



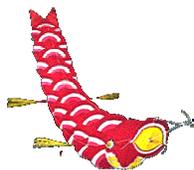
Desert Koi



Valley of the Sun Koi Club, Phoenix AZ

September 2005

The Mission Statement of Valley of Sun Koi Club



"To educate, inform and promote the hobby of keeping, appreciating, breeding and exhibiting koi"

For all of the members the club is an experienced resource that will allow each and every member to learn, understand and enjoy the hobby.

Our focus is educational with a strong orientation toward information sharing, problem solving, and fellowship.

Valley of the Sun Koi Club President's Message for October

The Tucson show is coming up, so plan to attend some portion of the event, dinner or participate actively. Arrangements can be made to transport your fish, so plan to show your fish if this is an obstacle. It's fun and truly worth the effort.

Our own show is coming together, be sure to take your role in the activity. Coming to the meetings, those that do, know participating by showing fish carries a special reward in our show this year!
Enjoy the hobby!

Sincerely,

Corey Garrett

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 robin@valleyofthesunkoi.com, so that we can send you future newsletters by email.



President: Corey Garrett

Functions: Liaison for the club and outside resources, day-to-day functions, facilitating monthly meeting

VP & 2006 Show Chair: Frank Valdez (not open to election)

Functions: Organization of the 2006 Koi Show, help facilitates meetings

VP of Education: Robert Lang

Functions: Arrange for monthly educational topic, help facilitates meetings

2006 Show Co-Chair & 2007 Show Chair/ VP:

Functions: Co- Chair the 2006 Koi Show & is the 2007 Koi Show Chairperson

Secretary: Jeanne Taylor

Functions: Keep minutes of the meetings

Treasure: Derek Tang

Functions: Maintains financial records, membership list, and checking account

AKCA Representative: David Yee

Functions: Liaison between AKCA and our club

Web Master: Tom Ayers

Functions: Maintains the web site

Newsletter Editor: Robin R. Patton



News from AKCA

Check out the biggest koi site on the Internet The AKC website at www.akca.org



2005-2006 Meeting Schedule

18th Sept.	16th Oct.	12-13th Nov.	20th Nov.	18th Dec.	15th Jan.	27-29th Jan.	19th Feb.	19th Mar.	16th Apr.	21st May
Robbie & Bryan McCleney	Frank & Ursula Valdez	TUCSON KOI SHOW	Don Chante-merle	Sidney Sexson & Barbara Tower	Henry Walt	PHOENIX KOI SHOW	Joe & Michelle Ackerman	Brian & Ching Panuska	Jim Croutch	Brian & Annette Connelly



Discount subscription rate to club members

WANTED VOLUNTEERS FOR 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.

KOI HISTORY

Koi (鯉 *Koi*) are ornamental domesticated varieties of the common carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

If a person travels to Japan and tells his or her friends that he or she loves Koi, their friends might invite that person to eat the dull gray fish that inhabits the waters of the islands: In Japanese, the word *Koi* simply means *carp* (incidentally, the word "koi" can also mean "love"). If a person tells a group of people that he or she appreciates *Nishikigoi* (錦鯉: "brocaded carp"), the group may lead the person and their camera to the pond in the garden. This article is about Nishikigoi, and uses the English word *Koi* to refer to the colorful fish.

While a Chinese book of the Western Jin Dynasty (4th century) mentions carp with various colors, Koi breeding is generally thought to have begun during the 19th century in the Niigata prefecture of Japan. Farmers working the rice fields would notice that some carp would be more brightly colored than others, capture them, and raise them (when normally the brighter colors would doom the fish to be more likely eaten by birds and other predators). By the 20th century, a number of color patterns had been established, most notably the red-and-white *Kohaku*. The outside world did not become aware of the degree of development until 1914, when the Niigata Koi were exhibited in the annual exposition in Tokyo. Some of them were also presented to Crown Prince Hirohito. At that point, interest in Koi exploded throughout Japan. The Hobby of keeping Koi spread worldwide after plastic bags and shipping of Koi became both fast and safe for the fish. These factors enabled Koi to be shipped worldwide with low mortality rates. Koi are now commonly sold in most pet stores, with higher-quality fish available from specialist dealers.

Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. **Butterfly Koi**, developed in the 1980s and notable for their long and flowing fins, are actually hybrids with Asian carp, and not considered true Koi.

Koi keeping myths and fallacies

popular folklore about keeping koi!

Different answers

If you ask six people the same question about koi keeping you will get six different answers. Sorting out the facts from the fallacies can be tricky!

Beginner beware!

In the equipment list I detail some basic equipment but I did not include two most important requirements for successful koi keeping: **knowledge and experience**. Koi keeping has a steep learning curve and maintaining a healthy environment for such large fish requires a certain amount of skill. All hobbyists need some basic knowledge of fish health so that common problems are recognized and dealt with correctly at an early stage, although the real skill lies in preventing problems in the first place.

Fish-health is an immense subject that embraces water quality, nutrition, filtration, fish physiology, disease and so on. Hobbyists need only a basic understanding but it pays to be aware that fish health is a science, competence in which is not achieved through personal experience alone. Sounds obvious? However, the beginner will soon find that koi-keeping is a hobby with many would-be fish health experts and this has led to a good number of old wives' tales and fallacies which can mislead beginners. Let me address some of the most common ones. (There are many others!)

Ignorance the killer

Most health problems are related to water quality or other environmental factors, which can be avoided by proper care and pond husbandry. The root cause of most health problems is poor fish-keeping, not parasites and bacteria! This commonly happens when stocking levels exceed the owner's knowledge and husbandry skills. As stocking levels increase so does the potential for problems, which can arise suddenly with devastating consequences, often resulting in large fish kills. So the first stage is to be honest and realistic about your ability to manage a heavily stocked pond. The next stage is to get a good book on fish-keeping and **READ IT**. (KoiVet has published 2 [books](#) so far)

Jumping for joy?

Fish often rub against solid objects and leap out of the water. It *is* possible that they do this to catch flies or get food or they may be playing. However, in the majority of cases it is because something is irritating them. This may be a minor irritation - similar to an itch in humans, perhaps - but it could be more serious. Whether you should act or not depends on the number affected, the frequency of rubbing and leaping, and the vigour involved. If one or two are having a lazy rub on the bottom drain there is no cause for concern, this is fairly normal. But if they are continually tearing about, rubbing vigorously against the sides or bottom or leaping out of the water, then further investigation must be carried out.

Unfortunately, one of the most common responses to this type of behaviour is to suspect a parasite problem and an anti-parasite treatment is administered without further thought. But this cursory diagnosis (or guess) overlooks the fact that any irritant can cause this response, including poor water quality (a high nitrite level, for instance), whereupon using an anti-parasite treatment can only make matters worse.

Becoming an aquatic health expert involves more than knowing what 'treatments' to use; indeed, the latter is quite easy as medications are described in most hobbyist books. Many fish suffer or die every year through inaccurate diagnosis and inappropriate treatments.

Skin and fin damage

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.

Keeping bugs out

It should be appreciated that, with few exceptions, most of the bacteria and parasites that cause problems are always present in the pond. Nearly all fish carry small populations of parasites, in the same way that most cats and dogs have some fleas. And all ponds are teeming with opportunistic bacteria.

There is still a common misconception, however, that bugs have to be brought into the pond before problems can occur. So when problems do arise, new additions, frogs or birds are blamed. This is possible, of course, but most problems start in the pond, where deteriorating conditions allow resident bugs to gain the upper hand. Healthy fish can fight and control the number of bugs, in the same way that we humans control the bacteria and viruses that surround us. In most cases these bugs are only harmful to weakened or stressed fish. Constant parasite or bacterial problems usually indicate a system management problem.

Preventative treatments

A common practice in koi-keeping - I am amazed at how common - is to give regular, often monthly, chemical treatments to control parasites and other bugs. While this sounds a good idea, in practice it serves no useful purpose and can be detrimental to both fish and filter. The reproductive rates of most bugs are quite phenomenal – particularly at summer temperatures - and even after chemical treatments they can quickly return to their previous population levels. It is important to realise that these bugs should be controlled by good fish-keeping practices, not by chemicals, many of which are toxic to fish.

If there is a continued problem with parasites or bacteria, it indicates a more fundamental problem - usually environmental. Chemical treatments are a last resort, not the first, and should only be used when there is a clearly identified problem. Do not fall into the bad habit of trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist. Many koi-keepers do.

Summary

This has been a brief insight into some of the more common misconceptions that the beginner to the hobby may be exposed to. Fish, like most animals, are creatures of habit and any strange behaviour or change in appearance can indicate a potential problem. Being observant and noticing these changes, or clinical signs, is the first step towards truly successful healthy koi-keeping.

You might have the impression by now that proper koi-keeping is an almost impossible task, especially if you don't have an arsenal of chemical treatments to hand. What I have tried to say is that koi-keeping is only simple once you've learnt to dispense with the chemicals. The fish, believe it or not, are fully able to cope with most potential health problems once they have been provided with a good diet and a healthy environment.

FishDoc.co.uk

The home of fish Health



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ASK BRYAN! MY POND WATER IS NOT CLEAR, HOW CAN I GET CLEAR WATER?

The most reliable method for achieving and maintaining clear water is to circulate your pond water through an ultraviolet (UV) light unit designed for ponds. However, UV light is not the only way this can be achieved. Clear water may also be achieved by “biological filtration.” That is, running water through a chamber that houses media suitable for the growth of “good” microorganisms that help in breakdown of waste materials. Keep in mind that clear water doesn’t necessarily mean healthy water. Conversely, green water (water with suspended algae) doesn’t necessarily mean unhealthy water. Fish are perfectly happy living in “pea soup.”

Donald Wolf is selling off his Koi Business Jewels Of Arizona in Mesa is closing. All Koi are discounted at almost cost.

- There are a lot of imports 10 to 14” and 3 at 24 to 27”
- Butterfly’s 6 to 10”
- A lot of baby’s 2,3 and 4”
- Pumps, nets and tubs
- Discus 3 and 4”
- Some aquariums 2 30 gallon, 1-20 gallon, 1-50 gallon and 1-240 gallon, all with filters and heaters

The Valley Of The Sun Koi Club
Moved !!



We need photos! Visit our web site for pictures of Koi, Links, and ponds.
www.vsk.net Contact the Webmaster, Tom Ayers, to add

Club
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Attend a
meeting
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VALLEY OF THE SUN KOI CLUB
8214 S. 23RD PLACE
PHOENIX, AZ. 85042



SPECIAL EVENTS

**Club Meeting October 16th
TUCSON Koi Show NOV 12 &
13th**

Phoenix Koi Show JAN 28-29