



3661 N Campbell PMB 242
Tucson, AZ 85719
Address Service Requested

Noel and Debbie Shaw's Home, May 31st

Education Meeting begins at 3pm. Business meeting to follow

SAKA 2009-2010 Dues are past due as of March 1st.

Noel and Debbie Shaw
17407 S. Purple Mesa Trail
Phone: (520) 400-0335

The Shaws are not yet on internet maps, so please follow Noel's directions below.

On Houghton road, go south past I-10 about 6 miles to the large recently done intersection at Sahuarita Road. Stop at the Roadrunner Market on the SE corner and pick up a couple of 1 lb ribeyes and a cold six pack of Fat Tire (optional step). Make a right (west) on Sahuarita Road. Take the first left (south), about 1 mile, onto Harrison. Purple Mesa Trail is the fifth street on the left, about 1 1/2 miles south on Harrison. Watch the speed limits. Green and blue Meritage flags are flying on poles on Purple Mesa. We are up several houses on the left. Address is 17407 S. Purple Mesa Trail. My phone is 400-0335.

SAKA, Inc Club Officers

President	Bob Panter sakabob@yahoo.com (520) 747-7278
Vice President	David Young koiman@mindspring.com (520) 682-7697
Secretary	Lynn Riley (520) 825-9066
Treasurer	Dan and Martha Cover mardan79@msn.com (520) 297-4071

Committees/Points of Contact

2009 Pond Tour	Debbie Shaw castlerockkings@cox.net (520) 275-4510
30th Koi Show Co-Chairperson(s)	Bob and Darleen Panter dpanteraz@cox.net (520) 747-7278
AKCA Representative	Debby Young debbyt@akca.org (520) 682-7697
Newsletter Editor	Brent VanKoeving bvankoeving@longrealty.com (520) 780-3980
Koi Health Advisor	Noel Shaw koidoc@noelshawdc.com (520) 400-0335
Membership Chairperson	Faye Hall (520) 297-1253
Raffle Chairpersons	Wanda & Bruce Triebel wkt56@comcast.net (520) 572-0060
Scholarship Committee	Erin Riley eriley@aol.com (520) 818-6490

Editor's Note: Articles published herein are intended for the enjoyment of our club members and come from a variety of sources. The articles are not intended to replace veterinary advice. Pond owners, and not the club, are responsible for the health of their koi, water changes, what to do, and how to treat their pond. Reasonable effort is made to review these articles for accuracy before including them in the newsletter.

Spring is closing fast. Summer temperatures are here to stay. How are your koi doing? How is the water temperature? Are your fish active? Are they ready to be fed all the time? What about your water and water quality? Is your pond covered in algae, or becoming that way?

All these questions do have answers. Come to a meeting for some education and find out what they are. Talk to club members and see what is working for them. You just might find the answers you are looking for. This is what SAKA, Inc. is all about. You and your koi.

A great big thanks to all who participated in Pond Tour 2009. I hope all who went on the tour voted for what they thought was the Best Pond. Come to the meeting this month and find out.

Next on your SAKA Agenda is our annual potluck in the cool pines of Hereford, Arizona. Come and enjoy an afternoon in a setting you won't forget.

Don't forget about our Koi Show in November. A weekend of fun and excitement. Start checking out your koi. Do you have our next Grand Champion? Koi Show 2009 will be here before you know it.

See you all at our next meeting and have a great summer.

For the love of koi,

Bob Panter, President SAKA, Inc.

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Club Meetings

Hosting Meetings: For those wishing to host an upcoming business/education meeting, the club will reimburse the host up to \$50 (with receipts) toward food/beverage for the meeting. **We still need hosts for meetings in 2009. We would like to see your pond!** Please contact Bob Panter if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Club Announcements

Nothing this Month.

March Business Meeting Minutes

April Business Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: David & Debby Young's Home, April 26, 2009

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Bob Panter at 4:12 PM.

March Minutes: Motion made to accept and second the March Minutes; motion passed.

Number of memberships in attendance: 25 members

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance: \$5418.20, money spent went to awards and advertisement for the SAKA Pond Tour.

2009 Membership: 32 paid members for 2009-2010

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

AKCA: Nothing new to report.

2009 Pond Tour Committee: Tickets were brought to the meeting and made available to the members. Three business vendors had tickets available as well for the public.

2009 Show and Auction Committee: Confirmed the date of November 12-13, 2009. The Vet Memorial Center will be the location again and it has been confirmed with the City Parks and Rec. Bob Panter stated that he is finalizing the requirements to allow us to put up the banner over Kino again.

Old Business: Debbie Shaw discussed their experience with the Tucson Japanese Speaking Contest at Pima College on April 11th. She also spoke with them regarding performing at the SAKA Show and Auction in November and possibly having a booth.

There was a discussion regarding how rescued fish should be handled. A possibility for a spring auction was brought up and had support if we could find a venue before the heat of the summer hits. Noel Shaw said he would ask Nathan of PondScapes if we could use the same location SAKA used a couple of years ago for the same purpose.

Bob Panter discussed his completion of the 501C3 application and what he is required to do to finalize it.

New Business: No more magazines are available for new memberships and it was brought up that more need to be purchased or an alternative brought forward.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Education: David Young gave a presentation on the new judging standards for long-fin koi. He also discussed the recent renovations on their pond.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Riley
Secretary

Featured Articles

Beneficial Pond Bacteria

One of the most important aspects of successful koi keeping or any fish keeping for that matter, is biological filtration and its function in the nitrogen cycle.

The number one reason novice fish keepers become disillusioned with the hobby is the frequency in which they experience high death rates of their aquatic pets after setting up a new system. Statistically, as much as 75% of the fish sold to hobbyists will die within the first 30 days and 2 out of every 3 new hobbyists abandon the hobby within the first year.

One of the most common reasons for these kill rates is known as 'new tank syndrome' or, the 'nitrogen cycle.' The fish are simply poisoned by high levels of ammonia (NH₃) that is produced by fish wastes, excess food, decomposition of animal and plant waste and the additional ammonia that is excreted directly into the water by the fish themselves. The novice must know that it takes time to establish the necessary bacteria colonies to absorb the ammonia and nitrites that exist in their ponds. In the meantime, they must test pond water for ammonia and nitrites and make necessary water changes when these are detected.

Nitrosomonas type bacteria convert ammonia (NH₃) to nitrite (NO₂). Nitrospira bacteria convert nitrite (NO₂) to nitrate (NO₃). Ammonia and nitrites are the two most common killers of fish. The effects of ammonia poisoning in fish include: extensive damage to the gills and kidneys, physiological imbalances, impaired growth, decreased resistance to disease, and death. Nitrite poisoning inhibits the absorption of oxygen by red blood cells. These conditions are very serious and can easily cause death in their fish.

Nitrifying bacteria must oxidize and consume ammonia and nitrites for their energy needs. They are largely non-motile (can't move around easily) and must colonize a surface (gravel, sand, synthetic biomedica, etc.) to optimize growth. They secrete a sticky slime, which they use to attach themselves to the media. Species of Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter bacteria have evolved to become extremely efficient at converting ammonia and nitrite. One disadvantage is they have a very slow reproductive rate. Depending upon temperature, they will double every 15-20 hours. They are very sensitive to pH, dissolved oxygen levels, salt, temperature, and most chemicals. They cannot survive any drying process without dying off.

The temperatures for optimum growth of nitrifying bacteria are between 77-86° F.

The optimum pH range is between 7.2 - 8.0. Maximum nitrification rates will exist if dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the pond water exceed 80% saturation.

The Nitrogen Cycle

In its simplest definition, the Nitrogen Cycle occurs as follows:

1. Fish excrete ammonia from their gills and kidneys. Ammonia also is formed from decaying (leaves, uneaten food, etc.)
2. This ammonia is converted to Nitrite by Nitrosomonas type bacteria.
3. Nitrite is converted to Nitrate by Nitrospira type bacteria.
4. Nitrates, in most cases, are harmless unless at high levels and are consumed by algae, plants or through regular water changes.

Taisho Sanshoku

reprinted from www.akca.org

Sanke are extremely popular with hobbyists in all countries and, along with Kohaku and Showa, are among the major prize winners in competitions. Their wide variety of patterns can give them a more individual appearance than Kohaku at first glance. The word Sanke literally means tri-color, the three colors being red, white and black. In Japanese characters, the word Sanke is also read Sanshoku, the term used in early works on Koi.

History

The word Taisho refers to the period in Japanese history when the Sanke was first recorded, that is between 1912 and 1926. Sanke were among the first koi ever exhibited. A male Sanke was shown at the Tokyo Exhibition in 1914 where the Emperor's son saw koi for the first time. The names of the first breeders of the Sanke were never recorded, but as this koi was approximately 15 years old at that time, the first Sanke were probably produced at the end of the nineteenth century. Among the first Sanke ever recorded were those from Ojiya City, in Nigata, where they were found among Kohaku fry. They were then crossed with Shiro Bekko, thus forming one of the first distinct Taisho Sanke lines.

Colors

The Sanke is a three colored fish with hi (red) and sumi (black) markings on a white body. As with the Kohaku, the depth of these colors is very important. The white should be the color of snow - a yellowish white does not give a good background for the pattern to stand out and gives the fish a dull appearance.

The hi should be of the same quality as on a good Kohaku. It should be of deep hue and of uniform shade. The proportion of red to white should, again, be the same as on a good Kohaku. The base of any good Sanke pattern is a good Kohaku pattern. The sumi of a Sanke should be fine, uniform in shade and with good depth of color. It should be shiny in appearance. As sumi should overlay the Kohaku-style pattern, the markings need to be clearly defined in order to stand out.

Sumi can appear and disappear over the lifetime of a koi, and sumi of poor quality may be affected by water quality, temperature change and change of environment. Sumi markings on Sanke are also described by their position on the pattern of the koi, so sumi that appears on the white skin is known as "tsubo" sumi, while sumi that appears on the hi is known as "Kasane" sumi.

Patterns

Although Sanke differ from Kohaku in that they have three colors, the criteria by which the two varieties are judged are very similar.

Head

There should be no sumi on the head of the Sanke. The head pattern required is the same as on a Kohaku: that is a large U shaped hi marking, which should not extend down over the whole face. Unusual shaped head patterns are not so easily tolerated as on Kohaku, possibly because there is an extra color on the fish and a "busy" pattern lacks elegance and visual impact.

Body

Large hi markings are preferred down the length of the Sanke's body, complemented by sumi markings, which should also extend the length of the body. Sumi marks should start at the shoulder. Sumi markings should be small in number - an excessive amount of small sumi markings gives the koi an untidy appearance. AKA Sanke - This is a Sanke whose hi markings extends the length of the body. Maurten Sanke - This is a Sanke with a separate hi marking on the head.

Selecting a Young Sanke

reprinted from www.akca.org

by Dr. Arthur Lembke

Selecting a good sanke, when the fish are 4-8 inches in length, is very similar to selecting a good kohaku. The head of the sanke, as in all varieties of koi, is one of the most important things to look at. The head should be the exact same head as you would buy in a kohaku. There must be red on the head and the red should go down to the nostrils. The nose is better if it is white. One eye may be covered in red as long as the red is not over-powering. Red is too over-powering when it covers both eyes. **THERE MUST NOT BE ANY BLACK ON THE HEAD.**

Next look for an interesting pattern of red all the way down the body. Do not pick a koi with only red on the front half or on the back half of the body. If you have followed the above steps, you will notice you now have a good kohaku.

Now we must add the black. It is best if the first black spot is on the shoulder (not on the head). If there is no black until further back on the fish, the head can look too elongated. The rest of the black further back on the fish should be in a nice pattern that is balanced and preferably in the white areas rather than on the red. Some black on the red pattern is alright but the more black in the white the better. The black spots are better if not much larger than a quarter and should not distract from the red pattern.

Modern sankes are basically kohakus with a few small black spots placed in the white field. Red should take up about 70% of the fish, the black about 10%, and the rest white.

At an early stage, look for a fish with a lot of interesting red and very little black. Black tends to come out later and if you start with too much black, the black may be too powerful later. The red may be bright red or orange-red because the red can improve with age. The white should be snow white or slightly pink white. Black develops later, so pick one with only a little black that is balanced now. Avoid any sanke that has a lot of small, black, peppery like spots. Pepper like spots can be a sign of poor quality.

The fins on the sanke should be either all white or white with black stripes. There should be no red in any of the fins. Be careful buying an early sanke with many black stripes in the pectoral fins. These sometimes develop too much black at a later stage.

Again, as in all koi, look for broad shoulders, large skull, and large pectoral fins for good growth potential. Make sure there are no defects or disease on the fish. Happy koi keeping.

Foamy Water and Stinky Pond

This spring, I have received distress calls from several pond owners that their pond water is all of a sudden very foamy, the water is discolored, and the pond stinks to high heaven. Some even stated that their ammonia level went off the chart. Unaware to the pond owner, their fish have been spawning.

In our area, koi generally spawn in early spring during the months of March through May. Sometimes occurrences such as a water change, back washing a pressure filter, or a spring rain will initiate a spawn. A small change in the pond during this period could spark the spawn.

Prior to the spawning you may notice several koi chasing another koi throughout the pond. The one being chased is a female that is ready to lay her eggs. The chasers are males and occasionally a female will join in the chase. The males will sometimes bump the female and force her against the wall of the pond or against a plant pot in order to induce her to lay her eggs. The spawning process gets pretty violent right before the spawn.

The female will generally find a plant or some other protective area in which to deposit her eggs. When the eggs are deposited, the male koi will spray them with milt, which fertilizes the eggs. *These deposits of eggs and milt causes foam on the water surface, a discoloration of the water, and a very strong fishy odor.* This process also greatly increases the ammonia level in the pond water. A water change may be called for if the biological filtration is not strong and adequate.

Immediately after the spawn, the other koi will start devouring all the eggs that they can find. These eggs are food for them to enjoy. The eggs are covered with a sticky substance and will attach to anything they touch. Eggs that are attached inside plant growth and hidden out of sight of the other koi have a reasonable chance to hatch. Hatch time is determined by water temperature, and generally is about 5 days. After hatching, there is still danger from the adult koi. Koi will eat their young until they get a certain size. It is thought that when the fry start getting some color on their bodies, the koi will no longer bother them. This takes several weeks of survival.

Don Harrawood

Kawarigoi Korner



If you have suggestions for the newsletter or items to be included in Karawagoi Corner or the Calendar, Please contact Brent VanKoeving at 520.780.3980 or bvankoeving@longrealty.com.

Upcoming SAKA Education and Business Meetings

Date	Location
May 31, 2009	Host: Noel and Debbie Shaw
June 28, 2009	Host: Mountain View Koi – Annual Potluck
July 26, 2009	Host: Chuck and Phyllis Tampio
August 23, 2009	Host: TBD
September 27, 2009	Host: Dave and Terry Johnson
October 25, 2009	Host: Bob and Darleen Panter
November 2009	NO MEETING: See you at the Show
December 13, 2009	Host: The Slonakers
January 2010	Host: Open
February 2010	Host: Open
March 2010	Host: Open
April 2010	Host: Open
May 2010	Host: Open

Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

Event	Dates/Location
Tucson Watergardeners' Annual Water Plant Sale	May 17, 2009 SW Corner of Reid Park at 22 nd Street, 8AM to 1 PM
 30th Annual SAKA, Inc. Koi Show and Auction	November 13-15, 2009 Kino Veterans Memorial Park (To be confirmed) Tucson, Az. Contact: Bob and Darlene Panter (520) 747-7278



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<http://www.sakoia.org>
 Annual Membership

Dues are \$25.00 per family from March 1 to February 28 or 29 of the next year.

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?

Make Checks payable to: SAKA, Inc.

Mail to: Martha and Dan Cover
 2891 W. Ribera Place
 Tucson, AZ 85742