



Splash

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

San Jose's Japantown Meet Up - Visit the Japanese American Museum of San Jose with the club, Saturday, June 3rd, 1 PM – 4 PM



Our event for this month will be a visit to J-Town, San Jose's Japantown. San Jose's Japantown is one of only three Japantowns out of forty five that still exist in the United States today. We will meet up at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 535 North Fifth Street at 1 PM and begin our visit here.

Afterwards we may do a walking tour of the area and stop for refreshments depending upon time/interest. The club will cover admission to the museum for up to 2 adults per membership. RSVP to info@sckoi.com by Friday, June 2nd.

Japantown commonly known as J Town, is a historic cultural district north of Downtown San Jose. We hope you can join us for visit this historical neighborhood with the club and explore the historical culture of the neighborhood.



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 3 | Meet Up – San Jose Japantown, 1-4 PM, RSVP to info@sckoi.com . |
| Jun / July | Pond Social #1 |
| July | Membership Drive begins |

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



Happy May,

Our event for this month will be a visit to J-Town, San Jose's Japantown. San Jose's Japantown is one of only three Japantowns out of forty five that still exist in the United States today. We will meet up at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 535 North Fifth Street at 1 PM and begin our visit here. Following the museum visit we will walk around the area and stop for refreshments.

We haven't had much participation for our membership outside the board and few others. We encourage you all to attend an event, share an article, take part in the club's Koi of the Year contest, or volunteer at an upcoming event. Speaking of events, we just wrapped up our biggest stand alone club event, the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival.

Cherry Blossom Festival wrap up:

The club's booth out at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30 at Memorial Park (across from DeAnza College) was once again amazing. Our booth was located just outside the Quinlan Center and was a big attraction. Thank you to Rita and John for bringing out there bonsai specimens and clocking volunteer hours; Thank you Maus, Cece, and Jason for all your help with set up, tear down, and Sunday booth time. Thank you Mel for always being there for me and for the club. It truly is a great time to share with our community and share our hobbies of Koi keeping, water gardening, and aquaponics.

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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Beneficial Bacterial – I might like to have some...

Beneficial Bacteria is a natural and safe solution to reduce fish waste, toxins, and odors in your pond. These types of pond products convert harmful substances into harmless ones, using the nitrogen cycle to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Beneficial bacteria occur naturally in ponds and are the microbes responsible for processing dead organic material.

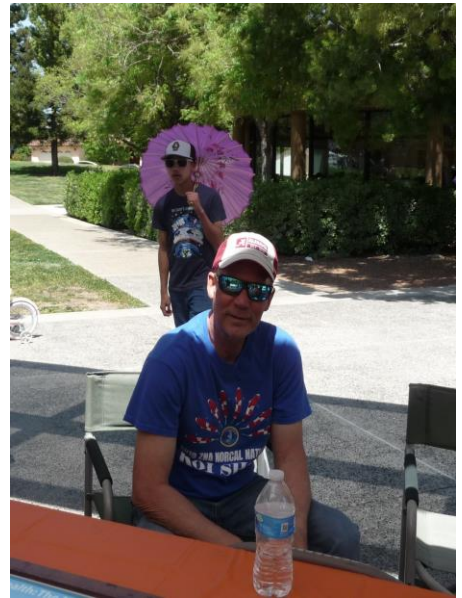


There are many different types of bacteria, which work in different ways to break down organic compounds. Aerobic bacteria use oxygen and rapidly break down organic compounds. While these types of products do not make major changes to existing ponds, they can improve water clarity and quality.

WRAP UP: Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29-30

Throughout Japan, the Cherry, or 'Sakura' tree is representative of good fortune, new beginnings and revival. Folklore says that when the Sakura spirits release their gorgeous fragrance in springtime, their gift of beauty and elegance is to be truly celebrated! Come visit us at this exceptional annual event put on by the city of Cupertino and their friends.





Thank you
volunteers!



Water Change - Springtime Water Freshening

Adding water every week or so to replenish any loss from evaporation is certainly important--but it doesn't remove the sludge, or algae-feeding nutrients, in your pond. As the water evaporates, the gunk stays behind and concentrates. Your filter does a good job removing the pollutants, but it's not always enough. A partial or complete water change in your koi pond or water garden freshens your finned pals' environment, keeping them happy and well. Here are five reasons why water changes are so important to your fish, plants and other aquatic life:



Nutrient Removal: Muck and debris buildup happens in just about every water feature. A water change manually removes any excess nutrients and chemicals like nitrates, phosphates, and ammonia that can be harmful to fish and other underwater critters.

Fish Wellness: Fresh, clean water means improved water quality, which ultimately promotes your fishes' wellness. Just as you need oxygen to thrive, your fish need clean water to thrive. Their well being is directly related to the liquid environment in which they live.

Algae Control: Pea soup and string algae feed on all that decomposing waste, which they use as fertilizer. By removing those excess nutrients in the water column with a water change, you can discourage the growth of algae.

Fights Foam: Foam forms when excess organic material has accumulated in your water garden. When this nutrient-laden water pours down your waterfall, the air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. A water change will quickly reduce that foamy buildup.

Clears Water, Stabilizes pH: A water change will also improve the appearance of cloudy water and maintain pH levels, resulting in a pristine pond filled with happy fish, lush greenery, and clean water.



To keep stress levels down among your fish, we recommend doing partial water changes as soon as water temperatures reach 50° F. In addition, be sure to add some Stress Reducer Plus and Nature's Defense to your water. The Stress Reducer Plus forms a beneficial slime coat on your fish and makes tap water safe for them and Nature's Defense will further reduce ammonia and digest dead organics in the pond, such as phosphates and nitrogen.

Reference: [The Pond Guy](http://www.thepondguy.com/learning-center/5-reasons-why-water-changes-are-important), www.thepondguy.com/learning-center/5-reasons-why-water-changes-are-important

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 size/types of Koi are eligible for the club's Koi of the Year contest. The koi entries need to be kept by a current club member. 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

Our board meeting was making plans for the upcoming Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 29 – 30th. The Board in lieu of its regular meeting, met April 1 at the ZNA Koi show, since all board members came out to volunteer over the two day event. Thank you. Our support to the ZNA Norcal club was much appreciated and those who volunteered will be invited to a special gathering hosted by the ZNA later this summer. Details to follow.

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

Update: The Associated Koi Club's of America (AKCA) is now defunct. Their KOI USA magazine was discontinued in 2021. We are sorry to see this organization cease to exist. The board is reviewing insurance options for the club. 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 2023 to June 2024. 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