



Splash

Volume 33, Number 12, December 2017

Election of 2018 Officers!

We have elected the following members as officers for 2018:

President	Maus Stearns
Vice-President	Mel Bretzke
Secretary	Diane Stelma
Treasurer	Cece Stearns
Director	Rita Hughes
Director	Carl Heiney



Thank you to all our incoming officers for your leadership and helping our organization provide informative and friendly meetings, events, and activities for our membership and friends. Thank you to all members who voted. Voting closed December 15th. All votes were in favor of the nominated slate of officers.

We had a good turnout for the Holiday Potluck Social hosted by Maus and Cece Stearns December 3rd. We had a gift exchange and collected toys for Toys for Tots. It was an enjoyable evening for everyone and we celebrated another great year of events, meetings, koi keeping, and friendships.

We look forward to 2018 and many more club experiences. Thank you to our club officers, and board for all the efforts put into this year's activities. You are all appreciated!

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018, 7:30PM, Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

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.

President's Message

It seems hard to believe that yet another year is coming to its conclusion. The seasonal pace of the holidays is upon us, accelerating the normal rhythms of life from the hectic to OMG! Yet despite this frenzy there are periods of respite which provide the opportunity, if not the obligation, to reflect upon ourselves, our families and our friends. It is to the later that I address this message. To me, this club, our club, has provided a wonderful forum where good things happen when you meet strangers. I have made new acquaintances and new friendships. All have provided a unique texture to my life which otherwise would have gone missing as just being 'unknown'. There have been headaches, but those also are part of the pallet. Having said that, it is my sincerest hope that as time unfolds that our ponds are crystal clear and algae free; our fish are healthy and vigorous; that ammonia, nitrates, nitrites, PH and filtration are in perfect balance and that all bad luck, including but not limited to, raccoons, big birds, bugs, parasites and random WTF's bypass us completely. Oh, and also "Thank You" for your fellowship.

Maus

Sonoma Fire Koi Rescue Project Update – December 2017

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club was called to assist FEMA / ASPCA with aiding in the rescue of displaced Koi due to the Sonoma / Santa Rosa Fires October 23rd. Mel and Eve Bretzke represented our club and worked with the disaster response authorities over the past two months. Over 160 Koi were rescued from the wildfire burn zone, the most injured survivors were cared for at UC Davis.



Our club members donated time and resources to assist in the rescue efforts. We provided temporary holding tanks, equipment, supplies, and expertise to help rescue, house, and care for many displaced Koi. The project closed December 4th at the Sonoma Animal Shelter site along with other aspects of the disaster response efforts. We are in the process of returning all loaned items to members.

The Koi fire survivors were temporarily housed and cared for at the Sonoma County Animal Shelter. Many were returned to their owners, others have been adopted. All have been rescued and re-homed. Many of the rescued Koi were adopted because the home owner's ponds were damaged or destroyed in the wildfires.

Thank you to our membership and sponsors for working with us on this project and caring for these aquatic fire victims!

If you would like to help support efforts like these please send donations to: SCVKWG, Koi Rescue Project, PO Box 54368, San Jose, CA 95154. Donations are tax-deductible.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 2 NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH - NEW YEARS HOLIDAY
- Jan 16 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room.
Topic: Installation of Officers and Club Roadmap for 2018.
- Feb 6 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Maus and Cece Stearns home. All members welcome.
- Mar 3 31st Annual San Diego Koi Club Koi Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds, San Diego, CA.
- Apr 28-29 Cherry Blossom Festival, Memorial Park, Cupertino, CA.
- Jun 23 - 24 AKCA and KCSD Wet Lab and Banquet, Four Seasons Hotel, San Diego, CA.
-

Club Business

Election of 2018 Club Officers: We had our election for 2018 officers this month. Voting materials were available at the holiday potluck social and sent to members not in attendance. We are pleased to present the following slate of officers: President: Maus Stearns; Vice President: Mel Bretzke; Secretary: Diane Stelma; Treasurer: Cece Stearns. Board Member: Rita Hughes; Board Member: Carl Heiney. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for your assistance with this process.

As we wind up another great year of koi keeping and club activities we also want to thank all of our members, sponsors, and board members. If you are interested in getting more involved in 2018 with the club or would like to show your pond, or know someone who would, let President Maus Stearns know at the next meeting or drop him an email at president@sckoi.org.

Did you know?

Butterfly Koi originated from cross-breeding fish as the result of Japanese breeders interbreeding wild Indonesian longfin river carp with their traditional koi to increase hardiness.

Longfin (butterfly) Koi have longer fins, longer barbels and pompom nostrils, and are thought to be more hardy than regular koi.

Longfin koi are also called Dragon Koi, or Hirenaga(goi).

Well and tap water contain little or no oxygen. Aeration is recommended when adding from these sources. Tap water will also require dechlorination to make it safe for fish and biology of pond.

Source: Irrigation & Green Industry Newsletter

Plant of the Month –Water Leather Fern [*Acrostichum danaeifolium*]



Acrostichum aureum, the golden leather fern, is a large species of fern that grows in mangrove swamps and other wet locations. Other common names include swamp fern and mangrove fern.

The golden leather fern has large fronds growing to a length of six feet. The leaves are glossy, broad and pinnate, the pinnae being dark green, leathery, alternate and widely spaced. The outer fronds arch over sideways but the central ones are nearly straight. Some of the larger fronds bear reproductive organs on the upper five to eight pairs of pinnae. These are brick red and give the pinnae a felted appearance

A true fern, water leather fern is noted for its large fern-shaped leaves that take on shiny, leather texture. It makes a bold statement in larger ponds as is a wonderful accent plant. The leaves appear almost plastic and assume a cinnamon shade due to the great number of spores they produce on the backs of the leaves. A plant native to Florida.

Source: *Wikipedia and Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants by Greg and Sue Speichert.*

Preparing Your Ponds and Water Gardens for Winter

Compiled by Eve Bretzke

Feeding Koi:

The pond water temperature is dropping now and our is now reading at 60°F so now is the time to adjust not only the amount of koi food but also the type of koi food. It is recommended to switch to a low protein diet as the water temperature drops. Watch your koi's appetite it will change, cooler water means a lower metabolism for the koi. Feeding a wheat germ diet is highly recommended and you can read the food labels on the packages to ensure the protein is 32% or less, cut back on feeding, also it is recommended to stop feeding after water temperatures drop to 50°F or below. Invest in a pool or pond water thermometer to track the temperature.

Tree Debris:

Keeping your pond clear of tree debris should be a priority, as the weather is changing and wind and rain can blow leaves and branches into the pond which can cause damage to a pond liner. If your pond is around any large trees that shed a lot of leaves, it is recommended to cover the pond with netting to catch the leaves and debris. This will also keep your pond clear of leaves falling to the bottom and causing water toxicity. Also take care of plants around the pond, cutting back any dead branches that could fall inside the pond. Leaves-will change the chemistry of your water. They not only add tannins to the water, discoloring your pretty pond, they lower pH to perhaps dangerous levels. Monitor pond parameters and do water testing during winter. Keep leaves out of the pond for a better spring.

Pond Equipment:

This is a good time to do any pond maintenance on your pond as since the water temperatures are cold; your fish are eating less, creating less waste. So check your equipment to see if any-thing are leaking, cracked hoses, and pumps not working efficiently. Now is the time to do any remodeling while the fish get ready to go into hibernation. Even though the fish are not eating as much, water changes should still be happening but less frequently. Problems are more difficult to fix in colder wetter weather. Check your pond equipment before winter arrives.

Leaks and Evaporation:

Be aware should the water level recede. Watch that it doesn't recede to a dangerous level. Water changes and top-offs are perfectly acceptable during the winter months. Use a dechlorinator when doing a small top-offs.

Koi Care:

Keep an eye on your koi fish, do not neglect any sores on the koi, even though it is cold does not mean they cannot injure themselves or sores will still happen, especially if anything sharp lands in the pond and they brush up against it.

Do-It-Yourself Backyard Aquaponics Systems

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



Board Meeting Review – December 2017

The board meeting was held December 3rd at Maus and Cece Stearns home. The club will hold elections for the 2018 slate of officers and install officers in January. Moving forward, we will hold board meetings at the home of Maus and Cece Stearns. Thank you Frank Mullaney for your hospitality and service to the club over these past years for being our Past President as well as hosting our board meetings over the years.

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

There were no general meetings in November / December. We had our annual Holiday Potluck Social at the Stearn's home where we enjoyed a nice dinner, a gift exchange, and collected donated toys for Toys for Tots which is our annual tradition. Next general meeting will be January 16, 2018. No board meeting in January due to holiday.

NOTE: The above report will be added to AKCA board Minutes. Prepared by Eve Bretzke

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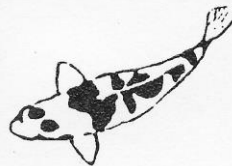
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