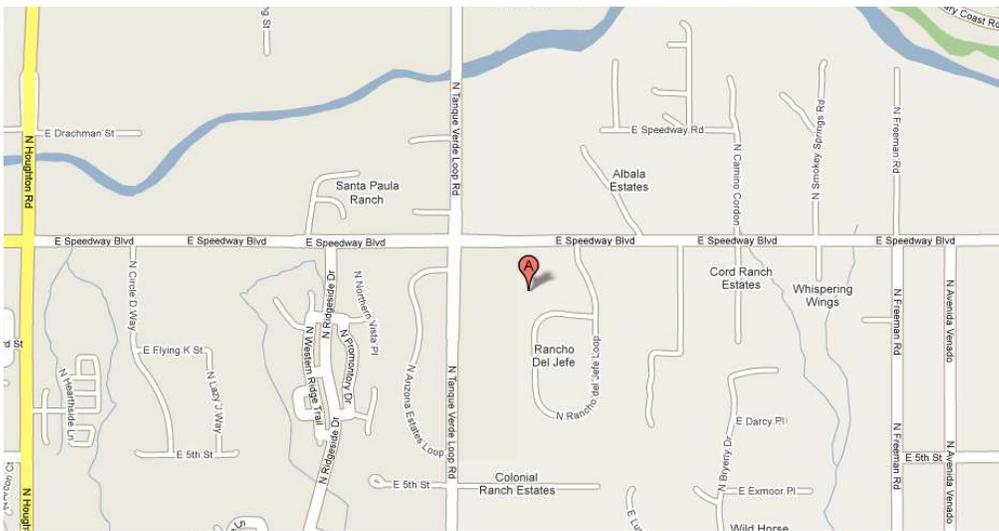




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*Charles and Phyllis Tampio's House
Meeting starts at 3:30*

Charles and Phyllis Tampio
912 N Rancho del Jefe Loop
Phone: (520) 546-0482



From Houghton, East on Speedway, Past Tanque Verde. South on Rancho del Jefe Loop to Address.

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

2010 Pond Tour	Jeanmarie Schiller crankyjean@msn.com (520) 299-1876
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.

Presidents Corner

7-16-09

Presidents Corner

A huge thanks to Curt and Lisa for hosting our annual potluck at their place in beautiful Hereford. The burgers and dogs were great as were the incredible dishes and desserts brought by the members. If you did not make it to the meeting, I highly recommend taking a day trip down to see Curt and Lisa. You won't be sorry.

The high temperatures are bound to have raised your water temperature. Have you checked your thermometer lately? How do your fish look?

If you have friends who think you are a little crazy about your koi hobby, invite them to come to one of our meetings or attend our show. After all "aren't they just big goldfish?" I don't think so.

Our 30th Annual Koi Show is rapidly approaching. Be sure to mark your calendars for the second weekend in November. Tell all your friends. We want our turnout to be huge and we want this to be our best show ever.

For the love of Koi,

Bob PANTER, President SAKA, Inc. *(ghostwritten by Brent VanKoevering)*

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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 would like to see your pond!** Please contact Bob Panter if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Club Announcements

January 17th, 2010 is the Valley of the Sun Koi Club meeting date. Nick Saint-Erne, DVM will be the presenter at a Koi Health Seminar on that date. The initial plan is for a 2-3 hour presentation and wet lab.

David Yee and Dennis Beard are the coordinators. Likewise, VSKC will be assisting members in a group purchase of hobbyist quality microscopes prior to the event. We also want to have some slides and covers to be available. Please contact Dennis or David for additional information.

Jeanmarie Schiller has graciously offered to head up the pond tour for next year. If you are interested in helping out, she's interested in your help.

June Business Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Lisa and Curt Ogren, Mt. View Koi in Hereford, AZ

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Brent VanKoevering, standing in for Bob Panter at 1:42 PM.

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

Number of members in attendance: 24 members – Dennis Beard and his family were attending from the Phoenix VSKC.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance: \$5640.19. Bank of America CD account balance is \$5087.43, maturing in March 2010. Savings balance: \$50.00. The total profit made from the Koi Pond Tour: \$205.06.

2009 Membership: 42 members.

Correspondence: None. Brent would like to know if we would like to see the Newsletters sent to us from other Clubs.

AKCA: We were reminded that the new officers were taking office on July 1st and that a class is also being given online with a written exam for Koi Health Advisor. For more information, go to www.koihealthadvisor.org. There is no charge for this class except for the wet lab in Nashville – this class is recommended for *anyone* interested in koi health. The accommodation in Nashville is estimated at \$129.00 per night.

2010 Pond Tour Committee: Brent reminded the membership that we need a new Chairman for next year's pond tour.

2009 Show and Auction Committee: Confirmed the date of November 14 & 15, 2009. The Vet Memorial Center will be the location again and we will be able to put a banner on the overpass. Jean Schiller-McGinnis is seeing about getting a dance group, drummers and a martial arts group to perform over the weekend.

Old Business: Jean Schiller-McGinnis got samples of commemorative T-shirts from Cody Turtle and reported that the minimum order would have to be four dozen, \$200.00 for the design. The cost for the shirts would be from \$12-14 each. Todd Huffman would do the design for \$150.00. Jean also checked into having calendars printed for SAKA by Gaslight Printing – 50 for \$9.05 each – and she will be taking pictures of koi and ponds for the calendar.

New Business: Dennis Beard announced that the Valley of the Sun Koi Health and Wetland Seminar would be held in Phoenix in January by Dr. Nicholas Saint-Erne, DVM, KHA Instructor. Dennis is taking orders for microscopes 400x – hobbyist quality – and will need to be paid in advance. For more information, contact him by his email: webmaster@vskc.net. He also thanked Debbie Shaw and the Club for the great Pond Tour this year.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Lynn Riley
Secretary

Featured Articles

Selecting a Young Utsuri

reprinted from www.akca.org

Whether you are looking for a shiro utsuri, hi utsuri, or ki utsuri, you look for the same thing. If you plan on showing the fish some day, you should choose a shiro utsuri because they almost always do better in shows. It is very important to start by looking for a good head. The head of a shiro utsuri should have both colors (black and white) on the head. Do not buy a shiro utsuri with an all black or an all white head. Look for an interesting pattern of black on the head with about 40% black and 60% white. A lightening pattern of black down the face or a black V across the top of the head are favored, but any interesting pattern will do.

A body that is 50% black and 50% white is classical, but a higher amount of white is preferred in current judging. Do not buy an utsuri that is too black. The pattern should be interesting and balanced. All the black should be in large patches and the patches should all extend down to the bottom of the fish. Do not buy a shiro utsuri with a lot of small black spots. Also, look for good quality white. The hard part about all the above things to look for is that in a young shiro utsuri, much of the black is deep and not finished and the white may still be grayish or yellow.

The pectoral fins of a young shiro utsuri should be all black or have a large patch of black at the base. Avoid shiro utsuris with all white pectoral fins or with just tiny patches of black at the base. Make sure both pectorals match. Many utsuris may have one black fin and one white fin. Do not buy these.

Make sure the utsuri only has two colors. Especially on shiro utsuri, there should be no red spots.

After you have the right head, pattern and fins, make sure you have a fish with a good broad body and large fins. This assures you of good growth in the future. Also check the fish in a tub to make sure there are no defects or disease present.

In selecting a hi utsuri or ki utsuri, the rules are the same. All the comments about white are the same for the red of the hi utsuri or the yellow of the ki utsuri. For these last two, good quality is harder to find than for the shiro utsuri because the shiro utsuri is more popular and more are bred in Japan.

Koi Nutrition

There are many good (and bad) koi feeds available to the Koi Keeper. In general, a good koi food for growth will contain from 32 to 38 percent protein. Protein is the major energy source for koi. This protein should be derived primarily from fish meal, and fish meal should be the first ingredient listed in the contents label.

Several less desirable fish foods list plant or animal protein sources as the major ingredient. Koi food should be sealed and stored in a cool, dark, dry place in order to preserve freshness. Old food that is not cared for can become rancid. You should be able to tell if food is rancid by the smell. Fish that are fed a diet of rancid food often results in fatty liver and/or liver cancer. "If in doubt, throw it out."

For maximum growth, koi should be fed at least 4 times per day in warm water temperatures. Koi have no stomach and digest their food in about 4 hours. Feed only what they will eat in a few minutes because excess food left in the pond will increase ammonia content of the water. Mix low protein feed (Cheerios or wheat germ) with regular feed in late fall when water temperature reaches the 60 degree range. At 55 degrees, feed all low protein food until water temperature reaches 50 degrees. When the water temperature approaches 50° F. stop feeding, since at that temperature a koi's digestive system is shut down. Normally they will not eat at this temperature, but if they do, it is unhealthy for them, since the food will not digest and will just decay in their intestines.

In the Spring, resume feeding a low protein diet (Cheerios) when water temperature has been above 50 degrees for a few days. Gradually mix in some high protein food with the Cheerios as the days and weeks go by, until feeding all high protein foods when water temperatures reach about 60 degrees. As you can see, it is important to be able to determine your pond water temperature, so if you don't have a pond thermometer, you should get one. With koi, feeding, water treatments, and medical treatments are all temperature related. For instance,

antibiotic treatment of koi in water below 55 degrees has absolutely no effect, since the koi's circulation system is at a near standstill.

Some nutrition authorities now recommend not using low protein foods in fall and spring. Their recommendation is to continue feeding the high protein food, but reducing the amount fed during fall and spring months. It is up to the individual pond owner which regimen of feeding is best for them.

Below are some questions and answers related to koi nutrition:

- **When Koi Pellets are made they float – how is this done at manufacturing level?** Answer: Manufacturers can make koi feed float or sink by juggling the pressure/moisture/heat ratio of the feed in the manufacturing process. If the specific gravity of the food is less than that of water, the food will float.
- **Some commercial koi foods have red and green pellets in the same packaging – what is the difference between these two different colored pellets?** Answer: Color is the only difference.
- **When feeding koi the floating pellets are swept away to the surface skimmer before all the koi can finish them – what can be done to avoid this during feeding time?** Answer: To avoid this, you may (1) Feed less food at one time in order for the fish to consume the food more quickly and possibly feed a lesser amount several times per day, and (2) Turn off the skimmer during feeding.
- **Which ingredient/ingredients commonly found in koi food can go rancid if the food is old?** Answer: Fats and oils.
- **How can you determine old food with out a laboratory test?** Answer: Old food can be determined by manufacturing dates on the package. (Note: Not all manufacturers put dates on their packages.) Sometimes old food can be determined by smell (rancid) or by sight (webs, mold, etc.).
- **Which part of the food formula produces growth in koi?** Answer: Protein is the main ingredient for promoting growth in the koi.
- **Why do koi not grow much in winter – if at all?** Answer: In winter the water is cold (below 50 degrees F.), koi metabolism is low and they do not eat. This inhibits their growth.
- **Are vitamins in koi food essential?** Answer: Yes, without sufficient vitamins, protein will not function to its full potential.
- **Koi food can be dampened and fed to all size koi – but why is it bad to let the pellets float or stay in water for a long time before being eaten?** Answer: Uneaten food will pollute the mechanical and biological filters, as well as increasing ammonia levels in pond water.
- **Do koi grow to a large size only in a deep pond?** Answer: No, They have been known to grow to tremendous size in small, shallow areas.
- **At what age do koi stop growing?** Answer: Growth slows dramatically at about age 5 – 7 years. Many koi may continue growing to 10 to 12 years, but by a much slower rate.
- **Should koi food have a smell?** Answer: Koi food has a good and a bad smell. The good smell is the scent of warm fish meal. This food is fresh and can be used. The bad smell is a rancid smell due to the food being old or having been subjected to moisture and/or sunlight. This food is spoiled and should be discarded.
- **How should koi food be stored?** Answer: Koi food should be stored in small sealed containers in a cool, dry, dark area.
- **Why is freshly made food so important?** Answer: Freshly made food is important because it contains essential vitamins and minerals necessary for good koi nutrition. As food gets older, these vitamins and minerals lose much of their potency.

- **Why is feeding stopped at very low water temperatures?** Answer: Koi metabolism slows down drastically in cold water, and they eat very little. When they do eat, the food does not digest properly. Koi in cold water can go for months without feed, and should not be fed until the water temperature rises consistently above 50 degrees F.
- **Is it better to feed koi several times a day or once a day - why?** Answer: In water temperatures above 60 degrees. it is better to feed koi several times a day because they have no stomach for storing food, but have a “straight gut”). They can digest their food in about four hours and then will be ready for more.

Any questions should be directed to Don Harrawood at dharrawo@elp.rr.com

Don Harrawood

Teach your Koi To Eat From Your Hand

Koi are very sociable critters and love to stay in a group. They also are less shy when in a group. Your koi can be trained to eat from your hand if you have enough patience to earn their friendship and trust.

Feed them in the same place every time. Drop a small handful of feed in the water and stay there and observe their actions. They must see you when they eat. Do not walk away from the pond before they start to eat. They need to learn that their food comes from you and that you are not a predator. The bravest and hungriest will start to eat and the others will follow. Withhold food for a day or two if they will not eat during your presence, then try again.

Gradually your koi will equate you with their food. Place your hand close to the water and tease them closer to your hand with sprinklings of food. Put your hands in the water while they eat. Start with just a few pellets and they gradually will understand that their food comes from your hand. Eventually the bravest will start nudging your hand for food. It will be just a matter of time that their friendship and trust will be yours. Soon all your fish will swim, jump and splash toward you every time you approach the pond. With some patience, you will be able to tickle their chin, rub their backs, and they may even suck on your fingers.

In the summer months, koi will have big appetites and when water gets colder, the amount of food they want will be less. Make sure that you do not over feed your koi, because uneaten food will deteriorate your water quality. Since koi have no stomach in which to store food, it is best to feed them less at more frequent intervals. As a rule of thumb, koi should be fed at least twice per day.

Koi will eat almost anything that a human does, including meats, vegetables, fruits and cereals. They enjoy treats such as Cheerios and chopped fruits and vegetables. The best diet for them is a well balanced commercial koi food.

Make sure you have adequate filtration for the waste produced by the number of koi you have and amount of food that you feed. Nothing is more important for the health of your koi than good water quality, and water quality is greatly dependent on adequate filtration.

Many pond owners are unaware that while koi are basically bottom feeders in nature, they eat quite a bit of algae. Although large amounts of pond algae are unsightly, koi enjoy the benefits of being able to eat algae when they want and as much they want. They generally eat the short “fuzzy” string algae that form on the pond bottom and sides, and ignore the long stringy algae. Some amount of algae is a healthy condition in our ponds. In the presence of no feed available (such as vacations), koi will survive on algae for a considerable period of time.

Don Harrawood

Salt

Ordinary sodium chloride is probably the oldest fish medicine known to man. Salt can be very helpful for treating parasites; however, it is not a cure all. Most fish have an internal salt concentration of 1.0%. Tap water typically has close to 0.1% salt concentration. An osmotic gradient exists between the fish and the water that surrounds it. Through the process of diffusion the fish will lose salt and gain fresh water. In order to maintain proper cellular functions, freshwater fish must constantly replace these lost salts and expel excess fresh water. This is called osmoregulation and requires an energy expenditure. When salt is added to the pond the koi actually spend less energy osmoregulating. This saved energy may be saved for fighting disease. The osmotic balance of some parasites is upset by salt concentrations as low as .3% to .5%. Basically the parasite's cell dehydrates. This gives the koi a fighting chance.

Stronger salt baths of 2.5% for 10 minutes, can quickly rid a fish of many parasites and bacteria or fungus. However, when the fish goes back into the pond, it may still be in a weakened condition and might fall prey to a new parasite. This is why it is necessary to medicate the whole pond properly. Parasiticides or antibiotics may need to be added concurrently with salt treatments. Concentrations of salt stronger than 0.3% combined with formalin may be too harsh.

Salt has been used to control string algae at a concentration of .25% and higher. Killing large quantities of algae with salt may pollute the pond. Remove most of the algae by hand first to reduce pollution.

Salt concentrations of 0.3% are effective at detoxifying nitrite. The salt interferes with the nitrite ion exchange at the fish's gills. Use until nitrites have cycled properly.

A 0.3% concentration is a good all around tonic for strengthening koi and improving disease treatments. This concentration will stunt your water lilies and stringy algae. You may choose to treat your fish in a separate container.

A 1.0% salt concentration is the same salinity as fish blood. This is called an isotonic solution. Salt does not transfer into or out of the fish's body. Under normal pond salinities (0.1%) ulcer disease can cause a loss of internal salts through the open sore. Addition of 1.0% salt to the koi in a separate hospital tank will limit this loss of internal salts. Limit this concentration to 2 to 4 weeks.

Always adjust salt levels gradually over 3 days to allow the koi time to adjust. Do not use salt continuously as parasites can become immune. The beneficial effects will be diminished. Use salt in the spring as a preventative for disease or when the koi are definitely sick. Monthly water changes will dilute salt to normal over time.

Note that the salt that should be used is **non ionized**, often referred to as **Ice Cream Salt** or **Rock Salt**.

Kawarigoi Korner



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

Upcoming SAKA Education and Business Meetings

Date	Location
June 28, 2009	Host: Mountain View Koi – Annual Potluck
July 26, 2009	Host: Chuck and Phyllis Tampio
August 23, 2009	Host: Dan and Martha Cover
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
 30th Annual SAKA, Inc. Koi Show and Auction Koi Health Wet Lab	November 13-15, 2009 Kino Veterans Memorial Park (To be confirmed) Tucson, Az. Contact: Bob and Darlene Panter (520) 747-7278
	January 17, 2010. Valley of the Sun Koi Club



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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