

# VALLEY OF THE SUN



# KOI CLUB



## Desert Koi Newsletter December 2005

### President's Message

The holiday season is upon us this means the weather is turning cold. Your Koi will slow down their metabolism, so start reducing the amount you feed them. When the water is 50 degrees stop feeding completely. You must also remove all dead plant material as this will decay on the bottom of the pond and cause a toxic build up this spring. Leading to Koi illnesses.

It is almost time for the 2006 Greater Phoenix Koi Show. Volunteers are still needed and we must have your reservations for the show tanks and banquet tickets. We have a limited supply this year and with the VENDOR DOLLAR promotion we have several reservations already. We have SOLD OUT on Vendor spaces...great job team! Check out the web site, [www.vskc.net](http://www.vskc.net) for all the details.

Cathy and I hope you all have a safe and memory filled holiday season. We look forward to you and your family joining us at Sidney and Barbara's home for the Holiday Festivities and meeting.

Sincerely, Corey Garrett VSKC President



VISIT THE NEW VALLEY OF THE SUN KOI CLUB WEB SITE



[WWW.VSKC.NET](http://WWW.VSKC.NET)

### Officers

President: Corey Garrett  
Treasure: Derek Tang  
Web Master: Tom Ayers

VP of Education: Robert Lang  
Secretary: Jeanne Taylor  
AKCA Representative: David Yee

VP & 2006 Show Chair: Frank Valdez  
2006 Show Co-Chair: Jim Crouch  
Newsletter Editor: Robin R. Patton

For those of you that are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address, please send your email address to Robin Patton at [rrpatton3@aol.com](mailto:rrpatton3@aol.com), so that we can send you future newsletters by email.

## December Holiday Club Meeting: December 18, 2005

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Host: Sidney Sexson and  
Barbara Tower

Time 2:00P

Location:



**Please RSVP to Sidney or Barbara**

Phone:

**You need to bring a dish or desert for 6**

Education Topic: Judging Gin Rin Show by  
Robbie McCleney RSVP to  
Sidney & Barbara

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**DIRECTIONS TO SIDNEY AND BARBARA'S HOUSE:**

**EVERYONE NEEDS TO PARK ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE STREET AS  
OUR HOUSE, OR PARK IN OUR DRIVEWAY.**

## Minutes from November VSKC Meeting

1. Call for any new members or visitors-Larry Bearup is a new member.
2. 2006 Koi Show -1) The Vendor Dollars Campaign is doing well. We have volunteers and new vendors. Frank Valdez reviewed all the different positions for the show, we still need volunteers. The show cannot be maintained at its current quality without volunteers from the club. Frank will not be available during the show secondary to his work schedule. There are enough experienced members to help out in his place. Robbie & Bryan will bring Ursula and their Koi to and from the show. 2) Corey, Larry & Bryan will go to Tucson to pick up items. 3) Trophies of ceramic tiles were decided on. 4) David Yee was not present therefore Corey took the regulator to see if it needs fixed.
3. 2007 ACKA Seminar-Derek Tang will be the chairperson for the Seminar Note Books. We still need committee chairperson for Marketing. Trade Show, Audio Visual, and Banquet. 2) Current Committee Chairpersons are: Hotel-Robbie, Pond Tour-Robert Pottebaum, and Extra Events/Tours-David Yee, Seminar Note Books-Derek Tang. We need to turn in all chairpersons to AKCA by January.
4. Minutes of last meeting were read. Jim Crutch motioned to accept, Frank Valdez seconded. Motion carried.
5. AKCA Report by David Yee-he not present.
6. We discussed using the \$400 dollar speaker scholarship from AKCA to have Norm Mick speak at the Judges Dinner January 27<sup>th</sup>. There were no negative comments.
7. Treasures Report by Derrick Tang-motion made by Robbie McCleney to accept, seconded by Frank Valdez, motion passed.
8. Matsuri Koi Food Educational Topic-Judging Hikari Moyo by Robbie McCleney.
9. Meeting was adjourned

**Robbi McCleney**

**WE NEED DONATED KOI FOR THE AUCTION SUNDAY JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> DURING THE KOI SHOW. THIS IS OUR MAIN SOURCE OF REVENUE FROM THE KOI SHOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY KOI THAT NEED NEW HOMES PLEASE CONTACT FRANK, ROBBIE, OR COREY.**



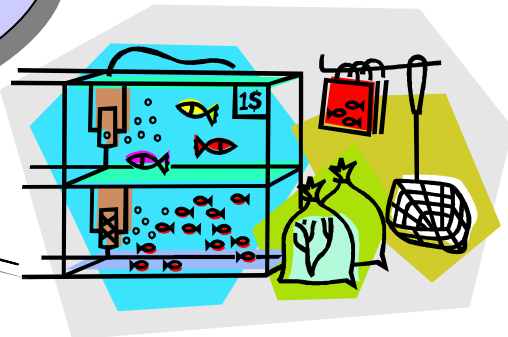
## AKCA INFORMATION

KOIUSA Inc. and AKCA Board or Directors have approved the mailing of the new multi-fold Koi ID poster, that was included with the Nov/Dec issue of KOIUSA magazine, as a gift to all **NEW** subscribers during the months of November and December. This offer does not go to subscribers who are renewing and already received the Nov/Dec issue of KOIUSA. This offer is for a limited time only, Nov and Dec, and will not be repeated. So make sure your club members know about this gift of a multi-fold Koi ID poster with retail value of \$8-9 for free with your **NEW** subscription to KOIUSA magazine.

KOIUSA Inc. Board has voted to announce in the Jan/Feb issue of KOIUSA magazine that the current reduced KOIUSA subscription rates are for a limited time only and the subscription rates will return to the previous rates in the Spring, 2006. Your club members will be given plenty of notice of this change to give them the opportunity to lock in the lower rate on their subscriptions. Additional years of subscription purchased will be added onto the end of your current subscription. Spring, 2006, the KOIUSA subscription rates will return to the \$20 club member rate and \$24.95 non-club member rate for 1 year subscriptions.

David Yee VSKC AKCA Representative

Buy a Blue Hard Tank for quarantine system. If you are interested in purchasing a blue hard tank like the ones used for the show from the manufacture, contact Tom Ayers at





# VENDOR DOLLARS

FOR ALL DUES CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS

100.00 vendor dollars to each Valley Of The Sun Koi Club family membership who actively participates in the 2006 Greater Phoenix Open Koi Show. To receive the 100 vendor dollars you must:

- ❖ Show a Koi in the 2006 Greater Phoenix Koi Show
- ❖ Give at least 4 hours of volunteer work
- ❖ Purchase a banquet ticket
- ❖ The money MUST be spent at the 2006 Greater Phoenix Koi Show Koi Club Sponsored Vendors

## 2006 Greater Phoenix Koi Show Vendors and Sponsors

Updated Dec 1, 2005

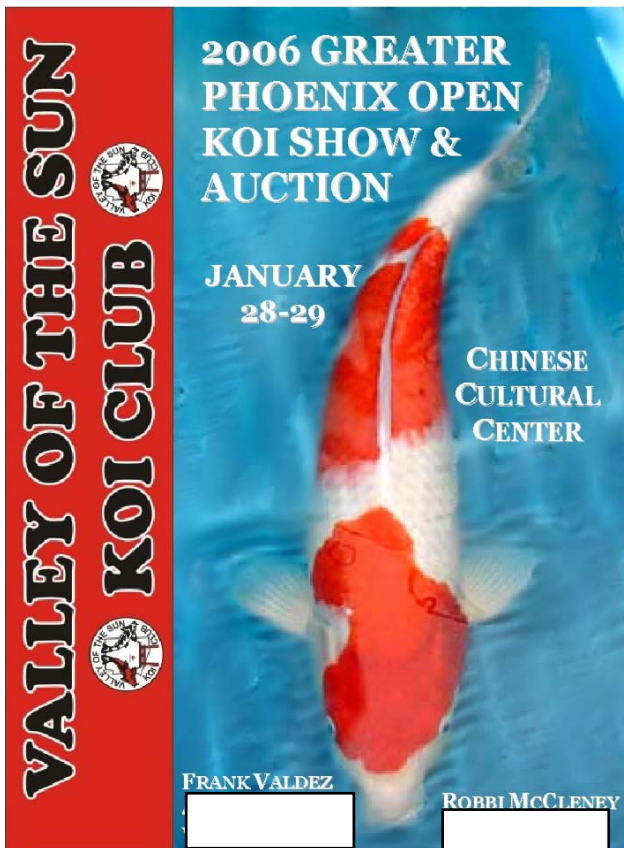
### VENDORS

**CTK PONDS**  
**POND PERFECTOR**  
**EASTERN NISHIGIKOI**  
**QUALITY KOI**  
**A'S GOLDFISH**  
**BACK YARD POND**  
**ECOLOGICAL LABORATORIES**  
**(MICROBE -LIFT)**  
**HAI FENG FEEDS CO., LTD.**  
**KOI BOY POND SUPPLIES**  
**WLIM CORPORATION**

### SPONSORS

**AQUATIC GARDENS**  
**PENTAIR AQUATICS**  
**AQUA ULTRAVIOLET**  
**KOI KENNEL**  
**OASE PUMPS**

**WE NEED DONATED KOI**



## WANTED VOLUNTEERS FOR VSKC 2006 KOI SHOW

Various positions needed

Various skill sets needed

Various levels of physical requirements

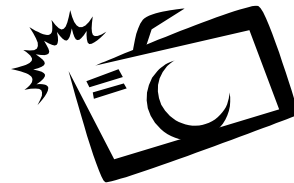
**SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE TO ENJOY!!**

- Need volunteers to train for *Water Quality team*
- Need help with pick up of gear and initial set up
- Need help with the daily operations
- Need help with judging activities
- Need help with Auction / Raffle
- Need help planning - set up for awards dinners
- Need help picking out awards for show

*Something for everyone regardless of Conditions at the time.*

*See the master list and let us know what you can do to make this the most successful Koi show yet. All Volunteers will be paid well in love.*

We need photos for our web site [www.vskc.net](http://www.vskc.net).  
Send photos to   
or call Tom Ayers at



## Greater Phoenix Koi Show Update

The 2006 show is fast coming upon us.  
If you have not yet submitted your entry information to show fish please do so soon.

We still need LOTS of HELP at the show to make it a great success. So if you have not volunteered for any specific task or specific days of the show to help out-give Robbi or myself a call.

Helping on the show is a great way to learn more about Koi and judging. It is a very rewarding time to share with fellow Koi lovers.

Special one of a kind hand painted Koi tiles will be the awards for this years show. So to get yours be sure to get a tank and show your favorite fish in the show. Remember we have a special this year for those who volunteer and show fish. You earn vendor bucks to spend at the local show vendors.



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### ASK BRYAN

**Q: Is most skin and fin damage on Koi caused by accidents or injury?**

**Answer:** Frayed and damaged fins, raised scales and skin damage, such as reddening or open wounds, are often attributed to the fish cutting or damaging themselves on sharp objects in the pond. Although this can happen it is not common, spawning being the exception.

Believing this to be the cause, many aquarists leave the "wound" to get better, but invariably it just gets worse. The commonest cause of this type of damage is bacterial infection. Such instances need immediate attention. If caught early enough they are relatively easy to treat but in too many cases they are overlooked or dismissed as minor problems so that treatment is often given too late.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

**Surviving the Storm** by Lee Brouillet

July, 2004 (Microbe-Lift October 2005 Newsletter)

Unlike ponders on the West Coast (who have to deal with earthquakes) or in the Midwest (who have to deal with tornados), we're usually lucky enough to have notice that a storm is coming. The preparations that we make depend on whether it's a "storm" or a STORM. Many of our casual afternoon thunderstorms can cause as much damage as a tropical depression. That being said, let's suppose that we've been advised that a storm is on its way.

### **How do I prepare?**

- a. Stop feeding the fish: they won't starve (they still have all that algae on the sides), but continued ammonia production could kill them if your water quality takes a hit due to filtration problems.
- b. Do a water change, as large as you can handle. That way, if things really turn bad, your fish will be starting off with water as clean as possible. Even if it's only a moderate storm, you may be without water for a few days. With a fresh water change, the fish will have the best chance.
- c. Drop the pond's water level several inches (or more) to allow for the extra rain. If your pond was built with an overflow drain, make sure that the drain field remains unobstructed.
- d. Net the pond to keep out as much flying debris as possible
- e. If possible, when a big storm/high winds are expected, disconnect and remove any items that may blow over into the pond, such as trickle towers. ***If you can lean on it and push it over, the wind can, too!*** If you can't remove it, at least disconnect the water source so that if/when it does blow over, it won't drain your pond.

If we have another storm the caliber of Andrew (a Category 5 storm), not much can protect you (or the fish) from the wind damage. Consider: a 38 caliber shell travels at the speed of 500 ft. per second and presents a "face" of less than 1/2" upon impact, but it would not be able to penetrate a palm tree. Try to imagine the force this 2 x 4 had from the wind!

f. Add baking soda at the rate of 1 cup per 1,000 gallons. This will buffer the pond against a pH crash: rain water has NO buffering. Even if it isn't "acid" (and heavy rainfalls seldom are), it will dilute the water's buffering capabilities (total alkalinity) to a critical level. Rain water contains none of the necessary minerals that normal water contains. If it isn't an airborne contaminant, rain water probably doesn't have it. Baking soda will probably raise your pH to the 8.4 level, but its buffering capabilities are unsurpassed to prevent a pH crash. It's quick, cheap, and handy.

g. Remove anything around the pond that can take off "flying", such as nets, buckets, chairs, tables, etc.

h. If your pond is ground level and prone to flooding, try to protect it from ground water by sand bagging it or digging a trench around it to divert water flow. When it starts to rain and the blow begins, fish will usually "go to bottom". Even after heavy flooding, most people report that their fish are still right there, hunkered down in the pond waiting for things to calm down and return to normal. Fish are only reported missing when the pond is in an overflow condition for several days, the fish relax a bit, and go "exploring".

(continued, page 3)

### **The power went out – what do I do now?**

Well, it depends: how's your stocking rate? If it's low, you probably don't have too much to worry about. But if you're like most of us, you're overstocked – and *that's* a problem when the power goes out. If your pond has a large surface area, it's better than a smaller area. If your dissolved oxygen level was high prior to the outage, you're in better shape than if it was low.

If the storm is a small one and you expect power to be restored in short order (a few hours or so), then just relax. However, longer outages require action! Alternate power sources include various back-up systems, such as:

- Generators: the cost between a small one just big enough to handle the pond and a larger one that can handle the pond and a few of life's necessities (like the fridge, the TV, a fan or two, some lights . . .) is frequently just a matter of \$200 or so. Another consideration is the size of the fuel tank: the smaller generators require frequent refueling. Slightly larger ones can run for 10 hours or so between refuels (think "full night's sleep"! ). Make sure you have 5 gallon fuel cans, a siphon to refill the cans from your car's tank, and whatever filters the manufacturer suggests keeping on hand. And remember to TEST the generator at least once a month (once a week is better) to ensure that it will start when you need it.
- Inverters: these are marvelous little items that plug into the cigarette lighter of your vehicle to convert the car's DC power into AC. Many stores, including the big DIY stores, sell this handy little piece of equipment. I recently purchased an inverter that will supply 300 watts of constant running (600 watts start-up) for \$40.00. It has two 3-pronged (grounded) outlets and will run for 2 1/2 to 3 hours before you will need to start the vehicle to recharge its battery. There's even a warning light on the inverter to let you know when you need to recharge



the vehicle's battery! Larger inverters (750 watts steady/1500 watts start-up) are also available for about \$80.00. (Aside from pond use, they're just plain handy to have available to run equipment that you normally would not be able to!) Run an extension cord from your car to the pond to run critical equipment, but make sure the connection stays high and dry, or wrap it in Saran Wrap and secure it with electrical tape.

How do you figure out watts if your equipment doesn't list the wattage? Use the formula "Amps x Volts = Watts". Example: my water pump draws .85 amps x 110 (volts) = 93.5 watts! Remember that most electrical equipment with motors will draw double wattage to start, then settle down to its normal usage. In that event, start one then another; don't try to start everything at the same time.

- A UPS back-up from your computer can work in a pinch
  - A (charged) deep cycle/marine battery pond-side with an inverter attached works nicely
- These items can be used to run your air pump (first) and your water pump (second), or alternating between the two.

#### **OK, the storm has passed; NOW what do I do?**

First of all, your babies are probably just fine, but their "home" may need some repairs (as well as your own!). As soon as you can, you should: (continued, page 4)

- Survey the damage and assess what needs to be attended to **FIRST**
- Check all plumbing to ensure that there are no breaks or leaks
- If you netted the pond, remove it so you can see the fish and their condition
- Take a water sample and test for ammonia, nitrites, pH and/or KH
  - o Treat water as necessary with your ammonia binder of choice (if necessary);
  - o If there are nitrites, add salt at the rate of 3/4 to 1 lbs. (technically .833 lbs!) per 100 gallons, 1/3 at a time (or 8 lbs. per 1,000 gallons) over a period of 24 hours to achieve a level of 0.1 ppm. This is sufficient to prevent the uptake of the nitrites by the gills. If your fish are in good shape (no visible cuts or bruises, not too "shocked" from their experience) and you have plants, this small amount of salt will protect your fish from Brown Blood Disease without hurting the plants. But if the fish are really stressed or have sustained injury, they'll need a higher concentration – so pull your plants out if they are salt sensitive: we're helping the fish, not the plants.

They don't care about nitrites. (*Note: the common 1 lb. of salt per 1,000 gallons for 0.1 ppm is a nice, "round" number. If your pond is 3,000 gallons or so, the difference is not that much. But if you have a large pond, upwards of 5,000 – the difference in "rounding" becomes more pronounced.*)

- o If your KH is below 100 (5-6 drops), add baking soda at the rate of 1 cup per 1,000 gallons. This will help to buffer your pond from a pH crash in the event there is more rain. If you have "bead" type filtration, you need to have your KH above 200 (remember to multiply the number of drops it takes to effect the color change by 17.9 to get the proper reading. Don't ask: it's a "German" thing!).
- If you were not able to net the pond, get your fish/skim net out and remove as many leaves and other debris as you can: decaying leaf matter will rapidly consume oxygen, and that's the last thing the pond needs at this time
- If you have plants, return them to their proper positions; repot as necessary – remove as much of the dirt dumped in the pond as possible. If you have a bottom drain, make sure it isn't clogged and is taking up the junk on the bottom of the pond. If you don't have a bottom drain, vacuum the pond as soon as you can.
- Chances are good that your pond water will be murky; at the very least, the nutrient levels will be "off" due to the excessive rain water. Now is a good time to add Koi Clay at the rate of 3 Tbs. per 1,000 gallons, dissolved in pond water and distributed around the pond. That's triple the recommended "maintenance" dose, but less than the "remedial" level. You can use up to 1 cup per 1,000 gallons if necessary (or more – you can't overdose). The Koi Clay will do several things for your water: the clay will act as a flocculent, taking particles suspended in the water column to the bottom. It will also replace minerals and trace elements that are required by both your fish and your bioconverter.
- Hopefully your pond has not sustained any severe damage that will require extensive work. If it has – and you don't have a quarantine facility available, consider getting a kiddie pool to be used until the fish can be returned to their home. These are relatively cheap and can remain boxed in your garage until necessary. (Hint: keep these pools in mind at the end of the "season" when they're on close-out: they become downright economical at that point!) If all else fails, call your local club: show tanks work very well indeed!

**Emergency supplies should include:**

Ammonia test kit  
Nitrite test kit  
KH/TA test kit  
Baking soda  
Salt  
Enough ammonia binding dechlor to do the pond 3x over! (continued, page 5)  
Activated charcoal  
Koi clay (*calcium montmorillonite*)  
Net to cover the pond  
Generator and/or Inverter  
Sand bags  
PVC pipe, fittings, glue, etc. to make repairs if necessary  
Extra air stones and pumps (air *and* water, if possible), with appropriate hose

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**WELCOME TO THE AKCA - PROJECT KHV WEBSITE** **check this out to find out the latest KHV information!**



**They have a Auction to raise funds to research and fight KHV. The next item for auction is a Peter Enfield Koi Slate. The last one was of a Kohaku.**

**[www.AKCA.org](http://www.AKCA.org)**

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**VALLEY OF THE SUN KOI CLUB**  
**8214 S 23<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85042**

**TO:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**December Meetings on the 18th**  
**January Meeting on the 15th**  
**Phoenix Koi Show January 28 & 29**  
**San Diego Koi Show March 5-6th**  
**2006 AKCA Seminar June 22-25th**

Gin Rin Showa from [www.enkoi.com](http://www.enkoi.com)

