



April, 2014

### **By The Pond**

Well, IT'S HERE! It's time to set up for the annual Koi Auction. Setup is this Sunday at noon. I will be there around ten and you are welcome to come early but the official start is noon. If we get a good turnout we should be done in just a couple of hours. Bill got the meter for the fire hydrant so the tanks will fill fast once we get them in place. Reservations for tanks should have been made by now. Contact Steve Castel if you need a tank for the auction. There should be some really nice fish this year. I know my tank will have some good'ins. You can also bring plants, pond equipment and other fish related items. These will have a fixed price so be thinking of a price that will make someone want to buy it. The auction itself will be the following Saturday and we will try to start the bidding at 11:00. Volunteers (that means everyone reading this) should show up between 9-10 as there is always last minute things to get done. This is our biggest fund raiser for the year and a heck of a goodtime.

A couple of things to keep in mind in this season; with the constant inconsistent change in temps our fish really struggle this time of year. Be on the lookout for ulcers and any other signs of bacterial infection (pop eyes, redness anywhere, scales protruding). Until your water temp hits 60 and pretty much stays there, your fish's immune system is not up to par. Unfortunately the same is not true for parasites and bad bacteria.

You also need to TEST your water as you begin to feed. If your test kits are a year old, throw them away and get fresh ones. If you did not run your filters in the winter then you have to go thru the "new pond syndrome" all over as your nitrifying bacteria are gone. If you did run them all winter then they are dormant in the winter and take a little time to get up to speed. With the temp changes, you don't want to add one more stress point (ammonia, nitrite, kH, and pH) to your pond. Koi are very resilient creatures but if too many things are not right at the same time, you will reach a tipping point when Mother Nature will cull your fish to a much lower stocking density.

Water changes; DO THEM, period, this is the single most effective way to help your fish stay healthy. 10% minimum per week and I would rather see 25%. I don't want to hear about how much water costs are. No one said this was a cheap hobby. Buy cheaper food, bring a couple more fish to auction but do what you have to pay for the water. It is cheaper than replacing fish. I

use a continuous overflow on mine and love it.

May's meeting will be at Flatrock Koi Farm. It will be on SATURDAY May 10. Meeting will be at 2:00 but the festivities will begin about 10:00. They are receiving about 3000 tosai from Koda and others in the next couple of weeks. There will be some nice eye candy and maybe that special koi you have been looking for.

That's all for now....See ya Sunday...

Gary

**Auction Reminder**

If you are bringing koi to the auction, please stop feeding them prior to the auction, 5 to 7 days minimum. This will help keep the water clear and healthy for the koi.