

Volume 32, Number 10, October 2016

## Next meeting is October 18th, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

## Our speaker will be .....



This month we will have a round table discussion lead by Cal. This will be an informative talk. As always, we will also have our Q& A session and social time. At this month's meeting we will also be presenting nominations for next year's board of directors. We have several positions open and are looking forward planning speakers and events for 2017. If you have been thinking about getting more involved with the club be sure to attend this meeting.

Thank you to our friends from the Monterey Bay Koi Club. Many of our members enjoyed attending the Koi Harvest (Ikeagi )event in Ben Lomond

October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a perfect day.. sunny and warm and balmy; beautiful koi, great food, fun music and the wonderful, loving energy of everyone who attended. As a friend said "So many genuine, sincere, real people!" That's you... :-))

And not only was it a fun party but a unique opportunity to see the pond and the ingenious way their pond was set up to function as a koi pond.. by adding 12" of bottom drain to the existing 2" bottom drain pipe. And for adding custom skimmers, aeration and integrated settling tanks.

Thank you Monterey Bay Koi Club for including our members!

# Visit us on the web at: <u>www.sckoi.com</u>

### **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**

Oct 18	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room. Speaker: TBA Topic: TBA
Oct 29	Kelly Park Koi Sale - 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. 1300 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112. For more information contact (408) 277-5274.
Nov 1	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome. (Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
Nov 16	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room. Speaker: TBA Topic: TBA
Dec 6	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullany's home. All members are welcome. (Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month)
Dec	Holiday Social: Details TBD; Time and Date: TBA

### Water Plant of the Month – Society Garlic (Tulbaghia violacea)



Tulbaghia (wild garlic or society garlic) a monocotyledonous genus of herbaceous perennial bulbs native to Africa, belonging to the Amaryllis family. It is one of only two known genera in the society garlic tribe within the onion subfamily. The genus was named for Ryk Tulbagh (1699-1771), one time governor of The Cape of Good Hope.

Most species are native to the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. As is common to many members of the onion tribe, when their leaves are bruised they produce a distinct garlic smell, hence its common name. The flowers are borne in an umbel. Each flower has six narrow tepals. A characteristic of

the genus is that there is a "corona" – a raised crown-like structure – at the centre of the flower. This may be small and scale-like or may be larger, somewhat like the trumpet of a small narcissus.

Reference: http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification

### **Did You Know...**

Fish need an oxygen level of 5-9 mg/L (ppm) in the water (18 ppm is saturation level).

Your KH level should be 100-300 mg/L (ppm) - the higher the better.

Koi carp thrive in temperature range of 65°-75°F, but will tolerate 35°-85°F for short periods of time.

## Water Fluoridation Notice

SJWC will begin delivering fluoridated water to customers starting December 5, 2016, as a result of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's efforts to fluoridate its water supply. The District will fluoridate the water supply at its Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant initially and follow at its other facilities in the future. This phased approach will mean that certain customers may receive water with added fluoride while others will receive water with no added or only low levels of naturally-occurring fluoride.



More information on this effort can be found online. Customer inquiries regarding the public health aspects of water fluoridation will be handled by the California Department of Public Health via a toll-free number (1-844-435-8420)

### Falling Leaves...It's that Time of Year!

Get your leaf nets up. Empty skimmers frequently to prevent clogging (with leaves). Any leaves that fall to the bottom-remove promptly. Decaying leaves and foliage produce toxic gases that can harm your fish so you want to remove this debris before winter. You don't need to remove every single last leaf, but try to remove the majority. If you put protective pond netting over your pond before the leaves started to fall, your job is easy. Carefully roll up the net and discard the leaves that were caught. If you didn't use a net over the surface of your pond, you'll need to remove the build-up of leaves from the bottom of the pond. Use a long handled pond net to scoop them out. Check your skimmer basket and remove any leaves that are still caught inside. Stop fertilizing your aquatic plants after the first frost. Trim back hardy marginal aquatic plants to 2" above the water to keep the dead foliage from drooping over into the pond. Trim back waterlily leaves and stems to 2-3" above the base of the plant. This keeps dead foliage from decomposing in the pond. Once temperatures drop to 50 degrees, stop feeding your fish. They need to get ready to hibernate and you'll want to avoid any metabolic complications.

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### Why Do My Koi Stay on the Pond Bottom and Not Want to Eat? By Eve Bretzke

The main reason fish stay on the bottom of a pond is that is where the oxygen is and they need to breathe.

#### Koi Need Oxygen

When fish don't get oxygen, they suffocate. They go where they can find oxygen. Warm water on the surface contains less dissolved oxygen than the colder water on the bottom. Water that is dense, including water at the bottom, holds more dissolved oxygen. The availability of oxygen in a pond is different in the summer than the winter.

#### Spring and Summer

In the late spring and summer, the rapidly warming water in the top 8 to 10 feet of the pond loses oxygen. Even if it is colder at the bottom, the lack of light there prevents photosynthesis, which produces oxygen, and plants rotting there consume oxygen. In the summer heat, however, there is still more oxygen on the bottom than on the top. That's why the fish stay on the bottom.

#### Fall and Winter

In the winter, the fish will often come to the top because the water there is getting colder. Since the cold surface water holds more oxygen, it is inviting to fish. But cold water sinks. Warm water rises. Strong winds, plus rapid drops in temperature and the inflow of large volumes of cold water from rains can cause lower, warmer layers of oxygen-deficient water to rise, replacing the upper layer of water. Fish follow oxygen. If the best water is suddenly on the bottom, the fish go to the bottom for oxygen.

#### **Natural Predators**

Fear of a new environment or fear of predators will sometimes drive fish to the bottom of a pond. All fish have a natural fear of predators. They can sometimes think shadows of shrubs and bushes are predators. Raccoons and herons are predators feared by Koi. Other animals that prey on pond fish are foxes, mink, owls, hawks and opossums. Once a predator strikes, the fish are twice as wary. If you have frequent predators, which you may or may not observe directly, your Koi will respond accordingly

#### Parasites on Koi

On the other hand, if you notice that any koi that stay at the bottom of the pond are banging their heads, they are likely infested by parasites. This can be confirmed by examining the Koi more carefully and treatment can be made.

Hope this helps with you wondering why your Koi stay at the bottom of your pond and may not want to eat! With time and patience, the Koi should return to normal behavior.

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

The club has wrapped up our membership drive for 2016/2017 term which spans from July 2016 to June 2017. Our membership is down a bit from last year but we have hopes of increasing membership moving forward. We are putting together our slate of officers for next year and beginning to form our pond tour committee. We also plan to hold more pond socials and other events for our membership and continue to plan interesting speakers and activities for our membership.

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.organd click on Koi Clubs.

## **Board Meeting Review – October 2016**

The October board meeting was held Tuesday, 10/04/16. Cal, Frank, Lon, Cece, Diane, Kay, Mel and Eve were in attendance. We reviewed club business and wrapped up our annual membership drive. The club is in the nominating process for 2017. It was discussed to modify our general meeting schedule for next year. Our Holiday Party planning also discussed. All members are welcomed to be involved with club business and hope that some newer members will take a more active role in the coming year.



Japan in autumn

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### **Cherry Hill Koi & Water Gardens**

Established in 1986, Cherry Hill is owned and operated by Gregg Steed, master water gardener, author, and lecturer. 351 Spar Ave. San Jose, CA 95117 (408) 260-1445

Open 11:00am to 5:00pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday



Visit <u>www.sckoi.com</u> for the latest club information and events!