



Hope this finds you relaxing by your pond, enjoying a cool drink and finding pleasure in just watching your finned friends playing tag, foraging for food or simply hanging out. You need to do this for you and for your fish.

Why? Your fish are your pond guy/gal. They will tell you when something is just not right with your pond. And guess what? They are never wrong.

Today I'd like to draw on James P. Reilly's column in the last KOI USA and help you learn **Koispeak**. If you learn to speak fluently, you can get back to just sittn' and enjoying a cool drink by the pond.

So, in this article we're going to look at what your fish are telling you through their **Behavior**.

It's Koispeak you need to become familiar with.

**Flashing or breaching:** Just like us, koi itch; and, just like us koi scratch. A koi here, a koi there scratch- ing infrequently or seeing this at din-din time is pretty normal. It's when a Koi does this several times a day or if a number of fish in your pond are flashing.

**What you'll see:** One or more koi will be swimming along and will lie over sideways “flashing” its under- side. Breaching is a bit more worrisome when seen. Here the Koi starts thrashing its head, goes at top speed and shoot through the surface of the pond and then does a belly flop on its way back down.

**What to do:** Salt your pond to 0.3 % @ 0.1 % a day and maintain that level until you know what you're dealing with. Increase aeration. As always the first thing you want to do is to check your water chemistry (ammonia, nitrites, nitrates, pH and O2). Then do a skin and gill scrape, or get a KHA to do one for you.

**Piping:** Just like we take a deep breath periodically, a koi will come to the surface and take a gulp of air. It's when a Koi does this for an extended period of time that the Koi is telling you “all is not right.”

**What you'll see:** One or more Koi will hang at the surface, generally in a head up posture, either appear- ing to cough or gasping for air for an extended period of time.

**Warning:**

If the gill plates are hanging open, the fish is in acute distress and needs immediate intervention to survive.

**What to do:** Stop feeding until you know the cause and use spray bars or air stones to maximize aera

*(Continued on page 5)*

**RE/MAX**  
of Buckhead  
**MIHOKO, ABR, CRS, GRI**  
International REALTOR®

4246 Peachtree Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30319  
Cell: (770) 329-0405, Fax: (404) 237-3631  
Residence: (404) 321-9007  
Office: (404) 237-9011  
E-Mail: mihoko3@bellsouth.net  
Website: Mihoko3.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Logos: RE/MAX, ABR, CRS, International Realty

## AKC CALENDAR

**September 9**— Josh & Amanda Bare,  
Norcross Show prep meeting

**October 14**— Harvey Siskin, Atlanta  
Election of Officers

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

To host a meeting contact  
David Marier (404) 941-9459  
Or dmarier56@comcast.net



### THE POND PROFESSIONAL™



www.ThePond  
Professional.com

**Dave A. Jones**  
(770) 592-2273 office  
(770) 924-9589 fax  
(770) 924-1337 home



Certified  
Master Pond  
Contractor

Water Features  
Retaining Walls

Landscaping  
General Contracting

Tree Removal  
Koi & Goldfish

(Continued from page 4)

### Warning:

Be careful with salt and warm weather. In combination they can be a killer.

tion. Then, get out the water test kit (ammonia, nitrite, chlorine, pH). Do skin and especially a gill scrape.

**Too slow/too fast gill rate-** Koi open and close the gill plate at a slow and steady rate of 60 a minute.

**What you'll see:** Abnormally fast gill rate, with gill plates **not** opening as widely as normal. Long, labored irregular gill plate movement (sometimes they appear to have the hiccups).

**What to do:** Maximize aeration with spray bars or air stones. Test water (ammonia and nitrite). Do gill scrape.

**Head or tail 'standing'** - Koi normally maintain a parallel orientation with the pond surface or pond floor.

**What you'll see:** One or more koi are swimming either up or down at a 45 degree angle to the surface for extended periods of time.

**What to do:** Increase water circulation and maximize aeration with spray bars or air stones. See if resolves over a couple of hours. If not, stop feeding and check water quality (CO<sub>2</sub>, heavy metals, pesticide poisoning, over treatment with chemicals.) Do skin and gill scrape.

**Isolating:** Koi are social animals and enjoy schooling with their mates.

**What you'll see:** Generally, this behavior is limited to one or two Koi. If it continues for more than 24 hours the Koi is telling you something.

**What to do:** Do a thorough exam, including skin and gill scrapes.

**Lethargic:** Koi are active little guys and gals; and, except when sleeping, are always on the move exploring and foraging for food.



## Curious about Goldfish?

Join Goldfish Society of America  
Find out more about this hobby.  
[www.goldfishsociety.org](http://www.goldfishsociety.org)

**What you'll see:** Fins clamped to body and Koi lying listless on the bottom. In extreme cases can even be caught by hand. It swims like it is exhausted.

(Continued on page 6)



**All Natural, Earth-Friendly  
Pond Products**

*Preview our new expanded line  
of pond and koi products*

Visit our website at:  
**www.microbelift.com**

**Ecological Laboratories INC.**  
Solving Environmental Problems Naturally Since 1976

**What you'll see:** A Koi will zoom across the pond sometimes crashing into the pond wall. When it stops, it just swims in place trembling.

**What to do:** Check water chemistry (ammonia, nitrites, pH). Consider the possibility of toxins in the water or over medication.

**Convulsions-** Are never seen in healthy Koi.

**What you'll see:** A Koi that darts, sinks to the bottom and assumes a C-shape and contracts then relaxes its muscles.

**What to do:** This is not often treatable as it generally points to brain damage. Consider over medication, toxins and or infection.

**Sudden Death:** Most (all) of a single species of fish die within a few hours to a day. Check water quality, Heavy Metals (Cu, Zn), Phenols, Dietary disorders.

Next month we will extend this further and talk about changes you can see:

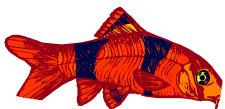
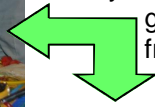
- Color changes
- Changes to body form
- Changes of body surface

See you at the show.



Sultry and hot but such great fun at the Speed's ponds.

Yummy food and good friends!



**It's All About  
The Bead!**



**Bead Filters**  
SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES, L.L.C.  
*Bead Filter Specialists*

1.800.939.3659 • [www.BeadFilters.com](http://www.BeadFilters.com)



**Atlanta  
Koi & Pond**

Breeder & Dealer of Koi Pond Design & Construction Co.

**Thousands of High-Quality Koi just arrived from Japan with Japanese Health Department Certification (KHV Free & SVC Free) Plus 30 days local quarantine.**

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

3291 Shallowford Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341