



Noel and Debbie Shaw's House
June 24
Education Starts at 3:00

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

<i>President</i>	Bob Panter sakabob@cox.net (520) 747-7278
<i>Vice President</i>	Burt Ballou burtb@socal.rr.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Lynn Riley (520) 825-9066
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dan and Martha Cover mardan79@msn.com (520) 297-4071

Committees/Points of Contact

<i>2011 Pond Tour</i>	
<i>31st Koi Show Co-Chairperson(s)</i>	Brent VanKoevering bvankoevering@longrealty.com (520) 780-3980
<i>AKCA Representative</i>	Debby Young debbyt@akca.org (520) 682-7697
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Brent VanKoevering bvankoevering@longrealty.com (520) 780-3980
<i>Koi Health Advisor</i>	Noel Shaw koidoc@noelshawdc.com (520) 400-0335
<i>Membership Chairperson</i>	Faye Hall (520) 297-1253
<i>Education Committee</i>	TBD

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.

SAKA, Inc 10% Discount

With your SAKA, Inc Membership Card at:

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Patty's Water Plants

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E. Benson Highway, Tucson AZ
(520) 294-0748

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 or Brent VanKoevering if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Club Announcements

We are looking for hosts for our August, September and October meetings in 2012. Please contact Brent VanKoevering if you are interested.

Business Meeting Minutes

Vice President David Young calls meeting to order.

Asked if last month minutes need correction. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: \$11,938.26

Tax: Form 990 \$97.50

Correspondence: AKCA Ballot.... All no

The AKCA dues have been paid.

Committee reports: None

AKCA: KHV test mentioned

AKCA website is down, Koi USA site is up.

Koi of the Year is in June.

AKCA seminar host is Nick...(didn't get last name) who does the koi wet lab.

Hotel/gas \$200.00/day (Nick)

Koi USA May/June issue late.

Discussion of using the vendor tents for shade screening for the koi tanks.

Call when the trailers are back.

Deb Young suggested shade covers when the tanks are returned.

Noted that Bob has Trailer wheel covers.

Old business: By Law Committee, Dan suggested there be a review meeting.

New business: Article regarding Tucson Koi and Water Gardens Now open 3372 N Dodge in the Fort Lowell area.

Motion to adjourn approved.

Featured Articles

Increasing Your Present Pond Size

- If you are planning to increase the size of your liner pond, here are some suggestions that you may want to consider:
 -
 - Dig your pond before trying to select the liner size.
 - Buy a new larger liner instead of trying to splice two liners together.
 - Calculate liner size to include at least 24 inches excess liner in all directions. This leaves an excess of 12" on all four sides of the pond.
 - When buying a new liner, consider the 0.045" thick EPDM rubber liner only. This material is the very best and is warranted against deterioration for 20 years.
 - Make your new pond at least 3 feet deep in some area to help protect your koi from predators.
 - While modifying your pond, you may want to put your fish in a large tank for survival until the new pond is finished. A six or eight foot diameter child's above ground plastic swimming pool provides an economical choice. Here are some suggestions after setting up a tank:
 - o Put some of your old pond water in the tank to start.
 - o Place a net over the tank to prevent koi from jumping out of the tank.
 - o Provide aeration in the tank for the koi.
 - o If possible, connect your pond filter to the tank to take advantage of the beneficial bacteria in the filter.
 - o If you cannot provide filtration in the tank, you must check ammonia level frequently and make a water change when ammonia appears during the test.
 - o Make sure to add de-chlorinator when adding city water, and keep an aerator running to provide needed oxygen for the koi.
 - Feed the koi sparingly once per day. This will decrease the amount of ammonia expelled into the water in the tank.

- Make sure there is a ridge all around your pond that is at least 6" high to prevent run-off water from the yard from entering the pond. This prevents fertilizers, yard chemicals, etc. from running into your pond and poisoning your fish.
- Do not allow water from your roof or overhang to run into the pond. To do so will invite all kinds of toxins that have accumulated on the roof to enter the pond during rains.
- Construct one or more bottom drains running to a filter to remove waste accumulations on the pond bottom. Slope your pond bottom towards the drains in order to make them more effective. In a koi pond, it is essential to have a bottom drain in order to filter the water from the pond's bottom. Bottom drains should be placed near the center of the pond. In larger ponds, bottom drains should be placed 10' to 12' apart. Do not place the bottom drain just beneath the water fall. This will cause water circulation dead spots elsewhere in the pond.
- Do not cover the pond bottom with rocks or gravel. This causes debris to accumulate and decay and impedes the ability of debris to flow into the bottom drain.
- A skimmer should be placed as far away from the water fall as possible. Pond surface water should flow from the water fall to the skimmer at the other end of the pond. The skimmer will collect leaves and other debris that float on the pond's surface.
- Koi Ponds require aeration. One good way to provide oxygen is with a water fall. A long cascading water fall will provide more oxygen to the water than will a simple water fall that merely spills over into the pond. The longer the water surface is exposed to the air, the more oxygen the water will pick up from the air. Shallow streams running into the pond is a good source of oxygen.
- Do not allow nooks and crannies to be built in the pond where the water will become stagnant. If such occurs, provide a means of water circulation, such as a venturi, in those areas.
- The filter system should be sufficient to filter the complete pond volume every hour. Ideally, both the mechanical filter and the bio-converter should have at least this flow rate. More is better.
- When re-building your pond, do some homework in order to select the best pump for your application. Select a pond pump designed for constant running duty, and one that will furnish your required flow (gallons / hour) with the least amperage or wattage ratings. Koi pond pumps, filters and waterfalls should run continually in order to supply needed filtration and oxygen. A submersible pump properly placed can replace a bottom drain.
- When considering water flow rates, don't forget that most filters will allow only so much water to pass through them. A filter can become a water flow restriction even though the pump is rated with much higher flow rate. Determine the filter flow rate from the manufacturer's specification data for the device.
- Add an ultraviolet light to the system to prevent green water and to help keep the water clean.
- Don't guess at the water volume. After the pond is built, check it with the salt method. Gallons = pounds of salt added to the pond times 12, all divided by the change in percentage of salinity (an accurate salinity meter is required for these salinity readings). This volume will include the entire system. Another accurate means of determining pond volume is filling the pond through a water flow metering device.
- Many koi are killed or seriously stressed because owners add too much medication or pond additives, thinking their water volume is much different than it actually is. When determining the amount of pond additives, remember that decimal points can and do kill.
- If pond water shows high in ammonia or nitrites, make sufficient water changes to get it down to acceptable level until the bio-converter is established. This may take weeks and several water changes depending upon water temperature. Do not forget to add sufficient de-chlorinator to the added water.
- It is important that the pond owner has water test kits capable of testing for Ammonia and Nitrites. These two substances, plus lack of sufficient oxygen, are the most likely killer of koi.

Plecostimos

Many pond keepers put plecostimos (algae eating fish) in their pond to help keep algae in check during the spring, summer, and fall months. Plecos are a tropical fish and cannot withstand our winters. They tend to die when the pond water goes down to about 60° F. In most cases the plecos die and the pond owner replaces them the next spring. Plecos can be kept through the winter months by using a little ingenuity.

During the winter, plecos need to be kept in water 65° F or above to survive the winter temperatures. This is accomplished by keeping them in a heated aquarium or a heated pond where water temperature can be controlled. An outside hot tub is an ideal place. Naturally they will need some sort of filtration or else water changes will need to be made on a regular basis. Some food for plecos is not recommended for koi or goldfish. Because of the recommended feeding regimen during winter, it is best to keep plecos separated and to themselves during this period.

Plecos are vegetarians and will eat most any kind of vegetable matter. I have talked with pleco breeders and they recommend the following kinds of food when algae are not available:

Catfish pellets (sinking type if available) These pellets are Not recommended for KOI

Dog food pellets

Rabbit pellets

Zucchini (sliced to expose the soft center)

Spinach (canned or fresh)

Melons (most any kind, sliced)

Broccoli

Asparagus

Cucumbers (sliced)

Squash (most any kind, sliced)

Some of the above foods will float. It is not necessary that the food sinks just because the plecos stay on the bottom of the pond. When they get hungry, they will come to the top and snatch floating food, assuming the pond is not too deep. Plecostimos are a lot like catfish in that they also eat at night.

It should be noted that the Chinese Banded Long Fin Sharks, another algae eating fish, have been withstanding our winters and do very well.

Don Harrawood

Koi Health Advisor

SAKA Emergency Supply Stations

Due to high cost, large quantity packaging or local unavailability of some koi supplies; SAKA has decided to stock some supplies for the benefit of club members.

Dechlorinators, along with oxidizers and treatments will be available, for a donation to SAKA, for our club members starting March 1, 2012. Please check on line at www.sakoia.com to see a complete list of supplies.

There will be 3 Emergency Stations set up around town for your convenience, see www.sakoia.com for phone numbers and emails of the stations.

Pick Up only.

Bring your own baggies and jars.

Call or email the Station for availability.

You must do your own research on your pond's problem.

You must know your pond's volume.

You must calculate your needed quantity of a supply.

Stations are NOT responsible for diagnosing your pond's problem.
Stations are NOT expected to recommend a product.
Stations are NOT expected to calculate dosages or needed quantities.

In order to take advantage of the SAKA Emergency Supply Stations, you must accept and sign a Hold Harmless Agreement (www.sakoia.com) and be a current member of SAKA (a current membership card must be presented at time of pick up).

If you have any suggestions for other supplies, please contact Debby Young
koicountess@mindspring.com

Kawarigoi Korner



[Click Here](#) to see new items for sale on the SAKA Website.

May 20, 2012

ANNUAL AQUATIC PLANT SALE, 8:00-1:30 p.m., southwest corner, Reid Park. Terrific selection of plants for your pond Sponsored by The Tucson Watergardeners. 760-1036

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 20	Alan and Karen Johnson
June 24	Noel and Debbie Shaw
July 22	Curt and Lisa Ogren
August 26	Mike and Carol Herndon
September 23	Rick Shook
October 28	
November	No Meeting. See you at the show
December	

Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

Event	Dates/Location/Links
Watergardener's Plant Sale	May 20, 2012. 8:00-1:30 p.m., southwest corner, Reid Park



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

Dues are \$30.00 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
 2841 W. Puccini Place
 Tucson, AZ 85741