

VALLEY OF THE SUN



KOI CLUB



NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Issue 3

www.vskc.net

Editor: Sue Beard

Meeting Notice: Mar 15th
Home and Garden Expo Center
17th St & Washington
Phoenix, AZ
Meeting 1-2, Seminar 2-4

President's Message

By Bryan McCleney

It has been a very exciting time over the past month. It has truly been a very busy month with lots of activities in and around the Valley of the Sun. We had a ton of club members participate at the COFCO Center and assist in the operation of the VSKC booth and koi auction in conjunction with Chinese New Year's Celebration. For all of you who came and supported our yearly fund raiser I truly appreciate your efforts. It made the auction a huge success. In addition four of our club members attended the National Show in San Diego. For those of us who did not attend the national seminar, we had the delight of visiting Tom Darby's pond. But wait....there's more! Mark your calendar you don't want to miss the March 15th meeting and Seminar. We will be voting on Vice President, Treasurer and AKCA Representative at the meeting along with a power packed day of lectures from designing, pond building, water lilies, selecting koi, and how koi are judged at shows. On April 4th you will want to participate in the koi show. We have four judges and vendors who will be selling koi and koi products. We have tried to keep the cost down this year but also want to focus on our vendors that support us. It is truly a unique venue. We have an appreciation barbecue Friday night sponsored by the club. Don't wait too long deciding to attend the Awards Banquet. There is space for only 50 people on Saturday night which is the place you will want to be for the silent auction and awards banquet.

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 a week prior to the meeting.

Directions to Phoenix Central, Home & Garden Expo Center

**17th St & Washington
Phoenix, AZ
Phone 602 712-1200
Meeting 1-2, Seminar 2-4**

Instructions

Washington is a westbound one-way street with exits off I-10. Take Washington West to parking along 18th Street or enter a small lot adjacent to the Central Phoenix Expo Center. Door is off that parking lot. Other parking is along 17th Street or behind the Center.

Sick Fish or Ill Pond?

Contact the VSKC Koi Health advisors:

Megan Yee: kha1@vskc.net or **Nikki Pritchard:** kha2@vskc.net

WWW.VSKC.NET 101

The 2009 Annual Show link has more information added almost daily. It now has the Show Registration and Awards Banquet Form, Judges, Silent Auction.

Do you have a document you are preparing in Microsoft (MS) Word to pass across the Internet to others? Please "Save As," Rich Text Format (.rtf). Why? Everyone does not have MS Word. Other word processing software will read and print .rtf but not MS Word (.doc).

Do you have any web site suggestions, improvements, corrections, or additions?

Questions or comments about the website: webmaster@vskc.net

VSKC Officers

PRESIDENT	BRYAN McCLENEY	president@vskc.net
SECRETARY	NIKKI PRITCHARD	secretary@vskc.net
FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP	DEREK TANG	treasurer@vskc.net
AKCA REPRESENTATIVE	DAVID YEE	akcarep@vskc.net
WEBMASTER	DENNIS BEARD	webmaster@vskc.net
MEMBER AT LARGE	TOM AYERS	mal@vskc.net
EX-OFFICCO MEMBERS AT LARGE	ROBBIE McCLENEY CORREY GARRETT	exoff1@vskc.net exoff2@vskc.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	SUE BEARD	editor@vskc.net

Membership Information



**It is a new year. Please renew your membership.
It is \$20. Contact Derek at:**

**Valley of the Sun Koi Club
C/O Derek Tang
2331 W. Binner Drive
Chandler, AZ 85224
Phone Derek at (480) 699-7586
Email treasurer@vskc.net**

Membership dues are calendar year basis.

Support our Supporters!



CTK Quality Pond Products, at [602-214-5135](tel:602-214-5135) 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!

For those of you who like to see other 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. Her e-mail is castlerockkings@cox.net or phone (520) 275-4510

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.

Show Reminder: Stop feeding your koi the last week of March (about 7 days before the show). We know they will beg for food, but do not feed them. Whatever you feed them comes out of them! The show tanks don't have filters. Your water may become yucky if you do not stop feeding them.

ASK BRYAN

Question: Should I show my koi at a koi show?

Answer: For me the answer would be yes. Most of you may have heard this story, but it is worth repeating here. Over ten years ago my wife came home with a fish in a bag that was white with a few large black spots. One weekend she discovered the Valley of the Sun Koi Club's show. They were auctioning koi and she bought a koi that had won a prize that very weekend in the show. Needless to say we did not have a pond and kept the koi in a bath tub with air stones for about a week until we could build a pond. One koi led to two koi and one little pond became a big pond. If there was no show, we more than likely would not be part of the koi hobby today.

The main reason for showing is not to win a prize. The trophies or ribbons are worth far less than the koi. The purpose is to promote the hobby and appreciate all the varieties of koi, and to learn. I have probably learned more about catching, bagging, transporting, water, air systems and the qualities of a good koi from showing my koi. In addition it is fun to observe others appreciate your koi as they pass your show tank. Yes, I know it is stressful and difficult at times to catch and transport koi. Many koi enthusiasts do not have a process to catch koi from their pond and only do so after a koi dies. By having the tools and the skill set when you need to catch a koi for observation, treatment, or pond cleaning and repair you will benefit from the honed skill set you have learned by taking your koi to shows. I recommend start showing at your local club, if it is your first time showing they will usually have a novice class to compete against others that have also never shown a koi.

Our club, and many of the others I belong to, exist to educate, inform and promote the hobby of keeping, appreciating, breeding and exhibiting Koi. By having koi events, like a show, we gain new members, and others who may not join today but will decide one day to build a pond and have wet pets. So, would I show? Yes. Should club members show? I would say yes, show your koi. Is it a risk? Sure, it can be a risk. Just don't get wrapped up in what place your koi places. On the lighter note: The original koi, the one my wife purchased from the show, had actually won best doitsu bekko in that koi show. My guess is that it was the only doitsu bekko in the show and won by default. But we loved that koi just the same and she was a winner in our eyes. Showing koi and participating in shows has become my wife's and my hobby and we have met many close friends over the past ten years in many states.

Question: How do I transport my koi to the show?

Answer: Most club members will transport koi to the show via a large plastic bag with oxygen and enough water to cover the gill plate and placed in a cardboard box or cooler. The reason for using the bag is that it is soft, slippery, holds water and the needed oxygen for the trip. If you are traveling a short distance to the show site without oxygen you need to be quick and it is risky. One of the best alternatives I have seen is from Karen Valenzuela. She purchased a battery operated small air pump and air stone from a pet store. She captures her koi and uses a Rubbermaid container or cooler along with the battery powered pump and air stone. What is good about her system is that it is portable and can be used for multiple purposes throughout the year. Another item you might look into is bag buddies, which is a tablet placed in the water to help koi when they travel.

Returning koi home from the show you have many options because the club will have oxygen and bags available at the show. If you want to show but you don't have the time to capture your koi on Friday you may want to consider purchasing one-three koi at the show site Friday or early Saturday morning and putting only those koi in the show.

If there is a particular koi you would like to buy I recommend you contact one of our vendors before the show to bring it with them. If you pre-arrange your purchases you do not pay for shipping the koi to AZ which is typically 100 to 150 bucks. Remember to quarantine all koi before putting them into your pond.

Pictures!

You can find pictures at www.vskc.net/koi_club_pics.htm.

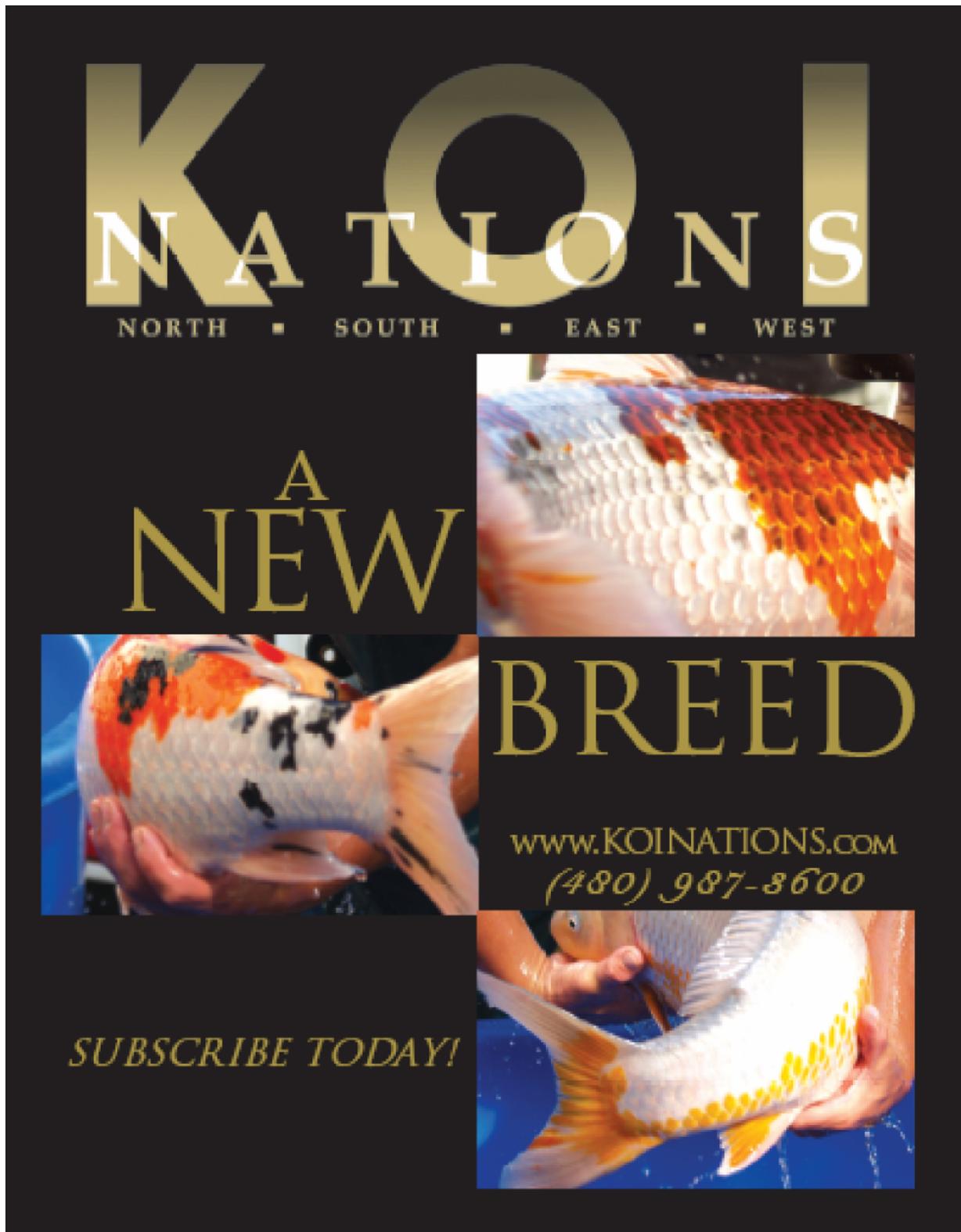


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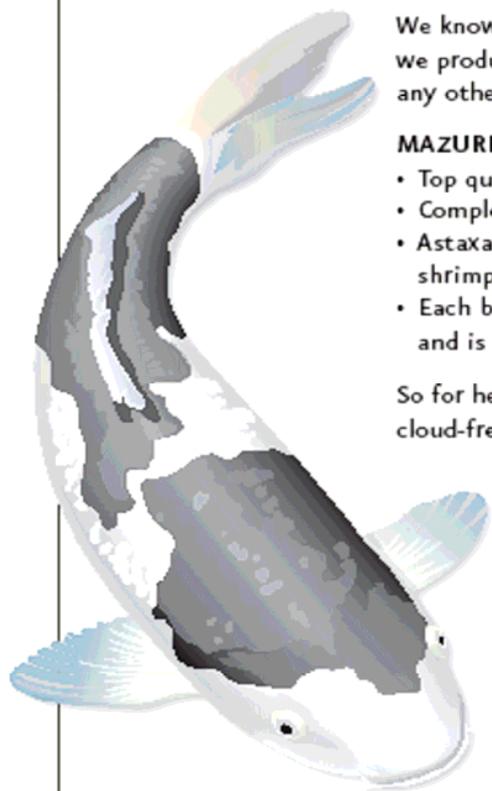
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Valley of the Sun Koi Club
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