



# Splash

Volume 33, Number 09, September 2017

**Next Meeting is Tuesday September 19th at 7:30PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.**

**This month we will have a "Round Table" discussion. Our topic will be "Water plants in and around the pond".**



Our program will feature a round table discussion of water plants that are used in and around ponds in our regional area. There are many types of plants that we can add to our ponds and surrounding gardens.

Members will share their experiences with aquatic plants that have been successful and not successful in our area and climate.

Come and discuss aquatic plants, their types, and their purpose in our ponds.

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## **Annual Membership Drive – 2017/18 – Wrap Up!**

We are winding up our annual membership drive. Thank you to all whom have renewed or joined. Club dues are \$30.00 per year (from July 1 to June 30). If you join after our annual membership drive your dues will be prorated at the rate of \$2.50 per month until the next membership term starts. To renew / join, send your name, address, phone number and email address along with your check for dues to SCVKWG, PO Box 54368, San Jose, CA 95154 or bring your dues to the next meeting. Your support is appreciated.

**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

- Sept 19 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room. Topic: Water Plants
- Sept 22-24 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Central California Koi Society Koi Show. Fresno, CA. For info call 559-970-8508 or email [cencalkoi@gmail.com](mailto:cencalkoi@gmail.com)
- Oct 3 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullaney's home
- Oct 7 Cottle Park's Harvest Festival and Fall Garden Market 10 a.m.–3 p.m. This festival celebrates the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley and the newest park in the county. There will be food, entertainment, park tours, and more.
- Oct 17 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room
- Nov 7 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Frank Mullaney's home
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## Plant of the Month - Grassy-leaved sweet flag [*Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus']



Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Plants perform well in both boggy conditions (including shallow standing water to 3-4" deep) and consistently moist garden soils. Never allow soils to dry out. Scorched leaf tips and withering leaves are often the first signs of drying soils. In water gardens, plants are typically planted in containers with water covering the crowns or in wet soils at the water's edge. Plants appreciate some relief from hot summer sun (e.g., afternoon shade or filtered sun) when grown in hot summer climates. Plants will slowly naturalize by spreading rhizomes, but are not considered to be invasive. If grown in containers sunk below the water surface, plants will not spread. Plants are not considered to be reliably winter hardy.

Source: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=v210>

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## How to Maintain Proper Pond Oxygen Content

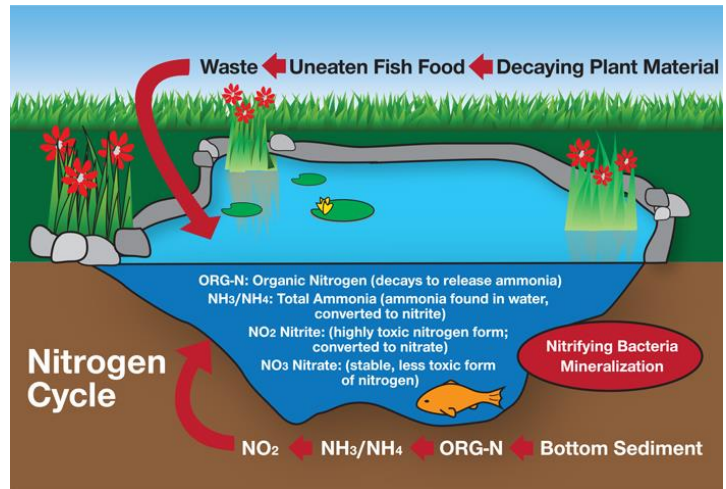
*By Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff, September 2017*

Oxygen plays a vital role in maintaining a healthy pond environment. Fish need oxygen to breathe and oxygen-rich water allows efficient biological filtration. A stable pond environment with clean and clear water depends on oxygen.

## Is there enough oxygen in my pond?

Testing is the most accurate way to determine if there is enough oxygen in your pond. However, there are several cues that can alert you of low oxygen content in your pond. Pay attention to the following signs for early detection and timely correction of potential problems.

- **Fish gasping at the surface** - Fish gulping near the surface, at the entry of a water stream, or near other water features are likely oxygen starved. Pond fish such as goldfish and Koi thrive in oxygen-rich waters and are not tolerant of low oxygen levels.
- **Foul odors** - In poorly oxygenated ponds, decaying vegetation, excess fish waste, and other organic matter can emit distinct smells. A strong "lake" smell may indicate poor water circulation, filtration, or aeration.
- **Aggressive algae growth** - A thick layer of filamentous or string algae suggests excess algal nutrients, including carbon dioxide in the water. Ponds without active aeration or gas exchange provide ideal growing conditions for nuisance algae.



## Regular tests

To avoid unnecessary stress on your fish, incorporate oxygen tests as part of regular routine maintenance. In addition to the oxygen test, use a test kit to measure and monitor essential pond water parameters. Since pond water parameters including pH are affected by oxygen, routine testing provides a comprehensive overview of the health of your pond.

## Aerate to optimize oxygen levels in your pond

The easiest way to improve the oxygen content in a pond is to increase water movement or to add an aeration device. When water tumbles vigorously over rocky streams and waterfalls, it comes into greater contact with air. Harmful gasses are released and oxygen is incorporated into the water. Pond aeration devices such as water fountains, bubblers, and spitters break the water surface to encourage gas exchange. Air pumps like our Pond Aeration Kits inject air directly into the water to oxygenate ponds throughout the year.

## Additional tips for maintaining proper oxygen levels

- **Remove waste** - Decaying matter uses up oxygen. Use a net or vacuum to remove leaves and settled debris from the bottom of your pond. Simplify this task by skimming surface debris before it sinks.
- **Provide shade** - Floating water plants are a fast and easy way to provide shade. Water that is cool in temperature is able to hold onto more oxygen than warm water.
- **Plant the right plants** - Add a mixture of plants, including marginal plants, floating plants, and submerged plants to help decrease algae growth. Oxygenating plants such as anacharis and cabomba help increase oxygen level and improve water quality.
- **Maintain proper filtration** - Clean pond filters regularly, especially before departing for vacation. A clean filter works more efficiently to provide vital water movement and waste-removing filtration.
- **Adjust oxygen levels to match fish population** - Fish are a joy in the pond, but keep in mind, a heavily populated pond will require more oxygen. If your bio-load is high, then make sure you have enough aeration devices to maintain proper oxygen levels.



- **Exposed water surfaces** - During the winter, you must keep a small portion of the pond surface from freezing. Use an aeration kit or de-icer to maintain a small opening in the ice to allow gas exchange and prevent buildup of toxic gases.
- **Fresh, clean water** - A partial water change, no more than one-third at a time, can replenish oxygen and improve water quality. Remember to use a de-chlorinator, such as our Chlorine Neutrilizer, if you have municipal tap water that contains chlorine or chloramine.

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## Hand Feeding Your Koi

*June 26, 2010 by Deborah - Reprinted September 15, 2017*



Koi are very interesting because they enjoy human contact, and have little fear of humans. Koi learn quickly that if you are not going to harm them that they want to get to know you as well, and if you are the one to feed them they are very trainable. Hand feeding your Koi can be fun and entertaining.

Koi are not aggressive fish. If you hand feed your Koi they will not bite you because they do not have teeth. Involving your children in feeding the Koi will be a cinch because the fish do not bite. Children love the Koi's colors and gentle nature.

At first, you may notice your Koi are a bit shy or afraid of you when you first start working with them. In nature, they would be afraid so to they can stay alive, once they get use to you this fear will pass. Koi have to trust you this will take time and patience. Hand feeding will take training so don't expect them to eat from your hand overnight.

Koi are plant and meat eaters, meaning they are omnivores. You can provide them a variety in their diet because they are omnivores. Be very cautious of what you put in your pond because your Koi will eat anything. Koi owners must be very selective in what goes in the pond because the Koi will eat anything regardless if it good or bad for them. Treats are great for training with you Koi, but Koi can overeat just like any other pet, so be cautious of what and how much you offer the fish. Koi can have weight issues just like other pets so be very cautious to provide them a very nutritional diet. Koi should eat natural food like worms, and pellets, but the occasion treat of bread or fruit is a nice addition to their diet. Like humans, Koi cannot digest food like corn or beans because they have outer casing. If you do want to give, your Koi foods with casings make sure to remove the casing before feeding the item to the Koi.

Start training your fish to eat from your hand slowly. Your Koi can become scared if you make sudden movements, which will slow their trust building thus slowing your hand feeding training. Training your Koi will be much easier if you start when you get your Koi. Start your training by putting pellets in your hand and putting your hand under the water. Release the food slowly into the water. The Koi may seem to be aloof, but they are paying attention and taking notice of what that hand is dropping, FOOD! Follow this procedure for a few days.

Koi learn quick and will start taking the food from your hand a few days after you have hand dropped the food into the pond. If you really are interested in having your Koi eat from your hand, you may have to refuse them food for a day if they do not take the food from your hand. Dropping the food by hand in the pond will not scare the Koi. They will learn quickly if they want to eat, they will need to get the food from your hand. You should follow this procedure daily so the fish become comfortable with hand feeding. The next step is to train the Koi to take food from your fingers; they will do this shortly after learning how to

eat from your hand. As you, train the Koi to eat from your fingers you might have to refuse them food for a day if they refuse to eat from your fingers. Like all animals, Koi are motivated by food, so they will eventually eat from your hand, they will not starve themselves.

Don't always feed your Koi from your hand, change up the process between hand feeding and dropping the pellets into the water. Hand feeding takes time, so if you are rushed just drop the food in the water. It can be fun to get your visitors involved in hand feeding but always use caution if you do this. Safety is necessary for both your Koi and the feeders, so make sure you offer supervision so the fish are not scared and the feeders feed the fish the appropriate food.

Source: <http://www.koifishessentials.com/featured-koi-articles/hand-feeding-your-koi/>

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## Board Meeting Review – September 2017

The monthly board meeting was canceled due member unavailability and limited club business this month. The next board meeting will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will discuss our upcoming speaker series, our annual holiday social event, and our slate of officers for 2018. We will also be reviewing this past years activities and beginning our planning for next season. Thank you to all our officers and board members for your time in making our club enjoyable and informative to our membership. Without you we could not function.

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

We had our regular meeting August 15<sup>th</sup>. We had one of our members, Mark Stallcop, give a presentation on Faux Rock and how to build them. The presentation was very informative and covered a lot of good information about building a pond using faux rock instead of real rock. We also discussed our club's time capsule from 25 years ago that was recently opened at a ceremony held at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, CA, a local authentic Japanese Garden which is open to the public.

*NOTE: The above report will be added to AKCA board Minutes*

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## Do-It-Yourself Backyard Aquaponics Systems

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



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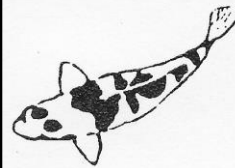
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