

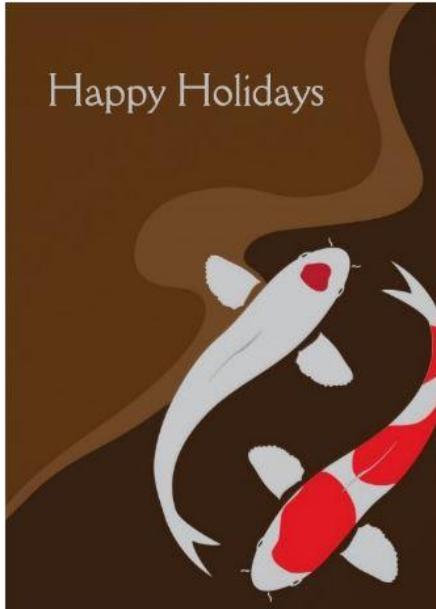


# Splash

**Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club, Volume 40, No. 11 – November 2023**

## **SCVKWG “Members Only” Holiday Luncheon**

**Sunday, December 3rd, 1 PM - 4 PM**



Come celebrate this year's successful season of pond keeping, water gardening, and aquaponics at our “Members Only” Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction, Sunday, December 3<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Members bring beverages and desserts to share. The club will provide lunch with an Italian theme for the meal. Don't forget to bring cash / checkbook for the silent auction items, if interested.

If you have a donation for the fundraiser let us know ahead of time and bring it to the social for the silent auction. Items that are not auctioned off at the event will be offered on a first come, first serve basis via an informative email following the event which will go out to our membership and friends. We also collect new, unwrapped toy donations for the Toys for Tots program. Questions / donations / other? Email [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

*THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE CLUB IN 2023.*

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## **Upcoming Events**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Nov    | Club Elections / Planning for 2024                         |
| Dec 3  | “Members Only” Luncheon, 1 PM, Members Residence, San Jose |
| Jan 16 | General Meeting, 7:30 PM via Zoom                          |
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**Visit us on the web: [www.sckoi.com](http://www.sckoi.com)**

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

*At our events we get acquainted with members and guests, address pond issues, and enjoy discussions on Koi and water garden related topics. The club meets regularly year-round. During the summer season the club hosts socials in lieu of meetings, occasionally we have outings to places of interest. Visit the club's website for updated information on meetings, socials, and events – [www.sckoi.com](http://www.sckoi.com). Guests welcome to visit, but we ask that they pay dues if attending regularly. Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden club is a non-profit organization and has existed since 1984.*

## Presidents Corner

Happy Thanksgiving,

So glad for those who attend our last general meeting of 2023 October 17<sup>th</sup> where we had our Q &A for pond issues, welcomed new members, and talked about new ways to automate pond chores.



Another end-of-season item is our club election which will take place no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>. Each membership gets a vote. We welcome members to become more involved with the internal workings of the club by joining the board. We meet monthly and plan and prepare for club activities and events year round. The current slate of officers has graciously agreed to serve through the 2024 term. The club membership sincerely appreciates all that the club board does now and throughout the year. Without their commitment and dedication we would simply not have a club.

Now for the fun news, we are going to have a “Members Only” luncheon Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM to come together and celebrate this past season of Koi keeping and friendship. Members are asked to bring beverages and desserts, the club will provide the mail meal. RSVP no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com). We will also have a silent auction for donated items, along with a collection for Toys for Tots. We welcome donations which are tax deductible, we are a 5013c non-profit organization.

As always, if you have any questions about Koi, ponds, or water gardening we are available to help.

*Happy Koi Keeping,*

Eve Bretzke

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## Slate of Officers – 2024

***And the nominees are:***

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



***Election in progress – Members vote via email on or before Tuesday, November 30th. If there are those in the membership who are able to take a larger role in 2024, reach out.***

# SCVKWG "Members Only" Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023: 1 PM

Come celebrate this year's successful season of pond keeping, water gardening, and aquaponics at our annual Holiday Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser, Sunday, December 3<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Bring beverages, and desserts to share. The club will provide the main dishes and fixings. If you have a donation for the fundraiser let us know ahead of time. Donations are tax deductible.



We also will be collecting new, unwrapped toy donations for the Toys for Tots program again this year.

RSVP by December 1<sup>st</sup> to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).



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## Pond Leaves, Bacteria, and Cold Water...

Natural bacteria will do a great job breaking down the fallen leaves in your pond or lake – but only when water temperatures are above 50° F. Take your pond's temperature with a pond thermometer; as long as your water is at or above that 50° F mark, keep using microorganisms in products that will continue to work hard to break down organic debris.

### ***Bacteria slows in winter (cold water)***

There are some things you can do to keep your pond looking its best as the cooler weather approaches.

Rake Up the Leaves: As powerful as natural bacteria are, they will still take a long time to break down fresh leaves that blow into your pond. Help those microorganisms out by raking up and disposing of as many leaves as possible.

Rake Out the Leaves: If they do float into your pond, use a rake to skim and rake leaves out of your pond. If an abundance of leaves remain in the pond, the leaves break down and will release toxic gases that edge out available oxygen – and that's bad news for your fish.

Aerate All Winter: Keep your aeration system running to circulate the water and keep your oxygen levels higher for better fish health and less sludge build up.

Maintain Your Landscape: In addition to raking up leaves around your pond, keep the foliage around your pond maintained. Prevent excess organic debris from getting into the pond and turn into algae and pond weed fertilizer. There's no way to fully prevent leaves from falling into your pond – but the fewer that do, the better



Source: Pond Guy newsletter, edited.

## Do-It-Yourself Backyard Aquaponics Systems

*Backyard aquaponics is emerging as more people wish to experiment with being their own farmer, what will you grow this season?*

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## IWGS Members Benefits for Club Members

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.

The IWGS database currently comprises over 3,000 plant names, and more than 1,000 photographs, continues to grow, with new varieties being added constantly.



*IWGS documents and shares knowledge of waterlilies, lotuses and other aquatic plants. Visit [www.iwgs.org](http://www.iwgs.org) for more information and images of waterlilies and water gardening.*

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## 2023 Club Business

Next board meeting scheduled for December 5 at 7:30 PM. This meeting will wrap up 2023 and plan for 2024. In the meantime, we are looking for Koi and water gardening themed items for our silent auction. Donations to the club are tax deductible. Thank you to our membership and friends who provide support year round with dues and sponsorships. You are appreciated.

Research shows people join koi clubs hoping to get more enjoyment from their hobby. With regard to club meetings, members generally like two things best: Learning about things that can improve their enjoyment of Koi and related topics and socializing with others who enjoy the hobby. If you have an idea or suggestion, 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.

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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](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

Business card size	\$ 40 per year
Quarter page size	\$100 per year
Half page size	\$150 per year