

Holiday Gifts

Michael Anderson

The end-of-the year holidays are fast approaching. It is time to drop some not-so-subtle hints about what you want. It is also time to shop for your significant-other koi keeper.

Two great gifts would be subscriptions to the two domestic koi magazines KOIUSA (www.koiusa.com) and KOINATIONS (www.koinations.com). Subscriptions to KOIUSA are 1 year (6 issues) - \$24.95 2 years (12 issues) - \$42.95. Remember that subscriptions for members of AKCA clubs, such as Atlanta Koi Club, get a discount. Subscriptions to KOINATIONS are 6 Issues for just \$27.95 If you subscribe to both magazines...you can a new koi magazine every month during the year as their issues are in alternating months.

And speaking of subscriptions, consider one to KOIFIXX (www.koifixx.com), the only koi DVD magazine. KOIFIXX subscriptions are 1year (6 issues) for \$84 per year.

Another great gift is a microscope. You are looking for one with at least 400x magnification, a mechanical stage (platform that holds the slides), and an iris diaphragm for good light control. One that comes to mind is the Sonlight Ultra Microscope (<http://www.sonlight.com/microscope.html>) for \$197.

And for the gift that keeps on giving, secure a seat in the 7th Annual KOI HEALTH MAINTENANCE COURSE for \$500. This three day intensive course will be held in Athens on February 15-17, 2008. For more information contact: Vicki Vaughan, vvaughan@uga.edu, 706-247-6274.



Gaye Jones's Ranchu is Grand Champion Goldfish at Koi America 2007 !



Part of the show ring at Koi America.



Photos: Vicki Knill



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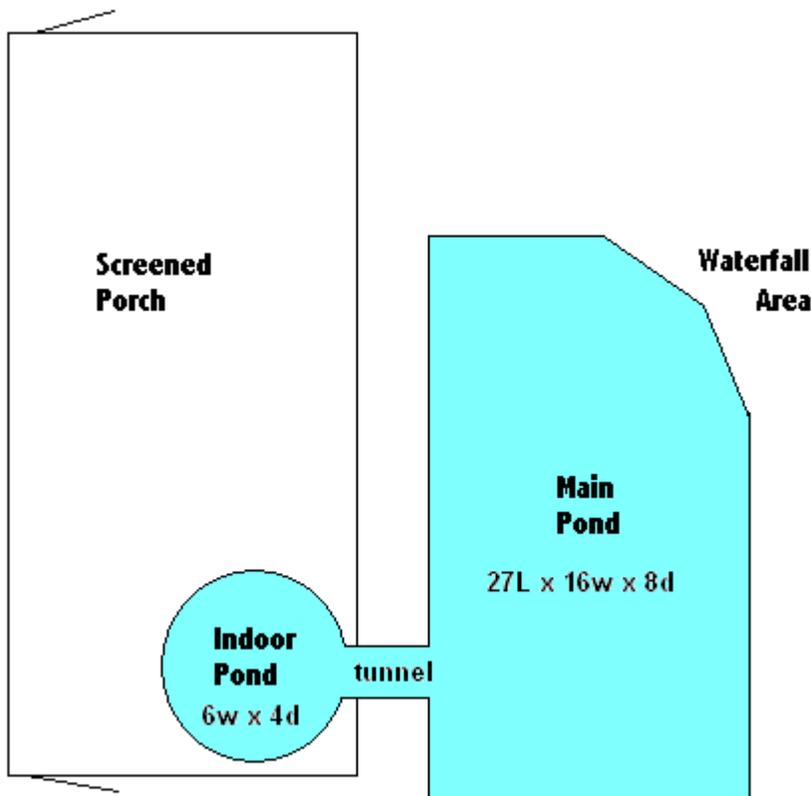
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Building our "Dream" Pond Smack dab in the middle of the worst drought in Georgia history!

By Herve Rijnveld - October 23, 2007

After our move to Gainesville, GA, in March 2007, we planned to build a koi pond we could really be proud of. It would employ some of the latest concepts in pond design with a healthy number of do-it-yourself touches. We wanted a raised pond to help keep out debris, discourage predators, and allow us to sit on the edge as we fed the fish. Also, since we firmly believe in the biological benefits of plants as well as their esthetic appeal in the pond area, plants would figure prominently in our completed design.

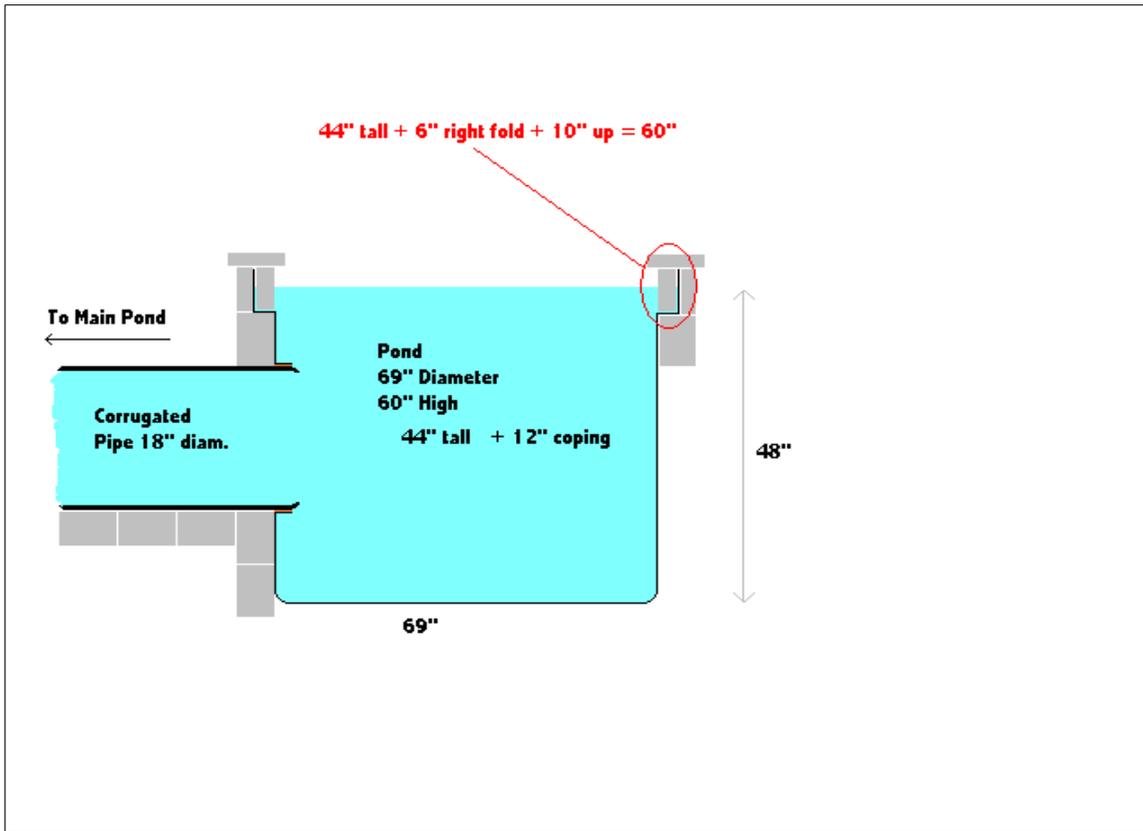
Financial considerations have caused us to compromise on the type of liner to use for the pond. We would have loved a spray-on liner, but will instead settle for either a Permalon or EPDM liner. Each type of liner has its benefits (*), but after a lengthy lecture and demonstration by a certain "he who knows all", I've pretty well been convinced of the advantages in strength, light weight, and excellent adhesive properties of Permalon. Plus, as Mr. Dowden professes, ants eat EPDM ... not a good thing!



One of the more unique aspects of this pond will be to connect a second pond inside our screened porch to the main pond outside. We are still working out the details, but our latest plan is create a "tunnel" using a 5 foot length of 18 inch diameter pipe and gluing each end to the respective pond liners. We'll revisit that challenge later.

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While the goal was to have a working pond in place before the onset of winter, we have been forced to delay our plans due to the extreme nature of the drought. Weather permitting we hope to complete this project by Spring 2008.

A final note, this whole project draws heavily on the knowledge and experience gained from our participation in the Atlanta Koi Club. It truly is a major undertaking, so we gratefully acknowledge the helpful advice, support, and encouragement from our koi-kichi friends in the Club!

Stage 1 - Excavation



Ground breaking takes place September 9th, 2007. AKC Club Pirate Cap'n Carl Knill, at the helm of his dozer reports for duty.

The original design called for an area 20 feet long x 12 feet wide x 8 feet deep. This would yield a volume of 14,400 gallons. Inside the screened porch we'd have a second smaller pond, 6 feet round in diameter and approximately 4 feet deep, which yields another 700+ gallons. By the time you add the water in the various pipes and filters, etc, our total pond volume was expected to be around 16,000 gallons.



We outlined the area to excavate and Carl started digging. Much rock and hard clay had to be removed. The excavated material was nicely distributed to reclaim some level terrain on sloping sections of our lot.



A partial trench was dug near the porch that would eventually connect the main pond to the indoor pond. And a large trench was dug to accommodate the various pipes needed for bottom drains, etc. The completed excavation ended up bit larger than anticipated and came in at 23 feet x 14 feet x 8 feet deep.





Since we wanted a raised edge for our pond it was now necessary to build a footer for the cinder block wall. We decided on a footer 6 inches deep and 1 foot wide, which meant that first a trench had to be dug all the way around the pond, by hand of course.

A friendly neighbor had some fancy leveling equipment, and with his help we noted the various heights around the perimeter to ensure a uniform dig.

2 days with the pickaxe and shovel and much sweat later, the trench was ready for concrete. The trench was dug safely away from the edge of the pond. While this increased the firmness of the foundation, it also increased the size of our pond

boundaries. *Warning to future pond builders: make sure you leave plenty of room for the footer when you outline your pond. It is always easier to dig wider later, than to fill back in!*



Dual lengths of rebar were laid like a railroad tracks around the perimeter for added strength. Also, at this time we laid a length of 30 amp 4-strand electrical wire in the footer trench, running from the house to the opposite end of the pond where the filter pit would eventually be dug. This wire would be safely encased in concrete once the footer was poured.

One challenge was how to accommodate the 2 deep trenches on either side of the pond. We decided on bridges made out of treated 2"x12" lumber. Then the crews got to work, mixing and pouring cement like crazy. By day's end the footer was done, and vertical rebar was hammered every 18 inches into the still wet footer and ground below. These would form anchors for the cinder blocks.



Stage 3 – Cinder Block Wall



Bill Fricke graciously spent a Sunday afternoon helping to level the site once more. Using a simple water-level (50 foot long 3/8" hose filled with water) we measured and re-measured all around the perimeter. This was a great help in guiding the block layers.

While the footer was curing I started work on the 2 main bottom drains. They were fitted, leveled, and concreted in place. Our plans call for 2 more bottom drains to be installed later.

Once the footer had hardened, work began on the wall. It took several days to complete the 2 block high wall. The cavities were filled with concrete, which together with the rebar make for a very strong structure. *Advice: partially fill block cavities with loose rocks, otherwise you'll use lots and lots of concrete.*



The finished dimensions of the pond, measured from the inside wall edges ended up being 27 feet long x 16.5 feet wide x 9 feet deep (yep, forgot to add the height of the wall before). That equates to more than 29,000 gallons in a perfect rectangle! Since we designed one side to be at a diagonal to accommodate a waterfall, both this and the sloped walls would reduce the eventual volume of the pond.

Yet, it was still too big for our liking, so we decided that once the bottom drains were installed, the floor would be back-filled, shaped, and raised by a few feet, to an eventual depth of 7 feet. Ideally we'd like no more than 20,000 gallons in the system.

In the next issue I'll discuss the drains, skimmers, and ideas for our filtration system.

(* *Permalon vs EPDM liners will be reviewed in a future issue.*)



Membership

Susan Brown ¹³

One of the agendas for the October meeting was elections for the Office of Vice President and Treasurer. I want to thank David Marier and Ron Scott for their past service and jobs well done. Also I would like to thank the nominating committee who did an excellent job. All of the candidates were extremely qualified and Atlanta Koi Club was lucky to have them on the ballot.

Congratulations to the newly elected Vice President, Michael Anderson with his knowledge, connections and past experience, I know our club will benefit with some interesting and informative meetings. Also congratulations go to the new Treasurer, Steve Castell whom is extremely qualified with the knowledge and experience he has in running his own successful company. Atlanta Koi Club is fortunate to have them serve.

November is the last AKC meeting for 2007. I expect a very exciting 2008 and hope the members whose memberships are due in January 2008 will renew to enjoy the upcoming year.

The October meeting was held at Harvey Siskin's pond. Everything was beautiful and the food delicious. Special thanks Harvey. We had 34 members who attended and 2 guests. AKC now has 165 members plus 10 Sponsors.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ATLANTA KOI CLUB

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

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Sponsor: \$150 for 1 Yr. _____

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

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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.

Fall Social Sunday, 11 November 07
Officers meet at 1 Members meet at 2
It's a Tapas Party.
Bring appetizers to share.
Bring lawn chairs.
Directions are in your announcement letter.

