

Desert Koi Newsletter September 2006

President's Message

This summer has been very busy with all the coordination that has taken place for the 2007 AKCA annual seminar which is being held here in Arizona for the first time. Please join us this year as we have an exciting year planned.

Sincerely in Koi, Corey Garrett VSKC President



ARIZONA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24 2006 ARIZONA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

WE NEED HELP-CONTACT COREY 480 837-8078 Or our PARTICIPATION WILL BE CANCELLED



VISIT THE VALLEY OF THE SUN KOI CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.VSKC.NET

Officers

President: Corey Garrett VP of Education: Robert Lang

Treasure: Derek Tang Secretary: OPEN

Web Master: Tom Ayers AKCA Representative: David Yee

For those of you that are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address, please send your email address to Bryan McCleney rmccleney@cox.net, so that we can send you future newsletters by email.

Club Meeting: September 17,2006

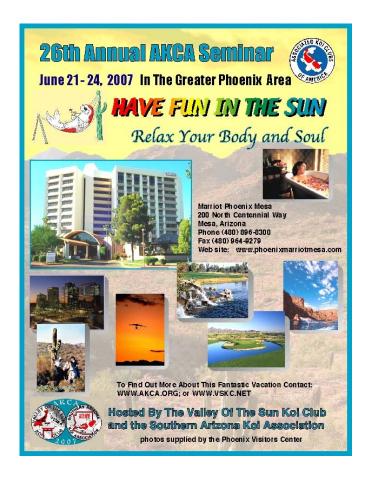
Embassy Suites Hotel Sunday September 17,2006 Pond Viewing at 1:30PM Meeting at 2:00PM

2630 E. Camelback RD

Telephone number 602-955-3992



Pond Supply Update by Robert Lang owner of The Pond Perfector 623-465-4488 www.pondperfecter.com



2007 AKCA SEMINAR UPDATE

- FREE ADMISSION IF YOU HELP ON A **COMMITTEE/WORK** THE SEMINAR
- CONTACT A **COMMITTEE** MEMBER TO HELP
- JUNE 21-24th 2007





27th ANNUAL SAKA SHOW TUCSON ARIZONA

NOVEMBER 10-12 2006 KINO SPORTS COMPLEX

AKCA INFORMATION

We need your support here in Arizona as we prepare for the AKCA Seminar! Club shows that are close to Arizona include the Sacremento Koi Show Sept 30 -Oct 1; Las Vegas Koi Club's first annual show Oct 6-8 & Sothern Arizona Koi Association show Nov

David Yee VSKC AKCA Representative

ASK BRYAN

Question: What is new pond syndrome?



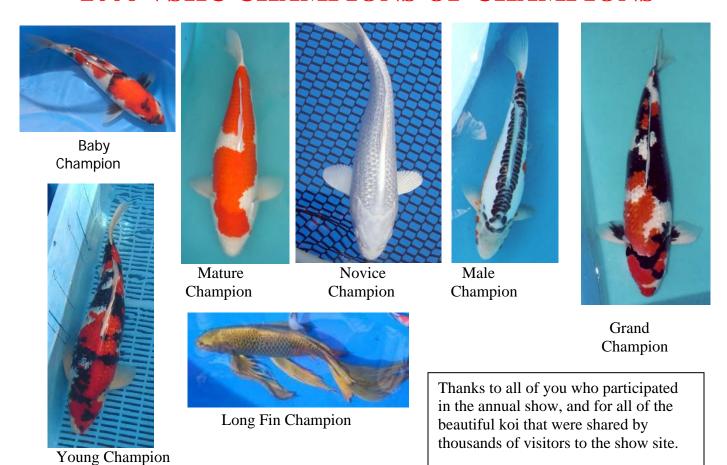
Answer: The most important part of a pond is the filtration system. This keeps water clean, clear and free of toxins such as ammonia and nitrite that are produced directly or indirectly by the koi and from decaying organic matter in the pond. Efficient filtration relies on the presence of beneficial micro-organisms such as bacteria, algae and protozoa. However, it takes a while for some of these organisms to become established in sufficient numbers to be fully effective.

During this time water quality may be less than perfect, creating a situation commonly described as 'new pond syndrome'. Many disease outbreaks and koi deaths can be directly linked to stress caused by poor water quality/new pond syndrome. New koi in a new pond may get sick and die due to ammonia and nitrite spikes from an un-cycled biological filter. An immature filter on a new pond (new pond syndrome) is the cause of this. It takes time to develop a population of micro-organisms within a filter. To allow the filter to develop adequately, koi should be gradually introduced, one or two at a time over a few months. Avoid overfeeding which again puts too much of a strain on an immature filter. You can also purchase commercial products that will speed up the process





2006 VSKC CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS



"NOW OR LATERS" A Simple Lesson In Koi Development

by Brady Brandwood - Lotus Land Koi Farm

I won't say just how long ago, but recently I had the opportunity to attend my 10 year class reunion. These are always fun because we get to see how our classmates have changed, developed, or "finished". As I was looking around the room picking out the people I knew or remembered I thought what a great analogy a class reunion is to the development of our koi. Naturally, I was searching for the girls I once had a crush on or knew to be popular. This is where the analogy thing hit the hardest. The girls that were the "dreamboats" back then were the least impressive looking now. They had had their day in the sun. Their peak was in high school, they were essentially "finished" and in show condition back then. Several of the less attractive "stick figured" or "nerdy" girls were now incredible looking well proportioned women. They were "tategoi" back in school and we shallow boys didn't even have a clue that they were slow developing women for the future. The same was true of the boys that were the strong athletes back then. Now, most of them were sporting beer bellies any Sumo Wrestler would be proud of. They peaked early.

I believe koi development is the least understood aspect of koi keeping in America right now, and the "class reunion" analogy is a simple way for new koi keepers to understand the

development of koi. Basically, there are two types of koi, koi for now, and koi for later. Koi for now look good right now. The red or hi is solid and thick with no growth marks in the center of the scales. The sumi or black is up and solid. There are very few gray or bluish areas showing through the white background of the koi. Koi for now tend to be smaller koi and often males. This type of koi is a great choice for hobbyists with smaller ponds, or hobbyists who do not have the patience to wait for a slower developing koi to show it's true beauty. Also, hobbyists often buy now koi, or finished koi so they will have koi to show now while their tategoi, or later koi are developing. Unfortunately, most koi can not look great when they are young, and also look great when they've finished growing.

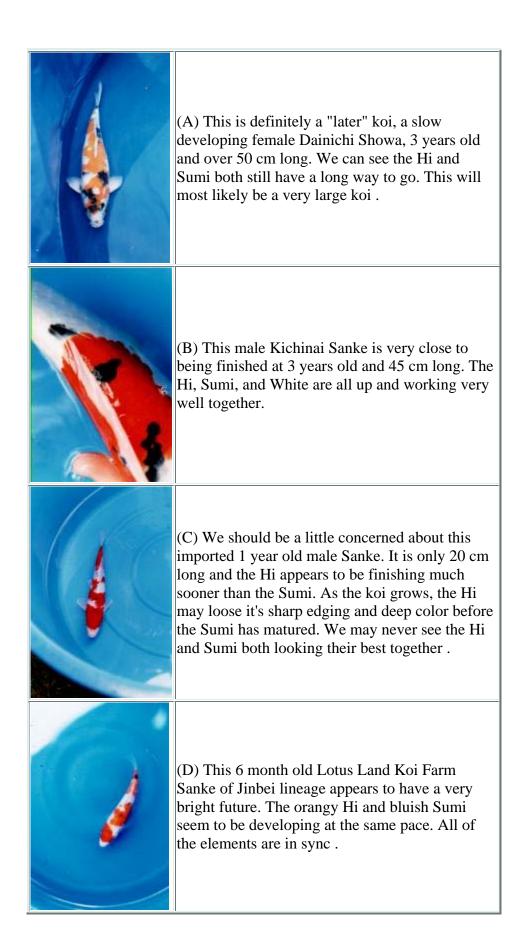
Koi for later will often grow to be large koi of 80cm or more. We rarely see these koi here in America while they are young because first the Japanese know we don't understand them, and we're generally not willing to pay the price they are asking. Second, they are generally grown large in mud ponds in Japan before they are sold to maximize the profits. These koi usually go to wealthy Japanese hobbyists. If you are lucky enough to see one of these koi under 3 years old here in America it is because it has been given as a gesture of friendship by a Japanese breeder, it has a defect, such as a misshapen head or fins, or it was bred here in America from incredible parent stock and you somehow got a peek at it.

We do often see koi that still have a long way to go in their development though. The sumi will be hidden under the white causing the blue or gray patches mentioned earlier, the hi will have a darker streak in the center of each scale showing the hi or red is not yet finished developing, and the koi's body will be long and slender with an obvious spine line from just behind the head all the way to the tail. The fish just looks like it will keep growing and growing.

You should be careful when buying a koi, or at least when paying high prices for a koi, that all of the elements in the koi's development are in sync with each other. We often see beautiful young 6 to 12 inch Sankes or Showas for sale with deep red hi, but the sumi is still way under the skin. With this type of koi the hi is often too far ahead of the sumi in development for the two elements to ever meet and form a beautiful well finished koi. The hi will be "over the hill" as the sumi is just coming into its prime. The opposite can happen also where the sumi is up solid on a small fish, but the hi still has a long way to develop. In a few years as the koi grows, the sumi may begin to break up while the hi is just beginning to look good. Either way you don't have a good package. The truly valuable koi will have all these elements developing at a similar pace so when the koi finishes growing the colors will just now be finishing and looking dynamite. These are the koi that win Grand Championships at 12, 14 or 18 years old. These are koi for the future!

As simple as all this sounds there are always exceptions. Some of my classmates were gorgeous back then, and are still gorgeous now. I'll call them Ogons. Ogons look good from the day they are born! On the other hand, some of my classmates weren't so attractive then, and, well... you understand. Koi development is also influenced by many factors such as bloodlines, breeding techniques, type and quality of white, type and quality of hi, whether it is orange based, purple based, brown based, or pink based, or whether the sumi is Sanke sumi or Showa sumi, or a mixture.

I suppose before we all go wondering if we've chosen the right koi,... or spouses, we should remember beauty is all in the eyes. If you like it, then you like it. When my wife asks me if she was a "now spouse" or a "later spouse", and I know she will, I'll tell her she's an Ogon, and a show winner at that!





One free raffle ticket to each family. Additional tickets can be purchased @ \$1 or 6 for \$5.



VALLEY OF THE SUN KOI CLUB 8214 S 23rd Place Phoenix, AZ 85042

TO:

Special Events

- ⇒ September 17 VSKC Meeting Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix AZ
- ⇒ October 15 VSKC Meeting Margret Hance Park & Japanese
- ⇒ November 10-12 SAKA 27th Annual Koi Show Tucson AZ
 ⇒ November 19, VSKC Meeting Phoenix Mesa Marriot Hotel
- ⇒ June 21-24 2007 AKCA SEMNIAR Mesa AZ

