



Splash

Volume 34, Number 04, April 2018

Cherry Blossoms Show Off For Spring

GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 7:30PM. Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.



This month we will prepare for our attendance at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival and learn about what Cherry Blossoms symbolize and why people celebrate their arrival.

We will also have our Q&A discussion and refreshments. We will be discussing the benefits of using Calcium Montmorillonite Clay which can be beneficial to your pond and water garden. Leading koi experts agree that this type of clay contains the most minerals and trace elements such as bentonite / montmorillonite clay. This type of clay was formed millions of years ago, and has been mined and processed to a consistency that allows it to be an additive for your pond. Bring a container for a sample to take home.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Volunteers still needed for the Cherry Blossom Festival Sunday April 29th. Come out and help the club at this pleasant community event. Thank you to all those who are scheduled to help out this year with volunteering.

POND TOUR: We need six ponds. If you have a pond or know of a pond that you would like to see on this year's tour send an email to president@sckoi.com. We also are in need of volunteers to plan the event. The scheduled date is July 14th 2018. If six ponds and volunteers do not materialize by the end of April the club may not host the 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

- Apr 17 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room.
- Apr 28-29 Cherry Blossom Festival, Memorial Park, Cupertino, CA. Volunteers Needed.
- May 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Maus and Cece Stearns home. All members welcome.
- May 22 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Willow Glen Library Meeting Room.
- Jun 23 - 24 AKCA and KCSD Wet Lab and Banquet, Four Seasons Hotel, San Diego, CA
-

Presidents Corner

Greetings Fellow Koi enthusiasts,

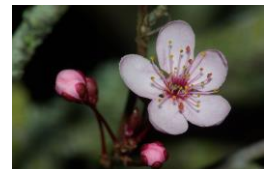
By all observations it is apparent that Spring and all of its unfolding wonders is upon us. Throughout history and across all cultures springtime has been the affirmation of the rebirth of our earth and the reawakening of life that surrounds us. To paraphrase Gustav Flaubert, "Love is a Springtime plant that perfumes everything with its hope".

Hanami is the Japanese tradition of welcoming Spring. Known as the Cherry Blossom Festival this annual event has, for hundreds of years, centered around the significance of the cherry blossom which, in Japanese culture, represents the fragility and the beauty of life. It is a reminder that life is almost overwhelmingly beautiful but that it is also tragically short.

On April 28th and 29th The Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival will be held at Memorial Park in Cupertino. If you have never attended this event I would whole heartedly encourage you to do so. For those who have gone in the past an encore revisit is most definitely encouraged. I would also like to state that, once again, our club has been honored to be invited by the event organizers to present a display of nishikigoi. Volunteers are always appreciated to help. If you are so inclined to help support our club please attend this Tuesdays meeting.

In the meantime take a few deep breathes, relax for just a short while and be in awe as nature' unfolds her wonders leaf by leaf, petal by petal, scent by scent. It vanishes far too fast to be ignored.

Maus



*Look at the cherry blossoms! Their color and scent fall with them, Are gone forever, Yet mindless,
The spring comes again -- Ikkyu*

Plant of the Month – Japanese Cherry Blossom [*Prunus serrulata*]



Cherry blossom is the flower of any of several trees of genus *Prunus*, particularly the Japanese cherry, *Prunus serrulata*, which is called sakura after the Japanese (桜 or 櫻 さくら). Currently it is widely distributed, especially in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere including Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China, West Siberia, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Along with the chrysanthemum, the cherry blossom is considered the national flower of Japan. Many of the varieties that have been cultivated for ornamental use do not produce fruit. Edible cherries generally come from cultivars of the related species *Prunus avium* and *Prunus cerasus*.

In Japan, cherry blossoms symbolize clouds due to their nature of blooming en masse, besides being an enduring metaphor for the ephemeral nature of life, an aspect of Japanese cultural tradition that is often associated with Buddhist influence, and which is embodied in the concept of *mono no aware*. The transience of the blossoms, the exquisite beauty and volatility, has often been associated with mortality and graceful and readily acceptance of destiny and karma; for this reason, cherry blossoms are richly symbolic, and have been utilized often in Japanese art. The flower is also represented on all manner of consumer goods in Japan, including kimono, stationery, and dishware.

Reference: www.wikipedia.com ; [Practical Rock and Water Garden by Peter Robinson](#)

URGENT MESSAGE TO ALL AKCA ASSOCIATED CLUBS

From Jerry Kyle

Help! Please let your members know we are running out of time. Koi Herpes Virus is a disaster that will not go away and we are seeing it raise it's ugly head more and more. If you are not yet personally affected, know it is only a matter of time. Many member clubs have been raising money for KHV Committee to fund Lab Studies at Oregon State University. With our help OSU is making good progress and finished making vectors to make the mutant virus. Think about this. When AKCA began to support OSU, it was a challenge to even diagnose KHV. Now they can detect it by simply taking a swab with a Q-tip. A mutant virus is a major step forward in making a vaccine which is a huge step in eliminating this problem PLEASE help AKCA help OSU help all of us (that means you again) by finding a way to end this nightmare. Send whatever your club members can to AKCA PROJECT, P.O. Box 10879, COSTA MESA, CA, 92627. OSU will be at the 2018 June Wet Lab.

Thank You,
Jerold Kyle,
Project KHV Committee Chair

Did You Know??

- Koi are hardy fish-stress kills fish, not disease and not parasites.
- Overcrowding stresses koi. Rapid temperature changes stress koi. Predators stress koi.
- A dirty pond stresses koi...

What About Clay in Ponds? Calcium Montmorillonite Benefits.

By Pond Trade Content Network

What is the most important part of your Koi pond or Water Garden? Hands down it has to be your water quality. Water can come from a number of sources. In some cases it comes from well water, but in most cases these days it comes from your local water company. The local water companies treat the water and during this they remove a lot of the minerals and trace elements that our ponds thrive upon. The only way those minerals and trace elements can be replaced in our ponds are with additives.

Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay is one of the best ways to add those minerals and trace elements back into the pond water.



Pond Clay, Calcium Montmorillonite

Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay has a number of minerals and trace elements in it that help our fish thrive. Not only does it help our fish thrive, it also helps the beneficial bacteria in our ponds thrive. The beneficial bacteria that live in your filters consume the minerals and trace elements added by Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay. Some of those minerals and trace elements are calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and iron.

Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay also helps the digestive system of your fish. A lot of the top hobbyists in the world add it to their paste foods. It has been said that the clay also helps the coloring of the fish, making the whites and reds stand out.

People have asked if our fish and beneficial bacteria are the only ones that benefit from adding Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay to the pond? No, Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clay has an extensive surface area, which allows it to attract, and then absorb, toxins such as heavy metals, free radicals, and pesticides. It also has minerals and trace elements that help make plants flourish. When re-potting your plants in the early spring, add a few tablespoons of clay to the potting soil along with some type of aquatic fertilizer tab, and you will see a difference in your plants.

Are all Calcium Bentonite/Montmorillonite Clays the same? No, they come in a number of grades. Some have more silica than others, and some are full of impurities. We suggest doing a few tests on your clay before adding it to the pond. One test is how well does it mix up. Some low-grade clays will clump up. You will not want to use these clays in your pond. You run the chance of it plugging your filtration system. Another test you can do is to mix it in a glass of water. After a minute or two you should not see a lot of particles floating on the surface of the glass. If you do, there is some type of impurities in the clay. When calcium-based montmorillonite clay is present, it provides essential minerals and trace elements to the fish and plants AND detoxifies the water and fish. What takes place is a process of absorption and adsorption.

Rich in trace minerals and absorbable calcium, (contains over 60 essential trace minerals) each tiny, tiny particle of this calcium montmorillonite clay, aka Terrapond remains in an alkaline state retaining its electrically active, negatively charged ion. When introduced to the pond, the toxins, bacteria and

pathogens in the water, which carry a positive electrically charged ion, bind to the negatively charged ions in the clay. These toxins are held in a colloidal state (suspended) inside the clay particles and leave through the filtration system.

The clay, when ingested by fish (they enjoy nibbling on the clay), goes through the digestive system binding to the toxins in the fish's body. These toxins are encapsulated in the clay and removed through their waste elimination process...toxins, clay and all. The added benefit is that the calcium montmorillonite contains highly absorbable minerals that are easily assimilated by fish, humans and all animals, in turn strengthening the immune system, enhancing the production of enzymes, and effectively detoxifying the body. The minerals in this particular clay also promote beautiful coral and plant growth, visibly displaying the results. Much has been written and researched about the healthful benefits of calcium montmorillonite clay when ingested by humans and animals.

The Healing Power of Living Clay by Neva Jensen includes a study entitled Trout Researchers Share Info. The director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife services Tunison Research Lab in Hagerman, Idaho spoke about the biggest expense on a fish farm, which is the feed. However their studies proved whenever the fish were fed this cheap clay, they grew bigger even when the feed was reduced.

How Much Calcium Montmorillonite Should I Use? Premium calcium montmorillonite is a very fine, pure, edible clay and it will stay suspended in your water while doing its work. Many first-time users are often concerned when their water doesn't clear in a short period of time. Please do not be alarmed. Even if you accidentally apply a dosage that exceeds the recommended amount, you can never harm or overdose your fish with this 100% natural product.

Start with a conservative dose if your pond water is already at or close to an acceptable level of clarity. This clay's colloidal suspension properties allow it to continue bonding with impurities, carrying them safely into your filter. It also allows more nutrients to get into your fish's systems. Since the best koi are raised and live in mud ponds, your fish will thank you for their mud bath that improves conformation, coloration, health, and vitality.

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

Our monthly club meeting was held March 20, 2018. Our club President, Maus Stearns, opened our 3rd meeting of 2018 with an overview of the calendar year ahead looking specifically at our two major events, the Cherry Blossom Festival in April and our Pond Tour in July. Plans for the Cherry Blossom Festival are moving forward and we are looking forward to a great weekend.

As for our club's annual pond tour, it was presented to the membership that the board thinks the club will not be able to hold the pond tour due to lack of volunteers to take on the many tasks involved with the event. The board may choose to substitute the pond tour with other summer events. A decision will be made later in April. Warm weather is returning and the Koi are hungry and happy.

NOTE: The above report will be added to AKCA board Minutes and will be posted on AKCA website <http://www.akca.org> and click on Koi Clubs. Prepared by Eve Bretzke

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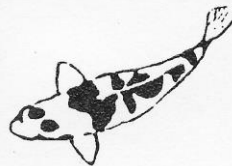
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