

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



Koi Chronicles



August 2007
Volume 19, Issue 8

Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

By the Pond



David Boyd, President AKC

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July is almost over and it has been a quiet month compared to June. It is the quiet before the storm. We have August and the beginning of September to get ready for our show. Also a note on something that can be a silent killer in our ponds.

The Atlanta Koi Club would like to thank Peggy and Bill Fricke, Marilyn Carroll along with the numerous relatives that helped to host our July meeting. We had a good number of members attend our first evening meeting. The food and the setting were great and it was interesting to hear Vicki Vaughan discuss koi nutrition.

The past few months the members working on the different areas of the show have been steadily getting the prep work done for the show. I have been fortunate enough to be included in some of the decisions as well as the choices that have been made. I am very pleased to say that everything is looking good.

Beginning in March David and I had what we thought was a parasite problem in our pond and we could not figure out what was going wrong. We had done Potassium Permanganate treatment and done all sorts of healing treatments for the koi. We learned this past month what the problem was after finally getting a water sample to Vicki Vaughan.

We had a .18ppm of copper in our pond water, this causes an immunosuppression in the koi. Sad to say, we learned this the day of losing our newest Showa. I am asking that if any member has not had a chance to have their water tested for heavy metals to do so. This will help you in your treatment of any sick koi.



Harold Biggio and some of the other newly certified KHAs.

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scribe@atlantakoiclub.org

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money@atlantakoiclub.org

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Hervé Rijnveld
stfuff@atlantakoiclub.org

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Susan Brown
join@atlantakoiclub.org

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Ron Scott
koishow@atlantakoiclub.org

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P.R. Director

Kathy Scales
pr@atlantakoiclub.org

AKCA

Michael Anderson
rep@atlantakoiclub.org

Newsletter Editor

Toni Anderson
report@atlantakoiclub.org

Webmaster

Mike Hutson
wizard@atlantakoiclub.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

September 14th-16th, is OUR Koi Show.

Back by popular demand is the Friday night, Sept. 14th, "Vendor Appreciation" Night when you have first crack at all the vendors and can do it while enjoying wine and good food.

This year's show will again be at Coastal Pond Supply, 2101 Tucker Industrial Road, Tucker, GA 30083. The host hotel is the Northlake Holiday Inn located at 2158 Ranchwood Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345 which has a special nightly rate of \$79.00 plus tax for kings and double bedded rooms without breakfast or

\$89.00 which includes a full southern hot breakfast buffet each morning. This rate is available though August 15, 2007. The hotel has just completed a complete remodelization. Make your reservations now, call 770-934-6000 and mention the Atlanta Koi Club or Atlanta Koi Show to receive the discounted room rate or call 1-800-465-4329 and mention the code word "**KOI**".

The following is the show schedule:

	<u>Vendor Setup & Benching</u>
9/13/2007	Thursday - Noon to 7:00 PM
9/14/2007	Friday - 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
9/14/2007	Friday - Noon to 6:00 PM Benching
	<u>"Vendor Appreciation"</u>
9/14/2007	Friday - 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM (No fish will be benched during this time)
	<u>Show Hours</u>
9/15/2007	Saturday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
9/16/2007	Sunday - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
9/16/2007	Sunday - 10 A.M.– noon Judges discuss winning fish
	<u>Awards Banquet</u>
9/15/2007	Saturday - 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM - Cocktails (cash bar)
9/15/2007	Saturday - 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM Banquet (\$35.00 per person)
	<u>Tear Down</u>
9/16/2007	Sunday - 2:00 PM to Finished

Did you see David Pugh's piece about something new at the show this year? (see on p. 8) We are having an artisan's booth. This will be a great chance to see and buy crafts produced by your fellow club members. In addition, Vicki Vaughan has agreed to put on a class on "Basic Koi Care and Health". The cost of this class will be \$10.00 per person and it will cover "basic" things you can do for your Koi. This class is for folk, like myself, that don't want to do the things taught in the "Wet Lab" classes we and other clubs have held in the past. I don't want to give my fish shots, but when I look in the pond what should I be aware of that "something" might be wrong.

Ok, now you know the times and dates; now signup to show your fish, sponsor a trophy, reserve a space for Vicki's class, or buy a ticket to the banquet. Contact Peggy Fricke, David Pugh, or Ron Scott.



Upcoming Koi Shows

Here's the skinny on upcoming koi shows. Be sure to mark your calendar.

September 28-30, 2007 Koi America 2007
Carroll County Shirley Arena
Westminster, MD.

<http://www.carrollcountyagcenter.com/>

Ulcers revisited

In June we discussed ulcer management. It seems so simple -- *clean, apply antibiotic and let them swim away.* What I've been seeing in the field is anything but simple and *traditional* wisdom hasn't worked. The biggest problem is contact time, as whatever we use just washes off.



First stage

We see a growing red spot on one of our koi. What should we do? You know the drill. Get out your water test kit -- test for KH, pH, ammonia, nitrites, nitrates. Then, think back to anything you have done differently as far as husbandry -- crowded in new fish, forgot to clean filters, didn't do water change. Why? Remember it takes 3 factors acting in combination to cause disease.

So the first rule: without any signs of infection, leave the fish alone and find the real problem and correct it, giving the fish a chance to heal itself.

Note: Initial healing is from epithelial migration and is transparent and very hard to see. If you treat you're actually removing this healing. So don't!

Remember benign neglect: "our job is to feed, house and change there linen every so often." But we can't turn our backs. We have to watch our Koi and make sure their immune system is up to handling this breach. So what do we look for?

Second Stage:

Look for the area around the spot to start peeling, similar to how our skin peels from a sunburn, leaving ragged edges around the spot. The spot has now progressed into something treatable, but work conservatively as follows:



Mix up a solution of equal parts of bio-bandage, liquid propolis and aloe vera gel (without alcohol) and place in a small cosmetic spray bottle. Remember to label it and shake vigorously before each use.

Thoroughly blot dry with 2 x 2 gauze pads, but do not rub or try to remove any tissue



Liberal spray the sore with your solution, covering an area about 2-3 scales out from around the sore.



- While still wet, liberally sprinkle the treated area with denture powder, wait 15 seconds, then blow off the excess powder.
- Spray the treated area with Friar's balsam and dry with hair dryer on cool setting for 30 seconds.

Move the fish to a well aerated tub or treatment tank where no other fish are present and leave for about 30 minutes for the treatment to thoroughly dry, then return to pond.



This **treatment** has a greenish tint and **should last for about 7-10 days** and the sore should show the peeled area filling in just as does with a bad sunburn that has peeled.



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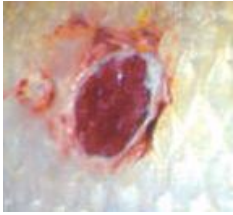
11:00AM -- 6:00PM
TUESDAY TO MONDAY 770-454-6799

3291 Shallowford Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341

Third Stage: If you have not removed the stressor – the real underlying cause -- or if the koi's immune system is compromised, the lesion can extend through the dermis, exposing muscle and forming an ulcer. If the ulcer has only a very thin (1-2 mm) red line around the ulcer and the margins have white tissue, the healing process is already started. Follow the same conservative treatment we used above (remember no cleaning or rubbing of ulcer). At this point though you should **keep the koi in a holding facility with a buddy for the 7-10 days** and until the ulcer is completely healed over.

Forth Stage:

Should signs of infection become apparent -- red inflamed area surrounding a sore with streaks radiating away from the sore, scales turning transparent or losing color – you need to treat more aggressively to keep it from advancing to septicemia (blood poisoning), which can result in the death of the fish. At this point **move the fish to a treatment tank with a buddy and call a KHA for advice.** If you choose to treat yourself you will need to learn how to:



- Identify necrotic tissue, dead or dying scales and suppurative lesions.
- Debride wounds, remove dead or dying scales and lance suppurative lesions.
- Do wet mount examinations for bacteria.
- Obtain and submit cultures for culture and sensitivity to lab.

NOTE: It is often prudent to start prophylactic antibiotic injections at this point. Please, please seek advice before ever starting antibiotic treatments. Bacteria are becoming more and more resistant to various bacteria and we're **approaching the point where we have only one antibiotic to treat some human diseases and are seeing resistance to it. And our using antibiotics indiscriminately on fish is exacerbating the problems in humans.**

You will also need to use a 10 cc syringe to flush out scale pockets with normal saline (0.9 %) and use q-tips to treat scale pockets with Providone Iodine 10 %.

Fifth Stage: If the infection causes sepsis (blood poisoning) -- spider web, engorged veins in fins and on the body; generalized diffuse redness on body; inflamed, red, protruding vent – then you need to start antibiotic injections as prescribed by a veterinarian. This will often require aggressive debriding and another topical treatment using the above solution and procedure. **This is where the culture and sensitivity from the fourth stage pays off.** By the time the sore has progressed to this stage the culture and sensitivity results will have been returned and you will know the most effective antibiotic to use to stop the infection.

In summary: catch ulcers early and know when to treat, remembering the koi themselves and Mother Nature are much better healers than we are. Identify and correct the underlying problem, remembering that no matter what the treatment, when we return the koi to a less than pristine environment, it will seldom heal. Don't keep treating the lesion, remembering each time you treat you are destroying tissue that has already healed. Finally, know when the disease has exceeded your abilities and ask for advice from a KHA, veterinarian or other fish health professional.

Sources of Supplies:

Hikari Bio-bandage® gel, 1 oz.

<http://www.coastalpond.com/>

Liquid Propolis, 1 oz. (Whole Food Store, Marietta)

Friar's Balsam, 1 oz.

<http://herb-pharm.com/catalog/singleherbalextracts-c-21.html?sort=1a&c=P>

All Other Stuff

Local Pharmacy or Wal-mart

Later...

Harold



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AKC CALENDAR

August:12— Jan & Wally Speed
September 9— Josh & Amanda Bare,
 Norcross Show prep meeting

October 14— ???
 Election of Officers



November 11: *Winter Social*, Hosts —
 Michael and Kathy Adkins in Cumming

To host a meeting contact
David Marier (770) 995-8984
Or dmarier56@msn.com

Montmorillonite Clay / Bentonite Clay Miracle Koi Product?

After a recommendation by the Andersons I was intrigued enough to order some Montmorillonite Clay to try out in my ponds.

I was told that Montmorillonite clay serves several purposes: besides adding minerals to the pond environment, it improves water quality, and promotes the skin quality and color of Koi. In addition it is also supposed to facilitate digestion. Japanese koi ponds are typically lined with clay, and koi apparently like to root around in the mud looking for tidbits to eat, in the process consuming the natural minerals.

Montmorillonite and Bentonite clays are mined in different geographic locations, but essentially have the same characteristics. The product is available from your favorite Koi dealer and/or online.

I can report that the results have been amazing, to say the least. I sprinkle two heaping tablespoons of the powdered product per 1000 gallons in the path of the waterfall. The initial cloudiness as the clay disburses in the pond disappears over the next few days. You'll watch in wonder as the pond suddenly clears up beautifully. All the Koi act peppy and look great in the crystal clear water.

To satisfy my curiosity I decided to do an additional test to find out how this worked. I have about 30 baby koi in a 20 gallon aquarium. The aquarium contains floating and submerged plants, and sits outside exposed to plenty of sun. The fry - which are just 1 month old and still quite small - are active and healthy, and seem to enjoy the greenish sun-tinted water.

My test involved sprinkling a teaspoon of clay into the aquarium. Two days later the aquarium water had cleared remarkably, and on the bottom were clumps of leaves and other organic waste. It was amazing, as if a magnet had pulled the debris and algae together. The junk was easy to siphon out.

As a hobbyist who relies heavily on a natural approach to pond keeping, I can wholeheartedly endorse the use of Montmorillonite/Bentonite clay. From my own observations I truly consider it a miracle product.

Herve Rijnveld



Ron Scott, our Koi Person of the Year, poses with some of the other honorees.



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Norm Call has sent our new pins for the koi show. Congratulations again to Bart & Kathy Adkins for sharing their beautiful showa — our 2006 Grand Champion. Norm immortalized their showa on our pin.

July meeting at the Fricke's was a lot of fun ... and Vicki Vaughan taught us a lot about fish nutrition, too!



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We need

Please Support our Show!

It's koi show time again. We need a lot of volunteers to help make the show a success. Below are listed some of the jobs that need volunteers.

Registration photographer

Banquet photographer

Set-up (need 6)

Tear-down (need 10)

Hospitality for Saturday & Sunday lunch (need at least 4)

Hospitality for Friday night (need at least 2)

Airport — need to pick-up Judges (4) and their spouses on Friday. Will need to return them to airport on Sunday. Hopefully you'll be their chauffeur for Friday & Saturday to events.

Club store — need people to work Saturday morning; Saturday afternoon; Sunday morning

Raffle — need people to conduct the raffle.

Banquet — need people to set up trophies, decorate tables and generally get everything in place

More information will be given at the meeting on August 12.

Call Peggy Fricke or David Pugh to volunteer.

We have two large bog plants that need new homes. They are free to any member who wants them. Both are potted in lotus tubs. We can bring them to the meeting next week, or they can be picked up at the house. Contact us at 770-937-0864 or double-david@aol.com

Lizard's Tail

Saururus cernuus Heart-shaped leaves are held on vertical stems. White drooping racemes appear in mid-summer.

Water Aurum

Peltandra virginica Dense, arrowhead shaped leaves, suitable for edges where a non-spreading plant is desired. Blooms are not very noticeable below the leaves, but interesting seed clusters are formed in summer.

Brenda and Charlie Atwell present our Friendship Award to Chester Bailey at the Northern Midwest ZNA Show in July.



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For information on advertising or to become a Sponsor of the Atlanta Koi Club please contact **Kathy Scales** at kscales77@bellsouth.net or call 770-605-0689



Treasurer's Report

Ron Scott

Your Membership \$\$ at Work



Have you ever wondered what you get for your membership dollars other than great camaraderie and delicious food?

At the 13th Annual Atlanta Koi Show we will offer you a great membership perk. If you are a current member of the Atlanta Koi Club who has a talent for painting, photography, woodworking, or any other creative pastime that you would like to market at the Koi Show, you are invited to reserve space in a vendor booth specifically designated as the AKC Artisan booth. This booth will be staffed by the artisans and you are responsible for setting up and tearing down. The AKC requests that each artisan donate one item or the raffle/auction.

The deadline for your reservation is August 31. The reservation request should include your name and a brief description of the items you will be selling. Send your request to doubledavid@aol.com

For the email challenged, you can call 770.937.0864.

New Friendship Awards

Here are our new Friendship Awards. If you are going to a koi show, and are planning on taking a Friendship Award ... please contact the Andersons for an award to take with you.



Treasurer's Report - Checking		
		For: July 2007
	Beginning balance:	\$19,137.28
Income Categories:		
2100	Club Store	
2200	Flower Show	
2300	Koi Show	
2400	Koi Auction	
2500	Misc.	
	Raffles - Monthly Meetings Only	
	Interest on Club Checking Account (Only)	
	Returned Check Fee	
	Banking Charges	
	Newsletter Advertising	
	Koi For Learning	
	Misc.	
	Transferring Funds From Savings	
2600	Pond Tour	
2700	Membership	
	Member Badges	
	Membership Dues	
	Koi USA Subscription	
	ZNA Membership	
	Vendor Sponsorship	
3000	No Category	
Total Income		\$0.00

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Membership

Susan Brown

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Please join me in welcoming John Turner, Robert Clinard, Darin Heuermann, Debby Smith, Rick Moore, Cindy Milewski, and Chuck and Heddy Hamann. It was so nice meeting some of you at the last meeting and I am glad the Pond Tour brought you to our club. Looking forward to meeting you, Debby, in the future and am delighted you decided to rejoin AKC.

Those of you who missed the last meeting missed a good one. Vicki Vaughan (known the world over for her knowledge of fish, health issues and Koi health Labs) gave an entertaining presentation on Koi nutrition. We all learned a lot and had fun doing it. The food and drinks were superb. Peggy and Bill Fricke and Marilyn Carroll really know how to host a party, and their pond was wonderful. Thank you! Everyone enjoyed the evening.

We had 40 members and 14 guests in attendance. Our current membership is 140 plus 9 sponsors.

Hope to see you in August

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ATLANTA KOI CLUB

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www.AtlantaKoiClub.org



Date: _____ Check No.: _____ Check Amount: _____

Type of Membership: Household: \$50 for 1 Yr. _____; \$90 for 2 Yrs. _____
(Check One) Individual: \$30 for 1 Yr. _____; \$54 for 2 Yrs. _____
Sponsor: \$150 for 1 Yr. _____

Other: KOI USA Magazine Subscription: \$20 for 1 Yr. _____
*Name Badges: \$5 each. _____

Names: _____ & _____
 First Last First Last

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Phone: _____ Best Email: _____

AKC is a volunteer organization. We need as much help and support as you can provide, no matter how insignificant. In which of the following areas can you help?

Host Meeting ____, Pond Tour ____, Auction ____, Koi Show ____, Hold Office ____, Flower Show ____

To save money, we provide our newsletter in color via email several days earlier than mailed copies.

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? Yes or No.

We try to publish a membership roster annually. It is given only to club members and AKCA, the Associated Koi Clubs of America. May we publish your address, phone number and email? Yes or No.

Make checks payable to **Atlanta Koi Club** and submit with application to:
Susan G. Brown, 191 Kings Row, Marietta, GA 30067.

* Please consider buying **Name Badges**. For only \$5, you will get to know and be known by everyone and also receive a free raffle ticket every time you wear your badge to a Club Meeting.

**August Meeting is Sunday, August 12, 2007 at the home of
Wally and Jan Speed**

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**Executives meet at 1 P.M. Membership meets at 2 P.M.
Be sure to come early... there's a lot to see.
Don't forget your lawn chairs.**

**Information about this meeting may be found in the announcement
letter. We try to protect our members' privacy.**

