



Splash

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club - Volume 40, Number 2, February 2023

FEBRUARY – NO MEETINGS – WINTER BREAK

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 PM via Zoom

Topic: April Club Events - ZNA / Cherry Blossom Shows

The club plans to participate in two local Koi community events, first, the ZNA show April 1-2, 2023 and, second, the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival held April 29-30, 2023. Volunteers are needed.

Winter Water: Each season brings different challenges to Koi keeping and water gardening. Here our climate, it is usually mild and relatively sunny most days. This season we have had more rain



than normal and our severe drought is easing. This winter weather also cause our Koi to have extra stress due to being colder than average and wide temperature swings that occur daily (70 degrees in the afternoon, 40 degrees overnights – that's a 30 degree change in one 24 hour time period – image that!)

Our ponds and gardens are happy for the extra H₂O, note that rainwater does not cause pH crashes or KH drops. Rain is initially neutral in pH, a perfect 7.0 – but very quickly absorbs low pH contaminants as it falls through the sky. The effect of low pH rain on pH level is usually small, except for heavy rains over a period of days, which can require a need to raise your pH.

Upcoming Events

Feb	No Meetings in February – Winter Break
Mar 21	General Meeting – Preparations for ZNA Hospitality and Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival in April 2023.
Apr 1-2	ZNA Northern California Koi Show, San Jose – Volunteer opportunity

Visit us on the web at: www.sckoi.com

Club Meetings:

The club typically meets on the third Tuesday of each month except December, and February and during the summer when we have socials in lieu of meetings. At our events we get acquainted with members and guests, address pond issues, and enjoy discussions on Koi and water garden related topics, occasionally we have outings to places of interest for our members. Our website lists the latest updates for meetings, socials, and events.

Presidents Corner



Hello Members and Friends,

The club has been quiet for the winter season since January. We are regrouping for March. This month the focus of your board has been planning for 2023 and preparing for upcoming events such as the ZNA show where we are planning to provide hospitality to the ZNA show volunteers, support our fellow Koi enthusiasts, and build awareness of our club in the Koi community.

This is a great opportunity for our members to learn more about Koi in general and judging of Koi in the Japanese tradition. There is so much to learn and to enjoy from visiting a Koi Show, we are so fortunate to have such an event available to support in our area. The ongoing appreciation of these beautiful fish is why we come together as a club and as an extended community of fellow Koi enthusiasts. Save the date: April 1 -2 to attend. This event is held over two days and admission is free to the public. (See flyer on page six)

How does everyone like the winter weather? Our Koi have extra stress due to being colder than average and wide temperature swings that are occurring daily (70 degrees in the afternoon, 40 degrees overnights – that's a 30 degree change in one 24 hour time period – image that!) Our ponds and gardens are happy for the extra H2O but let's hope the temperatures warm.

Some members have asked about all the extra rainwater and how it may impact our pond's water. Rainwater does not cause pH crashes or KH drops. Rain is initially neutral in pH, a perfect 7.0 – but very quickly absorbs low pH contaminants as it falls through the sky. The effect of low pH rain on pH level is usually small, except for heavy rains over a period of days, which can require a need to raise your pH. When in doubt, test your water.

As always, if you have any questions about Koi, ponds, or water gardening we are available to help. Email info@sckoi.com or attend one of our meetings

Happy Koi Keeping,
Eve Bretzke

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WHY IS MY KOI LAYING ON ITS SIDE?

Baby its cold outside....our winter season has been a cold one and the Koi have been exposed to the colder temperatures too!

In winter, Koi have a tolerance for cold water to 34°F for a few days, but are more comfortable at 39°F. Koi are temperate zone fish not tropical or cold water fish.

Micro Garden – Macro Bloom ;)

Higher power, deeper learning – a micro garden or mini pond project may be just the right size to motivate and inspire one’s creative energy. By being with nature, we learn about the natural world around us. So, if you are interested in growing a micro garden or building a mini pond, then here is a little (micro) inspiration while we are over wintering inside this month.



Micro Garden (Mini Oasis)

Ready to assemble or “manufactured”, a structure with brackets for containers and a drip irrigation system, an entire “oasis” can be crafted and be fairly self-sufficient on a small scale without breaking the bank. Recycled materials can be utilized in the designs as the designer sees fit. It could be modular or a single unit on a base that could be loaded onto a truck. Various plantings and produce can be grown and used on a small scale by a household with extra to share.

I envision a trend where micro-oasis gardens become trendy. Imagine a small patio that has a water feature and seating for two people. Surrounding on all sides (including above) are plants. How cool would that be?!” says Anna from San Diego



Micro Pond (Container Water Garden)

The smallest of water features, this type of "pond" can make use of any type of decorative pot. Simply place a few potted aquatic plants, maybe a fish or two, and you are done. Great for decks and patios! The eco system with balance and provide a habitat that is both interesting and may offer a place to grow additional herbs or water plants that can be enjoyed.



"Love, we are a small pond." - Maxine Kumin

Micro Greenhouse (Growing Container)

A greenhouse can be a great idea for home growers. They can be helpful for those who grow their own food. Greenhouses can extend the growing season and extend the range of crops that can be grown. They protect your plants from extreme weather, and provide a level of protection from pests that might eat your plants before you get the chance to do so.



2023 Club Business

The club has been quiet for the winter season since January. We are planning to regroup for March. The Board will have its regular meeting March 7th at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Members in good standing are always welcome.

This month the focus of the board has been planning for 2023 and preparing for upcoming events such as the ZNA show where we will provide hospitality to the ZNA club volunteers and build awareness of our club in the local community. This is also an opportunity for our members to learn more about Koi keeping and judging of the Koi in the Japanese tradition. There is so much to learn and to enjoy from the hobby of Koi keeping. The ongoing appreciation of these beautiful fish is why we come together as a club and as a community. Save the date: April 1 -2 , 2023.

(See flyer on page six)

The ZNA show will be a warm up for our booth at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 – 30th. We need 8-10 volunteers to be in our booth and share information about our club and Koi both days – 3 hours shifts (am/pm). Training and hospitality provided!

Contact us at info@sckoi.com

PONDERING ... ON A WINTER DAY.... FAMOUS WINTER POND QUOTATIONS...



"December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory." ~ John J. Geddes

"Like a stone thrown into a pond, a good deed can create ripples that extend far beyond the initial splash." ~ Jeanne Phillips

"In a pond koi can reach lengths of eighteen inches. Amazingly, when placed in a lake, koi can grow to three feet long. The metaphor is obvious. You are limited by how you see the world." ~ Vince Poscente

ZNA NORCAL

APRIL 1 - 2

Saturday 9:00am—5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am—2:00pm

Wyndham Garden Silicon Valley Hotel

399 Silicon Valley Blvd.

San Jose, CA 95138

2023

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Sponsorships Available:

Rates include an advertisement in the monthly club newsletter, website, and other publications for one year. Thank you to our sponsors. We have started a new advertising term that runs July 2022 to June 2023. To begin a new or renew an existing sponsorship contact the club at info@sckoi.com.

Business card size	\$35 per year
Quarter page size	\$95 per year
Half page size	\$125 per year