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## **Mountain View Koi, Hereford, AZ, June 28th**

*Meeting begins at 1pm.*

**Curt and Lisa Ogren**  
3828 Keeling Rd Hereford  
Phone: (520) 378-3710

Take I-10 East from Tucson  
 Take exit **302** for **AZ-90** toward **Sierra Vista**  
 Turn **right** at **S Hwy-90/AZ-90** (signs for **Sierra Vista**)  
 Continue to follow AZ-90  
 Continue on **N Garden Ave**  
 Continue on **Buffalo Soldier Trail**  
 Turn **right** at **S Hwy-92/S AZ-92**  
 Turn **right** at **E Keeling Rd** to **3828 E Keeling**

We are looking for someone to host our August monthly meeting. Please contact Brent VanKoeving or Bob Panter if you are interested.

## SAKA, Inc Club Officers

<b>President</b>	Bob Panter <a href="mailto:sakabob@yahoo.com">sakabob@yahoo.com</a> (520) 747-7278
<b>Vice President</b>	David Young <a href="mailto:koiman@mindspring.com">koiman@mindspring.com</a> (520) 682-7697
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynn Riley (520) 825-9066
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dan and Martha Cover <a href="mailto:mardan79@msn.com">mardan79@msn.com</a> (520) 297-4071

## Committees/Points of Contact

<b>2010 Pond Tour</b>	Looking for a Volunteer
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Koi Show Co-Chairperson(s)</b>	Bob and Darleen Panter <a href="mailto:dpanteraz@cox.net">dpanteraz@cox.net</a> (520) 747-7278
<b>AKCA Representative</b>	Debby Young <a href="mailto:debbyt@akca.org">debbyt@akca.org</a> (520) 682-7697
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Brent VanKoeving <a href="mailto:bvankoeving@longrealty.com">bvankoeving@longrealty.com</a> (520) 780-3980
<b>Koi Health Advisor</b>	Noel Shaw <a href="mailto:koidoc@noelshawdc.com">koidoc@noelshawdc.com</a> (520) 400-0335
<b>Membership Chairperson</b>	Faye Hall (520) 297-1253
<b>Raffle Chairpersons</b>	Wanda & Bruce Triebel <a href="mailto:wkt56@comcast.net">wkt56@comcast.net</a> (520) 572-0060
<b>Scholarship Committee</b>	Erin Riley <a href="mailto:eriley@aol.com">eriley@aol.com</a> (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

Boy does the month's fly by! We are about to experience another Koi Club meeting. This is our annual potluck at Mountain View Koi. I hope all can attend. The meeting will be short and the fun and food will be plentiful. Thank you Curt and Lisa for having us all.

The hot weather is here to stay for a while, so please check your water quality. Your koi and other aquatic life will love you. Keep your pond healthy.

Do you know someone who has koi and is not a member of our club? Well let them know that our meetings are open to non-members who would like to see if they would like to belong to a club and learn more about koi and taking care of them. We would love to have them, so invite them to stop by.

Next up Koi Show 2009. How about that? Come one come all to the greatest Koi show on earth. Invite your neighbors and friends and any one else you can think of. Our Show is the second weekend in November. The real fun begins on Friday, set up time. Then on Saturday the judging begins. Is your koi the next Grand Champion? Enter your Koi and have fun. Watch everyone walk around and eye all the koi with awe, the size the shape the color. How big, how old, how long do they live, what do they eat and how do I start to raise them? Oh! What fun we will have. See you all the second weekend of November.

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 a host for our August meeting in 2009. 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.

## May Business Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Noel & Debby Shaw's home, May 31, 2009

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Bob Panter at 3:55 PM.

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

Number of memberships in attendance: 19 members – 3 new members.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance: \$5288.12. Brent Van Koevering gave the Treasurer's Report as Martha and Dan Cover were not in attendance.

2009 Membership: No report given.

Correspondence: Letter from Grant Williams notifying SAKA about the pending Koi Cruise; for more information go to [www.koicruise.com](http://www.koicruise.com). Also received the monthly letter from Pond Gardens.

AKCA: Debby Young reported that the current chairman resigned and Joe White from Florida is taking the position. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the new officers will start their terms. Debby also reported about the new class being given online with a written exam for Koi Health Advisor. For more information, go to [www.koihealthadvisor.org](http://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.

2009 Pond Tour Committee: Debbie Shaw gave the results of our Pond Tour. We made \$840.00; \$790.00 from tickets sold. Pond award went to Gil Lusk, the last pond on the tour. Debbie requested that we find a new Pond Tour Chairman as she is retiring from the job. Thank you, Debbie, for the wonderful tours we have experienced. It was recommended by Debbie that the members go back to selling tickets for the Pond Tour in the future and to look for pond owners to have on the tour next year.

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.

Old Business: Bob Panter reported that the 501C3 had been mailed. Debbie Shaw mentioned that we did have a few books left for new members, but that we should find a source for new ones.

New Business: Jean Schiller-McGinnis asked about selling commemorative T-shirts, pins, calendars or jackets for the SAKA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

Education: Noel Shaw gave an interesting and informative talk on pond filtration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Riley, Secretary

AKCA Report June 12, 2009

The next KHA courses are now forming. Over 40 people have shown interest in the up coming class. A motion to approve doing away with all tracking paperwork for pond calls and the Hold Harmless Agreement was passed.

Hikari Food will again sponsor the Pond of the Year Contest. It will have the 3 same divisional winners.

The AKCA Judging Committee has been asked to provide 2 Judges to attend and judge a Koi Show in Brazil. Five people have send in applications to be candidate judges; there is only room for 2.

The 2010 Seminar will be held in Nashville Tennessee. The hotel has been contracted at a rate of \$129 per night. AKCA will offer a new package deal – ½ price for Saturday seminar only. This should help out the KHAs and the Judges who are busy on Friday with their own agenda and any local people who have to work on the Friday.

The 2011 Seminar will be held in Indianapolis

AKCA dues of \$100.00 for the next fiscal year have been emailed to each club rep.

The new Officers of AKCA will take office on July 1 2009

Chairperson – Bob Finnegan

Vice Chair – Kristine Peterson

Secretary – Carole Elliott

Financial Officer – Doug Dahl

## Featured Articles

# Selecting a young Showa

*by Dr. Arthur Lembke*

Selecting a young showa is one of the toughest young koi to choose. Showas go through many changes as they grow. Many times the black is very deep and only comes out as the fish grows. For this reason, if you see gray areas, it might not be poor quality white but deep black that will appear later.

Start selecting a young showa, as with other young koi, by looking at the head. The head should have all 3 colors (red, black and white), preferably in equal amounts. Best would be to have a good kohaku head with either a lightening stripe or a v-shape in black on the top of the head. Many showas don't develop this until later, so just try to pick one that has good red and white with some black coming out.

Next look for a good kohaku pattern on the body. It should be balanced and be placed all through the body. Then check to see if black is either present or coming up all over the body. Don't worry if the black is of poor quality at an early age. Black develops later in most good quality showas. It is also okay to have an orange-red at this point because the red gets better as the fish grows.

The next very important thing to look for is the pectoral fins. Ideally, almost all of the pectoral fins, except for the outermost tips, should be black. As the pectoral fins grow out, the black seems to stay the same and the white area on the outside seems to spread out. If the pectoral fins are all black at this time, it is often alright, as this too can grow out to have good showa fins. Fins that are not acceptable are fins with any red, all white fins, or fins with very little black at the base. All other fins should preferably be white, but some black is acceptable. Red is not acceptable in the fins.

Look for a good, strong body, large pectorals, and a disease free fish. One must know how to pick a good kohaku and a good shiro utsuri to choose a good showa. If you take all the black away on a showa you should have a good kohaku and if you take all the red away you should have a good shiro utsuri.

Another thing to look for in this particular fish is the percentage of the 3 colors to the total fish. The classic showas used to be about 40% black, 40% red, and 20% white. The modern showas, that many judges like, have equal amounts of all 3 colors.

As you can see, the showas are one of the most difficult koi to select at a young age because they change so much as they grow. It is this complexity that makes this one of my favorites of the varieties of koi.

## Spawning

reprinted from [www.akca.org](http://www.akca.org)

by Grant Fujita  
reprinted from "[KOI](#)"

It is very difficult to breed good quality Nishikigoi. Professional Koi breeders even find it hard. Hobbyists still try Koi breeding to see the results they get.

The most important thing is to choose good quality parents with excellent blood lines. This is critical. Unknown blood lines and background may cause an undesirable variety of babies. For instance, from a Kohaku parent there might be many different types of Koi such as Taisho-Sanshoku or Showa-Sanshoku, even Ogons and Asagis. Since there is no such thing as a pure blood line, there is always a chance the babies could be drastically different from the parents.

If planning to spawn Kohaku, Taisho-Sanshoku or some other popular breed of fish, make sure the parent Koi have snow white areas, bright colors, even colors and sharp edges on the patterns. Balance and formation of pattern on the parent Koi is not an important factor. The resulting patterns on babies is a matter of chance and cannot be panned.

The age of the female should be three to ten years. If the female is too small, her eggs will be small and cause premature birth and most of the babies will die. For the most effective spawning, the male should be three years or older, if any younger he is probably unable to produce sperm effectively.

Some well known breeders in Japan will breed with only one male and one female, however, this can develop into a lengthy process since it is difficult to select both fish in the peak of spawning condition. If the breeding is only a part of your hobby, one female to three males is suggested. If the mating is a failure the first time, the male partners should be changed. Also, if the female fails to produce eggs, there is a possibility she has a stomach tumor and should be exchanged for another female with eggs. The major classifications of Koi should not be mixed for breeding. For instance, if Kohaku breeding is being tried both male and female parents should be Kohaku.

After selecting the parents a decision must be made concerning the container for the spawning. The should be sturdy and smooth as, in the process of spawning, the Koi will move around a lot and often rub up against the sides of the tank. If it is rough, they will injure themselves. The best type container is a tank 6 to 8 feet in diameter and three to four feet deep. A large show tank is a good choice. Make sure adequate aeration is available as the fish will be extremely active and use large amounts of oxygen.

In Niigata spawning does not start until late May or early June because of the cold temperatures. In California and the southern areas of Japan the spawning season starts much earlier, around the beginning of March and early April.

To induce the female to lay eggs there must be a soft and stringy media on which she can deposit them. Typically, items like willow tree branches, water hyacinth, a clean mop head or long stringy algae are used.

Most professional Koi breeders use a specially made fiber but, whatever the material, it must be free from disease, parasites, and chemicals.

Another method of spawning applies artificial techniques. This is done by squeezing the eggs out of the female and spraying the male sperm on the eggs. The eggs are then mixed with the sperm and placed into a special hatching tank. This is not recommended for amateurs as it can cause injuries to the Koi.

In order for successful spawning to take place the daytime temperature must be above 75 degrees. Many times a female will lay eggs because the pond is shallow and cannot maintain an even temperature. The change in temperature between night and day triggers the fish's natural response to spawn. However, if the pond is deep and the temperature stays even the fish will not spawn unless induced.

Setup the spawning tank early in the morning so the water has a chance to warm up before cooling down at night. A day must be picked when it's obvious the temperature will be over 75 degrees and will stay this way for a couple days. Make sure the spawning materials and aeration systems are ready and installed in the tank. The early afternoon is the best time to release the spawning pair into the tank as they need to adjust to the water temperature. To do this properly, put the fish in a plastic bag with water and oxygen and float it in the tank for at least fifteen minutes then release the fish. Because fish tend to jump during spawning, the tank should be covered; such as with tautly secured shade cloth, netting or even a heavy board. The spawning will start at about 4:00 a.m. next morning and continue for two to three hours.

An additional tank, with water at exactly the same temperature as the main tank, should be ready for the fertilized eggs. (A variation of just a few degrees is sufficient to kill the eggs). These should be removed from the spawning tank as soon as the parents have finished their activity. The water in the spawning tank will be white, smelly and soon become rotten because only a small portion of the sperm, sprayed by the male, is adhering to the eggs, the rest is distributed in the water. The parents must also be removed and, if possible, the female placed in a separate tank to allow her time to recover. Finally remove any eggs remaining and place them with the others in the rearing tank.

The hatching tank should be placed in an area that does not show a temperature fluctuation of more than five degrees day or night. The eggs will die if the temperature changes even 10 degrees in a twenty four hour period. The average sized female will lay between 200,000 to 400,000 eggs. An attempt should not be made to save all these eggs because the hatching tank space is limited. They will not all hatch if the tank is overstocked.

Within four to seven days the eggs will start to hatch. This will vary dependent on water temperature. Warmer water will accelerate the cycle and soon the baby Koi will start to swim. They can survive for a few days on their yolk sack but after that is depleted, they will have to be fed. The best food for them is microscopic animals, but if these are not available they can survive on very small particles of dried food such as powdered milk. They will eat continuously throughout the day, and must be fed every hour. Be cautious to feed only tiny amounts of food because any leftovers will become rotten and kill them all. In about two weeks, they should be moved to a larger pond for faster growth, still feeding all the time.

The combination of feeding and culling is the most important feature in Koi breeding. Within the first month, the first culling should take place. Eliminate those with deformed bodies, single colors (if raising Koi with pattern), and those that are unusually large. This type of Koi is called "Tobi" and they usually do not have good patterns plus, they eat the smaller ones and these smaller fish, very often, have the better patterns. Professional Koi breeders usually save only about 10% of their hatching. After four months most professional breeders will have grown their Koi to about 5 to 6 inches.

# What Determines a “Quality” koi?

Some breeders sell koi in three or four different categories; these categories are pond run, selects, premium, and show quality. Other breeders sell koi in only two classifications, these are premium and show quality. Everything that does not meet this breeder’s standards is destroyed, resulting in about a 10 percent yield. The various classifications are determined through a constant culling process, done at regular intervals as the koi get larger, where each koi is inspected for quality features and for future possibilities.

Young koi are very difficult for the layman to determine whether it will be a good or bad choice, since the pattern on young koi change with age, maybe several times. As koi grow older, their physical shape, pattern and coloration tend to become more predictable. Koi judges look for definite characteristics when judging the koi for quality. Some of these characteristics are:

**Body Shape and Conformation** – A fully developed female will possess a fuller, rounded body than the male. The male will have a slender and tapered body.

**Color** – The quality of the color in a koi is important. The colors should be very bright and distinct with well defined separation lines between colors.

**Pattern** – The color patterns should be well balanced across the body of the koi and from side to side.

**Fins** – The fins should be well balanced with each other, with no splits or tears. No tears or splits in the tail.

**Scars** – Needless to say, scars on the body as a result of ulcers or physical injury can take away from a koi’s value. Other defects, such as crooked mouth, crooked spine, and missing scales are also negatives.

Quality koi generally come from quality breeders who are very selective in their breeding process; however, in general a “quality koi” is one that meets the buyer/owner’s approval. A koi’s true value is determined by the amount that a buyer is willing to pay.

## 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](mailto:bvankoevinger@longrealty.com).

## Upcoming SAKA Education and Business Meetings

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

## Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates/Location</b>
 <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> Annual SAKA, Inc. Koi Show and Auction</b></p>	<p><b>November 13-15, 2009</b>  <b>Kino Veterans Memorial Park (To be confirmed)</b>  <b>Tucson, Az.</b>  <b>Contact: Bob and Darlene Panter</b>  <b>(520) 747-7278</b></p>
<p><b>Koi Health Wet Lab</b></p>	<p><b>January 17, 2010. Valley of the Sun Koi Club</b></p>



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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.**

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