



# Splash

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club - Volume 40, Number 1, January 2023

## Happy New Year!!!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

**Topic: Officer Installation and Club Planning for 2023**

The club held its annual holiday social at Hakone Estate and Gardens located in Saratoga December 18<sup>th</sup>. Club members enjoyed complimentary admission to the gardens and stayed for our social that featured light refreshments, a prize drawing, and silent auction fundraiser.



There was lots of room, friends, and a warm welcome in the Lower House at Hakone. We enjoyed hot beverages and an assortment of holiday treats, along with special “Koikies” shared by Sylvia. Our silent auction was well viewed and the prize drawing had attendees taking home some nice swag: a few Koi themed shirts, beautiful Koi themed jewelry, holiday treats, and admission to the gardens. Our beach vacation stay was a big hit too! Thank you to Maus and Cece for their generous donation to the club, and to all those who donated and supported our holiday social event this year. It is appreciated.

---

## Upcoming Events

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 17    | General Meeting: Installation of Officers and Club Planning 2023 |
| Feb       | No Meeting in February – Winter Break                            |
| Apr 1-2   | ZNA Northern California Koi Show, San Jose – volunteers needed   |
| Apr 29-30 | Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – volunteers needed |

---

**Visit us on the web at: [www.sckoi.com](http://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,

2022 is a wrap! Your editor was down over the holiday with a bad cold so we missed the December edition. As you all know we held our annual Holiday Social December 18<sup>th</sup>. We returned to Hakone Estate and Gardens for our event this holiday season. Thank you Hakone for providing space for our club to gather! We encourage our members to support Hakone by visiting and purchasing annual passes.

The club's community tree was on display between Thanksgiving and New Year's and viewed by thousands of visitors. The weather again was an issue but we were better prepared with our weatherproof decorations. If you haven't had the chance to visit this event downtown San Jose, put it on your list.

We had our election for club officers last month. The board has graciously agreed to serve through the 2023 term. In 2024 we are going to need new leadership. You have been warned. If you would like to become more involved with the club let one of us know. We are going to need additional help this spring with our two big events in April, this would be a great time to spend with the group and see if it's a good match. We really could use more help with running events. Join us at the next meeting, Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Now that its winter when we spend more time indoors and less outside with our Koi and ponds we may not notice changes as quickly. One of our sister clubs recommended adding small amounts of baking soda to the ponds after the rains to keep KH or hardness from crashing and lowering pH in the water. This is just a reminder that all of this rain may have diluted the KH in your pond and that could cause a pH crash, many of us don't have a KH test kit to test for KH so it can't hurt to add a ½ cup of baking soda per 1,000 gallons as a precautionary measure. Now is a good time be sure that equipment is running optimally. Feed Koi less as temperatures drop, and have ample aeration in your water. Have a backup plan if the power goes out for an extended time (3 plus days). If power goes out for a short time it should be OK, colder water holds more oxygen.

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

*Happy Koi Keeping,*  
Eve Bretzke

><)))°> ><)))°>

---

## Have a Story for Our Newsletter?

SCVKWG invites you to share content for a future edition of our newsletter in 2023!

See an article or news item you think we should feature? Have a request for a topic? How about a joke or a photo...

Email us at [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).





# Hakone Estate and Gardens Holiday Social



*Thank you all who supported and attended our recent Holiday Social at Hakone Estate and Gardens.*



## A Little Background – Hakone Estate Gardens

This place is an 18-acre traditional Japanese garden in Saratoga, CA. The garden is recognized as one of the oldest Japanese-style residential garden in the Western Hemisphere, and an enduring American treasure.



The tranquility and elegance of the gardens at Hakone beautifully express the Japanese ideal of the garden as a space in which art and nature merge seamlessly. The cultivation of nature in miniature dates back to the introduction of Buddhism to Japan in 538 AD. Thus began the tradition of transforming a garden into a blissful dwelling place to experience timeless beauty.

---

## Small Bonsai – Mini Garden - Big Smile



Higher power, deeper learning – a small bonsai or mini garden project may be just the right size to motivate and inspire someone’s creative energy. By being with nature, we learn about the natural world around us. So, if you ever were interested in growing bonsai, then a good place to start may be on a mini scale with a bonsai.



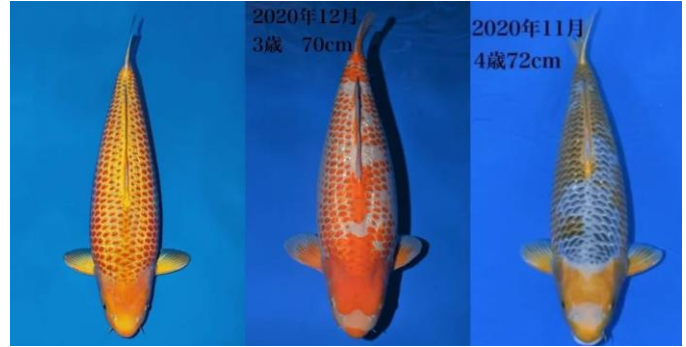
Miniature bonsai are called mame bonsai: Bonsai are known for their small size, but the effort to miniaturize trees is sometimes taken to the extreme. The results are tiny little trees (called Mame Bonsai, or Mini Bonsai). Most bonsai trees will live for at least 10 years and some may even survive for 100 years or more! Of course, the lifespan of any bonsai tree is not infinite and there are some things that can shorten the life of these delicate plants. Bonsai that straddle the small-to-miniature category reach about 8 inches (20cm) in height and can take up to 20 years to fully mature. The term “miniature bonsai” generally refers to bonsai small enough to be lifted or moved with one hand.

Bonsai trees have a reputation for being extremely delicate and difficult to maintain. While these specimens do require special attention, once you learn the principles of bonsai care, it's fairly straightforward. *Bonsai is a Japanese word that literally means "planted in a container"*. Bonsai need direct sunlight, from which they make their food. A lack of direct sun will damage them, causing weak foliage and other problems. They like to receive 5-6 hours of sunlight daily, whether inside or outside.

The Ficus bonsai is recommend for beginners that are new to bonsai and do not have the time for regular waterings. Since the Ficus is so resilient to under-watering, it makes it ideal for those that want a low maintenance tree. Pruning the Ficus bonsai is as simple as cutting back leaves. Easy to take care of, the Ficus bonsai needs to be watered thoroughly all over the soil until the water drains through into a tray or saucer. Never let bonsai dry out and avoid keeping it constantly wet. The soil should go from wet to damp between watering.

# Golden Corn Koi – New Koi Variety Debuts

Over the years, breeders have been creating new Koi varieties. Here is an example of the newly developed Golden Corn variety of Koi. It has been around for about 5 years and is a hard variety to define because it shows up in so many different variations. Some look like Ginrin or Asagi. One of the strong characteristics is the Koi develop Kanoko (polka dots) pattern as they grow bigger and stronger.



Source: Taro Kodama, Kodama Koi Farm

---

## Officer Installation

This month we recognize this year's Board of Directors who work diligently on the club's behalf year-round. These are volunteer positions. The board looks forward to seeing you at a meeting or event in 2023.

President	Eve Bretzke
Vice President	Rita Hughes
Secretary	Mel Bretzke
Treasurer	Cece Stearns
Board Member	Maus Stearns
Board Member	John Hughes

*Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month and open to members in good standing.*

---

## 2022/23 Club Business

We have been busy with our annual Holiday Social / fundraiser. The event date was held December 18th at Hakone Estate and Gardens in Saratoga, CA. We aim for the annual event to be held on the first Sunday of December, this year the event was scheduled a little later in the month so we could have it at Hakone. No newsletter was published for December, our editor was out sick. The last board meeting was held December 6th.

The club had its tree at Christmas in the Park event in downtown San Jose. We returned with waterproof decorations! Update: We un-decorated our tree and our décor survived!

Our Club officers have graciously agreed to serve another term. Each year we ask that members like you reading this report, to help out the club in a bigger way. Training is provided, hours are flexible, and the team is easy going and prepared. Next year we are going to need new board members to move the club forward. If interested in serving the club, let us know.

# Our Sponsors

Please support our sponsors who provide valuable products and services to our membership. While we love our sponsors SCVKWG does not endorse any business, service, or product.

**ADVANCED LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS**  
**Koi Pond and Water Feature Specialists**  
 DESIGN | BUILD | RENOVATE | REPAIR

- Commercial / Residential
- Pond Maintenance Programs (weekly / bi-weekly / monthly)
- Pond Repairs / Upgrades
- Pumps, Filters, Liner, Plants
- Leak Detection and Repair



**(408)559-7762**  
 Email: [info@advanced-landscape.com](mailto:info@advanced-landscape.com)  
 Website: [www.advanced-landscape.com](http://www.advanced-landscape.com)

VISIT OUR PORTFOLIO ONLINE AT [WWW.ADVANCED-LANDSCAPE.COM](http://WWW.ADVANCED-LANDSCAPE.COM)  
 Over 25 Years Experience ~ CA License #570322 ~ Mel Bretzke, Owner




**IWGS**  
 network - knowledge - support

**Hayward & Associates**  
 leadership & executive coaching

**R. Lee Hayward**  
 M.A., M.Div., PCC

[lee@lee-hayward.com](mailto:lee@lee-hayward.com)  
[www.lee-hayward.com](http://www.lee-hayward.com)  
 408.288.9510 | 408.398.2400

"...our actions are the ground we walk on."

**Skorey & Hughes**  
 Individualized Tax and Financial  
 Services at Reasonable Cost

3150 Almaden Expwy, #231  
 San Jose, CA 95118

Phone: (408) 445-3470  
 FAX: (408) 445-3475

**JUDY'S K-9 CLIPPERS**  
 I Specialize In All Breeds

915 S San Tomas Aquino Rd.  
 Suite 800  
 Campbell, CA 95008  
 Judith Anne Barr

**(408) 866-8102**

**All Japan Promotion Association**  
[www.Genkikoi.com](http://www.Genkikoi.com)



Tel : 408.295.4500  
 Fax: 408.295.4501  
[genkikoi@hotmail.com](mailto:genkikoi@hotmail.com)

**KEVIN PHAM**  
 President

1850 S. 10th St., Suite 14  
 San Jose, California 95112

**DIRECT IMPORTER & DISTRIBUTOR OF QUALITY JAPANESE KOI**

## 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](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

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