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Are Your Dues Up to Date?
If not, this is the last newsletter you will receive and a list of is some of what you are missing from member benefits:

- Discounted Subscription Price for KOI NATIONS magazine
- Discounted subscription Price for Koi USA magazine
- Free water quality and Koi health seminars
- 10% discount to Koi and Koi supply vendors
- Monthly meetings with educational topics and free Matzuri Koi food raffle
- 2008 Koi growing contest (courtesy of CTK Ponds and Manufacturing)
- Annual picnic
- Monthly newsletter
- Help and friendship of all of us

Presidents Message

By Corey Garrett

We are once again preparing for the Greater Phoenix Open Koi show. There has been a tremendous amount of work put in by many club members in the past few weeks. We have 18 people showing fish at the show some of the best koi dealers in the country and numerous raffle prizes.

For the first time, one sponsor, *KOI Nations Magazine*, is providing all of our trophies. In addition to the vendor dollars our club members can potentially earn this year we are having a Shiro grow out competition currently with 15 participants (Shiro's are provided by CTK). The weather will be nice in the high 60's low 70's with great food and friendship.

Please support the club, come on down! This is the place to buy food, koi, goldfish, and supplies. If you have a Koi or Goldfish that you need to find a new home for, please donate it the club this weekend so that we can auction it. The proceeds go to the club to help defray the costs of putting on the show. We would also appreciate your attendance at the show banquet on Saturday, The reason we have a show to promote the hobby. I learn something new each and every show, so even if you are not showing, please jump in and help. I guarantee you will learn and have a great time.

**2008 GREATER PHOENIX OPEN
KOI AND GOLDFISH SHOW
FEBRUARY 8-9-10**

It's Not Too Late to Volunteer---Volunteer---Volunteer

SHOW MESSAGE: If you are showing koi or goldfish, please do not feed from now until after the show.

Shiro Utsuri growing contest--\$80, **Brian of CTK, 602- 214-5135**

Koi Provided by **CTK Pond and Manufacturing**
Rules:

- Club Members-only
- \$80 fee
- May use Vendor Dollars to purchase Koi
- Koi will be on display during the 2008 Koi Show
- Koi must be shown during the 2009 Koi Show* (no entry fee)
- Contact Brian of CTK, 602- 214-5135 or Bryan McCleney 602-989-3966
- One Koi per dues current membership
- *Payable to CTK Ponds and Manufacturing
- *Separate Koi Judging
- * RSVP to Brian by the show
- **Visit our web site for more information.**





Arizona Specialty Coatings at 623-780-3336 or www.azpolyurea.com is owned and operated by Rob, does spray on pond liners. This can be used for new builds or repairs. This product can be used in many non-pond applications. Think outside the pond!

CTK Quality Pond Products at 623-907-5505 or CTKqualityponds@cox.net is owned and operated by Brain, 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! CTK will be a vendor at our 2008 show.



Pond Perfecter
623-465-4488
480-502-3770



Pond Perfecter owned and operated by Robert at www.pondperfecter.com. Builds, designs and maintains ponds. He is a distributor of Danichi Koi foods & Pond-Armor and can obtain most supplies for you. He sales unique art, giftware and plants. He can provide advise

on ill Koi. 10% club member discount!

Koi Nations at www.koinations.com is owned and published by Michael; this is the newest magazine on the hobby of Koi. Club members receive a subscription discount.



Nick Vanderberg at 480-837-7910 does Koi water colors. He will be a vendor at our 2008 show bringing both water colors and flower arrangements.

WHY KOI

Koi fish are a great hobby. They also help you to relax and relieve stress. Koi are particularly fun to watch eat. Although Koi will eat many natural food sources such as algae and other natural pond residents, the greatest pleasure for many Koi keepers is in hand feeding them. They will even eat lettuce and watermelon!

Water gardeners have been known to stock their ponds with many different kinds of fish. My husband's first thought was to stock it with bass to be sure he would catch some this spring. My first thought was -- this would be the end of "you should see the one that got away". You'll see everything from bass to blue gill, goldfish, trout, catfish, salmon, tadpoles and carp.

By far the most popular fish of water gardening is the beautiful, colorful and friendly Koi. These carefully cultivated carp-like conundrums from the land of the rising sun have captivated the imagination of pond owners and their visitors worldwide.

This article will help you explore the magical attraction these swimming jewels have created in their admirers. With genealogy that's deeply imbedded in Japanese culture and history, Koi are considered water gardening royalty but they actually have blue-collar roots.

Koi are really a fancy variety of the common bottom feeding carp. They are most comfortable using their famous whiskers for rooting around the rocks and rubble of their natural environment. As a member of the carp family, they are very hardy and not nearly as difficult to raise, as some would have you believe.

Koi are an integral part of Japanese culture similar to having cats and dogs in America. But, most Koi outlive their owners and are often passed down from one generation to another. In one pond, scientists from a local university tested the scales (the same trick used to tell the age of trees) and found that the oldest fish was 226 years old and two of his chums (pardon the pun) were 180 and 156 respectively.

According to historical accounts, Koi breeding in Japan dates back to the 17th century in the village of Yamakoshi where they were bred as a protein supplement to rice. Several hundred years ago, in the mountains of Niigata, a farmer noticed a red carp swimming among the black carp they raised for food. Years of selective breeding have created hundreds of unique varieties of Koi that we enjoy today. Out of the frying pan into the status of national fish of Japan.

The Tancho Koi, which sports a large red circle on its head, is known as the symbol of the rising sun on the Japanese flag. For that reason, Tancho is the most coveted Koi in and out of Japan. Breeders from Israel and the US always procure their inventory from Japan in order to claim Japanese heritage. Today Koi are bred in every country and considered to be the most popular fresh-water ornamental pond fish and are often referred to as being "living jewels" or "swimming flowers".

Most water gardeners, are not as interested in showing Koi as they are in enjoying them so here are a few facts that may make your Koi watching less expensive and more interesting and fun.

The most common Koi found here in American water gardens fall into three general categories.

- 1) Pond raised - first most common and least expensive.
- 2) Ornamental quality - second most common and more expensive.
- 3) Show quality - competition breed and quite expensive.

Pond quality Koi are available from local pet stores, online, or from local breeders. They have mixed bloodlines, have no papers and are not suitable for competition. But they are very inexpensive and every bit as friendly, beautiful and enjoyable as their more expensive counterparts.

Ornamental quality Koi will have been bred from good quality parents, have bloodlines, good conformation, and beautiful coloration. Ornamental Koi however, have unbalanced patterns, with flaws in their skin and coloring. Unless one of your nosy neighbors is an expert, no one will be able to detect the imperfections.

Show quality Koi are expected to have good bloodlines, good body conformation, shiny and unflawed skin, sharp edges and balance in their patterns. These Koi come from show quality parents.

Most of us will stock our ponds with pond or ornamental quality Koi but it is interesting to become familiar with the varieties which make up 95% of Japanese Show quality Koi. The first three categories are referred to as Gosanke (Japanese for three families) or otherwise known as "The Big Three". The primary concern in valuing any Koi is the intensity of their color, and the degree of contrast.

The Big Three are Kohaku, Sanke, and Showa.

Kohaku - Beautiful white Koi each with distinctively unique red markings. No two Kohaku have the same markings, therefore there are various sub-categories which refer to the type of red and white pattern. In addition to intensity of color and degree of contrast the most valuable of the Kohaku has a clearer cut and stark contrast. The Japanese have named the crispness of the pattern's edge. It's called "kiwa"

Sanke - In the early 1900's a new variety of Koi emerged with some unique black markings to the red and white Kohaku. This new category was called Sanke or Sanshowku.

Showa - In the 1930's another new variety of Kohaku developed that featured red and white markings against a jet-black base.

Hikarimujil - The fourth category is the most popular in America and is known as "light without pattern". The "light" refers to a bright metallic sheen. They are "without pattern"

meaning one color: black, green, red, yellow, blue or gold. They are truly unique among Koi.

Kawarigoi - The fifth category, in translation means "changing" or "different". All the varieties named and unnamed that either have unstable characteristics, or do not fall into any other recognized category fall into the category of Kawarigoi. Into this group, there are literally hundreds of different examples as well as any new varieties that may emerge. Known lovingly as mutts, some spectacular some bizarre, this category has had many champions.

Size counts. -The most important factor in determining the value of Koi is in its size. The bigger, the more valuable. Some Koi can get to be a 3 feet long. It appears that depending on their age and under optimum conditions Koi can grow almost an inch per month or faster.

Conformation - The next most important factor is shape. The most valuable shape is "torpedo-like".

Skin, color intensity and clarity are also very important in evaluating the value of Koi. There should be no flaws or blemishes in the skin; next intensity, balance and clarity of color pattern will be judged. The more intense, balanced and clear the colors are the higher the value.

A final word on breeders. Koi Farming is a culling and sorting process, which separates the serious breeders from the recreational breeders. Breeding Koi are kept in dirt ponds until early spring. Then they take them out and separate the males from the females, inject the females with a special hormone that makes them fertile. They strip the eggs from the females and the sperm from the males and put them into an indoor hatchery. The fry are born in 4-7 weeks and after one more week they are put into a "grow out" pond to grow for another 6-8 weeks. Then the culling or sorting begins.

In the first cull they keep 25-50 % of the best quality Koi and sell the rest at reduced prices to other hatcheries. During the next 2 months they grow to between 4 -6 inches long. The best 10-40% is kept grown 2 more months to between 6-8 inches long. The final group of select thoroughbreds will be cultivated for another season until they reach 12-18 inches long and are ready for sale. Consequently, the larger the fish, the higher the quality. The truly expensive fish will be 12-18 inches long before being sold.

All in all, if you have a water garden you should consider Koi. There are many colorful inexpensive Japanese Koi to be found. These "Living Jewels" behave like family pets, they can be trained and they enjoy being hand fed. They will bring you years of pleasure and they add color and personality to your water garden.

For those wanting to enter Goldfish in the show, We will allow entry up to 10 AM on Saturday. We have a limited number of aquariums-reserve yours today!- And remember to stop feeding them.



Goldfish Vendors



Contact Goldfishnet

Tel: 972-530-5193 - Fax:

Eastern Nishikigoi www.enkoi.com or 714-895-7998

Other Notable Events



KOI NATIONS 1st Annual Breeders Class
March 21-23, 2008
Palace Station Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Lectures from 6 renowned Breeders from Japan
2 days, all access
Door Prizes
Easter Sunday Brunch with the Breeders

<http://www.koinations.com/vegas>



Greater Nevada Aquatic Ecology
& Koi Health Academy
Location: University of Nevada, Reno
College of Agriculture
Date: February 23rd – 24th, 2008
775-355-1551
775-745-6571 (cell)
www.railcitygarden.net
pawl@railcitygarden.net

Web Site 101 With Dennis Beard

WEB 101:

The www.vskc.net web site will have the results of the show and I will code in an automated slide show that will automatically step through each winner, on a five second stay at each winner. I hope to have other pictures of the show and people in a similar slide show after the results are posted.

Ask Bryan:

Question: How do I buy a Koi at the Koi Show?

Answer: There will be several dealers who will be selling Koi at our show. If there is a particular koi that you are looking for I recommend that you contact the dealer before the show. If you are just buying what the dealers brings to the show I recommend you go see all the koi and return to the dealer that has koi you want to select from. The exception to this is if you find the one koi you can't live without, then I advise you to buy it immediately because it might not be there when you return. You have to decide what variety, size, and cost you are willing to spend. You can ask the dealer to pan (place in a bowl) a few koi that you are interested in so that you can see them closer and compare them side by side. You also need to evaluate your koi selections based on what you want. Do you want a Koi for the future or today? Remember Koi usually get more black as they get older and red seems to fade. Chances are you will not be able to provide an environment that will cause the genetics to change i.e. a kohaku with thin/weak red more than likely will turn into a white Ogon or a pinkish spotted koi. If they are missing a fin or have a deformity chances are they will always have a deformity of a missing fin. Be careful buying a sick fish, they usually do not get well. There are many articles on buying koi for you to read on the internet, and Dennis has linked some good information to the clubs web site as well. You can also read articles about selecting fish in many of koi magazines.

There is also a buying/selling Etiquette for buying koi at a show. Below is a portion of an article on courtesies when buying Koi during a show written by Dr. Galen Hansen

Courtesies When Buying Koi

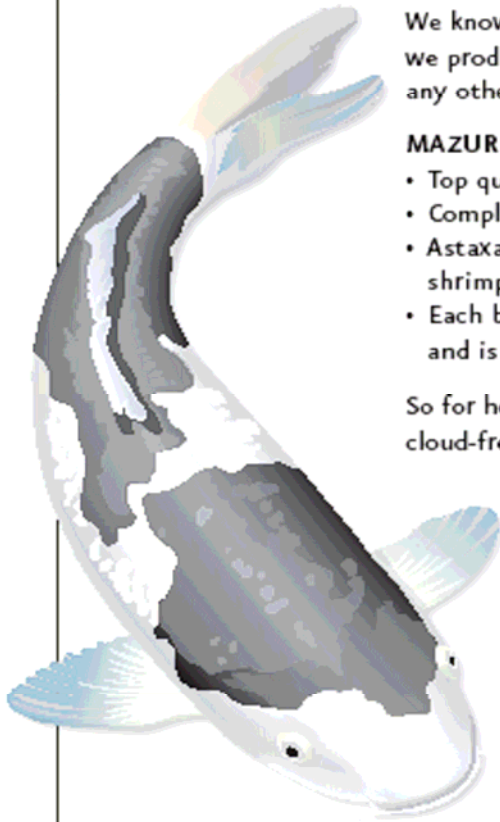
When selecting or buying Koi, there are some unwritten rules which one only learns after being in the hobby for some time. Those new to koikeeping maybe unaware of the courtesies which properly should be observed when viewing and selecting Koi. These unwritten yet expected rules of etiquette are as follows: Once Koi are "tubbed", i.e., placed into a tub for viewing, by the dealer for a prospective customer, no one else may select one of the "tubbed" Koi until the prospective customer releases the Koi back into the pond. The prospective buyer should not be conversed with during his perusing of the "tubbed" Koi. Nor should one question the price of the "tubbed" Koi. Do not ask the price of the Koi except one on one with the dealer. It is particularly impolite to loudly question the price of a Koi with a crowd standing around. It is improper to expect the dealer to blurt out the price to anyone other than the prospective buyer. If the dealer desires to tell the entire crowd the price, that's his business. But asking the dealer the price with a crowd around puts him in a sometimes uncomfortable spot

NOTE: To help you in future purchasing of I also highly recommend you attend a workshop at the AKCA National Seminar this summer in Florida and/or attend the Koi Nations Breeders Class in Las Vegas this March. I know there will be koi for sale directly from breeders at this event.

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To:

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Koi or Goldfish, please do not feed from
now until after the show.**