

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



KOI CHRONICLES



Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

May 2009
Volume 21, Issue 5

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By the Pond



Mike Roach, President AKC

Happy Spring to everyone (it almost feels like Summer already!). It was really great seeing many of you at this year's Club Auction! Boy, was that an exciting auction! Lots of fish!

A special thanks to our Auction Chairperson, Steve Castel for coordinating the event, and the many volunteers that helped make this years auction a success. I don't think we could have done it without Bill and Peggy Fricke. Their many hours on the telephone helping coordinate our volunteers was greatly appreciated! Additionally, I commend Steve for introducing technology into this year's event. I encourage all members to think of ideas outside the box when it comes to club events, meetings, and socials! Keeping our club current and fresh is very important.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the 1st Annual Middle Georgia Koi Show. Hats off and congratulations to Bart Atkinson and each of the members of that club for pulling off their very first show. I was able to witness the camaraderie and dedication their members showed and I think all that attended would agree that the show was a success! There was certainly an excitement in the air as a number of members showed their Koi for the very first time. I personally had fun helping out, too!



Congratulations to Joe Hatfield who just received his Master KHA!



Lastly, please help us spread the word, as we are preparing for the 2009 Pond Tour being led by our Chairpersons, Dave and Gloria Jones. The dates are set, ponds have been solidified, and the Tour Booklets are printed, and now comes the marketing and sales. But, there are a few things still needing to be done. If you are willing to assist please reach out to Gloria Jones or me. We could certainly benefit from some volunteers. For more details,

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Atlanta Koi Club Officers 2009

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AKC CALENDAR

If you would be willing to host the November Social, please contact me .

vp@atlantakoiclub.org or 678-297-7926
Michael

The currently planned meetings and events are:

May 17, 2009 Flat Rock Koi


June 14, 2009 Summer Social —Mike & Phyllis Loudermilk

July 12, 2009 Chuck & Heddy Hamann

August 9, 2009 Harm & Ev Garrin

September 13, 2009 Work day for Koi Show @ Coastal Ponds **Hosts:** David Boyd & David Pugh

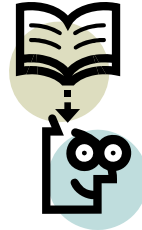
October 11, 2009 Elections Doug & Nancy Tatz

 **November 8, 2009** Winter Social
We need a host with inside entertaining space

Let's Celebrate!



This is AKC's 20th Anniversary year!
Let's plan a year long party !!



The *REFERENCES* pages of our web-site have been extensively updated. Most books can be purchased on Amazon or by looking up "books" search engines. Check it out!

<http://www.atlantakoiclub.org/referencs/references.htm>



Koi Shows and Events

Memorial Day Weekend Shows (May 22, 23 and 24th):

Dallas Koi Kichi Group

<http://www.dallaskoikichi.org/>

Greater Louisville Koi and Goldfish Society

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

May 30-31:

Inland Koi Society

<http://inlandkoisociety.org/>

Pacific Northwest Koi Clubs

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

June 19-21:

Northern Midwest ZNA Koi & Goldfish Show

<http://www.nmzna.net/>

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please see the Pond Tour page on the Atlanta Koi Club web site. Details will be updated as we get closer.

Take care!

Auction Action!



David auctions the fish...



Lunch with smiles... thanks to the Brocks.



Peggy & Bill work on the logistics...



Susan talks fish and club at the auction!



Frog, yes.
Handsome prince?
HA ha!!

Marilyn & Phyllis greeting and registering bidders at the auction!



Clay checks out a goldfish ...



No kitty bidders allowed!



Vicki & Herve unloading the fish!

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The Atlanta Koi Club gathered at Costal Pond Supply for their 14th annual auction . All officers were present. No business meeting was held. The auction was a big success. Thanks to all who participated.



Michael, Ron and JoANN discuss the auction...



Robin talks membership and answers questions about the club.



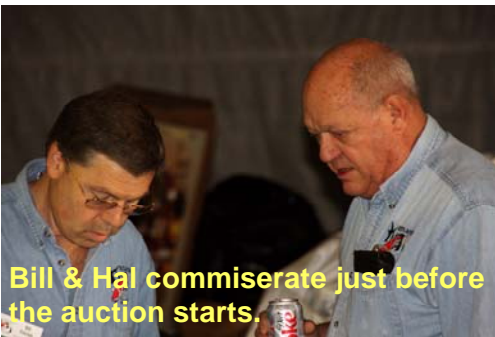
David kept the tote board & collected the \$\$\$.



Ray revs up the grill and gets the dogs ready for lunch!



Steve checks out the last minute details before bidding starts.



Bill & Hal commiserate just before the auction starts.



Ev & David chat while the bidders finish their inspections.

New on our Web-site:

2009
Pond Tour Info
Auction photos
Koi Show pages
with entry forms for exhibitors and vendors
2008
Photos from show, banquet etc.

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The study of parasites has developed into a huge science in its own right. Thankfully, we koi-keepers only need to appreciate some very basic principles in order to protect our koi. There are four main factors that greatly influence the level of those bugs most commonly found affecting our water jewels.

- The health status of the Koi themselves.
- The water quality in which the Koi are living.
- The stocking density of the pond.
- How new introductions are dealt with.

Remember these, there is a test later.



What are parasites?

A parasite is any organism (bug) that directly lives off of another and there are millions of species. Most of the common skin parasites in koi are mobile (moving) when viewed microscopically where fungi are often overlooked as parasites due to their static life. The success of fungi such as *Saprolegnia* or *Sap* is a species commonly found infecting koi depends on the availability of open skin lesions to invade such as wounds and ulcers. *Sap* is a killer if not treated quickly. While some parasites such as skin flukes take up their parasitic lifestyle at birth because this takes place directly on to the fish, other parasites have phases to their life cycle in the water rather than on the fish. Most time these phases are water temperature dependent.

Inside and out

Ecto-parasites live off the host fish externally where Endo-parasites affect the fish internally. With their unique characteristics and complex reproductive cycles, endo-parasites are too diverse for generalizations. Some are capable of killing the host usually by nutrient deprivation directly from the blood thus draining body resources to a level that is harmful to health and then ultimately fatal to the host. However this is not the case with all parasites and some organisms reach a balance with the host in which both survive unharmed.

Free loaders

Most parasites get the better deal with safe lodgings and a free lunch for life but some actually offer a few small benefits to the host fish such as keeping other more harmful organisms at bay or even utilizing them as a food source. In the wild, parasites are not such a threat to the well-being of fish and self-cleansing mechanisms can be adopted by the fish that cannot work in the confines of our koi ponds.

Macro and Micro

Macro-parasites are those that can be seen with the human eye or without a microscope. An example is *Argulus*, or fish louse. This is spread either by the purchase of infected fish or plants and in some cases by water birds. Ducks for example often live in waters infected by lice and while they should not be regarded as a natural host to fish lice, they can be the transporter of an infection. If a duck visits a clean pond soon after

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 <p>www.flatrockkoi.com carl@flatrockkoi.com or vicki@flatrockkoi.com</p>	<p>3831 Flat Rock Road Watkinsville GA 30677 706-769-8951 706-769-5305 (fax)</p>	<p>Flat Rock Koi is having another pond pull (IKEAGE). We will be harvesting ponds on May 16th and 17th. The Atlanta Koi Club is invited on the 17th as a club function. Regular May meeting. We will have BBQ and beer. Bring your waders if you wish to participate. Address is on the website www.flatrockkoi.com</p>
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leaving one infected with Argulus it is possible that some lice will also make the trip. In normal circumstances the fish louse dies on the feet or feathers of a water bird due to the defense mechanisms of that animal and the fact that fish lice do not live off of ducks. However with little or no interval between ponds, the lice can be spread and such an event is largely outside the koi-keepers control.

Overall Health Status

Koi that are sick are unable to create an adequate immune response to defend themselves from secondary health problems and parasites then find fish easy targets. Koi that are recovering from disease can be afflicted for example by skin flukes or trichodina which may prove very difficult to control. This is not because treatment is ineffective but because the fish are unable to aid their own recovery from within and chemicals alone are not always enough. Trichodina and skin flukes are not true fish parasites. They thrive in hidden pond debris and stricter hygiene is often more effective than chemicals. That's why I always harp on cleaning your pond and filters. Did I forget to say, CLEAN YOUR POND?

Water Quality and environmental conditions

Koi that are frequently exposed to poor water quality allow parasites to easily gain the upper hand and do so very quickly. Koi can be infected by low levels or small numbers of parasites for years and produce coping strategies via their own immune system. The bugs however will soon breed out of control if for example ammonia or nitrite levels rise unchecked or the pond is polluted by acid rain. That's one reason why water changes are so important. If the pond becomes polluted by what ever, then secondary infection by bacteria and fungus will further weaken the fish.



Stocking Density

The sheer proximity of fish in overstocked ponds increases the possibility of parasites to spread so it would seem the more water each fish has to live in the less likely it becomes that a serious parasite problems will ever develop. Most koi normally carry a few skin parasites without this being a major health problem. Body contact allows exchange of mucus and parasites so ultimately all fish in overstocked ponds will have parasites. The more parasites you have the more they multiply. The organic load in over-crowded environments peaks with poor, lacking filtration and performance of regularly scheduled maintenance. This in turn will create periods in which it may never be suspected that the water is creating unsafe conditions until it is too late. Parasites are opportunists born to recognize weakness in host fish; they smell blood in the water, and then attack for their own survival.

Getting along together

Symbiosis is observed in all branches of biology and the term is applied when a parasite depends on a host for survival without causing harm. Some internal parasites pose no risk during certain life cycles stages only becoming a threat to the fish during a specific developmental phase. Some parasitic organisms require additional hosts to carry out stages of their life cycle without which the cycle cannot be completed. Water snails for example are a common intermediate host for fish parasites. However it is not a case of any snail will do as the process requires specific teamwork in order to perpetuate each species. It is amazing just how selective parasites are when deciding on an intermediate host. The aim ensures the reproductive process produces robust future generations. Just to complicate matters fish themselves can serve as intermediate hosts for a variety of organisms and are not always parasites directly.

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What are flukes

Flukes are common parasites in all animals and just how many fluke species there are is unknown but they are a large and diverse family. Flukes are classified as trematodes and some species reproduce via an intermediate host. Koi keepers are familiar with the skin fluke scientifically termed Gyrodactylus and gill flukes or Dactylogyrus. There are numerous species

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of flukes found internally in fish and one such organism is Sanguinicola.

First Class Travelers

Parasites get a free ride on the skin, in the gills or even inside the body of koi and this ensures greater distribution. This second-hand frequent flyer life style has spread countless fish parasites to new environments allowing them to seek out new fish as hosts. This travel is responsible for the spread of many organisms and diseases and obviously not just among koi. This can be stopped with proper quarantine protocol.



New Koi and plants

Quarantining all new koi greatly reduces the risk of parasites and serious disease being introduced to a healthy pond. In quarantine, koi can simply be observed for three to four weeks to ensure they are and remain healthy and tested for bugs. A microscope should be used to take scrapes and mucus smears can be taken to check for and identify parasites. This should be accomplished especially if they are suspected due to skin redness or obvious irritation. Heat can be influential in parasitic life cycles and if applied during quarantine will reduce risks if infection still further. Parasite control may require chemical treatment and this is often detrimental to pond and filter biology. In addition chemicals cannot specifically target any single parasite and can cause side effects in koi so ensure all chemical use is really necessary. In quarantine, koi can be treated easier, cheaper and without damage to the overall pond, filtration system, or other fish inhabitants. Read about proper quarantine procedures on the club KHA site. All new plants should be treated for parasites. A long, slow bath in high concentrations of potassium permanganate followed by a good rinse before you place them in your pond will eliminate all known parasites.



Joe Hatfield

The views expressed above are my own personal views and, as such, do not necessarily reflect the views of the AKCA or the KHA program.



Thanks to all the volunteers who worked to make this auction successful. Without your commitment – the auction would be impossible.

Thanks

To All:

First, let me thank everyone who had a part in helping with the 14th annual koi auction.

This was my second year as auction chair and I had a great time. I think I have figured out what works and what does not. Next year will be the smoothest auction that the club will ever have (that is if you want me to be chair again).

Peggy Fricke made my job easy by calling and asking for help. What a turn out! We had more than 25 volunteers!!!. Now that's what I call pulling together to get the job done.

There were 335 fish in the auction and every last one sold. The auction started at 11:00 AM and we were cleaned up by 4:00 PM.

Thanks to the Middle Georgia Koi Club who also attended and helped out. We brought in just under \$11,000 and had over 80 bidders.

Can't wait for next year. Thanks again for the great turn out.

Stephen Castel



PS: All the checks went out to the sellers and are due to be delivered on the 12th.

3831 Flat Rock Road
Watkinsville GA

8

Officers @ 1

Members @ 2

Directions from Atlanta:



From I-85 N take GA-316 E toward LAWRENCVILLE/ ATHENS.
39.0 mi



Turn RIGHT onto OCONEE CONNECTOR.
0.5 mi



OCONEE CONNECTOR becomes MARS HILL ROAD.
2.6 mi



MARS HILL ROAD becomes EXPERIMENT STATION ROAD/ GA-53 S.
1.9 mi



Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N MAIN STREET/ US-441 BR/ GA-24 BR/ GA-15. Continue to follow GA-15.
7.3 mi



Turn LEFT onto OLIVER BRIDGE ROAD.
1.9 mi



Turn RIGHT onto FLAT ROCK RD
0.2 mi



End at 3831 Flat Rock Rd Watkinsville, GA 30677-2957

Or use your GPS.....



Atlanta Koi & Pond

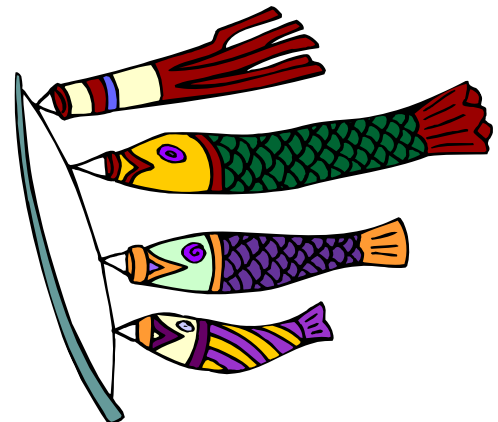
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11:00AM -- 6:00PM
THURSDAY THROUGH MONDAY

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Celebrating our 20th Year!



Pond Tour 2009

Westside Tour

Saturday, May 30 & Sunday May 31, 2009
 (Acworth, Marietta, Woodstock etc.)
9:00 A.M.– 5:00 P.M. each day

Eastside Tour

Saturday, June 6 & Sunday, June 7, 2009
 (Roswell, Alpharetta, Gainesville, Fayette, Atlanta, Norcross etc.)
9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. each day

**For information & tickets contact
 Gloria Jones at
tour@atlantakoiclub.org**

Celebrating our 15th Koi Show!



September 18-20, 2009

**Coastal Pond Supply
 2101 Tucker Industrial Road
 Tucker, GA 30083**

Koi and Goldfish	Showing Times:
Vendors	9 AM-5 PM /aturday
Pond Dry Goods	Showing Koi, 9 AM-2 PM /unday
Vendors	Long-fins (butterfly) and Goldfish

No Admission Charged

Ron & Michael bagging fish to go to their new homes.



Lots of heavy — water/ fish filled slippery bags... add oxygen... twist the top... add a tie wrap then, put them in tanks. Whew!



Jason helping a new fish owner load his purchases.

Bag 'em up...ship 'em out!



Herve & Doug relax for lunch after the auction. Whew! Almost too tired to eat!

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Membership

Robin Scott

The April meeting was our annual Koi Auction held at Coastal Pond in Tucker. The club and its' members must have done well because I know Michael Anderson and my husband, Ron, were exhausted from bagging fish when it was over.

Please join me in welcoming some new members Rita and Ron Sorber and Steven and Anita Jassen to the club and look for them at our next meeting. We also have a new Sponsor Russell Watergardens & Koi, see their ad in the newsletter.

AKC's total membership is currently at 140 members plus 7 Sponsors.

Hope to see everyone at our next meeting at Flat Rock Koi on May 17th.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ATLANTA KOI CLUB

"Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi"

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:
Robin Scott, 4331 Filppen Trail, Norcross, GA 30092.

* 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.

May club meeting on Sunday, 17 May 2009
Flat Rock Koi 3831 Flat Rock Road Watkinsville, GA

Officers meet @ 1

Members meet (officially) @ 2

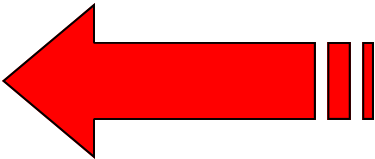
The meeting is a pond pull and program about koi varieties.

If you wish to help with the pond pull... bring your waders & a
change of clothes.

Bring your camera. Come prepared to purchase fish.

Wear VERY comfortable clothes!!!

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR!!



Driving Directions are on p. 8 of this newsletter.

