



Southern Arizona Koi Association

Organized by those with the interest of raising and improving the quality of Nishiki Koi, and its culture. Promote better community and international relations for the better understanding of brotherhood among members through a common interest. To improve and promote the technology and education of Aquaculture

August 2018 Newsletter

PONDERING

Our Next SAKA Meeting:

Sept 15th, 2018 10 AM

Brent VanKoevering's home



And subsequent gatherings:

Oct 20th: Bea & Todd Paulus' Home

Nov 9-11: Koi Show!

Dec 8th: Christmas Party!

SAKA will reimburse a host up to \$50.00 for beverages and snacks served while holding a meeting. You will also be in the Annual Host Drawing for \$250 held at the Christmas Party each year.

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The SAKA meeting at Debbie & Noel Shaw's home was called to order at 10:20. There were 14 members present. Noel spent some time detailing the mechanics of his koi pond to several of us. Noel's pond was very clear and the koi were quite impressive! Someone noted that one of their PVC ball valve handles had broken. PVC will turn brittle over time when being constantly bombarded by UV from our Arizona sunshine. I have learned that if you paint all exposed PVC with ordinary latex paint, it will effectively block the UV. I have done that on my system, including the valve handles. However, I have also learned that you can easily purchase replacement handles. Check out the Youtube video at: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+replace+pvc+ball+valve+handles&docid=607989263654257425&mid=8C2C93176695185E3C888C2C93176695185E3C88&view=detail&FORM=VIREHT>

This video explains how you can remove and replace the ball valve handles. The 2" ball valve handle has a part number HMIP200 by a company called Granby.

Lynn & Lee Fisher noted that they would be moving fish from NYC! That will be a challenge. Brent spent some time discussing the best way to make that happen with as little risk as possible to the fish. Traveling across country with the fish is not typically viable. They need to be shipped properly, and of course, you need to have a place ready and waiting for them at the destination!

We still have several members that need to pay dues for 2018. Please go to the www.sakoia.org website and use your credit card to cover the dues. One year's dues are still only \$30. Thank you!

Brent also brought up the subject of quality koi food. We have both been purchasing a product called Ultra Balance Growth Formula from Vaquero Feed & Livestock Supply which is located at 3301 N Freeway. This can be found by the southbound I10 access ramp off Prince. Just before you actually access the highway, there is a fork in the road to the right (West). Take that to the store. Brent noted that the price of the koi food is lower than he has seen at other online sites. You can also purchase the "Maintenance" Ultra Balance for feeding the koi during the Winter season.

Noel Shaw and Dan Cover both noted that they intend to shut down their ponds. So watch for equipment and material items that may come available at bargain-basement prices! If Noel & Dan pass on item descriptions to me, I will share them with all members.

Noel gave us some additional information about T-shirts. A company called Desert Beach will make our T-shirts for approximately \$17 each. The design would show our logo on the front area where a pocket would

typically be located along with the spelled-out SAKA name: "Southern Arizona Koi Association". On the back collar would be the website address: www.sakoia.org. And a very large 2-3 color picture of our more popular koi would be emblazoned down the back of the T-shirt. There were some opinions that the large koi should be on the FRONT of the T-shirt. What is your opinion? The T-shirts can be white, or maybe a light blue. The cost of the printing, of course, depends upon the number of colors. We need to make this decision by our next meeting. Also, we need to decide whether or not to purchase extra shirts for sale at the Koi Show. Plan on discussing this at our September meeting!

I sent out a separate email about storage for our 2 large trailers – each about 20 feet long – that we use for Koi show tank and Koi Show materials. Very shortly, we will no longer be able to store them on Dan & Martha Cover's property. So we are actively seeking alternative locations, and hopefully can identify a location that will not cost the club a large amount of money! If any of you have suggestions, please let me know!

Advertise here— 1) join our club with a Commercial membership or 2) offer 10% discount to our members or 3) be a vendor at the show



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Tucson, AZ

Brent has decided to NOT setup our own software for the Koi Show this year. We have already scheduled the Flowers to come to the show and use their software to administer the auction and judging for this year. Their approach will be the only one for 2018. We can pursue other options for 2019.

Raffle letters and registration packets for this year's Koi Show have all been distributed.

In almost all other respects, we are on track for this year's Koi Show planning and organizing. Our next meeting will take place at Brent's house where we will get some genuine training on proper handling of koi in the tanks, and the proper preparations for transporting the koi. This will be good for all of us! Be sure to attend!

Martha reported that we have \$8611.37 in our checking account, and another \$5239.55 in our savings account.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 where upon we all enjoyed some goodies prepared by Debbie & Noel. Thank you all for coming!

We need to plan for the Christmas Party! This would be a SAKA Club meeting on December 8th. Anyone of you would like to play host for the Christmas POT LUCK party? Please let me know! Now is the time to start thinking about this.

Since handling of the Koi is going to be the principal subject of our next meeting, perhaps you can get ready with this article on the subject:

Catching and Transporting Koi

Use a Koi Net. Other nets have larger holes in the netting. This may make it easier to move the net through the water, but Koi's gills can get damaged in the holes, their scales can be dislodged and the slime coat can be rubbed off.

Have everything ready by the pond:

- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| Nets | Bags |
| Boxes | |
| Rubber bands | O2 |
| Dolly | |
| Medications | towels |
| floater or tub | |

Use two people if at all possible. Remove all jewelry, even waterproof watches. You will get wet, dress accordingly.

If transporting - prepare "double" bags. Have rubber bands readily available – on your wrist or in your pocket. Determine which person will bag the fish and which person will be the main catcher. Place the bags/boxes/O2 near the bagger person.

Move the net slowly toward the fish. Anticipate his moves. Scoop up the fish. Do not squish the fish between the net and the side of the pond.

Do not remove the net with the fish all the way out of the water. Partially submerge the tub/floater. Tip the net so that the fish swims into the tub/floater. Remove some of the water from the tub so that the fish is only ½ covered by water, more water will allow smaller fish to jump out of the tub.

If transporting - put a small amount of water in the double bag. Using the bag, scoop up the fish from the tub. Now that the fish is in the bag, you may need to add more water to the bag. Only cover the fish ½ way up the body. Remember that water weighs 8.4 lbs per gallon, so 5 gallons is 42 lbs.

Place the bagged fish in the box, laying the bag on its side. Add, tranquil, Amquel and Nova Auqa to help keep the fish calm and the water good. Straighten the bags to remove wrinkles that could possibly trap a fish or air. Flatten the bag to squeeze out the air. Peel back the open end of the outer bag and then grasp the inner bag's opening. Insert the O2 nipple and fill. Twist the inner bag closed and secure with two rubber bands. Then twist the outer bag's opening and secure with a rubber band. If the weather is really hot, you might want to add an ice pack.

Close the box. If you cannot get the box totally closed, be sure to cover the box with a towel. Koi travel better in the dark.

Move the boxes of koi to your vehicle. Load the fish so that the box is perpendicular with the movement of the car.

Do not leave the fish in the car any longer than you have to. Although koi can travel this way for almost 48 hours, it is stressful and the water quality is degrading.

Remember; do not leave the car in the sun with the fish inside.

Upon arrive at your destination; float the bag for 15 to 30 minutes to equalize the bag water temperature to the new water temperature. Do not open the bag during this acclimation. When you are ready to release the fish, do not add pond water to the bag and do not let the bag water get into the pond.

Also, because the subject, the question, came up about UV use, I thought I would include the following article:

To UV or Not To UV That is the question...

By Ben Plonski

Reprinted from [Koi USA](#)

Pond keeping should be enjoyable and relaxing not a frustrating battle with green water. Ultraviolet sterilizers are here to stay. If you are thinking of purchasing a unit you will need to consider the capabilities and the limitations.

U/V sterilizers will keep your water clear of planktonic algae. This means that a new pond does not have to go through the green water stage. If you already have an established pond an ultraviolet system will clear an algae bloom within one to two weeks. The unit will only work, provided it is of good quality and is sized properly for the water volume in your pond and it is properly installed.

U/V sterilizers will not affect the hairy stringy types of filamentous algae that adhere to the walls of the pond. The ultraviolet rays only kill the algae which passes through the unit.

U/V sterilizers will allow a new pond to become established and balanced sooner than without such a device. New ponds need to become established with beneficial bacteria in the biofilter, and a smooth coat of dark algae about 1/4 inch thick on the walls and floor of your pond. These two types of organisms are necessary for a healthy pond. The bacteria and smooth algae are slow growers especially in cold water. The planktonic algae on the other hand can bloom in two days. The planktonic algae in full bloom inhibits the bacteria and wall algae by competing for nutrients and blocking out sunlight. This makes the planktonic algae "king of the pond" and can dominate indefinitely. Shallow ponds in full sunlight and overcrowded ponds can be subject to quite lengthy bouts of "pea soup". The ultraviolet rays kill the planktonic algae. By removing the planktonic algae, your pond is able to become balanced more quickly.

Ultraviolet sterilizers will not be very effective at controlling disease within the pond. These units are more capable of controlling disease within a smaller aquarium. To control disease with a ultraviolet system the water must pass through the unit very slowly. Microscopic bacteria and parasites may need a fifteen second exposure time to affect a kill. The planktonic algae is very light sensitive and can be inhibited at much faster flow rates. To effectively control diseases within a large body of water with a ultraviolet unit the entire volume of water must be passed through at a slow rate. The trouble with this method is that the pathogens are reproducing within the pond faster than an ultraviolet system can kill them. An ultraviolet system will not kill any pathogens on the skin of the fish. A very large and expensive system would be required to control disease within a pond.

Good quality ultraviolet sterilizers will be constructed with an external housing made of PVC or other inert material and hued with waterproofed caps. When used outside, a waterproof housing should cover the ballast. The unit like all electrical parts used on your pond

should be UL listed.

Ultraviolet rays are in the extremely short wavelength of the light spectrum and can only penetrate a few inches into the water chamber. Ultraviolet units for ponds are only about three inches in diameter. The bulb itself needs to function at a certain temperature to produce the peak amount of ultraviolet rays and penetration into the surrounding water area. A quartz sleeve between the water and the bulb, keeps the bulb at the proper temperature and does not interfere with the light penetration.

Proper installation of the unit consists simply of adding a bypass line to an existing pressurized water line from your pond pump or allow better light penetration. Add two PVC tees and a ball valve to your existing line and connect the unit to the assembly. Use the ball valve to control the flow through the unit. Do not exceed the manufacturer's suggested flow rate.

Ultraviolet sterilizers have their advantages but are not without limitations. New ponds as well as ponds that have a persistent problem with green water will benefit from a ultraviolet system. Older more established ponds with adequate filtration may not see a noticeable difference. Use ultraviolet systems to complement a good filtration system. A unit will assist in achieving maximum results and appreciation of your pond.