



# Splash

*Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club – Vol. 40, No. 5, May 2024*

## May 2024 Newsletter

**General Meeting, Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 PM** (via zoom – email will be sent to members). Guests email at least 30 minutes prior to meeting time access to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com).



Our meeting focus this month will be our May program along with our usual Q&A and social time. The club turns 40 this year and our annual membership drive will begin in June and run through July. Membership is \$50 per household (up to 2 adults; 2 children).

The club participated in the annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 27-28, 2024. We had a blast at the fun, family friendly event held in

Cupertino each year with many interesting cultural and arts exhibits. We hosted a booth with a cultural display of Koi to promote the club's activities to the public.



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## Upcoming Events

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|-----------|---|
| May 21    | <u>General Meeting</u> : 7:30 PM via Zoom. Topic: May Program. For online meeting access, RSVP to <a href="mailto:info@sckoi.com">info@sckoi.com</a> at least 30 minutes before meeting time. |
| Jun / Jul | Annual Membership Drive- Join or Renew Soon– Dues now \$50 per year.  |
| Jul 16    | IWGS Symposium, Reading, England, <a href="http://www.iwgs.org/symposium">http://www.iwgs.org/symposium</a>   |
| Jul 7     | National Koi Day  |
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**Visit us on the web at: [www.sckoi.com](http://www.sckoi.com)**

Started in 1984, we are a non-profit organization that provides a community for koi keepers and water gardeners that fosters greater understanding and appreciation for these fine hobbies. Through our publications, pond tours, and meetings, we educate, support and share knowledge in a friendly, sociable environment. We assist with fish rescue, care, and development of aquatic animals and plants and are a resource to our community for these areas of interest. We have monthly meetings with interesting speakers and topics. Visit our website for the latest information about events and activities at [www.sckoi.com](http://www.sckoi.com).

## Presidents Corner

Hello members and friends,

I want to start this month's message by thanking all our wonderful volunteers, some club members, some friends of the club. Without your dedication and support we would not have been able to promote and share our club's activities with many, many people at the recent Cherry Blossom Festival held April 27 and April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Memorial Park (across from DeAnza College).



The event 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 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.

We look forward to our meeting coming up on May 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be fun to meet up and share more about our biggest event of the year and what a success it was. And, we look forward to sharing our upcoming program of events for the season. We are also preparing our line up of pond socials so if you would like to host the club at your pond, let us know.

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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## Some things to remember about Koi keeping...

- Koi take patience – you can't rush their growth
- Pond depth is valuable to help control temperature
- Examine your fish frequently to insure they are free from abrasions, diseased scales, or parasites – treat regularly for parasites – all ponds have parasites sooner or later
- Pumps must be run 24 hours a day to insure good health and growth of the fish
- Some fish turn out great and some do not. There is no substitute for good blood lines.
- Test your water supply for salt content before you add any salt to the pond water
- Check with other club members when you have questions

Source: AKCA – *Practical Koi Keeping*



# Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival Highlights

April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>, Cupertino, California – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Festival

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 next year at this exceptional annual event put on by the city of Cupertino and their friends.

We were happy to represent our Koi community at this fun and friendly festival, especially this year. Thank you to the Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities group for organizing the festival. Thank you to all our volunteers! We had hundreds and hundreds of people come through our booth this year. We are so glad that we were able to participate





## Visitors at the Waters Edge: Night Herons



There have been sightings of these birds around our area and they are known to take fish, and even take Koi. If you have noticed smaller fish (under 12 inches) disappearing overnight you may have a Night Heron visiting your pond. Juveniles have been especially active this spring season.

**Description:** up to 25 inches tall; medium-sized, stocky heron with short, thick neck and red eyes. Adult heron has black crown and back, white forehead, gray wings, pale gray underside. Bill is black and legs are yellow. Juveniles are streaked gray-brown below and have white spots on their wings and small white streaks on their back. Legs are greenish yellow, bill with yellow at the base.



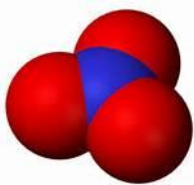
Older immatures are plainer gray brown above and pale gray-buff below. They make a “kwak” or ‘quark’ sound. Slow moving and motionless for extended periods of time before striking fish, frog, or other prey. This species is one of the world's most widespread herons.

**Why now:** Working theory is that when they drained Vasona Lake for maintenance recently it caused the Night Herons to broaden their area for hunting. The birds nest in larger groups and especially like groves of trees, a favorite being Eucalyptus groves.

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## KP 101, The Nitrate Cycle

by Bob Haugland, KHA, Camilia Koi Club



I first heard of the Nitrate Cycle a couple of decades ago when I was into angelfish/aquariums. Some pond folk call it the Ammonia Cycle, which is probably a better name for it. This cycle applies to our ponds, fresh and salt water aquariums, and even water reclamation plants where they take your toilet water and clean it up. In koi pond talk, it's the bio-filter that does the job. The word 'bio-filter' is, in my opinion, a misnomer. 'Filter' implies that something is being collected and removed. 'Bio-converter' is a better word for what happens. So here's what happens: You toss a handful of koi kibble into the pond and these little buggers just about kill each other to get as much as they can. They chew it up and swallow it and convert as much as they can into koi parts. The rest is waste. Koi pee and poop and the poop falls to the bottom and whether or not it ends up in the filter, it decomposes and becomes something else, like ammonia. Have you ever changed a diaper that was long overdue? Ammonia! Believe it or not, most of the ammonia produced comes from the koi's gills. Just swimming around, sucking in water, breathing out ammonia. This is where the ammonia cycle comes in. There's a biological reaction here that makes your Bio-converter clean up your pond water. Here's how it works: Koi eat food and make Ammonia... Ammonia is eaten by Nitrites...Nitrites are eaten by Nitrates. You can imagine it's like a PacMan game going on in your bio-converter. The little AmmoniaMans are running around causing trouble

so the little NitriteMans are running around trying to Eat the AmmoniaMans. But wait! The NitriteMans aren't even the game winning guys so you have to send in the NitrAteMans to eat the NitriteMans. Confused yet?

NitrAtes are the good guys. I've put the capital A in there to make sure that you see the difference between NitrAtes (the good guys), and Nitrites (the bad guys). So NitrAtes eat the Nitrites, which eat Ammonia. When you have all of these things in the proper amounts doing the proper things, your bio-converter is said to be 'inbalance'. You will have enough NitrAtes that are eating the right amount of Nitrites so that your Nitrite test reads zero. Even though your test reads zero, there are still just enough Nitrites in the pond to eat the Ammonia so that you get a zero when you test for Ammonia. Even the test kit color chart is in this order: Ammonia should be zero because the Nitrites ate it all, and also reads zero because the NitrAtes ate all of those guys (Readings should be in the 40 – 200 range). In the winter your bio-converter slowed down and some of the good and bad bacteria have died off. Now that it's spring, you might be feeding your fish more than your bio-converter can convert because it doesn't awaken as fast as the Koi do. If you've tested the water and your bio-converter is a little out of balance, cut back on the Koi kibble for a couple of weeks, or maybe even a month and see if that helps.

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## 2024 Club Business

We kicked off our spring season with the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival April 27 & 28th. The Board held its regular meeting May 7 at 7:30 PM. Next board meeting is scheduled for June 4 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Get your camera, take a photo of your favorite Koi and enter the club's Koi of the Year contest. Entries should be received no later than June 15th, 2024 – Winner announced in July 2024 edition of Splash and will be listed on the club's "Koi of the Year" webpage. Must be a member in good standing to win.

The board is still in need of club insurance. We may have to scale back activities until this matter can be resolved. We have a few options and hope to finalize for our summertime season. We are also looking for hosts for our summer socials and/or events. If you are interested in hosting or have an idea for the group, let us know.

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## Koi of the Year Contest 2024 – 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. Must be a member in good standing to win.



Entries should be received no later than June 15th, 2024 – Winner announced in July 2024 edition of Splash and will be listed on the club's "Koi of the Year" webpage.

Send an email to [info@sckoi.com](mailto:info@sckoi.com) with photo including name / date / approximate size / age of Koi and the classification i.e. Kohaku, Sanke, Showa, etc....all types of Koi are allowed. Two entries per membership/household.

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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).

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