



Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club – Vol. 40, No. 6, Summer 2024

Santa Clara Valley Koi & Water Garden Club is 40!!

Our club has provided a community for DIY Koi keepers, water gardeners, and aquaponic enthusiasts that fosters greater understanding and appreciation of these fine and eco-friendly hobbies in San Jose and the greater South Bay Area.

Thank you to the many, many members, supporters, and friends over the past forty years. We started out as a small group of koi keepers who met monthly at each others ponds for fellowship and information on the many aspects of koi keeping, pond building /maintenance and water gardening.

Today we continue that tradition along with our other club activities. July is our membership drive – renew or join today. See you at and upcoming event or meeting.



Upcoming Events

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| Jul | Annual Membership Drive In Progress- Join / Renew Today – Dues \$50. |
| Jul 16 | IWGS Symposium, Reading, England, http://www.iwgs.org/symposium |
| Jul 27 | Pond Social: Saturday between 11 AM and 2 PM, San Jose, CA
RSVP to info@sckoi.com by July 22 nd . |
| Aug | Pond Social: Willow Glen location, more details as available |
| Sep 17 | General Meeting |

Visit us on the web at: 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.

Presidents Corner

Happy Summertime,

Hope all of you are doing well, keeping cool, and enjoying the ponds and gardens right now.



July's social is on Saturday July 27th between 11 AM and 2 PM. We will visit one of our member's ponds in San Jose (Santa Teresa area). RSVP requested by July 22 to info@sckoi.com. Members and their guests are invited.

Speaking of memberships, July is when we have our annual membership drive and we encourage all members to renew, and for new members to join. Dues help the club provide regular meetings, events, and Koi community support. Thank you to all those who have renewed or are new members. Welcome.

As a reminder, there are no general meetings in July or August. Our next general meeting is September 17 at 7:30 PM. We will also have a general meeting October 15th.

We are also planning our next social for August and will be sharing that information soon. Your board continues to work on planning future events and keeping club business moving forward. If you or someone in the club would like to volunteer to host a social, please let me know.

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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2024-2025 Membership Drive – Join/Renew Today

Its Time For Our Annual Membership Drive which covers from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 – Club dues are \$50.00 per year per household.

To join / renew , send name and contact information with dues to: SCVKWG, PO Box 54368, San Jose, CA 95154.

You also pay dues online using Zelle. email info@sckoi.com for instructions and Zelle identifier. We are a 501c3 Non-profit organization



National Koi Day – July 7th

July 7th is National Koi Day. National Koi Day is to appreciate the beauty and culture attached to the Japanese Koi Fish each year. This amazing species is attached to so many significant and meaningful stories and traditions historically celebrated by its native people, and is celebrated each July 7th on the calendar. Best fishes and kisses to our koi today...



Koi of the Year Contest – Our Winners for 2024!

Each year it is our club's tradition to select a Koi of the Year from our membership. This year's entries were received an award and acknowledgement for representing the club's Koi of the Year.



Winner - Asagi



Runner up - Utsuri

Koi of the Year Winner: Marilyn Goodman

Koi of the Year Runner up: Linda Westfall

Thank you to all our entries.
Next Koi of the Year Contest in 2025.

Koi Selection Tips

By Eve Bretzke

Understanding how Koi develop will help you select young fish you may choose to keep and develop over time in your pond. Here are some basic guidelines on how to select Koi fish for your pond or water garden.

When it comes to Koi your preference for quality over quantity should become more evident as you learn more about what makes a choice specimen. When selecting a Koi to keep for you own collection it is most important that you “like” the fish.



This is purely a personal preference. Forget about whether the Koi will be a show winner. The question is do you want to own and develop the Koi. Another thing to look for is the body shape or conformation of the Koi. Is the body shape full? Does the fish look powerful and balanced in its shape: head, body, tail tube, fins.... females have fuller body shapes and are as a rule, more expensive. Males develop their colors quicker. Color balance is another element of selecting a Koi. Frequently fish will have an attractive pattern when they are smaller in size. However, what looks good today can look unbalanced when the fish increases in size.

The color of a Koi is often used when selecting fish. Base white (Shiroji) may not improve as well as other colors as a Koi is developed. Look for clean white color. Black (Sumi) can be very deep and dark on younger fish and may not be desirable. Strong black color can sometimes take over the fish and then fades later in life. When selecting Koi look for underlying black coming through on smaller fish, look for smaller spots with nice patterns. Black color on Koi expands over the fish's and can change the overall appearance as the fish grows. Red (Beni or Hi) is developed over time. Some people want to see red on the Koi when very small. What is better is consistent softer reds when the fish is small. Look for diamond patterns in the scales to get an indicator of how deep the red will become. Fish that are red and under 10 inches are likely male and may finish developing their colors early. Red as a color on Koi also tends to shrink, this is where the balanced patterns become unbalanced over time. Colors can sometimes disappear entirely.

Koi are expected to be bright with beautiful reds and deep blacks. A white koi should be pure white and not have specks of grey. Color is also an indicator of good health. Bright colors will turn dull or look greyish if Koi are in poor health or are exposed to poor water conditions. A fish that has dull color or has scales or spots that are graying might be sick or live in water that is unhealthy. So, when selecting a Koi think about what colors and patterns the fish has now, and what these colors and patterns may evolve into. If you are going to select a Koi to add to your collection make sure it is healthy and ALWAYS quarantine.

Water Plant of the Month – Canna [Canna Species]



True aquatic Cannas available in yellow, orange, and pink. They bloom all summer and have a growth height of 24-48". Cannas do well in sun to part shade in a water depth of 1 to 6" with a growth spread of 36".

Cannas are among the most colorful summer bulbs—as flamboyant as their tropical American ancestry—with ruffled spikes tapering to refined buds. These perennials come in a vast variety of color and boast immense, often-veined, paddle-shaped leaves and sheathing leafstalks in shades of green or bronze.

With their great reedy canes and palmy foliage, cannas would be magnificent even if they never bloomed. However, they keep blossoming from late spring or early summer to frost.

2024 Club Business

The past two months your president has been away and busy on personal matters. Our apologies for a slow start to our summer season. Following the Cherry Blossom Festival project that wrapped up in early May your board has put in many volunteer hours, held a successful fundraiser, and to be frank, are tired and in need of a break... that's what summer is for. We encourage the membership to step up with support for meetings, socials, and upcoming activities. The board is putting in as much time as allowed and is currently on their third or fourth terms... if you have time and are able, we would love some more participation.

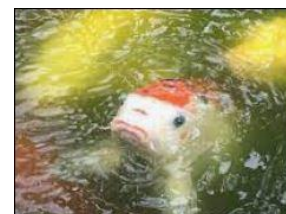
We are also looking for hosts for our summer socials and/or events. If you are interested in hosting or have an idea for the group, let us know.

In Memorial

Over the past two months the club has lost a few members (past and current) and friends. We want to take a moment and reflect on all their love and contributions to the Koi hobby / Water Gardening hobby along with their friendship and association with our club and membership. Their warmth, kindness, and passion for our hobbies will be missed but not forgotten. Missing our Koi friends -- Terry, Norreen, Bob, and Sharon.

*where has he gone . . .
his cat's tail
forms a question mark*

*rain again . . .
the moon brightens
the cloud's other side*



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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