

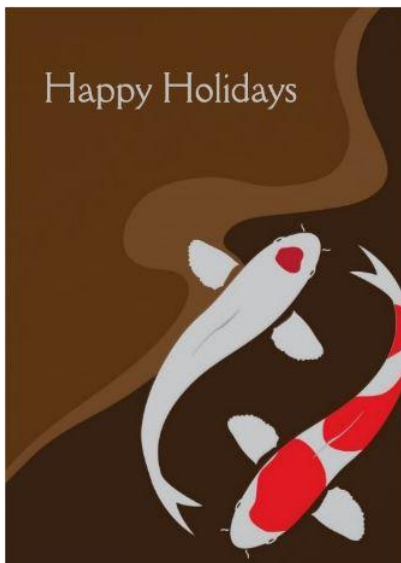


# Splash

Volume 32, Number 12, December 2016

**Our club's Holiday Dinner Social will be on December 10th, 5 PM to 9 PM. Our hosts will be Maus and Cece Stearns, 2580 Custer Drive, San Jose, CA 95124.**

## **Installation of 2017 Officers and Holiday Dinner Celebration!**



This month we installed our slate of officers for 2017 as follows:

President	Maus Stearns
Vice-President	Mel Bretzke
Secretary	Diane Stelma
Treasurer	Cece Stearns
Director	Rita Hughes
Director	Frank Mullany

**Our annual holiday event was held on Saturday, December 10th.** The club will provided the main dish and desert; members and friends brought appetizers and side dishes to share. We were excited to install our new officers for 2017 and wrap up the Koi season in style. Members donated gifts for Toys for Tots, had a gift exchange, and had a great time.

**The club will not have a regular meeting in December; our Holiday Dinner Social was our event for the month of December. Next meeting is January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

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**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

Jan 3	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, All members are welcome.
Jan 17	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Feb 7	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
Feb 21	NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH
Mar 21	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Apr 29-30	Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival
July 15	26 <sup>th</sup> Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour

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## Water Plant of the Month – Yellow Water Snowflake

### [*Nymphoides* spp.]



Water snowflake is part of a large family of what are commonly called waterlily-like plants because their leaves float at the surface of the water while the roots are anchored in soil below – much like the habit of a waterlily.

The plant is constantly reproducing, spreading runners out along the surface of the pond. Like water lettuce, you can pinch off the new plantlets to share with friends and help control growth. Because it's a hardy grower, the Water Snowflake is great for ponds that suffer from constant algae blooms. The leaves will quickly spread across the water, providing shade and minimizing algae growth.

Yellow Water Snowflake has very frilly, star-shaped yellow flowers, green leaves, and is hardy in Zones 5-11. This free flowering plant has a fast-growing, running spreading habit so you may need to trim it back from time to time. Ideally it grows in 4 to 24 inches of water.

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



## When the Water Cools...What to Expect...

By Eve Bretzke



The first thing to expect when the water cools is to reduce the amount you feed your Koi. If you don't already have a pond water thermometer, get one, and start a daily /weekly log and track pond water temperatures.

Understanding the effects of water temperature on the pond and Koi will help explain the changes that occur during the cold winter months, and what you can do to minimize the negative effects of these changes.

When temperatures drop below 60 degrees , the Koi immune system has already begun to slow down. At 65 degrees, the immune system of Koi operate at about 50% efficiency; at 60 degrees it drops to about 20% efficiency. Bacteria, both good and bad, continue to be very active. The Koi still have healthy appetites, and the filter is operating at near 100% efficiency. At this temperature aeromonas bacteria is also still active.

At 50 degrees, the koi immune system is operating at only about 10% efficiency, while aeromonas is still at about 60%. Some of the warm water parasites have begun to slow down, but the cold-water parasites such as Costia and Chilodinella, are quite content, and can pose a threat to our now low-immune protected koi. Feeding should be almost nil at this point, although the filter is still capable of converting ammonia to nitrites and nitrites to nitrates, so these toxins should not be a problem.

At 45 degrees we are at the end of Aeromonas danger zone because most bacteria have slowed to less than 20% effectiveness. The koi, because they are cold-water creatures, have begun to enter a state of torpor, and are most likely no longer interested in food. They will be inactive most of the time, spending their days swimming slowly at the bottom of the pond, where the water is warmest.

At 40 degrees, which is very nearly the coldest temperature a koi can survive in, the filter has ceased to function. Bacteria, both pathogenic and beneficial, are at or near zero percent effectiveness, as is the koi's immune system. In short, everything, both ecologically and physiologically, has pretty much shut down.

Once the filter stops functioning, nitrites will no longer be produced, but until that time, nitrites could still build to dangerous levels if we continue to feed. Most parasites are warm-water creatures, and become dormant or die off when the water drops into the low fifties. Notable exceptions to this are Costia (or ichthyobodo) and Chilodinella. These two parasites can be deadly at temperatures as low as 40 degrees.

We know that Aeromonas ranges from 60 degrees to 45 degrees. We know that koi have a lowered immune system while the aeromonas (and other bacterial pathogens) are still active in this temperature range. The colder months is the single most dangerous time for koi-health related problems. Koi will continue to release ammonia even after feeding has stopped. Once the filters have stopped functioning, nitrites will not be a problem, but ammonia should be monitored regularly, and controlled thru water changes as needed. In the Spring, it is a good idea to check for nitrites, as the appearance of rising levels indicate that the filter is starting up.

Another very important test is Carbonate Hardness, or KH. Our ponds are still very much alive during the winter months if the water is over 40 degrees F. This means that fish respiration, nitrification, and photosynthesis are all producing CO<sub>2</sub>, which is neutralized by the carbonates in the water. If the carbonates become exhausted, the CO<sub>2</sub>, which forms carbonic acid in the water, will cause a pH crash. Many fish deaths have been caused by this phenomena. For short term control, baking soda can be used to raise pH and replenish the carbonate levels. For long term control, oyster shells or crushed coral can be placed somewhere in the pond where water will flow past it, such

as over an air stone or near a pump return. A KH reading of 90 or above should be maintained for adequate buffering. As a back-up test, pH should be checked frequently. If it shows a trend downwards consider it an indication of insufficient carbonate.

Finally, and most importantly, keep doing regular water changes during the colder months. This is the best way to control any and all contaminants in the pond.

*(Authors note: Much of the factual information in this article is from a Koi Health Advisor Continuing Education course written by Richard Carlson)*

Now you know 😊

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## **AKCA KHV Fundraising Drive 2016\_2017**

### **From the Associated Koi Clubs of America**

ANNOUNCING OUR 2016-2017 AKCA PROJECT KHV FUND RAISING DRIVE

Please help the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA) sponsor research to stamp out KHV and protect our beloved koi from this killer disease

- All funds go 100% to KHV Research & Education
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Include that you are a member of Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden club and are supporting AKCA's efforts to stamp out KHV and protect Koi. Thank You!

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

The club installed its slate of officers for 2017 at our December Holiday Dinner. We thank those who have stepped up to serve our club for the coming year.

*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 – December 2016**

The December board meeting was cancelled due to schedule conflicts with board members. We will meet in January. Thank you to our outgoing officers for your service throughout the year!

**Photos from the club's holiday party December 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Thank you Cece and Maus for hosting a great event!*



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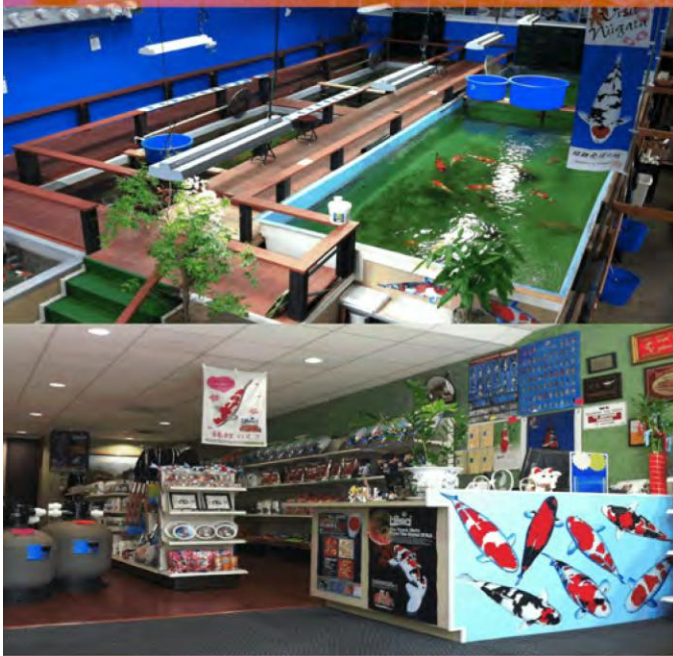
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