

***Dan and Martha Cover's House
February 28
Education Starts at 3:00***

From Orange Grove, North on Shannon, East on Puccini to 2841 Puccini.

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<i>Education Committee</i>	Erin Riley eriley@aol.com (520) 818-6490

Editor's Note: Articles published herein are intended for the enjoyment of all 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

2-11-10

Another year has zipped by for SAKA. It almost makes ones head spin. What will this New Year bring? Maybe we need to rephrase this question. How about, "How can we promote Koi and our Association through-out this New Year?"

Somehow I think we should answer both of these questions. What do you think? You make up our Association, and make it what it is. Share your thoughts either by E-Mail, or by coming to our next meeting and voicing your ideas. We welcome any and all input you may have.

There are just a few things happening very soon. We have elections, budgets, budget committee meeting, and Pond Tour 2010 right around the corner. Do you think you are going to get board? Think again because we have something for everyone. If you do not have a busy enough lifestyle we can help you out. Please take a moment and come to our next meeting. We will let you know how you can be of value to our community. We look forward to seeing all of you.

How are your koi? Are they healthy? Is your pond healthy? These are just a couple of questions to ask yourself. Take the time to check your fish and the environment they live in.

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

[Club Announcements](#)

Officer Elections are coming soon. The offices to be filled are Treasurer and President. If you are interested in running for office or being part of the nominating committee. Please contact Brent VanKoevering at 780-3980.

We also need nominations for Koi Person of the year. Please contact Bob Panter to nominate someone.

January Business Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: January 24, 2010 at Noel & Debby Shaw's home

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Dave Young at 3:00 PM.

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

Number of members in attendance: 17 members

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance: \$8018.02, \$1300 refund from Tucson Water for the November Show is reflected in this.

2009 Membership: 56 active members.

Correspondence: Dan Cover received an email from someone regarding an abandoned home and pond. Jean took the information to contact them. Reminders that the San Diego Show is in mid-February and the S. California Show is going to be on March 20.

AKCA: No meeting in December.

2010 Show and Auction Committee: We need a new Chairman for the Show and Auction Committee. Jean offered to Co-Chair the Committee if someone else would volunteer.

2010 Annual Pond Tour: May 1 & 2 is the next Pond Tour. All the ponds should be lined up in next couple of weeks. There have been some problems with people not wanting to be on the tour due to liability issues. It was explained that SAKA is insured through AKCA and will cover the ponds due to them being an 'event'. The Pond Tour will cost \$5.00 per person.

Old Business: The yearly Host drawing was done at the December party and the winner was Tom Ayers.

New Business: Elections are coming up – the President and Treasurer are up for election. We also need an Election Committee to head the nominations which need to be done for the next meeting since the fiscal year is March 1. It was suggested that Brent put a brief description of the jobs in the newsletter and ask for nomination calls. There was also discussion on the Budget Committee; within 2 weeks will need all committee budgets. At the March meeting we will need to choose a Koi Person of the Year for SAKA. The picture of the AKCA Koi of the Year, owned by Dave Johnson, will need to be sent to AKCA before April. Jean went to the Children's Museum and it went really well. Noel supplied the fish and Jean & Kelly attended the tank. There was discussion regarding the SAKA Library that is currently being stored by Tom Ayers. It was suggested that we have a SAKA Librarian who can take an inventory of the materials and make them available to members. Jean volunteered to take this on and will contact Tom to arrange the transfer. There were several items not claimed from the show raffle and three koi which weren't caught in time for the auction. These were raffled off at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Educational Talk: Dave Young spoke about the Koi Health Wet Lab up in Phoenix the previous weekend. Then there was discussion about what people wanted to see in the Educational Meetings. It was suggested that different members take a specific topic of interest and present these at subsequent meetings. The topics agreed upon were: Spring Time Concerns & Spring Pond Prep which will be addressed at the February meeting by Noel and Karen, Spawning and Selective Breeding at the March meeting by Dave Johnson, and How to Choose Show Koi at the April meeting by Dave and Debbie Young. Any other topics of interest should be forwarded to Dave Young so they can be scheduled for meetings.

Lynn Riley
Secretary

Featured Articles

Pond Water Volume

Every pond owner needs to know their total pond volume in order to properly add the right amount of pond water additives to accomplish the desired results without harming the koi. For instance, an algaecide label states to add six ounces of algaecide per 1000 gallons of pond water. Do you know how many ounces to add? If you know your pond volume, it is just a matter of math. If you do not know the volume, it is a guess. Sometimes guesses can be deadly.

There is an easy and very accurate way to determine your pond volume without calculating measurements or draining and refilling your pond. This method is called the "Salt Method". This method is very simple; however it requires the use of an accurate salt concentration meter graduated in percent (%) salinity.

DETERMINING POND WATER VOLUME USING SALT

- Check the pond water salt content (starting percent salinity) with the salinity meter.
- Add a known pounds of salt.
- After the salt is dissolved and evenly disbursed, take a final salt concentration reading (ending percent salinity).

Formula:

(pounds of salt) x 12 ÷ Change in % salinity = gallons

Pounds salt added times 12 divided by (ending % salinity minus starting % salinity) equals gallons pond water including the entire system.

Example:

A pond was initially checked and found to have a salinity of 0.10 percent.
40 pounds of crystal salt was added (dissolved and disbursed thoroughly)
A final check showed salinity of 0.23 percent. Using the formula:

(pounds of salt) x 12 ÷ Change in % salinity = gallons

$$\frac{(40 \text{ pounds salt}) \times 12}{(0.23 - 0.10)} = \frac{480}{0.13} = 3692 \text{ gallons}$$

Notes:

- Use only crystallized salt with no additives (water softener crystal salt)
- A salinity meter is available from KHA members of your pond club.
- Calculating pond water volume by the salt method can be vastly effected by a large leak in the pond during the dissolving and disbursing period of this process. A major leak will reduce salinity and cause erroneous results.

The salt formula is further broken down to find the following unknowns:

Pond Volume (Gallons) = (pounds salt added X 12) divided by Change in percent Salinity

Change in percent Salinity = (Pounds salt added X 12) divided by Pond Volume (gallons)

Pounds salt to add = Gallons X (desired percent change in salinity) divided by 12

In order to get accurate checks of salinity, it is necessary to use a salinity meter graduated in percent salinity.

Don Harrawood
KHA

Chlorine, Chloramine, and Water Changes

Chlorine:

Chlorine (Cl), measured in parts per million (ppm), is a gas which has been added to tap water to control harmful bacteria. City provided tap water has been found to have from 0.5 to 3.0 ppm, but higher surges are sometimes observed. Local Water Utilities normally adds 1.5 ppm chlorine to city tap water to control harmful bacteria.

Chlorine is a quick killer of koi in small amounts (less than 0.5 ppm). Even in very small concentrations, chlorine burns the edges of their gills and causes long term ill effects. Chlorine in pond water with a high pH value is much more deadly to koi than chlorine in low pH water. Chlorine is deadly to biological converter bacteria. Do not use tap water to clean your biological converter media. It will kill the good bacteria. Use either pond water or water that has been de-chlorinated.

An open container of water (such as a pond) will lose approximately 1/4 of its chlorine per day to the air. Remember, chlorine is a gas and it gradually dissipates to the atmosphere from the water. Using this reasoning, a newly filled pond will lose its chlorine in 4 to 5 days after filling. If you are making a water change or adding make up water to your pond, you do not have the luxury of waiting 5 days before the fish are exposed to the chlorine; therefore the addition of sufficient de-chlorinator is needed.

De-chlorination treatment is simple but very essential. Pond owners should have de-chlorinator on hand at all times for water changes and for emergencies. De-chlorinator can be purchased at most pet and fish supply stores for about \$9.95 per quart. Another option is to make your own de-chlorinator. This is easily done by purchasing Sodium Thiosulfate crystals. When adding 500 grams of Sodium Thiosulfate to a gallon of water, it provides enough de-chlorinator to treat 38,000 gallons. One liquid ounce treats 300 gallons of added tap water.

When treating ponds after a water change, add de-chlorinator only for the number of gallons you add to the pond. Adding too much de-chlorinator (within reason) is not detrimental to the fish, but will be wasted. Adding too little may not get the job done. Add the de-chlorinator to the pond before adding tap water.

There are several test kits on the market for testing chlorine levels. Chemical droplet and pill test kits are available. The recommended test kit chlorine range is 0 to 4 ppm. If de-chlorinator is used religiously when adding water to ponds, a test is not considered a necessity.

Chloramine:

Chloramine is a compound of chlorine and ammonia that is added to some city water systems to kill harmful bacteria. Chloramine is not used in El Paso water, so I will not spend much time on this subject. When chloramines laden tap water is added to a pond, it adds both chlorine and free ammonia to the water. Adding de-chlorinator will remove the chlorine, but not the ammonia. A good efficient bio converter will remove the ammonia in short time. Do not add water with chloramine to a pond that is already showing a concentration of ammonia. This will raise the ammonia level, possibly to a dangerous level for your fish. If you have chloramine in

your tap water and water is added to your pond, the accepted remedies are the addition of products such as Amquill and Ammo Lock 2. These products eliminate chlorine and turns toxic ammonia into a non-toxic ammonia, which is not harmful to fish. Since it does not eliminate the ammonia, testing of the pond water will show positive for ammonia.

Water Changes:

Partial water changes can reduce the amount of anything dissolved in the pond water, but not remove it entirely. Although it is sometimes necessary, draining the pond entirely and refilling should be done as a last resort. Remember, water changes reduce the “good stuff” in the pond as well as the “bad stuff”. Pond water is swarming with microscopic bacteria. The good bacteria are necessary for a healthy pond, so we don’t want to get rid of it all through a total water change.

It is considered beneficial to make a weekly 10% water change. Ponds smaller than 5000 gallons should make a 10% water change weekly, and ponds in excess of 5000 gallons should make at least a 5% weekly water change. Why do we need to make water changes? Many components (un-dissolved solids) build up in the water over time, and this is the only way to reduce the concentration of these components. Experienced koi keepers know that their koi are healthier and stronger when regular water changes are made. Any water added due to removal of water in the process of back flushing pond filters is considered a part of the water change.

When adding make up water after a water change, don’t forget to add de-chlorinator prior to adding tap water to the pond. When adding water from a hose, spray the water on the surface of the pond. This will add oxygen to the water while filling. Don’t fill the pond with the end of the hose submerged into the water. This only stirs up muck that have settled to the bottom. Don’t forget to turn off the water. Many koi are killed by forgetting to turn off the fill water. Remember, tap water contains little or no oxygen, so aeration of the tap water added to the pond is recommended, especially if a large water change is made.

Don Harrawood

Plumbing

By Bob Fenner
Reprinted From [KOI USA](#)

Plumbing your water feature can be the easiest or worst part of construction and maintenance. This article attempts to avoid the two most common plumbing pitfalls, under planning and poor construction.

Planning:

First, in any design, planning should be given the utmost attention to achieve the desired results. That is, what will the final effect be? Quantity and quality of sights, sounds and utility can be achieved only with adequate planning. Plumbing is frequently a sore area in this regard. In designing your water feature give thought to the following plumbing lines:

- 1) Intake(s)

- 2) Discharge(s)

- 3) Filter and Pump

- 4) Drain(s)

- 5) Overflow

- 6) Fill line

Before discussing these plumbing lines, we will discuss some beliefs, facts, attitudes and methods regarding plumbing.

Materials:

Thank goodness this is the nineties! Hurrah for plastic pipe! Most of the plumbing you will do on your water feature may be done with PVC (poly vinyl chloride) pipe. I suggest schedule forty for adequate strength and thickness. Hot on the scene is the use of flexible pvc pipe that may be joined to the rigid type with a special solvent. Pipe and fittings are readily available and easy to use. Cutting tools are available for low cost or rental except for the standby hacksaw or friction-string trick. Ask your dealer about solvents that are appropriate for use. There are many that require no primer and work well under less than ideal conditions around dirt and moisture.

Pipe Size: Commonly pipelines are undersized and only occasionally oversized. As a rule of thumb, never use pipe smaller than the intake or discharge of the pump. Among other ills, this practice will reduce flow and motor life and increase energy costs. In other words, don't do it! Overflow and drain lines should be way oversized. Anything smaller than 1½" is a bad joke especially if there is a long run with any number of turns.

Valves:

Valves should be:

-

- 1) Schedule 40

- 2) Plastic
- 3) Ball type

These will give long, dependable service with less induced drag (friction) than gate valves of any sort. Systems using plumbing greater than four inch should consider butterfly valves. Ball, flap and spring type check valves also should be plastic. The use of these valves is of such considerable importance that we will deal with them separately. Unions are special fittings that allow easier repair and replacement of plumbing without having to cut lines. With the possible exception of cost effectiveness, always use true unions, especially at valves and pump connections.

Layout:

It is understood that the best layout is the least complicated and conspicuous. If possible, plumbing entering the water holding basin(s) should be installed to eliminate any leak potential. This is especially true in concreted basins, particularly ones using a liner as a water impermeable membrane. Their plumbing may be installed down over the membrane or attached to the wire reinforcing mesh and covered by concrete. These lines may enter and exit the basin above the water line. If the plumbing is to be fitted through the basin below water level, care must be taken to prevent leaking. See the construction articles in this series. Plumbing should be buried at sufficient depth to prevent breakage. See the excavation article for checking local codes for guidelines.

Intakes:

Intake lines to pump(s) or other units should be as many and large of size as practical. For biological ponds, the intakes should be situated just off the bottom. So called bad water should be left below where it may be vented to waste via the drain line. If the intake is plumbed to the pond bottom then a settling basin should be installed between the pond and filtration system.

Pump And Filter Lines:

The size of intake line(s) to the pump may be reduced or bushed to the size of the intake right at the pump. As noted in the article concerning pumps, most are made to push, not pull. So care should be taken in designing and building the plumbing lines to reduce restriction on the intake side as much as possible. If the pump system is above water level, check valves and/or ball valves should be installed right before and after the pump. If the pump system is below water level, union ball valves will allow you to clean out your trap or make pump repair/removal with minimal water loss or flooding. While providing plumbing to the pump and filter, there arises a possibility of providing a vac-line. The specialty plumbing is appropriate in cases where there is inadequate self cleaning by design. Either through a pool designed skimmer system in the basin, two, two-way or one, three-way valve system with a hook up for a periodic vacuuming. This vac system is something you may want to provide for initially in design and installing the plumbing.

Discharge:

These lines should be as short as possible. There is generally not much to be gained by sizing up the discharge (s) beyond that of the size of the pump. Much pump efficiency is lost through extra turns and added length of pipe. Plan and measure twice, cut and glue once. Discharges should be non restricted at their ends. If possible, a discharge end should be left completely open. You may want an alternate discharge to vent water for irrigation, drainage or to dump the system.

Drains:

You will thank me and yourself later for installing a drain line or at least a definitely deeper area, possibly with a

sump. A drain and/or sump will greatly simplify cleaning, partial water change and dumping. We have found it expedient to pre insert a drainage box (conduit) or in very small systems pour concrete and install a bucket with rocks to leave a depression in the deepest part when the bucket is removed. The concrete mix is troweled around this area to provide a fairly steep slope to direct the debris into the cavity. If possible, use gravity to drain the feature. situating a ball valve for control in the most convenient, accessible area. Take care that this waste water goes where you want it to go and will do the least harm. It is often appropriate to connect the overflow line with the drain line and run them collectively to waste, saving cost and flushing. The simplest overflow is the lowest edge of the system. You might want to intentionally construct this area and provide it with a screen to keep livestock in and debris out. As previously stated, imagine a flood of biblical proportions when sizing your pipe - the bigger the better.

Fill Line:

All systems will benefit by an automatic refill or continuous drip make up system. You can provide one of these by tapping off a pressurized irrigation line or potable water line. There are a wide range of available types and costs, from simple mechanical "toilet ball" floats, to sophisticated electronic sensors and solenoid devices.

Conclusion:

It may seem from this discussion that you are going to have to become an engineer and plumber to build your water feature. Such is not so with new tools and materials and with ourselves and others for help. By following the advice presented here and in this series you will be able to plan properly, construct and maintain your feature with a minimum of hassle. Check Valves (or, I wish I had all the money in burnt out and flooded pumps... When using an emersed versus a submersed pump on a water feature there is a field of technology everyone should be familiar with--the use of check valves in plumbing. Check valves or one way valves are devices that hold water static in plumbing when the pump(s) are off. The lack of appropriate use of these valve's is the cause of much time loss and frustration in re-priming lines and replacing plumbing and flooded equipment. By judicious use of check valves a would-be waterscaper can keep his/her sanity by keeping the plumbing lines primed, i.e., full of water. Without check valves all manner of havoc is manifested by loss of prime, motors, pumps and more personal items like tearing of hair! So what are these magical devices, how do they work and when and where do you use them? Check valves help you keep your cool.

What:

Check valves are specialized fittings that, attached in line with your plumbing, actuate when the water stops flowing and prevent the water from back-flowing. Most often used and available are: Swing, spring and ball types.

How:

Swing, spring and ball type check valves function the same. The force of moving water unseats the check allowing flow through the valve. When flow stops, the weight of water (or in the spring check, with the additional "push" of the spring) closes the valve.

When And When:

So what's the big deal, you ask? Hah! How many of us have sucked on, put hoses in, swore at, begged. cried and prayed that our pump and drain lines would work and all for naught because you couldn't get enough liquid in them? Well, check valves can change all that! As explained in a previous article in this series, there are two possible spatial arrangements for a pump that is not underwater. These are above and below the water level of the lowest basin. In either case, the desire is to have the ability to clean the pump trap or filter, and do repair or removal of the pump and filter system without the loss of prime or flooding. If your water feature's pump and

filter system is below water level, you will want to have a shut-off valve before the pump to stop water flow while you are working on the system. Similarly, you will want to provide a shut-off or check valve immediately after pump and filter to prevent the line from back siphoning and thereby dewatering the upper basin and discharge line. A shut-off valve may be used on the discharge line rather than a check valve, but these are more expensive and flow restricting. In the second scenario where the pump/filter system is above water level, two check valves may be used instead of one check, and one shut-off. These will be cut in as per the previous illustration.

Choice:

Now my views regarding what types of check valves are best per given application. Most commonly available are brass and PVC bodied check valves. The PVC are more appropriate for systems with less than three inch plumbing. This is especially true with lower flow rate and low pump heads with PVC lines. For systems with fish or plants in them, swing-type, checks are the overwhelming favorites.. Various flotsam and jetsam will usually not clog a swing check as readily, are cheaper and have a longer service life. For biological and "poisoned" systems with no life in them, a more preferred type may be low tension spring checks. These are especially useful in a low head situation where there is little difference between the highest and lowest water levels. With the added force of the spring, a positive seal is assured. What may be otherwise lost is some pressure and volume compared to a swing-type check valve.

Shut-off Valves:

As per our previous article, the best available,most appropriate technology in valves is plastic (usually PVC), schedule forty or rarely eighty, ball valves. True union valves that will allow easy removal of parts without cutting are strongly suggested.

Note:

With a submersed pump, you may still want to install a check valve on the discharge line to prevent back siphoning if the discharge point is below water level, Also Note: Many people believe their pumps are self priming or, "it will start after awhile," running dry. This belief is a dangerous notion. Do not run your pump dry. Running dry hurts the life of the motor, ruins the pump and can be extremely dangerous. If you discover your pump has been running without water in it, turn it off to allow it to cool down. Discover the cause(s) of the problem. Cure the problem, re-prime the lines and then turn the pump back on.

[Kawarigoi Korner](#)



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 Thank you

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
January 24, 2010	Host: Noel and Debbie Shaw
February 28, 2010	Host: Dan and Martha Cover
March 28, 2010	Host: Frances Case
April 25, 2010	Host: Dave and Debby Young
May 23, 2010	Host: Kevin Black
June 27, 2010	Host: Karen Wilson
July 25, 2010	Host: Mountain View Koi
August 22, 2010	Host: Rick Schuck
September 26, 2010	Host: Open
October 24, 2010	Host: Open
November	No Meeting See you at the Show
December	Host: Open

Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

Event	Dates/Location
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TBD

31st Annual SAKA, Inc. Koi Show and Auction



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Zip: _____

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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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