



**President Corner**

Thank you Debbie and Noel for opening your home and Koi Pond to us. We all had a wonderful time.

Pond Tour 2005 was a big success. The tour committee could not keep our vendors in stock with tickets fast enough. Tickets were selling like hot cakes. A great job well done by all. It is everyone, like you, that makes our club what it is. I thank all of you for all of your hard work and time to make this club the best there is. Thanks again.

Another Big thanks goes out to Simon & Millie Burgheimer for hosting our June meeting. Another beautiful pond to see, and look at those Koi... Life does not get any better than this, does it?

The AKCA seminar is just around the corner. If you are going do not delay on putting in your reservations. Prices change by the minute so get with the program. We hope all of you have a great time and bring back a bunch of knowledge to share with the club.

For the love of Koi,  
*Bob Panter*  
Bob Panter  
President SAKA



**Koi People of the Year  
Dave & Debby Young**



**SAKA's AKCA  
Fish of the Year  
Ginrin Showa  
Tom Ayers**

**Pond Tour  
2005**



**AKCA - PROJECT KHV  
Update May 2005**

By Ray Jordan, Chairman – AKCA Project KHV  
Fund Raising Committee

It is exciting to realize much has been accomplished with AKCA – Project KHV in the past few months. The fund-raising team has been working to communicate with clubs, hobbyists, and Koi professionals about Project KHV. Please remember that 100% of donations will be used to fund selected KHV research projects as AKCA will pay all administrative costs. AKCA has also committed to match dollar for dollar the first \$50,000 donated to Project KHV.

Project KHV has received a little over \$35,000 in generous donations from clubs, individuals, and professionals. After the AKCA match program we have a little over \$70,000 to contribute to KHV research. Currently the scientific committee is reviewing KHV research opportunities and we hope to begin funding the most promising projects shortly. A special “Thank You” to the clubs, individuals, and businesses that have already made a donation. Donations from businesses and club have received thank you letters and special donation certificates. Individual donors have also received thank you letters that can be used as a tax receipt and individuals donating \$20 or more have been sent a special Project KHV donor recognition pin. If anyone has not received their donation recognition items please let me know. Contact Ray Jordan at [rjordan8@swbell.net](mailto:rjordan8@swbell.net) or call Ray at 210-494-2034.

Our fund raising goal is to reach \$200,000 by the end of 2005 and an additional \$300,000 by the end of 2006. To view the latest information please visit the PROJECT KHV website. Go to the AKCA website at: [www.akca.org](http://www.akca.org) and then click on PROJECT KHV link. We appreciate any assistance you can provide to help us spread the word about Project KHV.

## SAKA NEWS

Please request your club newsletter editor cut and paste this update into your next club newsletter. We would appreciate a link from your website to the AKCA – PROJECT KHV website. Here is the direct link:

<http://www.texaskoi.com/akcaprojectkhv/index.htm>

AKCA – PROJECT KHV website has updated information available including: Fund raising suggestions and a printable Project KHV flyer, details of our donation recognition programs, List of all donors/donations received, Library of KHV articles/available research data, and details of special “on line” auctions of unique Koi art items. Peter Enfield has donated four of his special fused-glass Koi embedded in a decorative slate base. His first donated Koi slate sold for \$850. We will be offering his other pieces in online auctions in the near future.

The current on-line auction to benefit KHV research is a beautiful original watercolor Koi painting by Patti Magee valued at \$1,100. This is the original painting for the Northwest Koi and Goldfish Show 1997 poster. The painting depicts five stunning Koi in all their glorious splendor swimming peacefully together. This painting is already beautifully custom matted and framed with glass. Total dimensions are about 20 X 25 inches including the frame. You can see an image of this painting on the website under the on-line auction link. This On-Line Auction will conclude June 30, 2005. Current high bid is only \$650. You can find all the auction details on the AKCA – Project KHV website.

Patti Magee is the most successful artist I have seen at capturing the soothing and yet exciting qualities of the Koi we all love. She has a very special gift of capturing the essence and presence of Koi with her wonderful talents. Years of experience as a professional graphics artist combine with the mostly self-taught painter to create some of the most beautiful Koi & goldfish watercolors imaginable. Thank you Patti for your generous donation to benefit KHV research.

The next on-line auction will begin July 1 and is truly unique. Richard Black has donated one of his highly sought after original pool cue's depicting Koi as artistic inlays of exotic woods. Be the top bidder and you can own a unique piece of Koi art and contribute money for KHV research at the same time. Richard Black is the most famous and collected custom pool cue maker today. If you are heavily into pool

or billiards I am sure you know his work. Check out the photo's and description of his amazing and unique “Koi Cue” made of exotic woods and ivory by clicking on the special on line auction link on the website.

I am sure everyone believes their Koi are extra special. I cannot imagine losing our beautiful pets. Hearing about the tragedy of KHV infected ponds the past few years has prompted many of us to become involved in this project. Please consider making a donation to the AKCA-KHV Project today. Also, please help us by encouraging your club, organization, or business to make a donation and/or conduct a special fund raising event and donating part or all of the proceeds to Project KHV. If you need more information or fund raising ideas please go to our project website or e-mail, Ray Jordan, at [rjordan8@swbell.net](mailto:rjordan8@swbell.net) We are requesting your help in having this information reprinted in your clubs newsletter and distributed to Koi lovers everywhere. Thank you in advance for your much needed assistance. To make a “tax deductible” donation: (please make checks to AKCA - PROJECT KHV) and mail to: AKCA - PROJECT KHV, 15514 Elm Park, San Antonio, TX 78247 - Attn: Ray Jordan.

NAME/S: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB/ORG. AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF DONATION:  
INDIVIDUAL\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_ PROFESSIONAL\_\_\_



June 2005

## 'Bakki Showers'



Demonstration Bakki Shower at Koi by Keirin.

Reprinted from [www.yumekoi.com](http://www.yumekoi.com)

Bacteria House' is the filter media that is taking Japan and other Asian countries by storm. Trickle towers of various forms have been in use for many years, but 'Bacteria House' is a media that has been designed and refined to give optimum results in 'Bakki Showers', with no need for any other form of filtration. This wonderful filter media was originally conceived by MTK in Japan, for treating effluent water, some 8 years ago, and went on to win an International award in Germany, as "Best filtration media in the World." Mr. Mannami of MTK is a close friend of President Maeda of Momotaro Koi Farm. Mr. Maeda has long been fascinated by the way that water becomes 'alive' as it tumbles over rocks in the Asahi River outside his Koi Farm. As such, he was convinced that it would be possible to make much better water for Koi, just by recreating the effects of the tumbling river. So, with this fascination, he set about having the stainless steel shower trays made, in order that he could try out 10 test ponds with every kind of media that was available, in both showered form, and submerged form. First tests with the original form of 'Bacteria House' were very good, but Mr. Maeda wanted more from the media! Research was carried out into the effect of 'Far-infrared radiation'

because of a famous Japanese spring, which was said to have healing effects. The key to this spring's wonderful water was the Bakuhenseki stone, through which the water permeated. The Bakuhenseki stone emitted these 'Farinfrared rays' which had an effect of refreshing, or activating the water. In short, Mr. Maeda wanted to achieve the same effect as this spring, but on a higher level. Further research and development between Mr. Mannami, and Mr. Maeda, led on to a second, and then third generation of Bacteria House. This third (and final) generation encompassed Mr. Maeda's aims. It created a higher intensity of 'Far-infrared', and was significantly more robust than the first and second generations. Momotaro Koi Farm carried out extensive 'real world' testing of Bacteria House, in both submerged and showered filtration, while MTK carried out all of the scientific research, using their three showered test ponds. Testing at Momotaro Koi farm was carried out in order to find out which media created the best water for the growth and development of Koi. On the 10 test ponds, they tried every single type of media that was available, and compared the results that were achieved with the Koi in each system. It was found that 'Bacteria House' performed better than any other media in submerged use, but in the Bakki Showers, it was the only media Bakki Shower & Bacteria House Filter Media that worked, and that it far outperformed any other configuration. MTK researched which strains of bacteria colonized on each material, and also paid particular attention to bacterial counts, and colonization times. Periodically, a sample of each media was sent to the lab to analyze its cross-section. It was essential that Bacteria House encouraged the right strains of bacteria, and in desirable ratios. It was also essential to make sure that it colonized very quickly, and recovered quickly from chemical treatments and power failures. In addition to every available type of filter material, they also tried many different blends and forms of Bacteria House. This testing spanned not weeks

or months, but several years! One testament to Bacteria House is the famous 101cm Sanke that won the 2002 Combined All Japan Show. This Sakai (Matsunosuke) bred Koi had virtually stopped growing at 80cm. In the three years prior to the show, the Koi grew more each year, than it ever had at any time during its life. Here are the growth statistics:

2yrs - 46 cm

3yrs - 50 cm

8yrs - 82 cm (Momotaro buys her as a potential parent)

9yrs - 90 cm

10yrs - 95 cm

11yrs - 101cm

'Bacteria House' is a carefully blended man made ceramic material—not extruded—which is then kiln fired at 1300c for some 60 hours! This product does NOT contain calcium, and hence, will not become eroded by water. Bacteria House doesn't only work in Bakki Showers, it also works superbly in submerged filtration. This media bay on the right has been running since August 2002 on our own 4400 gallon pond, long before we started selling it. When running Bacteria House in a submerged filter, it is important to place heavy aeration beneath it. The benefits are several: 1) with the air stones at the very bottom of the bay, no waste is allowed to settle beneath the media, where it can't be seen; 2) all of the waste is forced up through the media, where the bacteria can quickly get to work; 3) the media is kept spotlessly clean. One of the many strong points with Bacteria House is that the water doesn't get discolored (brown), as is commonly seen nowadays. Of course, Bacteria House can't work miracles if a miniscule amount is placed into the filter of a pond that has been poorly designed. We feel that Bacteria House will perform at least as well as any other media in submerged filtration.

### Using Bakki Showers

Momotaro's standard shower size is 2 meters long, by 60cm wide (media area width), but their ponds are usually extremely big, and powered by three phase submersible pumps that thread directly onto 4" pipe. Our standard size showers are 1 meter

long, by 30cm wide, and made in the UK with the kind permission, and approval of Momotaro Koi Farm. The 1 meter system has been adopted primarily because people in the UK don't generally have ponds as big as Momotaro, and because we are very fortunate to have the Sequence 1/4+ pumps, which are very efficient, and easily capable of pushing 2900 gallons per hour over the Showers. Bigger systems are available to order. The general rule for running a Bakki Showered pond (without any settlement or additional filtration), is to have a turn over rate of at least 150% per hour. When the flow rate per set of 3000gph is taken into account, it becomes easy to calculate how to build a Bakki Showered pond. Basically, a 2000 gallon pond will need one set; a 4000 gallon pond will need two sets, and so on. The faster you turn the pond over, the better however. 200% is the optimum. Biologically, you could easily run a pond at 50% per hour, but such a turnover rate will leave the pond suffering with very fine suspended debris. Turnover is the key. Despite the recommended turnover rate, most of the ponds in the UK have been built with less than 150% turnover, and are running just fine. The clarity limitations of 'under running' the showers will only be seen if a pond becomes overstocked. A standard set of Showers is 4 tiers high, and will hold 50kgs of media as a 'starter' system. However, it is possible to fit 60kgs of media into a set.

### The Advantages of Bakki Showers

- Maintenance free
- complete bio-filtration, including nitrates
- Extremely fast to mature
- Excellent water clarity
- Huge oxygenation
- 'far infra-red' rays have an effect of freshening water, and deodorizing
- Space saving design means that [the filtration for] a pond of 10,000 gallons can occupy the space of a conventional 6000 gallon pond
- Most Bakki Showered ponds will run without the need for a U/V

## SAKA NEWS

- Fast recovery following power cuts. Won't become oxygen starved like a conventional filter
- Bacteria House won't wear away, block, or need replacing Bakki Shower & Bacteria House Filter Media

## FAQ's

### **Q: Will Bacteria House buffer my pH?**

A: No, contrary to some people's belief, Bacteria House isn't made from any calcium products. It is a careful blend of ceramics.

### **Q: Can it be used in my existing filter bays?**

A: Yes, it works extremely well in submerged bays, but it is essential to aerate the media heavily to get best results.

### **Q: Will Bacteria House decompose or wear out?**

A: No, Bacteria House is a ceramic. Although fragile, it is extremely hard, and will not decompose, erode, or wear out.

### **Q: I suffer from frequent power cuts. Will the bio-mass die off if the system shuts down?**

A: No, Bacteria House is extremely porous, and has many crevices. Even if shut down for 24 hours, the media will still retain a lot of water, and will stay wet to the touch. A conventional submerged filter will die off in the event of a power cut, but Bakki Showers are exposed to air, and as such, will survive long durations of shut down. One of the biggest benefits of Bacteria House is its extremely fast recovery rate after pond treatments have been administered, or new Koi have been added.

### **Q: Will Bakki Showers chill my water?**

A: Yes, but if you build an enclosure around them, the chill effects will be minimal. It is not recommended, however, to use them on an entirely un-heated pond. This is simply because many people that have unheated ponds let them fall to as low as 3 Centigrade, and turn off aeration. Compared with these circumstances, Bakki Showers will slowly pull a pond down to ambient temperatures.

### **Q: How does a Bakki Shower differ from a trickle filter?**

A: A Bakki Shower isn't just a trickle filter. It is a complete 'stand-alone' filtration system that deals with the entire biological and mechanical filtration process, including nitrates, and fine water polishing. In a properly designed pond, there is no need for any other filtration, or settlement.

### **Q: I am concerned that putting fish waste over the showers will discolor the water. Will this happen?**

A: No. Many filter media, even submerged, will turn the water slightly brown. A properly designed Bakki Shower pond will result in water that is remarkably 'color-free', and 'fresh'.

### **Q: I am worried that Bacteria House will trap water and cause the water to become anaerobic?**

A: This simply won't happen. Bacteria House has been very carefully designed and researched in Japan, to make sure that it encourages a predominance of healthy bacteria. Also, any anaerobic bacteria produced are vastly outnumbered by aerobic bacteria. ❖

## PLANNING YOUR FIRST POND

By Burt Ballou

Reprinted from 1996 AKCA Seminar Binder

So you have decided to build a Koi pond. Before you get your shovel out, or if your pond is more ambitious, a backhoe, please consider a few things first.

These "things" are location, size, construction material, style, shape, landscaping and, most importantly, your budget!

Let's consider each of these 'things' individually, beginning with the most important and controlling "thing" your budget. After you have convinced your spouse to do without new clothes, eating out, remodeling your house, a new car. etc... You can get serious about your budget. If you plan on building the pond and filter yourself, your bud- get could be as low as a few hundred dollars. The top

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limits are almost limitless! For example, a liner pond of 2500 gallons with filters, pump, waterfall and plumbing can be built for less than \$1,000. So decide how much you want to spend on your pond, before you decide to dig up the petunias!

The next step is the site location. The pond should be near the house so that you can get the most enjoyment out of it and monitor it regularly, especially during severe weather extremes. It should not be placed in an area where runoff from your roof or groundwater can enter your pond! In the planning stage, try to avoid placing it near trees as their root systems could damage the pond walls, plumbing or floor. Deciduous trees also drop a lot of leaves in your pond, which will create additional work for you to maintain a clean, attractive and healthy environment for your Koi.

Once your location is determined, it is time to consider the shape and style of your pond. These "things" blend together somewhat, but there are major decisions to be made about the style of a pond that you prefer in your setting. Would you like a formal pond to go with your formal planters, swimming pool, and spa? etc., or would a more natural pond setting blend better with your existing landscape? This is entirely your call, but there are some issues that are important in making this important decision. A natural pond lends itself to almost any building materials, whereas a formal pond above ground, or partially above ground, creates some additional considerations as to the building materials and construction requirements.

Now, consider the shape and size of your pond. While keeping in mind your style, use an ordinary garden hose to lay out the shape and size of your proposed pond. Remember to lay the hose on the outside edge of the pond, not the inside edge. Your pond will have some kind of a border perhaps with rocks or other landscaping, and this all needs to be considered for its impact on your total landscaping plans and the other

functions of your space. This site will probably become a compromise with your entire family which is why I recommend using lengths of garden hose to lay it out. Garden hose is very flexible!

After looking at the hose for a few days and checking out the shade patterns developed from the sun's course across the sky, you may have to go back to the site and reevaluate! Keep in mind that a pond that is going to get sun part of the day and shade part of the day is best situated so that it gets morning sun and afternoon shade. This sun/shade ratio is not a 'must' but it will definitely affect your landscaping.

Now that all these exciting fun decisions are made, we must consider the building materials used in constructing the pond. A liner pond is the most reasonable material and there are liners available with life expectancies of 10 to 20 years. The durability and strength varies greatly by manufacturer. This is a good place to recommend that you look up your local Koi club and join with the others who have lots of expertise which you will need to help you along your path into this exciting hobby.

Other building materials to consider are concrete, concrete block and fiberglass. Each material has its advantages and its disadvantages. Concrete has long life, is more expensive than a liner, requires the use of reinforcing bars or some type or steel mesh, as well as the help of somebody with a basic working knowledge of how to use concrete. It also has to be poured all at one time. Concrete block has the advantage that it can be used above ground without any forms, lends itself well to formal ponds but doesn't work for natural ponds due to its straight edges. You can build with block at your leisure, stopping and starting any time you choose. Other disadvantages are that you must seal the entire inside of the pond with a plaster coat or other type of sealer such as Thoroseal or rubber sealer. Block does need steel reinforcing and it creates corners in

the pond which can lead to 'dead water' unless the pond is equipped with properly located water jets.

Fiberglass can be done by a 'hand lay-up' process using pieces of fiberglass roving, matting and a finish gel coat of resin. Some advantages are that you can stop and start this process at your leisure, except for the finish gel coat. It lends itself well to in-ground and above ground or partial above ground applications. Fiberglass has a long life if properly done, is easy to repair, and is non-porous so algae do not grow well (in it). It is inert, so that it will not affect your water chemistry and it can take any shape you choose. Another method of applying fiberglass is with the use of a 'chopper gun' process. This has to be done by a professional and is the most expensive of all building materials. However, it has a very nice finish. The weather conditions in your location will also affect your choice of building materials as some are better or more suited to certain climates. Weather will also determine the minimum depth of your pond. Minimum depth in temperate areas should be two feet, or preferably three. But in colder climates you may have to have a five or six foot depth to ensure that the pond doesn't freeze solid in the winter.

Plumbing for all drains, pick ups, etc. should be at least two inches or bigger. Selecting a filter or combination of filters, pre-filters, setting tanks, sumps, jets, and waterfalls will all be discussed at a later date.

The correct size pump and type of pump are determined by the gallonage of your pond and the type of filtration system you choose. The types of filters to choose from include updraft and downdraft, inpond, crossflow, chemical and mechanical filters among others. But the most important filter is the biological filter. Another consideration is the filter media. Your choices here include crushed pea gravel, brushes, matting, coconut husk, bamboo hair curlers, bio balls, Silica sand, charcoal, zeolite and

almost any object that will create a home for the friendly bacteria.

## Pond Building USA Style

by Steve Childers

Well, let's just go to the garden center and build a Koi pond! Most Koi keepers start out as water gardeners; buy one of those books from the local garden center that says building a pond is easier than it looks. Lie number 1. It isn't easy. Digging cubic yards from the ground and wheel barrowing it around is tough work. Hauling in rock for the edging is just as tough. After a trip to the ER or 2 for cuts and back strain(s) you have a nice little pond, complete with shelves for pretty plants. Now we attempt to add an electrical outlet (more digging for the trench and we use burial cable). Now we drop in the submersible and bucket filter and plug it in.

The waterfall isn't what we pictured in our minds, not enough flow even though the "expert" at the garden center said the pump was perfect for what we told him we wanted. Oh well, time to go back to the garden center for some plants anyway. Back home with 3 lilies, another pump and bucket filter and some marginal plants, oh and a couple of gold fish and a funny little 6" fish with whiskers. In they all go and it looks great, enough water over the waterfall, pretty plants and fish to feed and look at. Inside we go to get cleaned up. Just think, just over a couple of weeks and we have a pond! After cleaning up we go outside to feed our fish. Oh no! All 3 are "belly up"! We scoop up the 3 dead fish and place them in a bag and head back to the garden center. The "expert" at the garden center asks if we "de-chlorinated" the water? Huh, de-chlorinate? He sells us some powdery stuff and 3 more fish (2 gold fish and one of those 6" fish with "whiskers" labeled as "coy". Home we go, throw in some of that powdery stuff and place the fish in the pond.

Next weekend we decide to do some planting around the pond. The first

shovel of dirt and the waterfall quits. Oops, should have used conduit to bury that electrical line! 3 more dead fish because no one told us to use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). Back to the garden center (Am I enjoying Koi keeping yet?). After a couple of weeks the water turns green and the new fish are nowhere to be seen. Back to the garden center. Another cash outlay and I have this magical concoction that the "expert" says will clear the pond up in a jiffy. The next day its semi clear and I can see the fish.... a little. Another week and it's green again. After about 6 more weeks and 4 more trips to the garden center for more of that magical concoction, the water mystically clears over night. But now the water over the waterfall has slowed to a trickle. Looking at the bottom of the pond, I see all of this "gunk" on the bottom and on the filter pads. The pads are easy to clean after we finally get the buckets out of the pond. Back to the garden center to find out how to get all of that "pond pudding" out of the bottom. The expert says to drain the pond and scoop it out.

We drain the pond, and catch the fish and put them in a bucket. We scoop out the nasty smelling pond pudding (are we enjoying the pond yet?). After scrubbing all of that green stuff off of the sides (got to make sure it's really clean) we refill the pond. Oh, don't forget that de-chlor stuff. Another couple of weeks and the pond goes pea green again, back to the garden center for that clarifier stuff. Another four to six weeks and that clarifier stuff finally kicks in and the water is clear. Now we can see little things hanging from the sides and dorsals of the fish and that 6" fish with whiskers is now 10" with a huge hole in its side. Back to the garden center to talk to the "expert". He sells some medicated food and some medicine to put in the pond that will kill the parasites. A few weeks go by and the glad fish are fine but the cute little fish with whiskers has died from the infection caused by the parasites. Back to the garden center for another one of those cute little fish with whiskers

called "coy". Fall is setting in and its time to clean the pond again...another 5 inches of pond pudding has built up in the bottom and the filters and pumps are clogged solid.

The fish sit on the bottom all winter and when spring begins to warm things a little we start feeding, not knowing that the water temp is only 40 degrees still. A few weeks go by and that cute little "coy" puffs up like a balloon and then dies. Taking it back to the garden center the "expert" (it's a new expert because the previous one went back to school the previous spring). The new expert asks if the "coy" had been fed recently and what the water temp was. After the answer, he explains that the "coy" couldn't digest the food in that cold of water and it died from an internal infection. Luckily a new shipment of "coy" have just arrived...from Japan! Although the price is 5 times that of the previous "coy" (which have all died) it is much prettier and out comes the charge card. After a few weeks, the water warms and turns that terrible pea green color again. Back to the garden center for that clarifier stuff. This time another customer asks why that stuff is being used. "To clear up the water, Duh"! With a chuckle the other customer explains the filtering cycle time is about 6 weeks...time for the good bacteria to grow and deal with the ammonia and nitrites/nitrates. He further explains the benefit of a UV light. Out comes the charge card again!

After replumbing the pond for the UV light its time to plug it in. The pumps shut down and the UV light doesn't come on. After checking the breakers, its determined that the breaker is only 15 amps and the 2 pumps and UV exceed that amount. Off to the hardware store for a 20 amp GFCI breaker. The assistant there stops to see if help is needed. Its determined that the wire size for the circuit isn't big enough for a 20 amp circuit so new wire (and conduit this time) are needed. Out comes the charge card again. Another weekend spent running new electrical lines. Are we enjoying the pond yet?

Finally, a clear pond! Time for some more of those cute Japanese fish with whiskers called "coy". But first, time to clean the filter pads and the pond pudding from the bottom again. What a stinky mess perhaps there is something at the garden center to vacuum this gunk up with. Back to the garden center and sure enough, there is a pond vac and as long as were here, a few more of those cute little Japanese "coy" with whiskers. Summer sets in and all of these "coy" are growing like weeds and its time to expand the pond. Back to the garden center for a bigger liner. While we're there the expert sells us on a "bead filter and a swimming pool pump, explaining that they are easier to clean. A couple of moths of digging plumbing and re-landscaping go by. After a day or two, the bead filter clogs and its time to backwash. Backwashing becomes a daily chore through the summer and the pond bottom still has to be vacuumed once a month to keep the pond pudding at bay.

The next time at the garden center there is a flyer about a "Koi Show" sponsored by the local "Koi club". The "expert" is asked what a "Koi" is and we feel stupid that they are the same as "coy". The "expert" suggests a couple of books to read, "Tetra Koi Encyclopedia, for \$24.95 and "Koi Kichi" for \$110. We opt for the cheaper one and are thrilled reading it cover to cover.

A couple more weeks of back flushing the filter everyday and it time to go see a Koi show. We are awed at the beauty of the fish, just like the ones in the book. Vendors are there and we opt for a couple more Koi...of course, more expensive, out comes the charge card. Information is obtained on the Koi club and we pay our membership, determined to get to the next meeting in 2 weeks.

About a week goes by and the new fish look sick and are "itching" on the bottom. The older fish are starting to do the same. By the time of the Koi club meeting they all have sores and appear to be on deaths door. Arriving

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at the club meeting at a member's house, we see a beautiful pond, about the same size as ours except much deeper..... 4 – 6' compared to our 2 ½'. Although our water is clear, it's nowhere near as clear as this pond we stand in aw over. We ask the owner how he keeps his water so clear and he shows us his filters, a simple square sediment chamber, additional chambers with matting, and then a pump. After looking intently the question arises, "How does the water get to the sediment chamber"? He looks puzzled and says, "from the bottom drain". "Huh, bottom drain, what's that" we ask. We go back to the pond and see in the bottom of the pond a dome and he produces that expensive book "Koi Kichi" from his library and shows me a diagram of his filtration system. We explain our fish problems and being very kind offers to come and see the fish and pond the next day.

Being very polite upon his arrival, he asks for a net to catch the fish with. We don't have one but offer to drain the pond to catch them for him. He produces a net from his truck and another large plastic storage box. We catch the fish and he sedates them one by one and gives them injections, pointing out that 2 are beyond any hope and offers to put them to sleep permanently. He also takes some scrapes and looks under the microscope that he has with him and identifies "gill flukes" as being the culprit. He turns my pond purple with something ... Potassium per.....ate and says that should do the trick. If not he has some other more expensive stuff. He again recommends that expensive book. Are we enjoying the pond yet?

Later that day (after back flushing the filter), its back to the garden center for that expensive book, "Koi Kichi". We realize then, that we do not have a "Koi" pond, and also realize why we have killed so many fish in just 2 short summers. Gee, have we enjoyed the pond yet?

Let's see, for a start, if we had spent the extra money on a good Koi book

instead of the cheap book on how to build a pond that said "It's easier than you think", we could have had bottom drain(s), settlement chambers (vortex), bio chambers and an efficiency pool style pump. We could have dug it to a proper depth (at least 4', preferably at least 6'); we wouldn't have had to expand it and made it bigger. We wouldn't have ever had to clean the pond pudding off of the bottom or spent countless hours cleaning filter pads. We also wouldn't have had to back flush filters everyday through the summer, but simply open a valve to discharge the vortex and all of the sediment. We wouldn't have wasted our money on clarifiers that didn't do anything. We would still have all the money we wasted on all of the fish we killed. The hours spent could have been spent "enjoying the Koi pond".

If a person wants a water garden, great. Fill it with plants and their pots that can scrape the sides of Koi. They breed bacteria and parasites, just waiting to attack Koi. They are to shallow for Koi and the lack of bottom drains just multiply all the rest of the problems for Koi. If someone wants a Koi pond, then read a good book, Koi Kichi being the best, plan on making the pond twice as large as what you think you want because if you don't you will wish you had and its cheaper to do it right the first time. When someone of knowledge makes a suggestion for you, listen and learn. Don't try and justify keeping Koi in a bad pond, just remember what you learn and promise to do it right the next time, because eventually you'll want to ENJOY YOUR POND instead of laboring over it

Steve

Note: The examples stated above are only a portion of the true horror stories compiled over the last 10 years from myself and friends...

June 2005



**Kawarigo Korum**

### Up Coming Events

**June 26, 2005**

Simon & Millie Burgheimer



**June 23 -26, 2005**

24th Annual AKCA Seminar  
Tulsa Oklahoma

**July 24, 2005**

Mountain View Koi Fish &  
Aquatic Plants

**August 28, 2005**

Dennis & Kathy Leonard

**September 25, 2005**

Faye & Winton Hall

**October 23, 2005**

Ken & Mary Struck



**November 11-13, 2005**

SAKA 26<sup>th</sup> Koi Show & Auction

**December 2005**

Tom Ayers

January 2006

TBA

February 2006

TBA

March 2006

**Dan and Martha Cover**

**April 2006**

# SAKA NEWS

TBA

May 2006

TBA

June 2006

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## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual AKCA Seminar

Phoenix Marriott Mesa

Mesa, Arizona

June 22-24, 2007

Hosted by SAKA & VSKC



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June 2005



### Annual Membership

Dues are \$25.00 per family from March 1 to February 28 or 29 of the next year. If paid after August 1 \$17.50, September 1 \$15.00, October \$12.50, November \$10.00, December \$7.50.

### Membership Type

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Koi \_\_\_\_\_

Years Keeping Koi: \_\_\_\_\_

Pond size: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to host a meeting?

Would you like to serve on a committee?

\_\_\_\_\_ If yes which one?

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