



Splash

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club, Volume 40, No. 4, April 2023

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 PM via Zoom - Topic: Cherry Blossom Festival Preparations

Our program is “Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival Planning / Cherry Blossom Season Beauty”. We hope you can join us.

The club plans to have a booth and display at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival held April 29-30, 2023. This is an open invitation for members and Koi friends and family. Join us for a fun & educational experience. Volunteers needed.

Special Event. Be sure to visit the club’s booth out at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30 at Memorial Park (across from DeAnza College). Admission and parking are free. This is fun event for all ages.



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| April 18 | General Meeting – Preparations Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30 |
| April 29-30 | Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – Volunteers needed |
| May | Meet Up – San Jose Japantown mixer and activity – details TBA |

Visit us on the web: 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,

Our next General Meeting is Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 PM via Zoom. The program will be "Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival Planning / Cherry Blossom Season Beauty". We hope that you can attend.

ZNA NorCal Koi Show wrap up:

Thank you to all those members who came out to support the ZNA NorCal Koi Show April 1-2. It was a group effort and we made a difference. I want to send a special shout out to Rita and John Hughes for providing hospitality and volunteer hours in the booth. Also, Mel Bretzke assisted with setup/tear down and logistics over the two day event. Thank you to all the other members who showed up and made an impact. Thank you for spending your time with both old and new friends and learning about all things Koi. Check out photos in the newsletter. This event is always a great experience for all of us who love Nishikigoi. Save the Date: April 6-7, 2024.

Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30:

Be sure to visit the club's booth out at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30 at Memorial Park (across from DeAnza College). Admission and parking are free. This is fun event for all ages. The club's booth will be located just outside the Quinlan Center. Have some free time – we are looking for volunteers to help out at the club booth, especially on Sunday. If you can help, email info@sckoi.com. or, attend the Zoom meeting Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 PM.

Shifting gears, we have had reports of algae blooms, pH issues, and predator activity. Many of us have started working in our gardens and ponds, especially with the longer days. A little planning and attention now can insure a happy, healthy pond later. Check to see if your filters need a deep cleaning, remove any debris accumulated over winter. Tune up equipment as needed. What about fresh Koi food or other supplies for the coming season? Be sure to have dechlorinator on hand for water changes.

Happy Koi Keeping,

Eve Bretzke

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QR CODE LINK – Newsletter Sign up now easier than ever.



Want to know what's going on with the club this season? New to the hobby, this is a great way to start. Curious about Koi keeping, watergardening, Do-It-Yourself aquaponics? Interested in water plants or water lilies? Rain water harvesting? Changed emails recently? Want to share club news with a friend or local business that maybe interested in our club?

Email us to be added to the club's newsletter list. Membership Drive begins soon: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Annual Dues: \$40

WRAP UP: ZNA Koi Show April 1 – 2, 2023

Thank you to all those members who came out to support the ZNA NorCal Koi Show April 1-2 to help out our ZNA NorCal friends. What a great show that ZNA puts on each year.



Spring Start-Up for Ponds

The beginning of the new pond season is the perfect time to evaluate and tweak your pond maintenance practices and take inventory of leftover pond care products from last year. Now is a good time to start planning for the upcoming season.



Past Seasons – What was good / what could be better...

Before buying new pond maintenance products, recall pond issues from past seasons. Were you fighting a recurring algae bloom, did you avoid the pond due to muck or gunk? Maybe plants (weeds) were overgrown, was the pond unattractive for your backyard visitors... know which problems are the most important on your list. Address smaller issues before they become bigger issues. ☺

Install an aeration system this Spring if you don't have one. Pond aeration systems infuse the water column with oxygen and circulate the entire water column. Aeration helps reduce pond muck formation and weed growth while keeping fish safe and comfortable.

Remove dead algae and debris. Keep dead algae from becoming additional muck at the bottom of the pond. Keep pond water clear and remove accumulated pond muck using mechanical netting and treat pond with beneficial bacteria as the weather warms. Plan to address the root of the most common pond problems -- excess nutrients and sunlight. Keeping up on regular maintenance will help to keep your pond looking its best all season with minimal effort!

Cherry Blossom Season – Welcome Spring!



Hanami is the Japanese tradition of welcoming Spring. Known as the Cherry Blossom Festival this annual event has, for hundreds of years, centered on 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.

In Japan, the cherry blossom is more than just a beautiful flowering tree. There are thousands upon thousands of cherry blossom trees in Japan, and each year the Japanese people closely anticipate and follow the blossoming of the trees.

“In the cherry blossom's shade there's no such thing as a stranger.” Kobayashi Issa

The flowers are deeply symbolic: their short-lived existence taps into a long-held appreciation of the beauty of the fleeting nature of life. The blossoms also, quite literally, symbolize new beginnings, with April 1 being the first day of both the financial and academic year in Japan. The flowers bloom for about a week before the so-called “sakura snow” effect starts and they float sadly off the trees.

Koi of the Year Contest 2023 – Call for Entries

Each year it is our club's tradition to select a Koi of the Year from our membership. The selected entry receives an award and acknowledgement for representing the club's Koi of the Year. Each membership may enter up to two Koi that they keep.



Entries should be received no later than June 15th, 2023 – Winner announced in July 2023 edition of Splash and will be listed on the club's "Koi of the Year" webpage. Send an email to info@sckoi.com with photo including name / date / approximate size / age of Koi and the classification i.e. Kohaku, Sanke, Showa, etc....all types of Koi are eligible for the club's Koi of the Year contest. Good luck!

IWGS Affiliate Membership – Spring Water Lilies

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, manufactures of water garden products, installers and retailers, and others who appreciate the delights of water in the landscape.



2023 Club Business

We kicked off the first spring board meeting with plans for the NorCal ZNA support and the upcoming Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 – 30th. The Board had its regular meeting March 7th at 7:30 PM via Zoom. The Board did not meet formally in April, the board actively participated in the ZNA Koi show with each other.

Next board meeting is scheduled for May 2nd at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Members in good standing are always welcome.

The Associated Koi Club's of America (AKCA) is now defunct. The KOI USA magazine that was published by AKCA was discontinued in 2021. We are sorry to see this organization cease to exist. The board will need to look for club insurance from another source. We may have to scale back activities until this matter can be resolved.

As a member of SCVKWGC you enjoy many benefits. For more information and login credentials for IWGS and website archives email info@sckoi.com.

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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