



Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club – Vol. 40, No. 8, August 2024

Pond Social Sunday, August 25th 5 – 8 PM

Lee and Linda look forward to hosting the club's Pond Social Sunday, August 25th from 5 PM to 8 PM at their beautiful home and garden in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose.

There will be a garden tour of beautiful and exotic plants. Lee will answer questions covering the tropical garden, flowers, and Koi pond and show us some of his famed Plumeria!



Please let us know what type of dish you plan to bring. We look forward to seeing you soon. RSVP by August 22 to info@sckoi.com for event details. Space is limited.

Membership Drive – Join/Renew Today

Annual Membership Drive covers July, 2024 to June 2025. Membership dues are \$50 per household. To join / renew , send name and contact information with dues to: SCVKWG, PO Box 54368, San Jose, CA 95154. You can pay online using Zelle. Email us at info@sckoi.com for instructions and Zelle identifier. We are a 501c3 Non-profit organization. Renew or join today. See you at and upcoming event or meeting.

Upcoming Events

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| Aug | Annual Membership Drive In Progress- Join / Renew Today – Dues \$50. |
| Aug | Pond Social: Sunday, August 25 th , 5 PM to 8 PM, Willow Glen.
RSVP to info@sckoi.com by July 22 nd . |
| Sep 17 | General Meeting and/or Pond Social: More details as they become available |
| Oct 15 | General Meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 7:30 PM, via Zoom |
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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

Hello members and friends,

It's mid-August and the summer seems to be hot as ever. We have had lots of reports of algae and other heat related issues showing up in the local ponds. Algae and associated issues have been particularly difficult to keep under control.



Thank you Linda for hosting our July 24th pond social -- It was well attended, we had several new members join us, and we all enjoyed sharing pond stories, pond plants, and an abundant lunch. It really makes me happy when the club has successful events such as this. Hope to see you at our next pond social.

August's pond social is on Sunday, August 25th between 5 PM and 8 PM. We will visit one of our member's ponds in San Jose (Willow Glen area). RSVP requested by August 22 to info@sckoi.com. Members and their guests are invited.

Speaking of memberships, we are now having our annual membership drive. 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 August or November. Our next general meeting is September 17 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. We will also have a general meeting October 15th via Zoom. We have had requests from members to host more socials and meet ups. We have some ideas and we hope to share with you as we get our plans together. 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

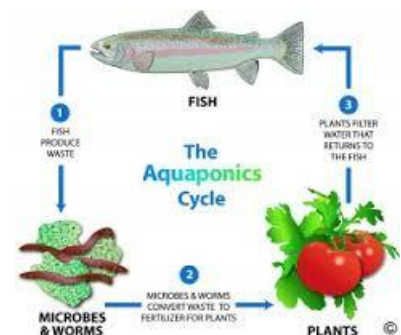
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Aquaponics 101 – Food Growing Technology

Aquaponics is a hybrid food growing technology that combines aquaculture (growing fish) and hydroponics (growing veggies in non-soil media and nutrient-laden water).

Aquaponic gardening is a complex but fun way to integrate a living ecosystem into your garden.

Aquaponics gives commercial growers and hobbyists alike the ability to experiment with the future of horticultural sustainability.



Common Pond Problems – Summer Bummers

Summer is your pond's time to shine. The weather is right, your fish are flourishing, and relaxing next to your backyard pond is the best part of your afternoon. But just like every other time of year, there are certain seasonal downfalls that you should be watching out for.

Lack of Oxygen

Because warm water has a harder time holding onto oxygen, with your fish being more active and therefore using up more oxygen, and aquatic plants using up oxygen at night, you might find that your pond is running a little low on the O₂. Try adding a pond pump for more aeration if you are having troubles with low oxygen. A major sign of low oxygen is unexplained fish deaths, particularly in your larger fish that require more oxygen. Leave your waterfalls, fountains and any other equipment that helps with aeration running 24/7 in hot weather.



Algae Overload

That warm, sunlit water is a breeding ground for algae. Green water is the most common and actually pretty harmless. To naturally control the algae, create shade over the pond surface with plants. A combination of aquatic, marginal, deep water and floating plants is best.

Too Hot to Handle

If you have already added plants to offer your pond surface some shade you are heading in the right direction. You don't want to shock your fish by adding freezing water or ice. If it is too hot, your fish likely will not want to eat. Feeding them will only add to the pollution of the pond. If they do eat in extreme temperatures they will excrete more ammonia as they require more oxygen. Basically, avoid feeding your fish during an extreme heatwave.

Filter Malfunctions

Your pond filter is working hardest in the summertime, so keep an eye on it to make sure it is in good running order. During the summer the filter is in overdrive trying to clear pollen and common green water, resulting in more waste being trapped in the media. In addition, fish are eating more and producing more waste, filling that filter even more quickly. If you go away on a summer trip, try your best to find someone to maintain your pond and keep an eye on your filter. You don't want it to go down while you're gone.

Pond Surface Buildup

The surface of a pond can build up with all sorts of junk during the summer: stray leaves or grass, dead bugs, pollen, foaming from algae treatments and residue from increased fish feeding. The quickest way to combat this is with a pond skimmer. This helps gaseous exchange, reduce mechanical and biological load and make your pond look better overall.

Your pond will thrive this summer with some regular maintenance. Keep an eye on your fish when the weather spikes, try a pond skimmer for floating debris, stop algae in its tracks and make sure your equipment is functioning properly to keep it at its best all summer long. Kick back, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of your backyard pond this season.

Source: <https://www.pondliner.com/common-summer-pond-problems>

Improve Water Quality – Keep it Clear and Clean



There's only one thing worse than green water—and that's brown water. In some ponds or water features, the end of summer or beginning of fall brings with it this discolored water. It's caused by one of two reasons:

- Debris Tea: When leaves or pine needles fall into your pond, the tannins in them create a type of all-natural debris tea, which turns the clean and clear water in your backyard feature a shade of brown. This is the most common cause of tea-colored water.

- Sediment Stew: If you have a lot of floating particulates or sediment in your pond, playful fish, wind or some other action can sometimes disrupt it, mixing it into your water column via your pump or aeration system.

To determine what's causing the brown water, grab a glass jar from your kitchen, dunk it in your pond and fill it with the water. Let it sit for 24 hours and take a close look at the results. Is the water still tea-colored? Then you have tannin-colored debris tea. Do you see sediment settled at the bottom of the glass? Then you have some sediment stew.

Once you pinpoint what's causing the brown water, here's how to treat the problem:

1. Clean It Up: Because both causes start with an abundance of organics in the water, your first course of action is to clean the bottom of your pond to remove any muck, leaves and remaining debris with a pond vacuum or skimmer net.
2. Water Change: Next, do a partial (10 to 25 percent) water change, which will freshen things up and clear the water. Don't forget to add a water conditioner to treat the water for your finned pals.
3. Add Beneficial Bacteria: If you have sediment stew add beneficial bacteria which digests any accumulated organic debris and eliminates the brown water.
4. Use Activated Carbon: If you have debris tea, toss a media bag filled with activated carbon into your pond. The carbon will absorb the tannins, leaving behind clear water.



To prevent the discoloration from happening again, keep the organics out of the pond. Clean up the muck regularly with a skimmer net or vacuum, and when the leaves or pine needles start falling, cover the water with pond netting.

Reference: thePondguy.com

Summer Blooms –Wonderful Waterlilies!



water lily, (family *Nymphaeaceae*), family of about 60 species in 4 genera of freshwater flowering plants (order *Nymphaeales*) native to the temperate and tropical parts of the world.

Water lilies provide food for fish and wildlife but sometimes cause drainage problems because of their rapid growth. Many varieties have been developed for ornamental use in garden pools and conservatories.

Photo Credit: Sharon Howard

Waterlilies shelter fish from predatory birds and the heat of the sun. They rest on the water's surface, the flowers and pads provide shade, keeping the water cooler and preventing algae that thrive in heat from growing in excess. Waterlilies are symbolic of rebirth because the flowers close at night and come back in the morning. The waterlily is also seen as a sign of enlightenment because the flowers arise out of the mud

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 for more information and images of waterlilies and water gardening.



2024 Club Business

Happy 40th Anniversary! Can you believe we have been meeting for over 40 years and talking about Koi ponds and water gardens? Crazy... "Koi Kitchi" ... we just love our hobby.

Our apologies for being less attentive this season, your board has put in many volunteer hours... we encourage the membership to help with club activities ... if you have time and are able, we could use more participation. Research shows people join koi clubs hoping to get more enjoyment from their hobby. With regard to club meetings, members generally like two things best: Learning about things that can improve their enjoyment of Koi and related topics and socializing with others who enjoy the hobby.

Our Sponsors

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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, 2024 to June 30, 2025. To begin or renew an existing sponsorship contact our newsletter editor at info@sckoi.com.

Business card size	\$45 per year
Quarter page size	\$95 per year