

VALLEY OF THE SUN



KOI CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Jan 2009

Issue 1

www.vskc.net

Editor:

Sue Beard

Meeting Notice: Jan 18th
Jim, Gena & Jessica Stackhouse

Glendale, AZ

President's Message By Bryan McCleney

It is January 2009; we still need a volunteer to coordinate the Chinese Festival Activities. This person would schedule club members for setting up/manning the booth. We also need help with the Koi auction. Remember the auction is our major fund raiser that helps offset the costs of our koi show and our new trailer. On March 15th, we have the Koi and Water Garden seminar with four (4) speakers prepared to share information about selecting koi, pond building, water lilies, and judging koi. Dennis has taken the lead on the March Koi and Water Garden Seminar. I am working on the Koi show in April.

Last year's dues expired on December 31, 2008 and therefore it is time to see the Treasurer again.

We have these and more events in 2009, so be prepared to have fun, fun, fun this year!

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 January 18th.

Directions to Jim, Gena & Jessica Stackhouse, Glendale, AZ

Instructions for those without World Wide Web access.

Removed from web document.

WWW.VSKC.NET 101

There are changes on the FAQ page. There new questions and answers. The questions are below:

- There are bubbles on the top of my pond, I had a large drop in pH, and a favorite large koi was dead that morning. Why?
- What creates dissolved organic compounds (DOC)?
- How do you acclimate Koi and why?
- What factors contribute to bug eyes?

Check out the Links page (towards the bottom), there is a new item. Thanks Michael Cox and Koi Nations!

There are additions to the Monthly Meeting Page adding three hosts – Thanks to them for answering the communications central e-mail request.

There is an addition to the Local and National Events page.

The Home page counter reset to zero on January 1st.

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
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Membership Information



It is a new year. Please renew your membership. Contact Derek at:

**Valley Of The Sun Koi Club
Derek Tang**

Phone Derek at (480) 699-7586

Email treasurer@vskc.net

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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Future Events!

AKCA National Seminar will be in San Diego February 11-15, 2009.

For those of you who like to see ponds, Southern Arizona Koi Association (SAKA) has an annual pond tour the first weekend in May. They have a \$5 per person charge to cover printing the maps. Debbie Shaw is the tour coordinator.

The September meeting is going to be up North. Take a trip up to Sedona and see the great mountain views. We will be meeting at Don Troutman's home and place of business. Look forward to a MapQuest link in August to help you find his place. It will start from I-17 & 101.

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.

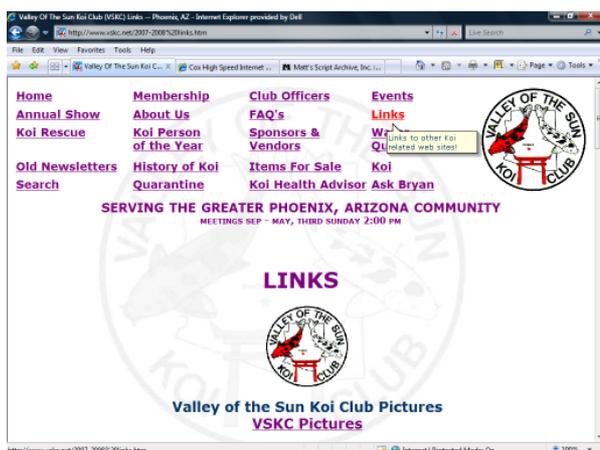
I would follow this up with a diet of cheerios and Mandu-Fu. If your water is consistently below 50 degrees you should stop feeding unless you decide to feed Manda Fu. Most koi hobbyists stop feeding their koi or feed once or twice a week at the most.

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: president@vskc.net

Pictures!



A watermark is behind the web pages and does not scroll!

Have you been to Koi Nations web site recently? They have changed the layout and have added a sign in forum!

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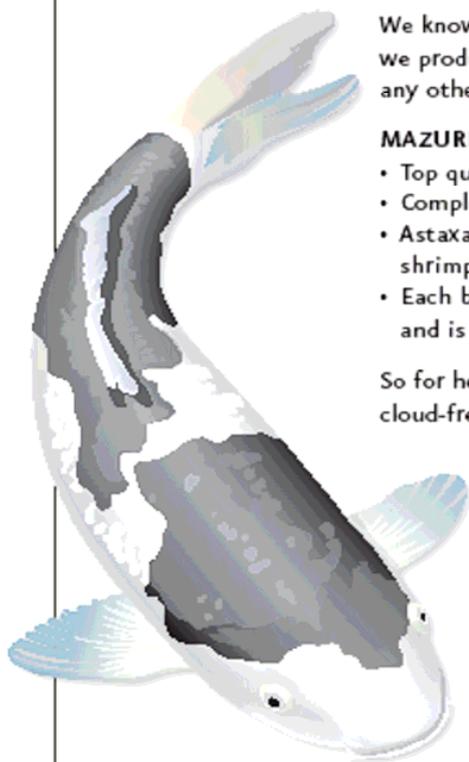
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To: