



# Splash

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club - Volume 40, Number 1, January 2024

**Happy 2024!**

***The club is on Winter Break until Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> which will be our next General Meeting at 7:30 PM.***

As we settle into a new year of Koi keeping, water gardening, and DIY aquaponics your board is actively planning for the season ahead. There are many interesting events and activities that are coming this spring and summer. We hope our membership and friends make it out to support these efforts in our community and our club.



The club plans to participate in the annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 27-28. This is a fun, family friendly event held at Quinlan Center / Memorial Park in Cupertino each year where there are many interesting cultural and arts exhibits. The club has a booth and hosts a display of Koi and highlights the club's activities to the public. We are in need of volunteers for this event. Preparing for the annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 27-28 will be our topic for the March Meeting along with our usual Q&A and other items of interest.

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## Upcoming Events

Feb	No Meeting in February – Winter Break
Mar 19	General Meeting: Preparations for the Cherry Blossom Festival
Mar 22-23	All American Koi Show, Las Vegas, NV – NEW KOI SHOW IN USA
Apr 6-7	ZNA Northern California Koi Show, San Jose –Wyndham Garden Silicon Valley
Apr 16	General Meeting: Spring Shows / Cherry Blossom Festival Preparations
Apr 29-30	Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – Club hosts booth

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***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

Cheers,

2023 is a wrap! Your editor was out of commission with a bad cold last month so we missed the December edition ... we will try to catch up in this edition.

The club held our annual Holiday Social December 3<sup>rd</sup> hosted by our fellow members Maus and Cece. We enjoyed a wonderful time with lots of good Italian food, friends, and a tour of our host's beautiful Koi pond. We were blessed with good weather and another great year of friendship and fun. Oh yeah, we also enjoyed the 49er game on the big screen – looks like they are going to the Super Bowl.

We had our election for club officers last month. The board has graciously agreed to serve through the 2024 term. Members who would like to become more involved with the club let me know.

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.

Reminder: All of the 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

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### ***Have a Story for Our Newsletter?***

SCVKWG invites you to share content for a future edition of our newsletter! 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).

***Bad Joke of the Month:*** Q. Who is the most famous fish spy? A. James Pond.

# 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.

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.*

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## Did you know?

Butterfly Koi originated from cross-breeding fish as the result of Japanese breeders interbreeding wild Indonesian longfin river carp with their traditional koi to increase hardiness.

Longfin (butterfly) Koi have longer fins, longer barbels and pompom nostrils, and are thought to be more hardy than regular koi.

Longfin koi are also called Dragon Koi, or Hirenaga(goi).

Well and tap water contain little or no oxygen. Aeration is recommended when adding from these sources. Tap water will also require dechlorination to make it safe for fish and biology of pond.

*Source: Irrigation & Green Industry Newsletter*

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## Pond and Water Garden Prep for Winter Weather

### Feeding Koi:

The pond water temperature is dropping now and our is now reading at 60°F so now is the time to adjust not only the amount of koi food but also the type of koi food. It is recommended to switch to a low protein diet as the water temperature drops. Watch your koi's appetite it will change, cooler water means a lower metabolism for the koi. Feeding a wheat germ diet is highly recommended and you can read the food labels on the packages to ensure the protein is 32% or less, cut back on feeding, also it is recommended to stop feeding after water temperatures drop to 50°F or below. Invest in a pool or pond water thermometer to track the temperature.

### **Tree Debris:**

Keeping your pond clear of tree debris should be a priority, as the weather is changing and wind and rain can blow leaves and branches into the pond which can cause damage to a pond liner. If your pond is around any large trees that shed a lot of leaves, it is recommended to cover the pond with netting to catch the leaves and debris. This will also keep your pond clear of leaves falling to the bottom and causing water toxicity. Also take care of plants around the pond, cutting back any dead branches that could fall inside the pond.



Leaves will change the chemistry of your water. They not only add tannins to the water, discoloring your pretty pond, they lower pH to perhaps dangerous levels. Monitor pond parameters and do water testing during winter. Keep leaves out of the pond for a better spring.

### **Pond Equipment:**

This is a good time to do any pond maintenance on your pond as since the water temperatures are cold; your fish are eating less, creating less waste. So check your equipment to see if anything is leaking, cracked hoses, and pumps not working efficiently. Now is the time to do any remodeling while the fish get ready to go into hibernation. Even though the fish are not eating as much, water changes should still be happening but less frequently. Problems are more difficult to fix in colder weather. Check your pond equipment before winter arrives.

#### **Leaks and Evaporation:**

Be aware should the water level recede. Watch that it doesn't recede to a dangerous level. Water changes and top-offs are perfectly acceptable during the winter months. Use a dechlorinator when doing a small top-off.

### **Koi Care:**

Keep an eye on your koi fish, do not neglect any sores on the koi, even though it is cold does not mean they cannot injure themselves or sores will still happen, especially if anything sharp lands in the pond and they brush up against it.

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## **2024 Club Business**

No newsletter was published for December, our editor was out sick. The last board meeting was held December 6th.

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

The club is holding steady year over year with membership, finances, and volunteers for our planned schedule of activities and events planned for 2024 including socials, meet ups and meetings.

# Our Sponsors

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## Sponsorships Available:

Rates include an advertisement in the monthly club newsletter, website, and other publications for one year. 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	\$35 per year
Quarter page size	\$95 per year
Half page size	\$125 per year