



# Splash

**Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club, Vol. 40, Number 3, March 2023**

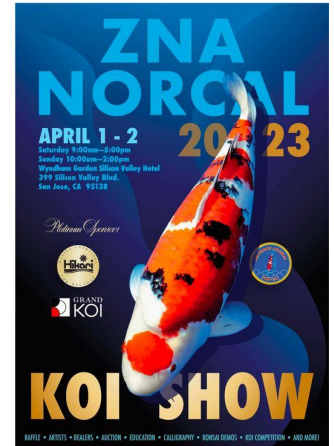
**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 PM via Zoom**  
**Topic: April Club Events - ZNA / Cherry Blossom Shows**

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

March has been a mix of sun and rain so far. Many of us are looking forward to getting back to our ponds and water gardens as the weather warms. Now is a good time to plan improvements, take inventory of pond maintenance supplies, check plumbing and electrical systems, and make sure filters are working properly. If you are still without power, try to aerate the ponds best as you can.

The recent wind storms have played havoc with many, many ponds around our neighborhoods. Be on the lookout for pH or other water chemistry issues after these large downpours of rain. Our ponds are happy for the extra H<sub>2</sub>O but we have been getting reports that, while rain water 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. We have also had reports of die off, smaller fish being impacted more so. When in doubt, test your pond water and adjust as needed.



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## Upcoming Events

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 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                                      |
| April 29-30 | Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – Volunteer opportunity                                    |

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

### **Club Meetings and Activities:**

*The club typically meets on the third Tuesday of each month except December, and February. During the summer season the club hosts 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. Guests are welcome to visit, but we ask that they pay dues if they attend regularly. We are a non-profit organization.*

# Presidents Corner



Hi Everyone,

This month our focus is preparing for two upcoming, the Nor Cal ZNA show and the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival. There are also a few other events of interest to our membership: The Gem and Mineral Show, Hakone Hanami season, Master Gardeners Spring Sale, and, of course, the above Koi Show and Cherry Blossom Festival.

We are in need of volunteers to support our efforts. These events are fun and educational opportunities for our members to learn more about Koi in general and get more familiar with the hobby. There is so much to learn and to enjoy from visiting a Koi Show and the Cherry Blossom festival. The ongoing appreciation of these beautiful fish is why we come together as a club and as an extended community of fellow Koi enthusiasts along with others who share their hobbies with us. Save the date: April 1 – 2 (See show flyer). We also invite all interested members who would like to volunteer for the show to attend the “walk-thru” ZNA pre-show meeting Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon (see note below) at the location of the Koi show.

ZNA Background: ZNA America is the North American Regional District of Zen Nippon Airinkai, an International society based in Beppu Japan. "Our mission statement and goal is to spread the hobby of koi keeping, to improve upon the husbandry techniques for maintaining koi, and to elevate the appreciation aspects of nishikigoi as living art". ZNA (Zen Nippon Airinkai) was first formed in Japan by local Japanese hobbyists. Starting from a regional organization in western Japan, this hobby movement of 'koi kichi' (translation: koi maniacs) evolved to redefine its identity and become a truly national/ International organization in 1968. Today there are chapters around the world.

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

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## ZNA Walk-thru Meeting – Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon

There will be walk thru meeting with the Nor Cal ZNA team to prepare for the ZNA show held April 1 & 2 at the Wyndham Silicon Valley Hotel at the following time/place:

Wyndham Garden Silicon Valley Hotel  
399 Silicon Valley Blvd  
San Jose, CA 95138  
Meeting time: 12 Noon – Parking Lot

The Nor Cal ZNA team encourages our members to come and meet up. The show requires lots of folks to help set up the tanks mainly, and then tear down the tanks mainly, with all sorts of fun between.

Their group is old school; a firm handshake & smiling face make long lasting impression. Let's come out and make a difference. To volunteer or learn more email [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

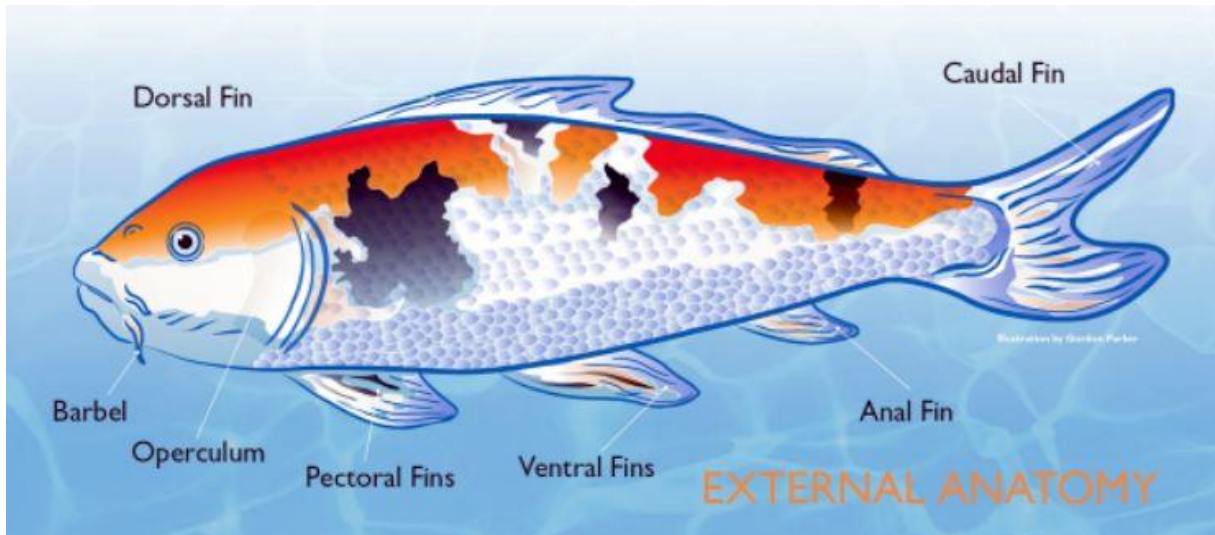
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# Koi – Instinct for Survival?

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A recent study from USC about why fish in general dart in various directions when they are preyed upon by other animals looked at the survival benefit of such behavior.

In short: the study indicates that a fish increases its chances of escape by moving at an angle perpendicular to the predator's direction of travel. However, the consistency of that response is dependent on the amount of neuronal processing required to sense the predator and respond accordingly. It's a strategy that applies the age-old wisdom of survival: "don't overthink it."



Maybe we humans could learn a thing or two from our Koi friends.... 😊  
Here is the link to the article.

[https://viterbischool.usc.edu/news/2023/02/fish-dont-dither-a-new-study-investigates-danger-evasion-tactics/?utm\\_source=social&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=usc\\_viterbi](https://viterbischool.usc.edu/news/2023/02/fish-dont-dither-a-new-study-investigates-danger-evasion-tactics/?utm_source=social&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=usc_viterbi)

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## Fish foodies ...did you know??

- Nutritional deficiencies in fish mimic many other diseases
- A pond does not grow excess algae without "feeding" it
- Koi are opportunistic feeders, normally at the bottom

## Some things to remember about Koi keeping...

- Koi take patience – you can't rush their growth
- Pond depth is valuable to help control temperature
- Examine your fish frequently to insure they are free from abrasions, diseased scales, or parasites – treat regularly for parasites – all ponds have parasites sooner or later
- Pumps must be run 24 hours a day to insure good health and growth of the fish
- Some fish turn out great and some do not. There is no substitute for good blood lines.
- Test your water supply for salt content before you add any salt to the pond water
- Check with other club members when you have questions

Source: AKCA – Practical Koi Keeping

# SPRING CALENDAR – LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

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### Gem & Mineral Show – March 18–19

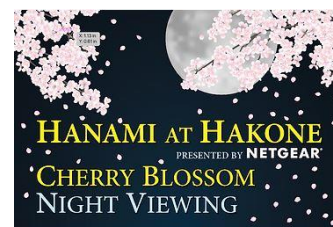
Educational Exhibits – Rocks that Glow in the dark - How to make Arrowheads – Other demonstrations - Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Active Duty, Retired Military, their Dependents & First Responders Free; with valid Military ID or First Responder ID; Scouts in Uniform admitted free. Adults \$6, children under 12 free. Visit [info@scvghms.org](mailto:info@scvghms.org) for more information.

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### Hakone Estate and Gardens – Hanami Season

Hanami at Hakone - Night Viewing presented by NETGEAR  
March 20, 2023 - April 14, 2023

Visit [www.hakone.com](http://www.hakone.com) for more information. This is a very special event and only happens once per year. Don't miss out!



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### Spring Garden Fair – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - 2 pm

The annual Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair is back! Join us on Saturday, April 15, 9 am–2 pm for our sustainable gardening showcase, premier plant sale, and educational fair. It will be held at our parcel in Martial Cottle Park in San Jose. Shop our huge variety of tomato, pepper, herb, and flower seedlings, plus a beautiful array of succulents. We grow varieties not readily available elsewhere, selected for outstanding taste, beauty, and performance in our soil and climate. See our website for more information, including schedules of talks, tours, and activities

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### IWGS Affiliate Members – spring is for Waterlilies

The IWGS international fellowship of water gardeners includes new water gardeners keen to learn, experienced water gardeners eager to share, commercial growers, hybridizers, botanical garden and university professionals, hobbyists with wide ranging experience, aquatic plant specialists, fish specialists, manufacturers of water garden products, installers and retailers, and others who appreciate the delights of water in the landscape.



As a member of SCVKWGC you enjoy many benefits. For more information and login credentials email [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).



# Koi Appreciation

There are over a hundred different varieties of Koi, each with their own unique name that describes the fish by its colors, patterns and body conformation. Here is a sample:

Sumi	black
Shiro	white
Hi	red
Gin rin	silver metallic sparkle in fishes scales
Hikari	overall metallic luster
Doitsu	mirror-like appearance on both sides of dorsal fin but otherwise appears scale less

Today there are millions of Koi enthusiasts around the world that share the common goal to raise happy and healthy Koi.



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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...*



Aquaponics is a hybrid food growing technology that combines aquaculture (growing fish) and hydroponics (growing veggies in non-soil media and nutrient-laden water).

Got an aquaponics system you want to show off? Email [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

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## 2023 Club Business

The club is regrouping for March. The Board had its regular meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Next Board meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Members in good standing are always welcome.

This month the focus of the board has been preparing for two upcoming events, 1) Nor Cal ZNA show April 1-2, and the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 – 30th.

We need 1-2 volunteers to be in the booth throughout the event who are able to share information about our hobby and assist the Nor Cal ZNA members as needed – 3 hour shifts are preferred (am/pm). Training and hospitality provided! There is even a banquet on Saturday night at the hotel.

# 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.

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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](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

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