



Splash

Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club – Vol. 40, No. 2, February 2024

Winter Break in Progress!

SCVKWG is on Winter Break until Tuesday, March 19th, which is our next General Meeting, 7:30 PM (via zoom).

The club has been quiet for the winter season since January. We are regrouping for March. The February focus of your board has been planning for 2024 and preparing for upcoming events. We are resting up now so we will be fresh as spring when all of us get out and enjoy all that we do.



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.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 19 General Meeting: Preparations for the Cherry Blossom Festival and Spring Shows
- Mar 22-23 All American Koi Show, Las Vegas, NV – NEW KOI SHOW IN USA
- Apr 1-2 15th Annual ZNA NorCal Koi Show, 399 Silicon Valley Road, San Jose
- Apr 16 General Meeting: Spring Shows / Cherry Blossom Festival Preparations
- Apr 29-30 Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – Club hosts booth

Visit us on the web at: 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

Hello everyone,

The club has been quiet for the winter season since our end of year gatherings. We are regrouping for March and the opening of the spring season. February's focus has been planning for 2024 and preparing for upcoming events. We are resting up so we can be fresh as spring when we get out and enjoy all that we do for our koi and our ponds.



Some members have asked about all the extra rainwater and how it may impact their pond's water. Rainwater does not cause pH crashes or KH drops. Rain 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. When in doubt, test your water.

Koi Shows: All American Koi Show, Las Vegas March 23-24, 2024. Book now for best rates. We are invited to be part of the excitement, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and appreciate the beauty of these magnificent fish. The first All-American Koi Show is sure to be an unforgettable experience (see page 5 for more details). The NorCal ZNA show is scheduled for April 1-2 at the Wyndham San Jose. We encourage our members and friends to attend Koi shows whenever they can. They are a great way to support our hobby and learn new things and meet interesting people.

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

Bad Joke of the Month: Q. What did the Terminator say to the Koi?

A. I'll be "Bekko"!

Sample of "Bekko" type Koi →



2024: Year of the Dragon (Koi)

2024 is year of the Dragon — long fin Koi are sometimes referred to as dragon Koi. Graceful, vibrant, and respected. Koi meaning and symbolism has become iconic with positive imagery across many art forms and cultures. Symbols of Koi strength, beauty, and perseverance, as well as love and friendship can be found worldwide. The dragon in mythology wields extensive powers – controlling rainfall, thunder, wind, tornadoes and storms. The creature’s influence lies mainly in the realm of water and weather. The realm of Koi...



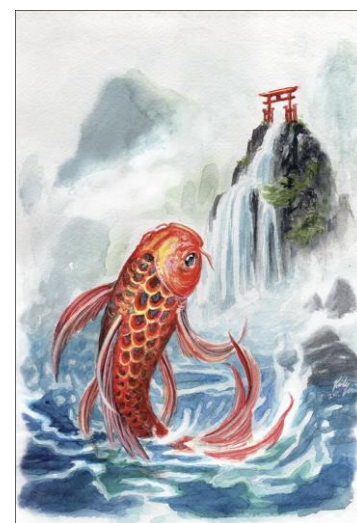
From Koi Organization International’s website, they tell the legend of the Dragon Koi...

Did you know the legend of the waterfall, where a single Koi were rewarded for its perseverance and determination and turned into a dragon? One particular legend is the Koi fish’s claim to fame. An ancient tale tells of a huge school of golden Koi swimming upstream the Yellow River in China. Gaining strength by fighting against the current, the school glimmered as they swam together through the river. When they reached a waterfall at the end of the river, many of the Koi turned back, letting the flow of the river carry

them away. The remaining Koi refused to give up. Leaping from the depths of the river, they attempted to reach the top of the waterfall to no avail. Their efforts caught the attention of local demons, who mocked their efforts and heightened the waterfall out of malice. After a hundred years of jumping, one Koi finally reached the top of the waterfall. The gods recognized the Koi for its perseverance and determination and turned it into a golden dragon, the image of power and strength.

Sources:

K.O.I. website; <https://koiorganisationinternational.org/blog-entry/how-koi-became-dragon-waterfall-legend>



IWGS Affiliate Membership – Member Benefit

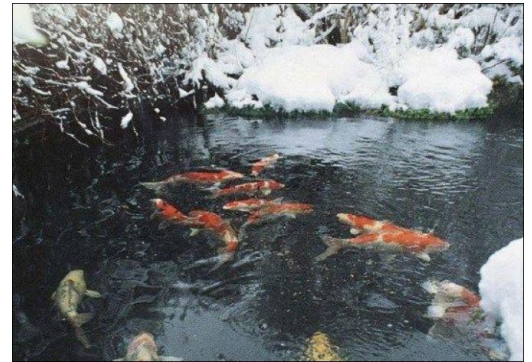


The IWGS international fellowship of water gardeners includes new water gardeners keen to learn. Our club membership includes an affiliate membership with IWGS.

If you are interested in learning more or accessing IWGS content email info@sckoi.com for access credentials.

Winter Pond Maintenance Checklist

Keep up with maintenance between storms, and your pond will flow into springtime without major issues. Rainwater does not cause pH crashes or KH drops. Rain 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. When in doubt, test your water.



Here is a list of items to check on:

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- ✓ Remove some leaves and debris if possible
 - ✓ Do 15-20% water change, your pond is going to sit idle for many months
 - ✓ Give your fish a good footing by changing out some of that dirty, recycled water
 - ✓ Make sure to use a dechlorinator to detoxify chlorine from the water and sodium bicarbonate to raise and buffer the pH
 - ✓ Install an aeration system to release noxious gases
 - ✓ Install a pond net, adding a net keeps leaves, debris and predators from getting in the pond
 - ✓ Switch to a low protein diet when water temperature drops
 - ✓ Keep pond clear of debris
 - ✓ Water changes and top-offs are often needed during the winter months
 - ✓ Use a dechlorinator when doing a small top-offs
 - ✓ Don't forget to check your Koi for issues.
 - ✓ Winter is when issues arise due to cooler conditions and water quality problems
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2024 Club Business

The last board meeting was held December 6th. The club has been on break since December's activities. Next board meeting scheduled for March 5, 2024 @ 7:30 PM. The club is holding steady year over year with membership, finances, and volunteers. We are planning a schedule of activities for 2024 including socials, shows, meet ups, and community outreach.

There are several events of interest for Koi enthusiasts soon... we have local events such as ZNA and Cherry Blossom Festival, and now there is a new All American Koi Show taking place in Las Vegas March 23-24. Some of the members plan to be in attendance and will report back. Don't forget as a member of our club each member gets access to the International Water Gardening & Waterlily Society (IGWS) we get special access to their content and events.

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. We are planning on having our annual booth at the upcoming Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival being held April 27-28, 2024. Each day we need a minimum of eight (8) volunteers to assist with activities and attendee interaction.

All-American Koi Show in Las Vegas

March 23 – 24, 2024, The Silverton Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Whether you're a seasoned hobbyist or new to the world of koi, this show offers a unique opportunity to discover the rich cultural heritage and beauty of these iconic fish. With knowledgeable experts on hand and some of the finest specimens in the country, you'll be able to learn about their care and breeding, and marvel at their stunning colors and intricate patterns. Free to attend, vendor space available, Koi competition with Japanese judging and awards.

We invite you to come and be part of the excitement of koi keeping, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and appreciate the beauty of these magnificent fish. No matter your age, the All-American Koi Show is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

Love Koi? Join us at The All-American Koi Show on March 23-24, 2024, at Silverton Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. Here's why:

Marvel at Stunning Koi: Experience an awe-inspiring display of vibrant Koi at their best. Top breeders showcase their finest specimens, creating a captivating living art canvas.

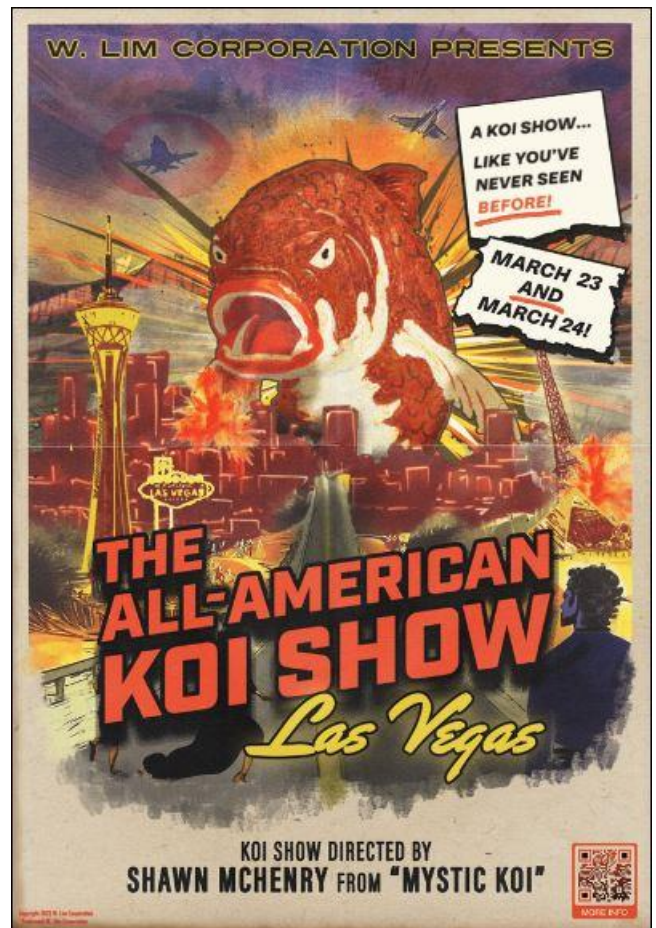
Connect with Koi Enthusiasts: Join a thriving Koi community to swap stories, learn, and make lifelong friendships. Whether you're a pro or a newbie, enjoy the warm and welcoming Koi atmosphere.

Learn from Koi Experts: Discover Koi care secrets from experts at the show. Gain insights on water quality, feeding habits, and more to care for your own school of Koi.

Shop for Koi Treasures: Explore a shopper's paradise with a variety of Koi-related products and services. From equipment to unique Koi-themed treasures, find it all here.

Enjoy Vegas Beyond Koi: Make it a memorable weekend in Las Vegas! Explore the Strip, indulge in gourmet dining, or try your luck at the casino. The Silverton Hotel provides an exciting backdrop. The All-American Koi Show is more than an event; it's a celebration of art, community, and knowledge. Whether you're a devoted Koi keeper or just curious, this show has something for everyone. Dive into the Koi world on March 23-24, 2024. The Show is Free for Attendees, SEE YOU HERE!

Note: Several of our members plan to attend. Book your hotel by February 22 for the best rate. Call the Silverton direct if you can't get rate via online booking.



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Sponsorships Available:

Rates include advertisement in the monthly club newsletter The SPLASH, on club website, plus other publications that the club may produce for one year. Current advertising term runs July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. To begin or renew an existing sponsorship contact our newsletter editor at info@sckoi.com.

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