without "feeding" it.
- Koi and goldfish do not hibernate; they go into "torpor" which is a semi-hibernation state for winter. They are quite alert, but their metabolism has slowed down conserving energies.
- Koi are opportunistic feeders, normally at the bottom. Hence, they are omnivores and will survive with whatever they find edible in their environment.

Source: *Microbe-Lift Pond Newsletters 2016*

Pond Tour 2016

We are selecting ponds for our 25th Annual Pond Tour Saturday, July 16, 2016 between 9 AM and 4 PM. Members please save the date and consider volunteering for our biggest event of the year. It takes many volunteers and it is a great way to meet fellow members, pond hobbyists, and Koi keepers while supporting your club. 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 or call Mel at 408 206 4841.

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.

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

Our April meeting will discuss the topic of Aquaponics. We plan to have Dr. Peter Shaw, Horticulture Expert and Instructor at Cabrillo College host our club for a site visit to see a large scale system in action April 30th. We have invited other regional AKCA Clubs to join us. The club will be an exhibitor at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Cupertino, CA April 23 and 24th and will hold our 25th Annual Pond Tour on Saturday, July 16, 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.

Board Meeting Review – April 2016

The March Board meeting was held Tuesday, 04/12/16, Cal, Frank, Eve, Mel, Maus, Cece, Diane, Kay, were in attendance. We firmed up preparations to attend the Cherry Blossom Festival April 23 and 24th. We also discussed the 2016 Pond Tour and have several ponds that we are evaluating. We want members to know that we are offering advertisements in the pond tour booklet so if you know of anyone or business that would like to support us in this way pick up a form with all the information. We will also have rates posted in this newsletter (see advertisement section).

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Full Page	\$200.00
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Visit <http://www.sckoi.com> for the latest club information and events!