

VALLEY OF THE SUN



KOI CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Dec

2008

Issue 7

www.vskc.net

Editor:

Sue Beard

Meeting Notice: Dec 21st

Holiday Party

Cathy and Corey Garrett's House

Please RSVP:

President's Message

By Bryan McCleney

The Holidays are here, and this is a reminder that our annual holiday koi gathering is December 21st and the home of Corey and Cathy Garrett in Fountain Hills. This is a wonderful gathering with lots of good food and friendship. I hope to see you there. If you are looking for that special koi gift I have two beautiful show quality Kohaku that I am holding for Taro Kodama until our show but I'm sure if you're looking for a the perfect gift without paying for shipping please contact Taro at Kodama Koi Farms.

As we move forward into 2009 we need a volunteer to coordinate the Chinese Festival Activities. I am working on the Koi show in April but we need a person to schedule club members for sitting the booth in February and helping with the Koi auction. Remember this is our fund raiser that helps offset the cost of our koi show. In March we have 4 speakers prepared to share information about selecting koi, pond building and koi health.

We have many events in 2009, so be prepared to have fun, fun, fun!

KOI Person of the Year

We are proud to announce our Koi Person of the Year for 2009:

KAREN VALENZUELA

Directions to Cathy and Corey Garrett,

Please RSVP

Instructions for those without World Wide Web access.

First and foremost the holiday meal is courtesy of the Garrett's.

Business Note:

If you want an item placed on the meeting or board agenda please contact Bryan McCleney at 602-989-3966 or president@vskc.net prior to the meeting on December 21st.

WWW.VSKC.NET 101

There is a new watermark on the pages! They do not scroll in the background.

There is a new "Ask Bryan" page where questions are links to dynamic content. When you click on a question the answer will appear in a light grey text area – sometimes there may be pictures or links in the answer area! You click the question to open and/or close the answer. If you click another question before closing the former, the former will auto close. FAQs page is also formatted with the hidden answers. The page also has a question input form. Membership page has a new application form. Both have koi pictures as a human test.

To assist new visitors to our web site, tooltips are added to the navigation links. Tooltips have a little arrowhead and a descriptive box – further identifying what is at the particular link. There is an small example of the Links page @ Pictures.

Below in the club officer table, you will see that our Board of Directors and Club Officers now have vskc.net domain e-mail addresses. These are alias accounts, in that they do not have to log in to get any mail that you may send to their e-mail alias accounts. The message is automatically forwarded on to their actual e-mail accounts with you as the sender.

Questions or comments about the website:

webmaster@vskc.net (Yep, webmaster is an alias account!)

VSKC Officers

PRESIDENT	BRYAN McCLENEY	president@vskc.net
SECRETARY	NIKKI PRITCHARD	secretary@vskc.net
FINANCE & NEW MEMBERSHIP	DEREK TANG	treasurer@vskc.net
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MEMBER AT LARGE	TOM AYERS	mal@vskc.net
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MEMBERS AT LARGE	CORREY GARRETT	exoff2@vskc.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	SUE BEARD	editor@vskc.net

Membership Information



Not sure what year your membership expires? Contact Derek at:

**Valley Of The Sun Koi Club
C/O Derek Tang**

**Phone Derek at
Email**

Membership dues are calendar year basis.

Support our Supporters!



CTK Quality Pond Products, at 623-907-5505 or e-mail CTKqualityponds@cox.net, is owned by Brian Connelly. He manufactures filters and pumps, builds, designs and performs pond repair. He and his father also manufacture Koi food sold at about \$3 a pound in bulk. You can customer order Koi from Japan and he can provide advise on ill Koi. 10% club member discounts!

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A Newsletter – Funny!

A new member wrote to Communications Central about an item in the Oct/Nov 08 issue of our Newsletter.

We all know how much knowledge Brian Connelly of "CTK Quality Pond Products" has about koi, filters, pumps, food, and ponds, since he sucked the brain cells out of his Father, Don Connelly of "Crosstimmer Koi and Pondering Stuff." It seems that Brian has sooo much knowledge that all VSKC Newsletter issues, since January 2008, have referred to him as **Brain Connelly**. Wink, it could be a typo.

Although we appreciate his knowledge and expertise, you will note that he is back to being plain ole Brian Connelly, above.

ASK BRYAN

Question: How do I winterize my koi pond in Arizona?

Answer: How you winterize your koi pond in Arizona is dependent upon where you live in Arizona. The needs of your pond in Flagstaff or Prescott are different than Phoenix or Yuma. Regardless of where you live in Arizona, or how you winterize your pond, it is important to continually monitor your water and koi. Know what your water temperature is throughout the day, Check ammonia and nitrate/nitrite levels often and observe your koi daily. Equipment, Pond Cleanliness, and Feeding are three important areas that you will need to make decisions about winterizing your pond.

Equipment: I would always make sure I have oxygen going to the pond year-round. You usually accomplish this through breaking the water surface by a water fall, air stones, or aerators. You can probably turn off your UV's and gain some extra bulb usage in the spring. I usually keep everything on. If you live in a part of Arizona that gets really cold you want to make sure your pipes don't freeze and or crack.

Many trees lose their leaves in the winter and they go in the one place you don't want them to go. In the pond! You may have been fighting algae all summer and looked forward to winter and now you have all these leaves in your pond. I recommend you scoop them out and clean your pond as good as you can. As the leaves decompose they steal oxygen and can create hydrogen sulfide. Don't wait until you koi become dormant to clean, moving a net around in the pond could cause excess stress and movement on your koi. If you have plants mixed with your koi It's a good idea to trim and remove any dying plant material.. In addition to oxygen your koi still need good healthy clean water. So check your water. The temperature for you to measure is in the pond, not the air temperature. In Arizona it can be 85 during the day and 45 degrees at night. [Measuring water temperature](#) is the most accurate way to determine when to change diet, stop feeding, and start feeding your koi again.

Koi will still beg for food in cold water, even down to the mid forties however the enzymes needed for the digestion of most Koi food will be lacking. The fish will eat, sometimes fully, and then languor in the cold water as their metabolism slogs the food through. I was able to feed most of the year in the Phoenix area by providing food that is easy to digest Such as wheat germ koi food, Cheerios. Koi love Cheerios, and just like most kids like the Honey Nut Cheerios better than the plain ones. They can even tell the difference between the generic cereal and real cheerios, but that's a different story. Another product available on the market is Manda Fu. . Manda Fu can be fed in water temperatures as low as 45 degrees (once every 1 - 3 days). My recommendation on feeding is to first switch to wheat germ based Koi food and start cutting back the amount.

I would follow this up with a diet of cheerios and Mandu-Fu. If you water is consistently below 50 degrees you should stop feeding unless you decide to feed Manda Fu. Most koi hobbyists stop feeding their koi or feed once or twice a week at the most.

Of course you can beat Mother Nature by brining your koi inside you by heating your pond. The good news is if you live in the Phoenix area, our winters are not very long, and you don't have to shovel snow or break the ice on top of your pond.

CTK Koi: Quality Food-Rock Bottom Pricing

In addition to providing education and sharing products CTK (Cross Timber Koi) is offering a deal for VSKC to purchase koi food on a bulk purchase to reduce the cost. If we get enough members we may be able to get high quality koi food somewhere between 2-3 dollars a pound. Please contact me if you are interested in quality food for your Koi and a rock bottom price. Contact Bryan: Bmccleney@pvesd.org

Google "Phoenix Koi Club"

A few years ago, I attempted to find the Valley of Sun Koi Club using several combinations of words. The results were poor – several pages into the results, an old former address for Valley of the Sun Koi Club that was a .org domain name.

A recent try has us in the FIRST position. Try it, you might be pleased. (webmaster).

Pictures!

Here is our new trailer!



Sale of some fish in September!



Corey Garrett and Robbi McCleney at SAKA Banquet



Yee's at SAKA Banquet



Glen Chin at SAKA



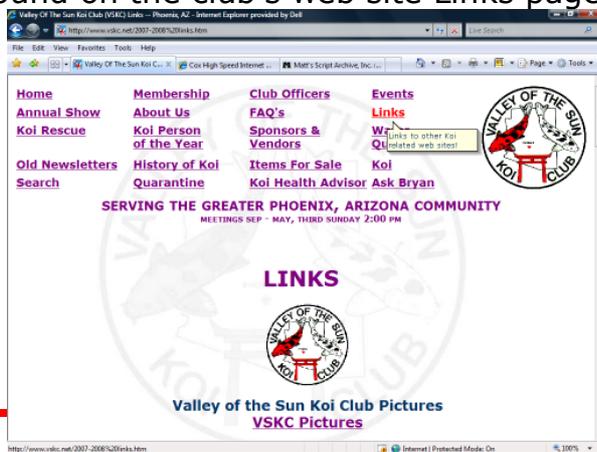
Megan Yee at SAKA



Jim Stackhouse at SAKA



Other pictures that did not make the cut for this edition of the Newsletter may be found on the club's web site Links page and VSKC Pictures.



Watermark is there!

Sue (Editor) at SAKA



Webmaster at SAKA



Guess Who is playing in the mud?



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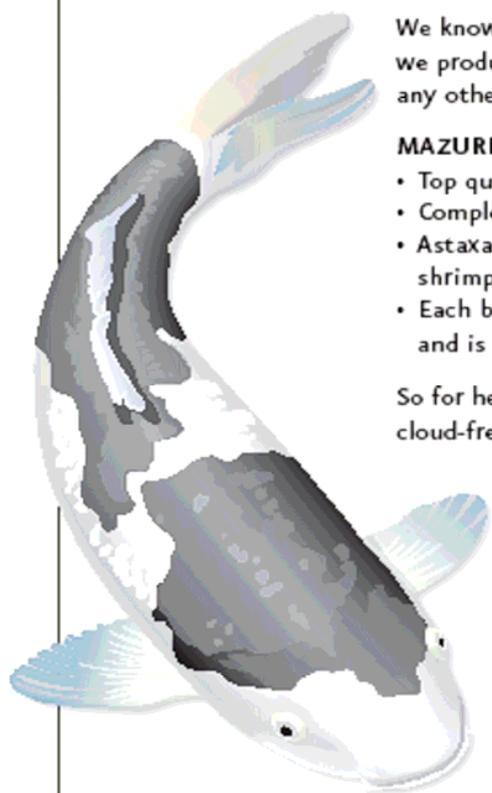
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To: