



# Splash

Volume 32, Number 08, August 2016

**Next meeting is August 16th, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. WE ARE BACK AT WILLOW GLEN LIBRARY.**

## **Membership Drive – 2016/17 – It's Time to Renew**

Our annual membership drive is in full swing! Club dues are \$30.00 per year (from July 1 to June 30). To renew or join, send your name, address, phone number and email address along with your check for dues to SCVKWGC, PO Box 9006, San Jose, CA 95157.



友  
FRIENDS

Better yet bring your dues to the meeting Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and give to our treasurer Cece Stearns. Thank you for supporting the club with your membership.

**Visit us on the web at: [www.sckoi.com](http://www.sckoi.com)**

### **Club Meetings:**

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month except July (Third Friday) and December (No Meeting). 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

- Aug 16      General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room.  
Speaker: TBA Topic: TBA
- Sept 6      Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome.  
(Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
- Sept 20     General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room.  
Speaker: Zack Herlick Topic: Fish Health Advisor
- Sept 24-25   38<sup>th</sup> Annual Koi Show – Central California Koi Society, Fig Garden Village, Fresno, CA
- Oct 4      Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome.  
(Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
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## Membership Drive – 2016/17 – Renew Today

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## Highlights from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Pond Tour Held July 16, 2016.



**Bubbles, the Amazing Sanke, was our welcoming committee  
It's not everyday you meet a fish this friendly. She delighted many pond tour attendees!**





The six ponds were beautiful, thank you to our pond owners for their hospitality. Each pond had unique and beautiful elements enjoyed by all who visited.



Our volunteers helped out all day, without you this event would not be possible. We had over 200 attendees including our members and are looking forward to next year's pond tour.



Save the Date for Next Year's Pond Tour – JULY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017!

## SCVKWG Koi Person of the Year Goes to....Mel and Eve Bretzke

This year our Koi Persons of the Year are Mel and Eve Bretzke for all their efforts this past year especially with the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Pond Tour. Mel and Eve support the club on many levels and have enjoyed being members since 1998. Mel serves as current Vice President and was this year's Pond Tour Committee Chairman. Eve serves as Webmaster / Newsletter Editor / Membership chair and past Treasurer among other roles for the club.

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## SCVKWG Koi Fish of the Year Goes to....Reno Davenport



This year our clubs winner of Koi the Year is an Utsuri owned by Reno Davenport. The club's membership voted back in June between three very nice entries. This entry is for the 2015-16 period. If you have a special Koi you would



like to enter for the 2016-17 period take a photo and keep it for submission next spring.

All members are encouraged to submit an entry for the club's Koi of the Year which is submitted to the Associated Koi Club's of America's contest and voted on for the national Koi of the Year. Good Luck!

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## Water Plant of the Month – Lizard Tail [*Saururus cernuus*]



Lizard's tail is a perennial plant that has a hairy erect stem with few or no branches and can grow up to 4 feet tall. Leaves are on short petiole, lance to heart-shaped 2 to 5 inches long by 1 to 3 inches wide), alternate with veins that converge toward the base. Flowers are borne on a long hairy stem, opposite the uppermost leaf. The flowering structure consists of a spike of many small whitish flowers that forms an arching, tail-like shape. As the greenish seeds develop, the "tail" takes on a wrinkled appearance and hence the common name. Lizard's tail has a distinctive orange like-smell.

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. Lizard's tail has no known direct food value to wildlife.

Reference: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/lizards-tail/>



## How to Control Algae In Your Pond: Some Basics

By Eve Bretzke



Nutrients are the food required to grow and reproduce algae in your pond. Algae are free-floating and get their nutrients from being in water. With a higher nutrient level, you increase the likelihood that algae will grow and increase in your pond's water. Pond water is full of microscopic organisms. Those most noticeable are the ones that discolor the water.

When your pond water is new it needs to biologically and chemically balance to support aquatic life and will change to tint of pale amber when balanced and be able to support your fish and plants. This is the "normal" state of what your pond water should be like.

When you have green water the single-celled free-swimming algae have become very active. They are microscopic but may be present in such numbers to turn your pond water green in its appearance. Algae depend on light and mineral salts, which are abundantly available in a newly filled smaller pond in which plant growth is relatively undeveloped. It is natural for a new pond to be pea-soup green within a week or two of being filled and should be expected.

If your pond is not new, has an excess of nutrients in the water, and a lack of plant cover on the surface of the pond you may experience green water. Excess nutrients can be the result of overfeeding, overstocking with fish or a lack of filtration. If your pond is balanced with the correct level of fish and plants, your pond water should be clear with a pale amber tint. This amber tint color is a sign of good pond water quality.

Green pond water will clear if submerged oxygenates and surface covering plants are present. The surface cover of water lilies and other plants cut off sunlight at the surface and reduce the growth of algae. Single-celled algae in the upper water layers where light intensity and warmth are greatest find it hard to survive by being starved of food and deprived of light and die off. Pond water clears quickly when food and light are blocked. To achieve balance in your pond, you need ample pond depth, good pond filtration, a balance of plants and fish, and a UV Clarifier if you want really clear water.

Some algae is desired in a pond. Moss-like algae that grow on the side of the pond are beneficial and a sign of good pond health. Because they harbor the same kind of bacteria found in an artificial biological filter, they help to remove toxic chemicals from your water.

If an algae problem arises, avoid the urge to empty the pond. Emptying the pond water will temporarily alleviate the green pond water situation, but minerals in tap water will cause the refilled pond to become thick with algae very quickly. Salts and minerals are one of the causes of algae and take a long time to break down in your pond. The recipe for clear water is simply plants and patience. Generally, ponds with insufficient plant growth experience algae problems. Water plants are fun and functional additions to the pond.

Once your pond water has cleared it should stay clear except for maybe short outbreaks in spring if the conditions are right. Another thing to check for is run off from your lawn or a neighboring lawn into your pond, this could cause an algae bloom. There are different ways to control algae in your pond such as mechanical, biological, and chemical strategies. Beware: sudden depletion of nutrients to a pond with a severe ongoing algae bloom can cause a summer fish kill. Preventing algae outbreaks in spring allows for a season of low algae and clearer water to enjoy your fish and plants.

There are many pond algae types. All are plants, using chlorophyll for photosynthesis. They all need, to varying degrees, water, light and nutrients to thrive. Over feeding your fish is one of the fastest ways to develop a pond algae bloom. Another way to develop an algae bloom is to let organic matter accumulate with the resulting population explosion of heterotrophic bacteria that leads to an algae break out and green pond water.

Clear pond water requires particular conditions of water chemistry, including pH, and if the conditions are not right fish in your pond may die as a result. Note that algae treatments and additives should be considered short-term remedies to this problem. For a long-term solution, look at balancing the nutrient level in the pond with a balance of plantings, filtration and stocking of fish. When using algae products it is important to monitor water quality, as there is a danger of deoxygenation caused by the algae dying off and decaying, especially during warmer weather conditions. Be sure to provide proper aeration during this process for your fish.

Use a UV Clarifier if you want to easily keep your pond water clear throughout the warmer season. A UV clarifier system, when properly sized for your pond and flow rate, reduces some bacteria, including harmful bacteria, as well as microscopic organisms that could be harmful to your fish. It will destroy the DNA in single cell algae cells and efficiently kill off the undesirable algae. These systems provide clear water when the green discoloration is due to suspended algae. UV provides 100% success for achieving clear water from single cell algae in a pond.

So, if you have green water this season make some simple changes and have clear water next season and beyond.

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

The club is hosted it's 25th Annual Pond Tour on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 9 AM to 4 PM showcasing six beautiful ponds in the Santa Clara Valley. We had a great event with over 200 attendees. Thank you to everyone for their support of this annual event.

Our club announced our Koi Person(s) of the Year, Mel and Eve Bretzke in appreciation for all their work this past year including serving as the Pond Tour Chairman and Pond Tour Coordinator.

*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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## **Board Meeting Review – August 2016**

The August board meeting was held Tuesday, 08/02/16. Cal, Frank, Maus, Cece, Diane, Kay were in attendance. We reviewed club business and wrapped up the annual Pond Tour July 16, 2016. Thank you Cal for organizing the Pond Tour Thank You BBQ and Greg of Cherry Hill Koi and Water Gardens for hosting. It was a very nice social for all of our pond tour volunteers.

We are now in full swing for our annual membership drive. We welcome new advertisers to the Splash newsletter. We have some good speakers lined up and are working on scheduling some pond socials.

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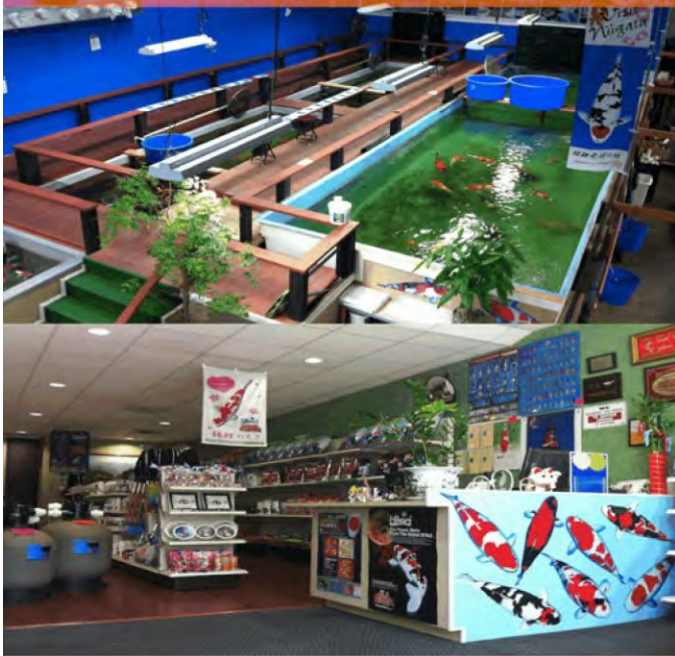
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