



Splash

Volume 33, Number 05, May 2017

The next General Meeting May 16, 2017, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

Our speaker will be Cal Hansen, past President and Koi Expert. He will be speaking on "Aquaponics".



Aquaponics is the most sustainable form of food production. It refers to any system that combines conventional aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as snails, fish, crayfish or prawns in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment.

In an aquaponic system, water from an aquaculture system is fed to a hydroponic system where the by-products are broken down by nitrifying bacteria into nitrates and nitrites, which are utilized by the plants as nutrients, and the water is then recirculated back to the aquaculture system.

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.

Thank you to those who submitted nominations for our club's KOI PERSON of the YEAR. AKCA will be notified of our choice and our selection will be listed in the Koi USA Magazine and mentioned at the next AKCA Seminar

Thank you to those who submitted photos for our club's KOI of the YEAR, we will be accepting entries until May 17th. Send in your entry to info@sckoi.com. We will follow up with the membership on voting via our email communications and announce the winners in 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.

Presidents Corner

It's hard to believe that the 2017 Cherry Blossom Festival has come and gone.

For us, being invited by the Festivals organizers to participate this year alongside so many talented people and organizations was truly a privilege. It was, however, being approached at the end of the 2nd day by the festivals director who, aside from thanking us profusely, extended an invitation and sincere hope that our club could be counted in next year's event. It was the affirmation of a job well done. We did a great job! And, as a club, we owe a special "Thank You" to our members who volunteered their time and efforts to make it work. Those people are Cal Hansen, Mark and Shirley Stallcop, Wayne Kuhfahl, Diane Stelma, Cecilia Stearns and Sue Edwards. On a separate note, a special "Thank You" needs to go to Sue Edwards who made and help distribute hundreds of handmade origami "Koi" to the myriads of children who came to the display. In addition to promoting the interest in Koi and pond keeping, our club and the upcoming Pond Tour, it was gratifying to also be ambassadors of good will and delight.

Looking forwards. The Pond Tour. Saturday, July 15th. It's on AND we need YOU, not just some other guy, to make it happen. Volunteers for ticket takers, docents, people to help set up and take down, ad sales, promo distribution, etc., etc. Please contact either myself or Eve on how you can help. It won't happen unless you make it happen.

2017 Cherry Blossom Festival – THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Upcoming Events

- May 16 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
- May 21 Camellia Koi Club Pond Tour, 10 – 4PM, Sacramento Area (check website for details)
- Jun 6 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Jun 10 Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza Park|103 Emmett St Santa Cruz, 10 AM – 4 PM
- Jun 20 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
- July 11 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM (moved to 2nd week due to 4th of July holiday)
- July 14 General Meeting and Volunteer Kick Off for the 26th Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour
- July 15 26th Annual SCVKWG Pond Tour, 9 – 4 PM
- Sept 23-34 39th Annual Central California Koi Society Koi Show
-

Water Plant of the Month –Flying Goldfish [Columnea]



Common name: Flying goldfish. Native to: Central and South America. Columnea is a genus with approximately 200 species of herbs and shrubs. They are known for their brightly colored tubular flowers, which comes in shades of red, orange, or yellow in order to attract hummingbirds for pollination.

Many species' blossoms resembles the head of a dragon or the body of a goldfish, which inspired their common name, 'the flying goldfish plant'. The petals of this species are striking because of the contrast of deep purple and chartreuse.

Columnea species are epiphytic plants, which means they grow on top of other vegetations. In the wild, they can be found climbing on tree trunks and branches. Constant precipitation provides the roots with moisture, and the excellent drainage prevents the water from standing and rotting the roots.

Carl Linnaeus named Columnea after Fabio Colonna (the latinization of Colonna is Columnea), a 16th century Italian botanist. Colonna was honored for his historical compilation of botanical data published in 1592, the first of its kind illustrated with copper plates.

Source: <http://conservatoryofflowers.org>

Setting up Aquaponics in Your Koi Pond

By Gardens.com, Edited by Eve Bretzke

Link: <http://www.gardens.com/garden-design-planning-landscaping/setting-up-aquaponics-in-your-koi-pond.html#sthash.kAwMIbm5.dpbs>

If you have a beautiful garden at home and a Koi pond to go with it, setting up an aquaponics system is the ideal way of bringing together the two practices and making the most of available resources. Keeping a Koi pond is recommended because it not only adds to the beauty of the garden, but also allows one to set up a small ecological system within the boundaries of the home. How to set up aquaponics in your Koi pond...

Required Materials:

- Large garden hose
- Bird wire
- Extension cable (10 meters)
- Grow tub (150 liters)
- Pond bin (250 liters)
- Pond pump (1000 liters per hour)
- Fine gravel (50 kilograms)
- Tomato plants
- Roof tiles
- Bricks
- Digital timer
- Air pump with two outlets
- 6 Koi fish



Step 1: Digging for the Fish Tub

Digging a hole for the fish tub has to be done very carefully, since it is important to ensure that the pond will receive some shade so that the water does not evaporate. Also, the tub must be placed a little lower than the ground surface so that the water remains at an even temperature.

Step 2: Placing the Extension Cable and Connecting Pumps

The waterproof extension cable has to be placed from a secure electric source (for example, in a shed) near the pond. The water pump and air pump have to be attached to the electric supply outlet. Make sure that all electrical materials and leads are safely stored in a waterproof box away from this system.

Step 3: Drilling

Drill holes at the base of the grow tub. This is needed for the water to be able to flow backward into the fish tub. Next, place the fish tub in close proximity of the grow tub so that the water pump does not get strained in pumping water between the two tubs.

Step 4: Connecting Hoses

Take a hose and affix it to the 1000 liter pond pump, and then run it to the grow tub as well. The digital timer has to be set up at this stage and fixed according to the cycle one wants to follow. The timer will ensure that the pond pump switches on and off as needed without fail.

Step 5: Filling the Tub

Pour water into the fish tub that does not have chlorine traces and put the fish in. Start the system to see if the water is passing between the fish tub and the grow tub and back again as it should. Note the speed of the water passage, as this will reduce to a great extent once the gravel is added for the garden growth.

Step 6: Adding the Gravel

Ensure that the gravel has been washed and cleansed thoroughly before piling it into the grow tub. The next step is to add seeds or transplanted growing plants to the gravel. Wait patiently for the germination to occur.

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.

Important Koi Fish Food Ingredients– Because You Asked

According to the Associated Koi clubs of America the ten (10) Essential Amino Acids for Koi Food are:

- Arginine
- Histidine
- Isoleucine
- Leucine
- Lysine
- Methionine
- Phenylalanine
- Threonine
- Tryptophan
- Valine

Other ingredient parameters:

- 25 to 56 percent food content should be protein
- 12 percent food content should be fats and lipids
- 20 percent or less of diet should be carbohydrates

When deciding which fish food is the healthiest for your Koi, look at the ingredients. Fishmeal should be the first or second ingredient.

Board Meeting Review – May 2017

The monthly board meeting was held May 2, 2017. The board discussed regular club business and upcoming events. 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 – Pond Tour is scheduled for July 15th. The club has decided to move its storage locker contents to another more affordable location due to a sharp increase in storage fees.

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

We had our regular meeting April 18 which was well attended and featured Lisa Harvey of Tokaido Gallery who spoke on "Japanese Antiques and Culture".

The board is finalizing the club's Koi of the Year and our Koi Person of the Year nominations so that they can be submitted to the AKCA next month.

We will be having a booth at the Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 -30, 2017 and are working on our annual pond tour to be held July 15, 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.

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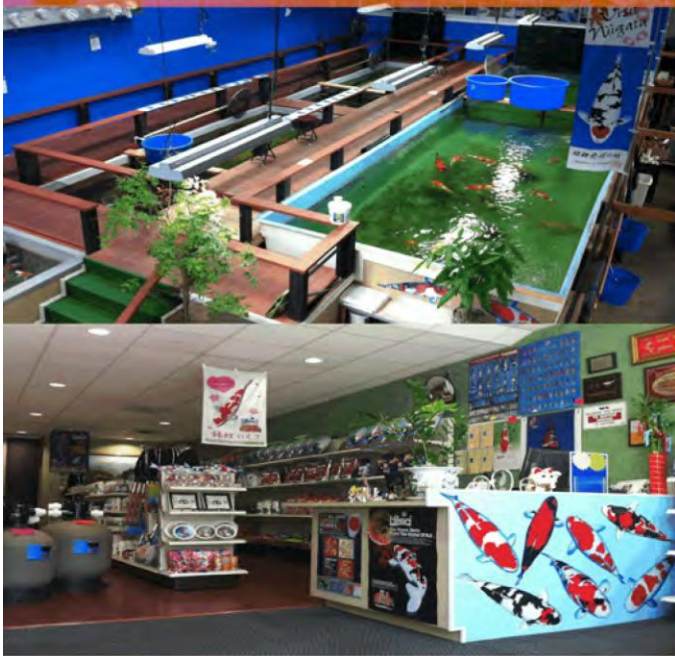
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