

*San Francisco Bay Area
Koi Club
April 2009 Volume 15 Issue 4*

"News From Around The Pond"

"Pond"er This!

浅みに鯉

"Asami ni koi"

Literally translated from Japanese - "Koi in shallow water"

Paraphrased, koi in shallow water are easy to catch

By the Japanese, this phrase used to denote receipt of unexpected luck, "hit the jackpot", etc.

"Wow! You asami ni koi!"

If undeliverable please return to:

Bill Edwards
686 Canterbury Place
Milpitas, Ca 95035

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The SFBKAC is a non-profit EDUCATIONAL club for koi enthusiasts. Anyone who requires help or advice should feel free to request it from our membership.

We encourage anyone interested in koi or currently involved with koi to become a member.

Guests are always welcome to come and check us out at our monthly general meetings.

Meeting Schedule

Please join us at the next get-together on 25 April, 2009 at

Koi Enterprise, In West Sacramento

(<http://www.koienterprise.com/>)

(See directions on page 7)

Board meeting starts at 11:00A.M. (all members are welcome to attend)

Social hour starts at 12:00 Noon - Please bring munchies & finger food! Host is providing BBQ.

General meeting starts at 1:00 P.M. (Guests welcome!)

Speaker: Our Host - Koi Enterprise
Topic: Pond Related Stuff

Note:

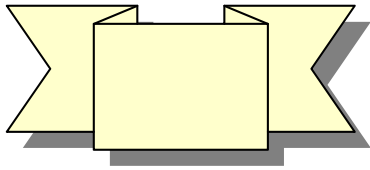
Meetings are always the 4th Saturday of every month - unless otherwise changed by prior notification (rare).

The KHA is cadre of highly trained Koi club members who have graduated from the KHA Academy. They are trained in all aspects of Koi keeping, including pond building, water quality, koi health and disease prevention. If you need help you can download a questionnaire from our website. Your answers will help them evaluate the situation.

Some Northern CA KHAs:

- Bobbie Cervantes, Pacifica
(650) 738-1935
Bobbiecervantes@hotmail.com
- Stephan J. Eckard, Redding
(530) 223-0784
Eckard@snowcrest.net
- Sheila Jackson, Pinole
(510) 724-4428
Ladyja6@aol.com
- Rich Little, Fremont
(510) 659-0267
rgnIII@aol.com
- Bill Manausa, Livermore
(925) 443-0969
manausa@aol.com
- Ed Thomas, Advanced KHA
(925) 426-1416
Ed-thomas1@comcast.net





Club Officers 2009

President: Rich Little

rgniii@aol.com

510-659-0267

Vice President: Dan McKeever

danzcool@danielmckeever.com

707-745-4631

Secretary: Lynn Miller

rnlynn@hotmail.com

510-661-9931

AKCA Representative: Tim Biglow

timbiglow@gmail.com

925-759-1306

Treasurer: Greg Bequette

bequette1@ewnet.net

925-449-4739

Event Coordinator: Sheila Jackson

ladyja6@aol.com

510-724-4428

Librarian: Mary Nielsen

mjnielsen@mindspring.com

415-479-8749

Public Relations: Open

Labor of Love Labor:

Web: Open

Newsletter: Bill Edwards

bllledwards@comcast.net



President's Corner

Thank you to the Nielson's for opening their house for a club meeting. Their brand new pond was built by Norm Walsh, a contractor who built Marilyn Burns's pond where we had the November 2008 meeting. Norm's ponds are clearly, state of the art with effectively designed filter systems coupled with the peaceful beauty we all want in our ponds. He should be added to your list of contractors when you're taking bids for building or remodeling your own.

Our Treasurer, Greg, told us we have almost \$4000.00 so we can buy the President a new TV. He will work up some ideas for an annual budget for all of us to look at.

The new Survey being developed is an attempt to find out what you want of the club so we can set some long term goals aimed at providing what you hope to get out of the club. The survey will be attached to the dues form. Please help us by filling out the questionnaire when you return the dues form.

Terri Noel, long time librarian is stepping back and Mary Neilson is the new librarian.

Terri has been the Club's librarian for a long time. Her contribution has been a great value to us, particularly to new members. Thanks for your gift to the Club Terri.

We discussed allowing people to join the club without subscribing to Koi USA. We originally allowed people the choice because some of us were members of other clubs and were required to carry a subscription there and we ended up with two or more subscriptions. Now new members have been allowed to join without taking the magazine. That was not the intent of the policy and they are missing out on some important information that is not only of value to them, but to the club as well. I ask those of you who are not taking the magazine to subscribe in June so your subscription will be timed with your club membership. It's an excellent magazine for anyone who wishes to learn about koi health and koi ponds.

I am placing the proposal to return to the practice of including the magazine subscription in the membership dues form unless the E-board excuses the subscription. This establishes the notification and opportunity to bring the issue to a vote.

Alden Lane Nursery club event is being planned by Sheila. We have added a silent auction. The items will be for dry goods and equipment. If you have any pumps, blowers, tanks, J-matting here's the time to support your club and clear out that closet. No golf shoes, unless they're EEE for Harley.

(continued on page 5)

Board Meeting Minutes for March 28th prior to scheduled Club Meeting at 1pm

Attendees : Rich Little, Pres.
Dan McKeever, V.P.
Sheila Jackson, Events Coordinator
Lynn Miller, Sec.
Greg Bequette, Tres.
Lucia Rose, member

Start: 11:35 End 12:30

Minutes of meeting as they occurred :
Rich said Club dues are being switched to annually from June-May. He thought Koi Magazine should be mandatory for members. Debate followed.

Greg introduced as new Treasurer. Storage cost of Club equipment now deleted as Sheila now stores equipment at her home saving the Club 80.00/mo. Greg reported approx. 4000.00 in club bank account, advises keeping dues at current rate, if not reducing them! Bylaws require approval of disbursements approved by board. Approval for approx. 176.00 to Rich approved and also to Daniel . Greg said we have a Club VISA card available to use for Club expenses, and he has it.

Greg will keep membership list up to date. He will give us updated copies and expects us to inform him as we are aware of any deletions/ new members or updates. Greg showed the Board a Membership Renewal form he designed for getting all members synchronized to the June-May annual dues time table. Very minor ideas given, but the form was very well received by all.

The idea of mentioning new members in our newsletter was made.

Rich said we are not participating in the Steinhart Aquarium project he mentioned in Jan.

Rich wants a committee to devise the marketing plan for the club with the idea of attracting new members. He suggested Mario Klip to work with a couple of long time members to formulate it. Idea of reaching out to old members brought up. Lucia thought personal phone call was best. General discussion ensued.

Greg will e-mail general budget to us before the next meeting so we can dis-

cuss it then as we are over time now. Motion passed that minutes be signed by the person recording them. Lucia brought this up.

Sheila presented idea of participating in the Alden Lane Nursery Collectors Show June 6 and 7th. We will be there along with vendors and other clubs related to gardening. Vendors charge is \$100.00. Sheila said next months meeting is at Koi Enterprise in West Sacramento. A barbeque will be provided by our hosts so club members should bring a side dish or dessert. We recommend car pooling or taking the train (station close to meeting location). She recommended visiting koienterprise.com to learn more about the business we are visiting. We need a P.R. person to interact with the Regional and National organization.

The May Auction and Vendor Fair is now in June with the Alden Lane event. Sheila will get members involved on committees to make it happen. Koi tour for this year tabled for next year. Too late start for this year. Respectfully submitted, Lynn Miller (editor: Thank you, Lynn!!)

Minutes of General Meeting - 3/28/09

Started at 1:30pm, still in session at 3:30

Rich acknowledged Norm Walsh, builder of the pond we were enjoying, as the only builder he could recommend at this point. Thank you to the Nielson's for hosting us.

Steinhart Aquarium project participation is not happening per Rich.

Storage of club equipment has been moved to Sheila's home ,saving the club \$700.00/mo.(editor - board meeting data was \$80 per month. Typos are for us humans! I nvrer have tehml!) Thank you Sheila!

Rich said the microscope is available to use.

Club Librarian job reviewed. It was decided it is important that the books and other resources be at the meetings each month for members to borrow. Mary Nielson volunteered to be Librarian. Rich will contact Terri Noel, our current Librarian.

Greg Bequette,our new Treasurer, gave a few words about funds in our club ac-

count, aprox. 3,600.00 available. A club debit card is available. Greg plans a Treasury Report for the newsletter. He reported a Membership Renewal Form will be sent out to get all members switched over to an annual schedule. Currently 2/3 of members are due to renew. All will pay through May of 2010. Brief discussion about making magazine subscription apart of dues occurred.

A lengthy discussion about the purpose of our club vs. Santa Clara club and others, C-3 classification, out reach work of our club and others, how we should go about forming a committee to look into what our mission statement should be, etc. It was decided that a survey of current members would be written up and sent out on the reverse side of the membership renewal form, saving separate postage costs, and hopefully catching the interest of the membership to participate in the survey. Lynn will develop the initial survey draft and send it out for changes by board members and others interested. Then the final version can go to Greg for sending out.

Sheila presented the April meeting plans at Koi Enterprise in Sacramento. She also presented plans for the June 6/7 Alden Lane Nursery club event planned. Club volunteers will be needed both days for this fun event that gives us good exposure to possible new members. We will have our Koi auction at that event too.

This recording incomplete... Respectfully submitted, Lynn Miller (editor - Thank you again, Lynn!)



(Prez corner continued from page 3)

The next club meeting will be at Koi Enterprise in Sacramento. They are a dealer we should all get familiar with. Not only are they allowing us to hold our meeting there but they are going out of their way by having a barbeque for us. Please, let's show our appreciation by attending. I say this because we often get a poor showing if we have to travel. Try to car pool with someone to make the trip a little more pleasant and also so his customers aren't inconvenienced. If you would like help finding someone to car pool with, try a broadcast message to the membership or contact Sheila Jackson (510 724-4428).

The No Cal ZNA Club will be putting on a Koi show in November. Some of us old timers are disappointed that we are not doing the same and many new members have never taken part or even attended one. No Cal asked if they could borrow our tanks for the show. We recently decided to charge \$25.00 when allowing others to use them and I will ask for that to be dropped at the next meeting. We have always loaned equipment and assistance with out charge and received the same and can expect that to continue.

Speaking of Harley, he was right when he said the filters he made for people would handle around 1000 gph. I'm surprised that's all they are rated for.

Last month's newsletter had an article on Algae control. It didn't mention removing nitrates and phosphates through plants. Plants (planted without soil) will use these pollutants that are normally removed by our dumping 10% of the water each week, allowing us to dump less water to keep the pond healthy. I will discuss that in the talk on water conservation at one of the meetings coming up this year.

Rich L (end of article)

Message from Camellia Koi Club:

We're the Camellia Koi Club of Sacramento. We'd appreciate if you could let your members know about our Koi Show to be held in September. If you'd like to send us information regarding any of your shows, we'd love to let our members know. You never know when someone might be vacationing in ones area and would love to attend a new Koi event.

Thanks,
Georgia

Camellia Koi Club's 10th Annual Combined Koi Show

Saturday, September 12th, 9:00 am. to 5:00 pm.
Sunday, September 13th, 9:00 am. to 5:00 pm.

Placer County Fairground's Johnson Hall
800 All America City Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95678

Free Admission - Free Parking
\$5.00 Tax Deductible Donation Suggested

For Show Information or Vendor Opportunities, contact Jim Phillips at truckinhairbear@comcast.net or call 916-847-4568

Editor's commentary (which mitigates me from any litigation)

I would like to take a moment and say a few words about a past President (multiple term)/web manager/ KHA/Chef (awesome one!)/et al., **Ed Thomas**.

Ed, I sincerely appreciate all you have done for our club. You hosted fabulous BBQs at your home many times. I, personally, thought that there was no stronger bonding

method for our club than your annual BBQs.

Aside from the BBQs (yummy!), you were President, web manager for many years AND the Newsletter editor for many years - because of the newsletter I can NOW appreciate what you had to do to get, what many of us think of a trivial task, (I did!) a publication out to us month after month after month ... - (I digress).

You are certainly a model "club member" to us all.

Ed, you personify what I think is the "get 'er done" guy.

I think I speak for the entire membership when I say a resounding "THANK YOU!!!" for all you've done for us.

Now, get your new pond done and if you need any advice (Ha!) on how to build it, ahh, call, ahh, well - not me! Call me for anything else! Sorry...

Which leads me to my next point - Ed has relinquished the webmaster position and that leaves us "web-less". Help!

I am a computer geek but not a web geek. We need a web guru. Someone to be able to post our monthly newsletters, update the web page, be the one to catch the flak for others mistakes (no, just kidding!). "Master web guru-san! Is it not prudent to do a spell-check prior to posting?"

Thanks again for your service and work, Ed.

Bill.

Still the editor's minute here!

I would appreciate if you (everyone reading this article) would send me your input for koi food/supplies/pond/etc. vendors contact info. So I can list them - not advertise, yet - in future newsletters. Send me the names of what you think are your favorite vendors! Hey, they deserve mentioning, too!

Treasurer's Report

April, 2009

submitted by Greg Bequette

Beginning balance, March 13, 2009				\$4,145.87
Income				
	Dues			\$30.00
	Koi food sales			\$50.00
	Total Income			\$80.00
Expenses				
	Meeting supplies			-\$26.62
	Koi USA magazine collections			
	less payments	\$40.00	-\$40.00	\$0.00
	Total Expenses			-\$26.62
Ending balance, 4/13/09				\$4,199.25

Thank You Greg!!!



There was a sea scout camp near a beach where the porpoises were so friendly they swam into shore at dinner time. The chef used to announce dinner by yelling: "Dinner! For all in tents...and porpoises."

What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus? -"I want to hold your hand hand hand hand hand hand hand hand"

Bumper stickers:

- "EARTH FIRST! We'll strip mine the other planets later!"
- "Very funny, Scotty. Now beam down my clothes!"
- "He who laughs last thinks slowest"
- "Give me ambiguity or give me something else"
- "A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries"
- "Hard work has a future payoff. Laziness pays off now. "
- "Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy"
- "Okay, who put a 'stop payment' on my reality check? "
- "We have enough youth. How about a fountain of SMART?"
- "I.R.S.: We've got what it takes to take what you've got! "

(For brevity, directions are To **Koi Enterprise** from Napa. All of you should be able to get to Napa! Free wine!!!)

Directions to Koi Enterprise, from Napa general
Address of Koi Enterprise (remember, it is WEST Sacramento):
3535 Partridge Ave.
West Sacramento, Ca. 95691
916-373-0111

FROM Napa/I80 East

- From Napa, go **I-80 East** about 40 miles
- Continue on **US-50 East towards Sacramento/I-80 BR/So. Lake Tahoe**, go about 1.2 miles
- Take the **Harbor Blvd. exit** towards Port of Sacramento, go about 0.2 miles
- Turn left on **Harbor Blvd**, go about 0.3 miles
- Turn left on **Industrial Blvd**, go about 0.6 miles
- Continue on **Lake Washington Blvd**, go about 0.9 miles
- Turn right on **Jefferson Blvd.** (CA-84), go about 1.3 miles
- Turn left on **Harmon Rd.**, go about 0.3 miles
- Turn right on **Partridge Ave.**, go about 0.2 miles
- Arrive at **3535 Partridge Ave**, West Sacramento, on the left.
- Return to point of origin - hey! You're on your own! Reverse the directions?

The Mission Statement of the SFBAKC -

“The San Francisco Bay Area Koi Club wants people to do it right the first time, helping to create a dream instead of a nightmare”

To encourage, promote, and educate others in the art of keeping Koi and building ponds through quality guidance and care for show, breeding, aesthetics, sales, or just for pleasure.

To build a “Koi keeping” network among the members.

Projects:

Sponsor Koi shows and pond tours.
Study and research all areas of Nishikigoi, including pond and water garden design, construction, development, and support.

Encourage and promote the development and presentation of show Koi.

An article by Tom Ross Of the Inland Koi Society (IKS)

Those "Other" Plants in Our Ponds – Algae!

...In the springtime the plants in and around our ponds grow and bloom. Some are welcome and add beauty; then there are various types of algae which hide our fish and clog up filters and plumbing.

Each year our ponds go through a cycle based on the seasons. Part of that cycle is when floating algae causes the water to turn murky, even solid green. This is also common when starting a new pond. Then there are several types of algae that grow on the rocks in the waterfall and on the sides of the pond, of these the dreaded string algae (aka blanket weed) is the most bothersome. Green water is caused by phytoplankton, which is a group of microscopic plants. In nature these are the source of beneficial nutrients needed by fish, such as essential fatty acids. The water in mud ponds in Japan is usually quite green, as this keeps the fish healthy and hides them from predators. Unfortunately, it also hides them from us! This makes it hard to see health problems that are common in springtime, like parasite infestations and sores.

String algae is tough stuff, and can be a real problem. It is hard to remove and seems to stick to anything – even plastics and rubber liner. It can form a foot thick blanket on the sides of the pond, and is generally too tough for the fish to eat. The other types (black, green, brown and even white) that grow on surfaces are usually short and not a concern. It takes three things to grow algae – sunlight, nutrients, and a tiny bit of algae to start things going. It is nearly impossible to keep algae "spores" out, so the first way to control it is to shade the pond. Unfortunately this is not practical in many yards, and a pond can grow algae even in the shade. Nutrients are always being produced by the fish and filter bacteria, so it is very difficult to eliminate these from the pond.

So most ponders do their best to control algae by adding UV, chemicals and/or treatments. UV lighting when adequately sized will clear green water but can be slow to help if the water is particularly thick and murky – the light can't reach all the algae. It seems more effective at keeping clear water clear, and of course does not kill the string algae on your waterfall. Algae-Fix is an effective and popular chemical treatment but is toxic at higher doses. Most of us use various plant extracts instead, as these are less potentially harmful. The way these work is that when plants decompose they release enzymes that inhibit new growth – think of this as a sort of defense mechanism. So the "old school" way was to put a bale of barley straw or a bundle of cut bamboo into the pond and let it decay. There are now various powdered and liquid preparations that do the same. I have had good results from Clarity-Max Plus, but like the other "natural" treatments it can take several weeks to work.

As a last resort against string algae, household (3%) Hydrogen Peroxide will remove it from your waterfall. Turn off the pump and let the algae dry out a bit, then spray it on liberally. The Peroxide will not harm the fish and the algae will turn light green and decay. And once your treatments begin to soften up the stringy stuff, the fish can eat it – ending the cycle for that year.

Tom Ross, KHA
(editor: Thank you, Tom)

Due to printing space limitations, Grant Fujita's Koi Study Group application form was not included in this month's newsletter. Please refer to (either printed or web based) March's newsletter for the application form.