



# Splash

*Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club – Vol. 40, No. 3, March 2024*

## March into Spring...

**General Meeting, Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**  
(via zoom – email will be sent to members; Guests please email [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com) for meeting access).

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.

***We have news on the local NorCal ZNA Koi Show that is usually held in April each year. This year's show has been cancelled and is not expected to be rescheduled for this year.***



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 plans to host a booth with a cultural display of Koi to promote the club's activities to the public. We are in need of volunteers for this event.

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## Upcoming Events

- Mar 19      General Meeting: 7:30 PM via Zoom. Topic: Preparations for the Cherry Blossom Festival and Spring events. For Zoom access credentials, RSVP to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).
- Mar 22-23    All American Koi Show, Las Vegas, Nevada – NEW KOI SHOW IN USA
- Mar (late)    Hanami at Hakone Gardens, Saratoga, CA – check out their website for information
- Apr 16      General Meeting: Spring Shows / Cherry Blossom Festival Preparations
- Apr 29-30    Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino – Club hosting booth w/ activities

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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



Hello members and friends,

Welcome springtime... it is nice to have the extra daylight and warmer temperatures ... a bit more sunshine brightens up a day. Get out there and check in on your pond and Koi.

This is good time to address any issues that may have arose over the winter months and get algae and debris under control before the warm up that is on its way. Water quality is important. If in doubt, test water for pH, ammonia, nitrites/nitrates/ KH and any other chemicals in the water. If you haven't done a water change all winter, this may be a good time. Be sure to have dechlorinator on hand and restock any pond / koi supplies that may have been used up over the past season. Koi can be fed a little once water temperature stays above 55 degrees.

## Koi Shows:

All American Koi Show, Las Vegas March 23-24, 2024. 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.

The NorCal ZNA show scheduled for April 1-2 at the Wyndham San Jose has been cancelled. We understand how difficult it is to run a first-class event and how many volunteer hours are needed. We hope that the ZNA NorCal show returns in 2025.

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.** Why don't Koi like to play basketball?

**A.** They are afraid of nets...



# All-American Koi Show in Las Vegas

March 23 – 24, 2024, 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.

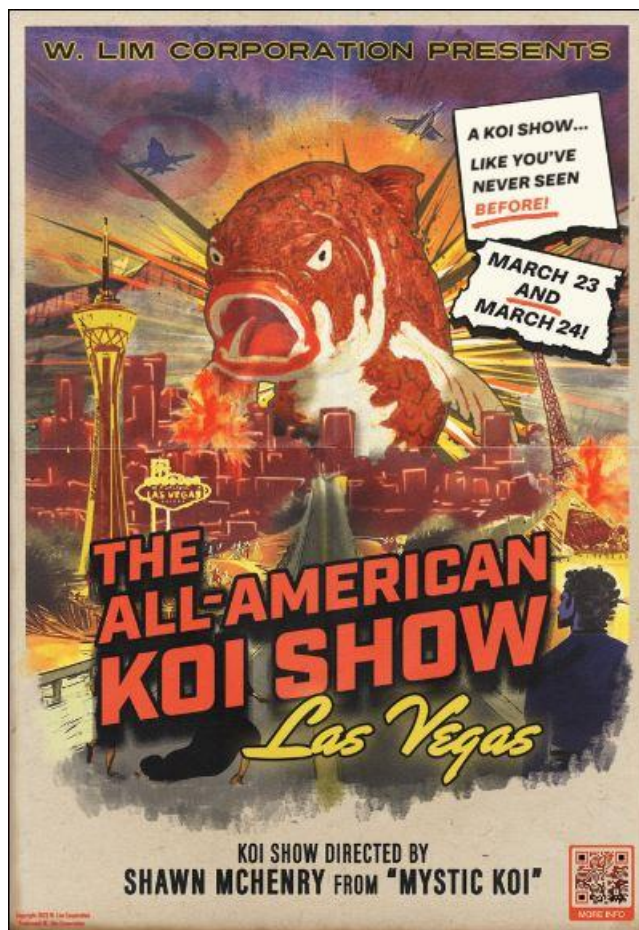
**Connect with Koi Enthusiasts:** Join a thriving Koi community to swap stories, learn, and make lifelong friendships. Whether you're a pro or a newbie, enjoy the warm and welcoming Koi atmosphere.

**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. If you would like to attend the club's hospitality event at the show Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, send us an email to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com) with your contact information.*



# What is Turbidity in Pond Water?

Turbidity is the measure of relative clarity of a liquid and how much light can pass through a water sample. The term is used to describe ponds in which particulates are suspended for a prolonged period, causing water to look muddy or cloudy. Turbidity is most commonly seen in ponds with soft clay bottoms or in ponds where erosion and runoff are common factors.



## Turbidity Explained

Turbidity is the measure of relative clarity of a liquid and how much light can pass through a water sample. The term is used to describe ponds in which particulates are suspended for a prolonged period, causing water to look muddy or cloudy. Turbidity is most commonly seen in ponds with soft clay bottoms or in ponds where erosion and runoff are common factors.

A pond is considered turbid if you are unable to see past the top two feet of water. Beyond an unattractive appearance, turbidity blocks sunlight and lowers oxygen in the water, which can harm aquatic life in the pond.

## What Causes Turbidity?

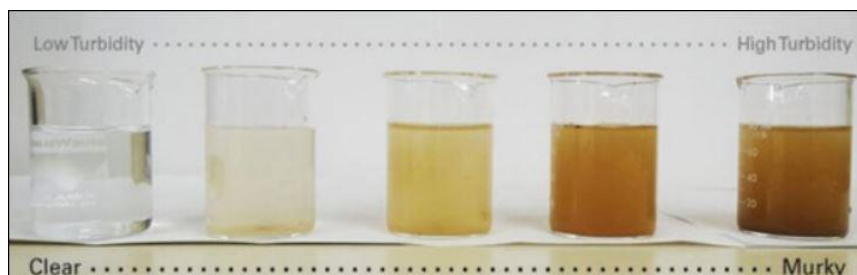
Many things can cause turbidity in a pond. In some areas, it may just be the chemical makeup of the water and soil that just don't mix well. In some ponds, very fine clay particles never settle. Weather can also affect pond clarity, especially storms with heavy rain and wind.

In other ponds, turbidity may be caused by wildlife that causes erosion. A pond can get stirred up by ducks or geese, catfish, Koi, and other creatures that root along the bottom, creating constant re-suspension of the sediment.

Excessive nutrients and phosphates can also lead to water clarity issues. Phosphates come into a pond from decaying organic matter and storm runoff, which carries fertilizers and other contaminants. There is no one cause of turbid water, which makes it a difficult problem to resolve. In many cases there is nothing a pond owner can do to help your water clarity, but there are some measures that may help.

## How to Clear a Turbid Pond

**Do a jar test** is an important step in determining what is causing your turbid pond and whether the sediment will settle when undisturbed for a time. It's simple to do. Take a clear glass jar, dunk it into your pond, fill it with water, cap it, and keep it in the dark. We recommend letting your jar sit for about a week to see the full results. Observe the water from the top down as well as from the side.



(continued)

**Control Phosphates:** If during the jar test your water remains murky and cloudy it may be a sign of high levels of phosphates. Runoff, lawn fertilizers, and animal waste are among the most significant contributors to extremely high levels of phosphates.

**Control Environment Factors:** If the water clears during the jar test, your pond is turbid because of environmental factors. You will need to determine what those factors are and if you can control them. If you have determined that your murky pond is due to excessive erosion, you can plant grasses and trees to control erosion, wind, and storm runoff. If creatures are causing problems, you can remove or adjust access. There is only so much you can do to control animals in and around your pond.

**Add Gravel & Bottom-Growing Vegetation:** If you have determined that suspended clay is causing turbidity in your pond, consider adding stones or pea-grave to the bottom. Allow Chara and other bottom-growing plants to root. The addition of gravel and plants will help settle your pond bottom and clear the water. If you have bottom-feeders such as Koi, however, they may keep clay particles in suspension.

**Suggestions for treating turbidity:** Add aeration to your pond. Turbid ponds have lower oxygen saturation, and plant and animal life will suffer as a result. Adding oxygen won't clear your turbid pond, but it will boost beneficial bacterial activity and increase water clarity. Do not treat too fast, rapid adjustments can negatively affect oxygen saturation and kill fish.

In some ponds, even the best treatment may be temporary. Turbidity is a challenging problem to overcome. However, if you have worked to address the root cause of your turbidity and taken steps to proactively treat your pond, your treatment will be more effective.

Source: *The Pond Guy* article (edited for length) from website.

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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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## 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](mailto:info@sckoi.com).

<b>Business card size</b>	<b>\$35 per year</b>
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