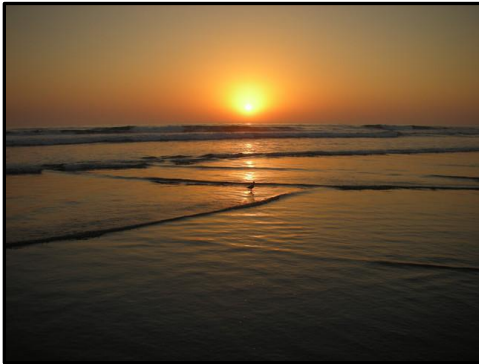




# Splash

Volume 33, Number 02, February 2017

**Club Social February 21st at 7:30 PM ~ President Maus is hosting a club social February 21st at 7:30 PM, 2580 Custer Dr, San Jose. Come learn how you can win two nights on beautiful Monterey Bay.**



Come to this club social hosted by our new president Maus Stearns February 21st at 7:30 PM. Location: 2580 Custer Drive, San Jose, CA 95124. RSVP [president@sckoi.com](mailto:president@sckoi.com) or call 408-988-2926.

The next General Meeting is March 21st, 2017, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

Save the Dates: NorCal ZNA Koi Show takes place April 1-2. The annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival takes place April 29 - 30. The club plans to have a booth - volunteers needed.

Plan on attending the February 21<sup>st</sup> Social at the Stearn's home – Learn how you can have a chance to win 2 nights at Monterey Bay.

We are forming our Pond Tour committee and looking for ponds to showcase on the tour. If you have a recommendation [scvkwg@sckoi.com](mailto:scvkwg@sckoi.com). Please consider volunteering for the club's biggest event of the year July 15th! We had a successful pond

**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

Feb 21	Club Social @ 7:30 PM: Maus and Cece Stearns, 2580 Custer Drive, San Jose.
Mar 7	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
Mar 21	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
Apr 1-2	ZNA Koi Show, San Jose, CA
Apr 29-30	Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival
July 15	26 <sup>th</sup> Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour

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## President's Corner



Another month has gone by with more of our much-needed rain filling up not only our reservoirs but also our ponds. Thank you Eve for your article in last month's Splash explaining the benefits and hazards of rainwater in our ponds. This week we have a bit of a respite and some warmer water temperatures resulting in more active and hungry fish. We have a little over a month before spring arrives, and I for one, am looking forward to it.

As was announced, we are not having a general meeting in February. However, to kick-start the year, we have decided to host a social at our house on our normal meeting night, Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. We have titled it "TWO FREE NIGHTS ON BEAUTIFUL MONTEREY BAY". I hope we have peeked your interest enough to come and find out more. I would really appreciate an RSVP to the social as it helps me plan. Drinks, coffee/tea and desert/snacks will be served along with good company. See below for my email, street address, and phone number. I want to thank Linda Westfall, Chris Burns and Jim Foley along with the club officers for attending the January meeting despite the dismal weather. We discussed the calendar for 2017, the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival, the Pond Tour, and the club's direction.

In order to keep the club relevant, enjoyable, and functional, we need you, the membership, to be involved and let us know what would spark you to participate in our general meetings, events, and our annual festival and tour. After all, this is YOUR club. Do the meeting day, time and location work for you? What topics would you like to hear more about? Would you like to see presentations about other members' ponds? The failures and successes! Aside from koi related events, are there other outings that you would like to attend that just sound fun? We need to hear from you.

On a more serious note, I received an email from the family of Jim Gate, letting us know that he had passed away two weeks ago. He and his wife Evelyn were one of the founding members of the club and had opened up their pond for the tour. If any of you would like to send your condolences to his family, I would be happy to forward them on to the family. That's it for February. I hope to see many of you at our social. To RSVP email [president@sckoi.com](mailto:president@sckoi.com) or call 408-988-2926.

Yours in the ponds,  
Maus Stearns  
President

## Water Plant of the Month – Water Willow [Justica Americana]



American water willow grows from slender rhizomes which over time can produce large colonies of about 90 square meters (1,000 square feet) or more. Stems may be 50 - 100 centimeters (1.6 - 3.3 feet) high. The leaves are simple, about 8 - 16 centimeters (3 - 6 inches) long and about 8 - 25 millimeters (1/3 - 1 inch) wide.

Flowers are produced in small clusters on stalks from the axils of leaves. They are white and purple and about 1.3 centimeters (1/2 inch) across. There are prominent bee guidelines in the center of the flower. Flowering begins in June and may continue to September depending on location. Nice for water gardens and larger ponds.

The common name comes from a resemblance of the leaves to willow leaves and the fact that it grows in water. Typical habitat is in shallow riffles (at least summer time) in large streams and rivers. It is usually abundant in these locations. It is pollinated by bees and butterflies.

Reference: [https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/justicia\\_americanana.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/justicia_americanana.shtml)

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## Winter Care - Hacks for the Pond Keeper

By Eve Bretzke

Feed fish appropriately. The water temperature is in flux now and we should be feeding our fish more or less as their metabolism has slowed. Over the warmer months hopefully you fed your fish well with a high protein food to allow them to build up a reserve of fat to help them through the winter. After the water temperature drops to the sixties you should decrease the amount of food given and feed only once a day. A wheat germ based food is good at this time as it is easily digested. Koi food formulated for Spring & Autumn is a good choice for food types at this time of year compared to a higher protein type Koi food used for warmer weather, especially if your Koi are wanting to feed frequently.

When the water temperatures drop to below 60 degrees you should decrease feeding to only two or three times a week. It can take your fish two or three days to digest food at this temperature. When the temperature drops below 50 degrees you should stop feeding altogether until when the water temperature remains above 50, usually by mid-March.

As organics decompose in the pond they produce toxic gases that get trapped in the pond and release into the water. Winter time is a good time to have your pond cleaned and mucked out so as not to interfere with the good bacterial processes that begin with warmer water temperatures. It is also a good time to trim back plants and prepare plants for new growth. Fertilize each plant and make sure that the plants are placed at an appropriate depth if adding new plants. Lilies and Lotus should be fertilized every 3-4 weeks, marginals every 5-7 weeks for best blooms once water warms above 55 degrees.

As the water warms, turn on Ultraviolet sterilizer after the biological filter is working properly and the water starts to turn slightly green. Begin cleaning your filter as needed. Ponds with a skimmer or other pre-filter will need that skimmer/pre-filter cleaned most frequently. On average this is once a week, but some may need to clean more, others may be able to go a month between cleanings. If this filter is primarily

*(Continued)*

mechanical (physically traps debris) and you also have a biological filter, then it is OK to hose off the pre-filter media. Your biological filter needs to only be cleaned when the flow of water is being restricted due to accumulation of debris. When cleaning a biological filter, do NOT over-clean. It is only necessary to remove the debris that is restricting flow. Over-cleaning the filter can destroy the bacteria that has colonized on the media. If possible, avoid chlorinated water.

Protect your fish. With their slower metabolism and the absence of plants our fish are more susceptible to predation by raccoons, birds and other hungry animals. If you added a leaf net over the winter it has helped keep your pond cleaner by not allowing the organic material to enter your pond. Be sure that your fish have a place to hide from predators year-round.

Lastly, take time each day to observe your Koi fish as winter fades and look for any signs of issues that commonly arise as the water warms. This is a stressful time for fish so keeping up on general pond maintenance is more important than ever.

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## **Interesting Find! Build an Inverted Aquarium for your Pond...**



There are a number of videos on YouTube showing how to build an 'inverted aquarium,' which is an airtight glass box firmly fixed in place on top of a pond's surface.

When the air is pumped out of the box, the space is filled with water, like an inverted bucket pulled partway out of the water. Any fish that live in the pond can then swim in the glass box, and tpond's owner can enjoy their presence, even when bright sun would otherwise produce too much glare.

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## **Do-It-Yourself Backyard Aquaponic Systems**

*Backyard aquaponics as a hobby is emerging as more people wish to experiment with growing their own food and promoting environmental sustainability in their own homes.*



## **AKCA KHV Fundraising Drive 2017**

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

Please help the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA) sponsor research to stamp out KHV and protect our beloved koi from this killer disease during their fundraising drive for 2017.

- All funds go 100% to KHV Research & Education
- All donations are tax deductible – Make a difference, make a donation
- Federal TAX ID# 95-3612512.



***Make checks payable to and mail to:***

**AKCA Project KHV  
P.O. Box 10879  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

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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## **Board Meeting Review – February 2017**

The February board meeting was held February 7<sup>th</sup>. Our president Maus Stearns led the meeting. The board discussed regular club business, upcoming events, and discussed the 2017 program calendar for the club. We will be having a booth at the Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 -30, 2017 and moving forward with Pond Tour planning and preparations. A key outreach topic was for getting volunteers to assist with both the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Pond Tour July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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

We had our regular meeting January 21 with our new president Maus Stearns. We will be having a booth at the Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 -30, 2017 and are putting together committees for other club events for 2017 including our annual pond tour to be held July 15, 2017. We reviewed our membership – we have 40+ members and welcome new members anytime. The club is working on assisting with the AKCA KHV Fundraising Drive. We hope to encourage our membership to support this initiative by the AKCA.

*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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