

# VALLEY OF THE SUN



# KOI CLUB



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

### Officers

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

VP of Education: Robert Lang  
Secretary: OPEN  
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](mailto: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



### EDUCATIONAL TOPIC



Pond Supply Update by Robert Lang owner of The Pond Perfector  
623-465-4488 [www.pondperfector.com](http://www.pondperfector.com)

**26th Annual AKCA Seminar**  
June 21- 24, 2007 In The Greater Phoenix Area



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To Find Out More About This Fantastic Vacation Contact:  
[WWW.AKCA.ORG](http://WWW.AKCA.ORG); or [WWW.VSKC.NET](http://WWW.VSKC.NET)

Hosted By The Valley Of The Sun Koi Club  
and the Southern Arizona Koi Association

photos supplied by the Phoenix Visitors Center



## 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**







27<sup>th</sup> 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 Sacramento 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 such as "Super Start Bacteria" for pond filters.





# 2006 VSKC CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS



Baby  
Champion



Young Champion



Mature  
Champion



Novice  
Champion



Male  
Champion



Grand  
Champion



Long Fin Champion

Thanks to all of you who participated in the annual show, and for all of the beautiful koi that were shared by thousands of visitors to the show site.



## "NOW OR LATER" 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 its 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!



(A) This is definitely a "later" koi, a slow developing female Dainichi Showa, 3 years old and over 50 cm long. We can see the Hi and Sumi both still have a long way to go. This will most likely be a very large koi .



(B) This male Kichinai Sanke is very close to being finished at 3 years old and 45 cm long. The Hi, Sumi, and White are all up and working very well together.



(C) We should be a little concerned about this imported 1 year old male Sanke. It is only 20 cm long and the Hi appears to be finishing much sooner than the Sumi. As the koi grows, the Hi may lose its sharp edging and deep color before the Sumi has matured. We may never see the Hi and Sumi both looking their best together .



(D) This 6 month old Lotus Land Koi Farm Sanke of Jinbei lineage appears to have a very bright future. The orangy Hi and bluish Sumi seem to be developing at the same pace. All of the elements are in sync .





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meeting  
and Win!**

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


**TO:**


### Special Events

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

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