

*San Francisco Bay Area
Koi Club
December 2009 Volume 16
Issue 12*

"News From A round The Pond"

"Pond"er This!

Reminder !!!

The annual Christmas luncheon is at the home of Greg & Kathi Bequette.
December 20th, 2009, at 1 PM.
10203 Morgan Territory Road
Livermore, Ca., 94551
(use Yahoo!, Google, MapQuest maps for best directions)

If undeliverable please return to:
Bill Edwards
686 Canterbury Place
Milpitas, Ca 95035

[HTTP://WWW.SFBAKC.ORG](http://www.sfbakc.org)

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Meeting Schedule

**Please join us at the Christmas luncheon on
December 20th, 2009 at:**

**The home of
Greg and Kathi Bequette**

(See REALLY weak directions on page 5)

Social hour starts at 1 PM- Please bring a dish (kindly coordinate with Sheila what dish you want to bring)



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.

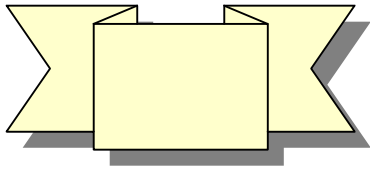
Guests are always welcome to come and check us out at our monthly general meetings.

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
rgn111@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@danielmckeeper.net
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

Handing-off Labor:

Webmaster: rookie Bill
blledwards@comcast.net

Newsletter: Bill Edwards

blledwards@comcast.net



President's Corner

Editor - No message submitted. Rich is too busy building his new pond!

On the lighter side, while perusing (I actually did a Microsoft "look-up" on this word "peruse" and I was right!!!!) some of our old newsletters I came across, again, one of my favorite ones: December, 2003:

http://www.sfbakc.org/news/News_Letters/2003/2003_12.pdf
Reading it I felt so much association with Phred, Rich, Lucia.

Just to name a few. I now REALLY appreciate the sacrifice and effort by individuals that goes into keeping our club going.

2009 was a brutal year for all of us but we persevered and, to be honest, did ANYONE hear any of their fish complaining?

Hmmm? Nope! Just the ever-present loving stare and the "Good ta see ya! Gimme food!!!" look.

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Notes from the November meeting, 28 November.

The meeting was held at the lovely home of Robert and Wynne Geshlinder. They have a beautiful 2,200 concrete pond, with 2 Evolution filters. They currently have 11 fish. Robert said that three years ago it was a 300 gallon goldfish pond. How many of us can relate to that?

- A newsletter editor will be needed for 2010
- Dan McKeever was nominated for President (accepted)
- Rich Little volunteered & was seconded for Program Dir.
- Sheila Jackson was nominated for Vice Pres. (accepted)

- We still need a Treasurer and Secretary - both board positions.
- News Flash!! Rich's pond is nearing completion!!
- The Grant Fujita Koi Study Group is starting back up in March.
- Suggestions for improving attendance at the meetings were asked for - I kind of got lost in the replies.
- A suggestion was made to email the membership for additions to the newsletter content
- The Christmas luncheon that was scheduled before the 28th was cancelled - after meeting news: the luncheon will be held at Greg & kathi Bequette's home on 20 December, in Livermore.

Treasurer's Report

December 2009

Submitted by Greg Bequette

Beginning balance, November 1, 2009 \$4,389.15

Income (none)

Expenses

Web site renewal (5 year)	-\$114.95
Postage	-\$26.40
State biennial filing fee	-\$20.00

Total Expenses	-\$161.35
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Ending balance, November 29, 2009 \$4,227.80

I saw on the Atlanta Koi Club's newsletter a reference to a pretty interesting site on Koi classifications: <http://valentinac.com/koi/> Thanks Atlanta Koi Club and thanks to the author (I have to presume), Valentina Scharpf! Navigate around the page for descriptions of individual classifications. Very cool!



From Koivet.com humor: Ways to annoy people -

- Practice making fax modem noises.
- Sit in your front yard pointing a hair dryer at passing cars, to see if they slow down.
- TYPE ONLY IN UPPERCASE.
- type only in lowercase.
- Signal that a conversation is over by clamping your hands over your ears
- Make beeping noises when a large person backs up.
- Holler random numbers whenever someone is counting.

Bumper stickers:

- Energizer bunny arrested, charged with battery.
- Eschew obfuscation
- Ground Beef: A Cow With No Legs!
- I don't have a problem with willpower.
It's won't power I have a problem with
- Keep honking, I'm reloading.
- Anything free is worth what you pay for it

Two morons rent a boat and go fishing. They catch a lot of fish and return to the shore.

1st moron: I hope you remember the spot where we caught all those fish.

2nd moron: Yes, I made an 'X' on the side of the boat to mark the spot.

1st moron: You idiot! How do you know we'll get the same boat?

(continued from page 3)

When I learned that I "volunteered" to do the newsletter last year I never realized the amount of heart and soul, sweat and time goes into doing just this small portion of the club's activities. I thought I was volunteering to help in the mailing, stapling, stamping, etc. of the newsletter. I was pleasantly mistaken! Ed, bless your heart! With all that you did over the years I salute you!!

I am still in awe of other clubs publications. There are some absolutely smashing newsletters & sites out there! Bravo to them.

I want to, again, express my thanks to HappyKoi in South Africa. Their webpage has been a wealth of information (including the air lift article here). They seem like really nice folks also!

I, with a sense of regret actually, am surrendering the newsletter to someone yet to be named. The best of luck to that person(s)!

In my ending "commentary", babble, jabber, allow me to express my thanks and appreciation to some people for what they have done for us and our club in 2009.

In no particular order of significance, thank you Rich Little, Sheila Jackson, Dam McKeever, Greg Bequette, Lucia, Phred, Ed, Harley, Jeanne, Janet, Ron, my wife Sue, on and on ... If I didn't mention you here it doesn't mean that you weren't part of the 2009 formula. It is simply my error.

The best to you all.

Bill

These are the instructions from Greg (South bay, but a good start!):

From 580 in Livermore

Take North Livermore Avenue North for 4.5 miles

Go right on Morgan Territory Rd for 4.5 miles

House is on the right

As usual, use a reliable map source like Yahoo! Maps, Google maps, Mapquest, etc. The directions to the Bequette home is quite complex so use the map source - I would be here all month entering directions!!

Ed. Note - You may remember Rich did a demo of an Air Lift at the meeting held at my home in 2008! It just may be the future of pumps!

From HappyKoi.com - the Koi guys - as always, THANKS!!!!!!

Air lifts and your Koi pond...

What is an airlift?

Airlifts are perhaps surprisingly not a new thing. They have in fact been used in aquaculture for decades because they are ultra efficient in terms of moving large quantities of water.

They are not commonly used on Koi ponds for a number of reasons - none of which we can quite fathom out right now! We think it's because they are a bit more complicated to install. They are also a bit more complicated in working out flow rates and of course in some Koi ponds they simply cannot work because of the physical constraints of the site itself. And generally the running costs of a Koi pond are largely ignored by the pond builder - after all they are not the ones who have to pay for them once the pond has been built...

So here we present our offering on how to use airlifts and why to use them - their benefits and their drawbacks.

The basic concept of an airlift is in fact a very simple one. If you have ever seen bubbles surfacing en masse in a Koi pond, or any body of water for that matter, you will notice that the bubbles tend to break at the surface a little higher (a few millimeters) than the actual surface level of the pond itself.

The reason for this is because as the bubble rise up through the water body they 'drag' water up along with them. It is this 'viscous drag' property of water that we exploit in our air lifts.

What you do, very simply, is to force a whole bunch of air bubbles to rise up through a thin tube or pipe. As they do so the bubbles drag water up with them. The essence of the concept is illustrated below.

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Mission Statement

“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:

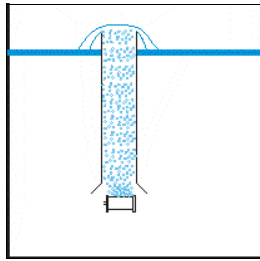
Sponsor Koi shows and pond tours.

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.

(Air lifts and your Koi pond...- continued from page 5)



The general rules are as follows:

1. The higher the pipe stands above the water level, the less water is lifted up.
2. The more air you blow up through the pipe the more water is dragged up with the bubbles.
3. The thinner the diameter of the pipe the higher the water will be lifted with the bubbles.
4. The larger the diameter of the pipe the more water volume will be moved (if you have enough bubbles)

So you can see that there is a fair degree of optimisation that can take place before you get to an optimum blend of water movement vs. air flow. Then there are smaller factors such as bubble size that of course also makes a difference!

We have found that using a 63mm diameter pipe with one of our large airstones and between 20 and 30 l/min of air will give about 4000 to 5000 l/hr which is pretty good all things considered.

Airlifts thus rely on tiny head pressures, generally only a few centimeters. But this is more than enough for our Koi pond's filtration needs. If you plan your pond such that your filters are constructed on the same level ... i.e. same water level that is... and you allow sufficient large bore pipe in your filtration design there is no reason why you can not use airlifts to great success on your Koi pond.

Air lifts pros and cons...

Let's start off with the Pros...

1. Very low power usage. Typically a 120 l/min air pump consumes 100W of power and can drive around 15kl/hr of water through an airlift...
2. Oxygen saturation of course!
3. The airlift is very simple. There is little to go wrong and there are no moving parts other than in your airpump. They are extremely low maintenance and robust.
4. They can be configured to turnover your pond volume as often as you like.
5. An airpump can be easily hooked up to a battery backup system that needs only be a fraction of the size of the equivalent water pump system and the backup system will last many times longer.
6. Running costs are dramatically lower...
7. Low pressure filters offer other benefits (no gas super saturation, easier cleaning, lower maintenance, easy to get to parts etc etc)

And onto the Cons...

1. Slightly higher initial capital costs. You will need a few air pumps, and slightly more large diameter piping than in a normal pond.
2. If you want to run the pond seamlessly on a standby battery system you will need an inverter UPS type backup which can cost a little money.
3. Because the water flow is low pressure with only a few mm of water head providing the water movement in the pond, there is some concern that perhaps your Koi will not receive the kind of exercise that they would receive under a pump driven water return system. Again careful design can also overcome this. A backup water pump can also be used on a timer switch to provide your Koi with the body building exercise that they may require. The Happy Koi jury is out on this one if the truth be told though...
4. Pond levels need to be maintained with a reasonable accuracy. A difference of 5cm should not be enough to break the system though.

And that's about it.

Airlifts. Consider them on your next Koi pond! With a bit of planning they can be easily implemented and they will save you mega money over the years...

(end of article)