



Splash

Volume 33, Number 01, January 2017

Next General Meeting is January 17th, 2017, 7:30 PM, at the Vineland Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118. NOTE LOCATION CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING ONLY



Please plan on attending the January 21st meeting and bring any questions about ponds, Koi, water gardening, or aquaponics that you may have. The weather has been cold and wet, especially for us here in the Santa Clara Valley, and our ponds have been impacted by these conditions.

For December the club held its Annual Holiday Dinner Social on December 10th. Thank you to our hosts Maus and Cece. Our membership had an enjoyable evening to wrap up the 2016 Koi season with a great dinner, a fun gift exchange, and collection of toys for Toys for Tots. We installed our slate of officers for the 2017 term and are looking forward to another enjoyable year.

This month we will be announcing this year's events and forming our Pond Tour committee. Please consider volunteering for the club's biggest event of the year July 15th! We need you to assist with this fund raiser and community outreach event.

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). 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 17	General Meeting, 7:30 PM, <u>Vineland Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose.</u>
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 1-2	ZNA Koi Show, San Jose, CA
Apr 29-30	Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival
July 15	26 th Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour

President's Corner



New Years greetings to all fellow members of our Koi Club,

Here is to a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling year for all of us.

I hope to see all of you at our January meeting. The evenings' agenda is important as it will be an outline and discussion of our clubs direction; from its "Calendar of Meetings" to our "Special Projects and Events" which include the Cherry Blossom Festival and 2017 Pond Tour. I ask you to bring your camaraderie, inspired ideas and enthusiasm.

See you Tuesday January 17th, 2017 at 7:30 PM. Note that our meeting will be at the Vineland Branch Library rather than the Willow Glen location. The address for the Vineland Branch Library is Vineland Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118.

Yours in the Ponds

**Maus Stearns
President**

Koi Fun:

*A man walks into a cafe with a Koi under his arm
He asks the owner "do you sell Koi cakes?"
The owner says no
The man says "That's a shame. It's his birthday today."*

Why are Koi easy to weigh? They bring their own scales!

Rain Water, Benefit or Hazard for Ponds?

By POND Content Network (edited for length by Eve Bretzke)

Rain water can be a benefit by:



Providing a free water supply, particularly beneficial if tap water is metered and charged accordingly by the water supply company. Being free of chlorine and chloramine. Being Soft.

It is incorrect to suppose that rain water is just pure water (H₂O). As water is evaporated from the earth and drawn up to form rain clouds, other dissolved substances may also be taken up with the water. Research has shown that falling rain can dissolve, carry and be impaired by, gaseous pollutants in the atmosphere, which were created by industrial and human activities.

The quality of rain water can vary from area to area, for instance, it is felt that heavily industrialized areas are more likely to receive polluted rain than lightly industrialized areas. We need to throw into that discussion arena the effects of major motorways (traffic fumes), airports (airplane fuel emissions), petrol-chemical plants and farming.

It has been proposed that particles can also be carried in rain clouds; If you live in an area, which has very little industrial activity and the prevailing wind does not come from industrialized areas then the rain water may be perfectly acceptable for fish use. The U.S. EPA recommends that in some situations, rain water collected for drinking may need further treatment to disinfect the water or to filter out other impurities from the rain water supply. This water would probably not need disinfecting for fish but having experienced tremendous damage done to koi by heavily polluted rain fall, **it is a fallacy to think that rain water is always fish safe.** The main contaminants can be roughly grouped into organic, inorganic, radioactive and acid/base.

Substances in collecting and storage materials can also contaminate rain. For instance, roofing materials: Additional research has shown that zinc dissolved from roofing materials is mainly in the form which is damaging to both fish and aquatic plants

There are two inter-related factors to consider before deciding to use rain water for fish: **pH** values affect fish health considerably. The typical pH of rain water is about 5 – 6. However industrially produced sulphuric oxides and carbon monoxide in the atmosphere can reduce the rain's pH to 4 or below. Whereas such a low pH could be beneficial to fish such as breeding discus; it could be extremely harmful to fish needing alkaline waters such as koi which require a pH of 7+.

Alkalinity is missing from rain water. It is required in various fish waters to buffer and stabilize pH, some fish require far harder water.

Conclusion

For some fish species and in some areas, dependent upon how the rain water is collected and stored, rain water can be very useful to fish keepers. However for other fish species and/or in contaminated rain areas it may be advisable not only to avoid using rain water but also to erect covers over outside ponds to prevent the rain water from entering the fish water.

What does rain water mean for fish keepers? Is it a benefit or a hazard? That depends upon how you look at it.

(Editors note: This article first appeared in Pond Trade Magazine, October 2010)

Water Plant of the Month – Brooklime [*Veronica beccabunga*]



Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), also called European speedwell, is a succulent herb belonging to the family Plantaginaceae. It grows on the margins of brooks and ditches in Europe, North Africa and north and western Asia. It has smooth spreading branches, blunt oblong leaves and small bright blue or pink flowers. The species name *beccabunga* comes from Danish *bekkebunge* (literally "brook bunch") or a similar source.

Emergent perennial aquatic herb, the stem of this plant is prostrate, ascending at the tip, giving off roots at intervals. The whole plant is smooth and succulent, reddish, branched. The leaves are oval, blunt, coarsely toothed, smooth, and fleshy, opposite; the teeth are terminated by stalked glands. The flowers are blue, in racemes, with a white eye, axillary, opposite. The sepals are oval acute, not so long as the corolla. The flower-stalks are spreading. The corolla is striped at the base with deep veins, and may be pink, the petals oval and unequal. The capsule is round, flat, slightly larger than the sepals, notched, swollen. The seeds are winged, flattened, and smooth. Size: to 2 ft.

Brooklime was of three traditional antiscorbutic herbs, used (alongside scurvy grass and watercress) in purported remedies for scurvy. However none of these herbs are rich in Vitamin C and the usual preparation by extracting of juices would have destroyed most of their content, rendering the preparations ineffectual against true scurvy.

Reference: www.wikipedia.com ; <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/>

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

- 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:

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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!

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

We did not have a regular meeting for December. The club hosted its Annual Holiday Dinner Social. 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.

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 – January 2017

The January board meeting was held January 3rd. Our new president Maus Stearns led the meeting. The board discussed regular club business, 2016 overview, and looked forward to the 2017 program for the club. We will be having a booth at the Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 -30, 2017.

Koi Varieties Chart



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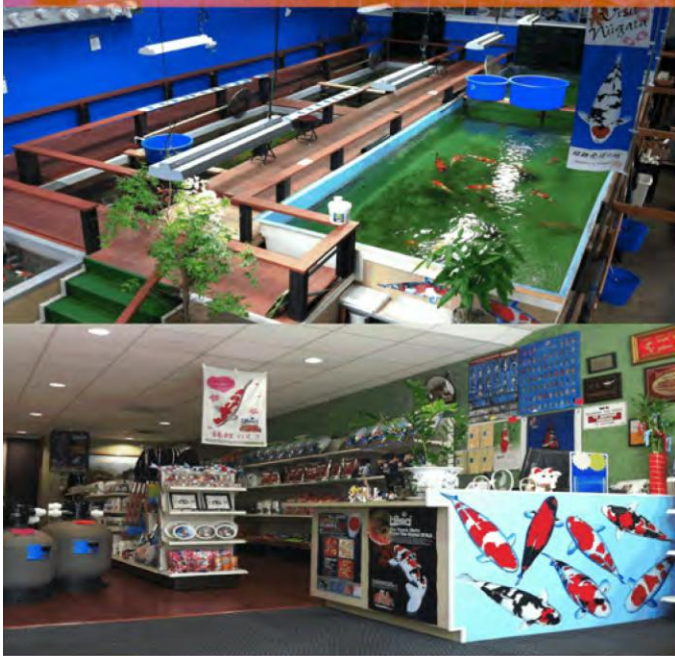
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