

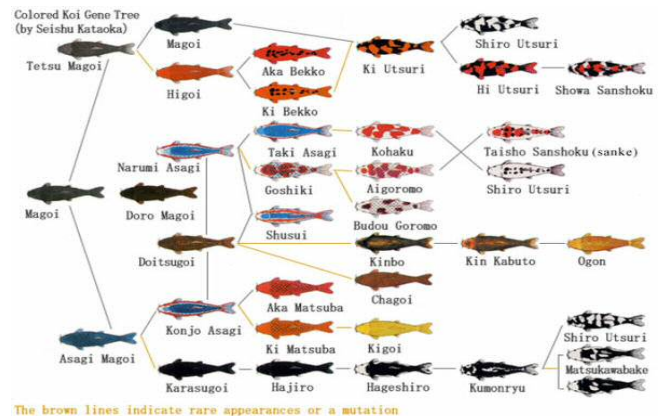


Splash

Volume 32, Number 05, May 2016

Next meeting is May 17 at 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. Our topic will be “Koi Breeding 101”.

At this month's meeting our topic will be “Koi Breeding 101 – What a Pond Keeper Should Know”. We plan to have an informational video and a discussion about this topic. Many of our Koi keepers have been noticing signs of spring spawning in their ponds along with other Springtime challenges.



Other Events:

Planning for our 25th Annual Pond Tour, the club's biggest fundraiser of the year, coming together and preparations are underway. Please consider volunteering to make this event a success. There will be a special “Thank You” BBQ event on July 23. Time and details to be announced.

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.

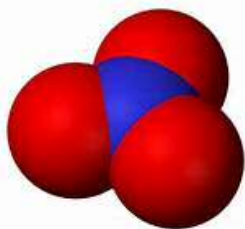
Upcoming Events

- May 17 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Topic: Koi Breeding 101 – What A Pond Keeper Should Know
- Jun 7 SCVKWGC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome. (Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
- Jun 17 SCVKWGC General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
- Jun 18-19 AKCA Business Meeting, Wet Lab, and Banquet: Cedar Falls, IA
- Jul 15 Pond Tour, Kick Off Meeting - Friday 7:15 to 7:45 PM, This will be a quick meeting for volunteer assignments and preparation for the pond tour the next day.
- Jul 16 25th Annual 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. Contact Cal for more information.
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KP 101, The Nitrate Cycle

by Bob Haugland, KHA

Camilia Koi Club



I first heard of the Nitrate Cycle a couple of decades ago when I was into angelfish/aquariums.

Some pond folk call it the Ammonia Cycle, which is probably a better name for it. This cycle applies to our ponds, fresh and salt water aquariums, and even water reclamation plants where they take your toilet water and clean it up. In koi pond talk, it's the bio-filter that does the job. The word 'bio-filter' is, in my opinion, a misnomer. 'Filter' implies that something is being collected and removed. 'Bio-converter' is a better word for what happens. So here's what happens: You toss a handful of koi

kibble into the pond and them little buggers just about kill each other to get as much as they can. They chew it up and swallow it and convert as much as they can into koi parts. The rest is waste. Koi pee and poop and the poop falls to the bottom and whether or not it ends up in the filter, it decomposes and becomes something else, like ammonia.

Have you ever changed a diaper that was long overdue? Ammonia! Believe it or not, most of the ammonia produced comes from the koi's gills. Just swimming around, sucking in water, breathing out ammonia. This is where the ammonia cycle comes in. There's a biological reaction here that makes your Bio-converter clean up your pond water.

Here's how it works: Koi eat food and make Ammonia... Ammonia is eaten by Nitrites...Nitrites are eaten by Nitrates. You can imagine it's like a PacMan game going on in your bio-converter. The little AmmoniaMans are running around causing trouble so the little NitriteMans are running around trying to Eat the AmmoniaMans. But wait! The NitriteMans aren't even the game winning guys so you have to send in the NitrAteMans to eat the NitriteMans. Confused yet? Nitrates are the good guys. I've put the capital A in there to make sure that you see the difference between Nitrates (the good guys), and Nitrites (the bad guys). So Nitrates eat the Nitrites, which eat Ammonia. When you have all of these things in the

proper amounts doing the proper things, your bio-converter is said to be 'inbalance'. You will have enough NitrAtes that are eating the right amount of Nitrites so that your Nitrite test reads zero. Even though your test reads zero, there are still just enough Nitrites in the pond to eat the Ammonia so that you get a zero when you test for Ammonia. Even the test kit color chart is in this order: Ammonia should be zero because the Nitrites ate it all, and also reads zero because the NitrAtes ate all of those guys (Readings should be in the 40 – 200 range). In the winter your bio-converter slowed down and some of the good and bad bacteria have died off. Now that it's spring, you might be feeding your fish more than your bio-converter can convert because it doesn't awaken as fast as the Koi do. If you've tested the water and your bio-converter is a little out of balance, cut back on the Koi kibble for a couple of weeks, or maybe even a month and see if that helps.

Water Plant of the Month – Frog's-Bit [Limnobium spongia]



Frog's-bit is a perennial plant that can be rooted or free-floating. Leaves are on stalks, simple and can vary in shape from round, to egg-shaped, to kidney, or heart-shaped, to 3 1/2 inches wide. Leaves often float on the water's surface. Young floating leaves are often heart-shaped and have a spongy, purplish underside. Flowers are small, white (with 3 petals and 3 sepals) on a stalk about 1/3 the height of the leaves. Flowers can be above or below the waters surface.



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 "detrius") for many aquatic invertebrates. Frog's-bit seeds are eaten by waterfowl.

Source: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/frogs-bit-2/>

Koinobori – Why Koi Windssocks, Streamers, and Banners ...



"Koinobori", carp windsocks, carp streamers or carp banners, decorate the landscape of Japan from April through early May, in honor of Children's Day (originally Boys' festival) on May 5. In Japanese culture, the carp symbolizes courage and strength because of its ability to swim up waterfalls. The Boys' Festival was an event, expressing hope that each boy in the family will grow up healthy and strong like wild carps. During this festival, people set up a warrior doll or a yoroi armor set in the house, and Koinobori, huge carp-shaped windsocks, outside the house.

Originally, the banners were used by samurai warriors on the battlefield. Whenever the ancient warriors were on the battlefield, they wore full yoroi armor and flew banners. The banners were painted in various colors and shapes. Some of them had carp pictures on them. They became "carp banners" at the beginning of the modern age. Since the carp's courage and strength is a trait desired in boys, families traditionally have flown koinobori from their homes to honor their sons.



A typical koinobori set consists of, from the top of the pole down, a pair of arrow-spoked wheels (yaguruma) with a ball-shaped spinning vane, top streamer (fukinagashi) that looks like a windsock, a black koinobori and a red koinobori. If more children are in the household, an additional blue, green and then purple or orange koinobori are added. These carp sets are flown above the roofs of houses, with the biggest black koinobori for the father, next biggest red for the mother, and ranging down to the smallest carp for the youngest child. As Koi enthusiasts, these decorations are valued year round and often displayed around the pond or water garden.

Source: <http://www.koinobori-japan.jp/koinobori.html>

Cherry Blossom Festival – Wrap Up

Thank you to all the volunteers that made our return to this event a success! The club set up a great booth including a tank of Koi which was enjoyed by all, especially the children.



The Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister City Committee thanked us and made a donation to our club for supporting their event. Save the Date! Next year's festival is April 29 and 30, 2017. They want us to come back!

Pond Tour 2016

We are now actively working on the preparations for the upcoming 25th Annual Pond Tour Saturday, July 16, 2016 between 9 AM and 4 PM. 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 have a special BBQ for all volunteers a week or so after the event. Also, all volunteers get free admission to the pond tour. The club is also selling advertising space in our pond tour booklet.

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 email scvkwg@gmail.com or call Mel at 408 206 4841.

Membership – 2016/17 Membership Drive Starts Soon

We will be having our annual membership drive in June and July. Club dues are \$30.00 per year. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. If you join after our annual membership drive 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 bring your dues to the next meeting. Thank you for your support.

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

On April 23/24 the club exhibited at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Cupertino, CA April 23 and 24th which was successful educational event for the general public. We were very well received and honored by the Cupertino-Toyakawa Sister City Committee, the event organizers.

The club will hold its 25th Annual Pond Tour on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Visit six beautiful ponds All are welcome.

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 – May 2016

The May board meeting was held Tuesday, 05/02/16. Mel, Frank, Eve, Maus, Cece, Diane, Kay, were in attendance. We reviewed club business and worked on preparations the upcoming 25th Annual Pond Tour July 16, 2016. Pond Tour Chairman Mel Bretzke is evaluating ponds and preparing materials for the tour booklet. We want members to know that we are also offering advertisements in the pond tour booklet so if you know of anyone or business that would like to support us in this way contact Eve for more information at scvkwg@gmail.com We also have rates posted in this newsletter (see advertisement section).

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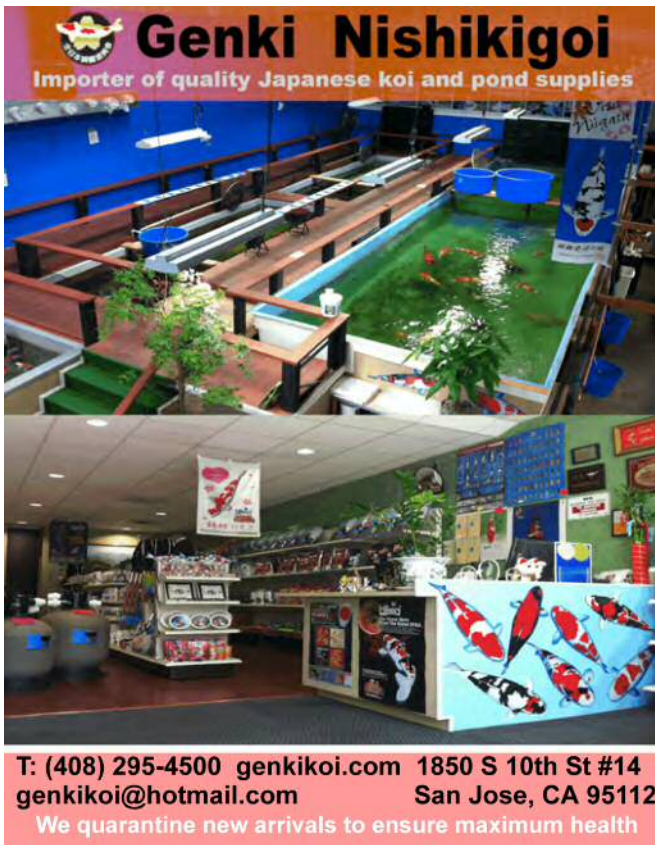
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Business Card	\$25.00
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Half Page	\$100.00
Full Page	\$200.00
Back Cover	\$250
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