



Splash

Volume 33, Number 04, April 2017

The next General Meeting is April 18th, 2017, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.



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Our speaker will be Lisa Harvey, owner of Tokaido Gallery specializing in Japanese antiques. Her topic will be "Japanese Antiques and Culture."

We will also have our regular Q&A Session on pond and Koi issues. We had a good turn out last month and hope to see

you all again this month. Bring a friend.

Koi of the Year / Koi Person of the Year – Santa Clara Koi and Water Garden Club

We are accepting nominations for the Club's KOI PERSON of the YEAR. Nominations will be taken the end of April. Voting will commence until May 11th. AKCA will then be notified of our choice and will be listed in the Koi USA Magazine and at the next AKCA Seminar. PLEASE, DO NOT WAIT TO NOMINATE . Please send your nominations to info@sckoi.com.

If you wish one of your Koi to be considered for the Club's KOI of the YEAR, please send your photos to info@sckoi.com. The Deadline is also the end of April and voting from then until April 25th. Voting will commence until May 11th. We will follow up with the membership on voting via our email communications and announce the winners in May/June.

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

Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, April 29 – 30: The club plans to have a booth - volunteers are still needed. This is a nice festival with many other Japanese themed displays and activities. Please contact Maus at president@sckoi.com or 408 088 2926 if you can help out. We especially need helpers Sunday morning.

26th Annual Pond Tour, July 15, 2017: Our Pond Tour committee is looking for ponds to showcase on the tour. If you have a recommendation please send us an email to along with a photo if possible. info@sckoi.com. Please consider volunteering for the club's biggest event of the year July 15th! There are lots of preparation and many ways to help with this annual event.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Apr 18 | General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room |
| Apr 29-30 | Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Memorial Park (across from DeAnza College) |
| May 2 | Board Meeting, 7:30 PM |
| May 16 | General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room |
| July 14 | General Meeting and Volunteer Kick Off for the 26 th Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour |
| July 15 | 26 th Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour |
| Sept 23-34 | 39 th Annual Central California Koi Society Koi Show |

Water Plant of the Month – Cardinal Flower [*Lobelia cardinalis*]



Lobelia cardinalis, or cardinal flower, is a marginal pond plant, preferring only its base and roots to be in the water. The lush, green foliage and cluster of red lobe-shaped flowers that bloom in late summer extend up to three feet into the air. The spectacle created by the cardinal flower is not only dazzling to the human eye, but to hummingbirds and butterflies as well. Beyond the aesthetic beauty of this plant, cardinal flower benefits the pond by keeping algae at bay and helping to maintain the overall health of the pond.

It is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows up to 1.2 m (4 ft) tall and is found in wet places, streambanks, and swamps. The leaves are up to 20 cm (8 in) long and 5 cm (2 in) broad, lanceolate to oval, with a toothed margin. The flowers are usually vibrant red, deeply five-lobed, up to 4 cm across; they are produced in an erect raceme up to 70 cm (28 in) tall during the summer to fall. Forms with white (f. *alba*) and pink (f. *rosea*) flowers are also known. *Lobelia* display the characteristic "lip" petal near the opening of the flower and the "milky" liquid the plant excretes. *L. siphilitica* has blue flowers and is primarily pollinated by bees, whereas *L. cardinalis* is red and is primarily pollinated by the ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).^[3]

Credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobelia_cardinalis

The 10th Annual ZNA NorCal Koi Show - What a Show!

By Eve Bretzke, Santa Clara Koi and Water Garden Club



For those of you who were able to attend the recent ZNA Koi Show April 1 and 2, it was a wonderful event. I am always amazed to see such beautiful Koi showcased all in one place. The true "Koi kichi" shined through and attendees got to experience Koi in a big way.

Koi is carp. Yes, the brilliantly colored fish, seen in magazines or online, is exactly the same species as the dull, gray, bottom-feeding, gefilte-fish ingredient.

This divergence within *Cyprinus carpio* began in the early Nineteenth Century in an isolated, mountainous region on Japan's northern coast. Farmers in Niigata prefecture started noticing that some carp, which lived in rice fields, had unusual color markings. These fish, with black dots and red stripes, attracted the unwelcome attention of predatory birds. To protect the crop — carp is a popular food in Japan — farmers placed these unusual creatures in sheltered ponds.

Once segregated, the mutant fish bred with each other, spawning fish with even more unusual markings. Farmers, charmed by the aesthetics, eventually began to mate carp to create unusual patterns. The special Koi became pets. Farmers then discovered another characteristic of these newly domesticated fish: They lived not for years, but for decades. (Some Japanese farmers have even claimed that Koi have lived more than 100 years.) People in Niigata called these distinctive carp Nishikigoi.

Over the next 100 years, the art was refined. Farmers experimented with not only color but also other characteristics; they combined, for instance, scaled and nonscaled fish. By the late Nineteenth Century, there were several named varieties of Nishikigoi. Red-and-white fish, for instance, were kohaku; black-and-white were showas. Still, Koi farming was largely limited to a single province. In 1914 that changed. The Niigata Koi were presented to Emperor Hirohito at a Tokyo exhibition. Today, we are fortunate to have Koi shows and events right here in our local area and see these wonderful animals up close.

Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Some of the major colors are white, black, red, yellow, blue, and cream. While the possible color variations are virtually limitless, breeders have identified and named a number of specific categories. The most popular category is Gosanke, which is made up of the Kohaku, Taisho Sanshoku, and Showa Sanshoku varieties.

The major named varieties include:

- Kōhaku - A white-skinned koi, with large red markings on the top. The name means "red and white;" kohaku was the first ornamental variety to be established in Japan (late 19th century).
 - Taishō Sanshoku (or Taisho Sanke) - Very similar to the Kohaku, except for the addition of small black markings called sumi, In America, the name is often abbreviated to just "Sanke".
 - Shōwa Sanshoku (or Showa Sanke) - A black koi with red and white markings. In America, the name is often abbreviated to just Showa. The amount of shiroji on Showa Sanke has increased in modern times to the point that it can be difficult to distinguish from Taisho Sanke.
- Other varieties include:
- Tanchō - Any koi with a solitary red patch on its head. The fish may be a Tancho Showa, Tancho Sanke, or even Tancho Goshiki. Named for the Japanese crane (*Grus japonensis*) which also has a red spot on its head.
 - Asagi - A koi that is light blue above and usually red, but also occasionally pale yellow, or cream generally below the lateral line and on the cheeks. The Japanese name means "pale greenish blue."

- **Utsurimono** - A black koi with a white, red, or yellow markings. The red and white versions are called Hi Utsuri and Shiro Utsuri respectively. The word utsuri means to print (the black markings are reminiscent of ink stains). Genetically the same as Showa but lacking either red pigment (Shiro Utsuri) or white pigment (Hi Utsuri/Ki Utsuri)
- **Bekko** - A white-, red-, or yellow-skinned koi with black markings sumi. The Japanese name means "tortoise shell." The white- red- and yellow varieties are called Shiro Bekko, Aka Bekko, and Ki Bekko respectively. Sometimes confused with the Utsuri.

Koi are symbolic of “Love and Friendship”. Next time when you get a chance be sure to attend these events shows for the “love” of Koi, and for the “friendship” of being with other Koi enthusiasts.

The local chapter of the Zen Nippon Airinkai (ZNA) contributes enrichment of the Japanese culture and improvement of the people's artistic sentiments by promoting nishikigoï keeping, directing the way of its appreciation, and pursuing its beauty. You can learn more about them at www.znanorcal.info.

Photo Credit: Eve Bretzke

Do-It-Yourself Backyard Aquaponic Systems

Backyard aquaponics as a hobby is emerging as more people wish to experiment with it...



Aquaponics is a hybrid food growing technology that combines aquaculture (growing fish) and hydroponics (growing veggies in non-soil media and nutrient-laden water).

Aquaponics is intended to be a production system that incorporates principles of water conservation and sustainable vegetable production. Systems vary in size from small indoor or outdoor home or classroom hobbyist units to immense commercial units. The systems are usually fresh-water based.

Board Meeting Review – April 4, 2017

The monthly board meeting was held April 4th. 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. New business was discussed – the club is looking to move its storage locker contents to another more affordable location due to a sharp increase in storage fees paid by the club at our current provider.

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

We had our regular meeting March 21st; our president Maus Stearns lead the very well attended meeting that featured Mel Bretzke of Advanced Landscape Systems and Vice President of our club. He spoke on pond construction concepts, design and building along with a Q&A session on all things related to pond building and maintenance.

We will be having a booth at the Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 -30, 2017 and are working on other club events for 2017 including our annual pond tour to be held July 15, 2017. The club is assisting with the AKCA KHV Fundraising Drive. We encourage our membership to support this initiative by the AKCA [see information above]

Our April meeting is scheduled to highlight Lisa Harvey of Tokaido Gallery to speak on "Japanese Antiques and Culture". April is also the kick off month for the club's annual Koi of the Year and our Koi Person of the Year nominations.

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.

Flood-damaged Japanese Friendship Garden Needs Help

By Sal Pizarro | spizarro@bayareanewsgroup.com | March 16, 2017

The property lost and lives upturned have rightly been the priority for recovery efforts following last month's Coyote Creek flood. But the San Jose Parks Foundation also has launched a campaign to help restore the Japanese Friendship Garden at Kelley Park, which was just leveled by the floodwaters.



The garden — which includes koi ponds, waterfalls and Japanese-style bridges — was built in 1965, modeled after the Korakuen Garden in Okayama, Japan, which became San Jose's first sister city in 1957. The tea house at the garden has been the site of countless wedding receptions and other events over the years.

"It's just one of the most peaceful, beautiful places in San Jose," said San Jose Parks Foundation Executive Director James Reber. "The flooding damaged not only the garden but also the tea house, which had just been restored. It's going to take a while but we want to do everything we can to raise money now and bring it back."

The Parks Foundation has set up a fund at www.sanjoseparks.org, and Reber — whose 65th birthday is Friday — asked friends to donate to that cause instead of getting him gifts. About \$3,000 has been raised between the two efforts, but Reber says much more help is needed.

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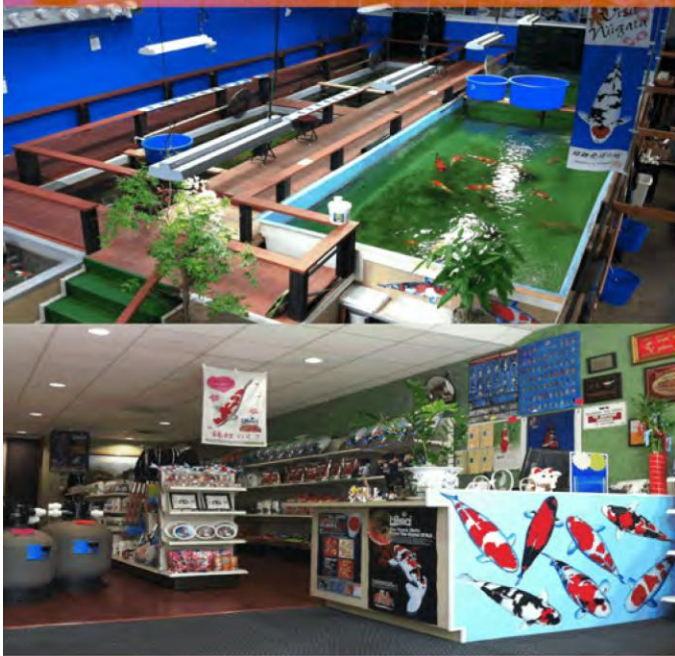
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