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Pond Tour Chair	Melanie Onushko
Public Relations	
AKCA Director	Gary Elmore
Volunteer Coordinator	JoAnn Elmore
Editor	Bob Chaffer
Webmaster	David Marier

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**August, 2015**

## **By the Pond**

by Diane Giangrande

Hi Everyone,

It's hard to believe it's August already. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It's been a hot and dry one! Thank you to Mike and Tum for hosting the July social. The food was amazing and everyone had a great time.

As summer winds down that means the show will be here soon. If you plan on showing fish, and I encourage everyone to, please register for your tank(s) soon. The exhibitor packet is on the website and it contains the registration form.

Jerry and I are still looking for dry vendors. If you have anyone in mind you can contact them directly or give the info to us and we will contact them. The vendor packet has a registration form and can be found on the web site.

## **August meeting**

[Our next meeting will Saturday, August 8, at Chase Tomkosky's house, located at 12815 Wyngate Trail, Alpharetta 30005.](#)

Officers will meet at 6pm, followed by a general meeting at 7pm. Jerry and Diane have a show-related topic to present.

A reminder about James Lu's wholesale price sheet.... I asked him if we could extend the deadline into the meeting.

**L. Chase Tomkosky**

## Proposed Amendments to AKC Bylaws

The following amendments have been discussed and approved by the executive committee. They are submitted for your review in accordance with Article XIII - Approval & Amendments to the Bylaws:

These Bylaws may be approved or amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3s) of Members present at any regular or special meeting of the Membership provided a quorum is present and further provided that proper notice of said meeting is given as specified in these Bylaws. The full text of the Bylaws, or amendments thereto, which are proposed must be made available to each Member at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which such Bylaws or amendments thereto are to be voted upon. The use of an electronic and/or paper distribution shall be deemed proper notice.

Discussion and voting is planned for the August meeting.

### Amendment 1

Newsletter advertisements will be limited to the sale and/or trading of member owned koi, pond, or koi club related items.

### Amendment 2

The executive committee or their appointees, known as moderators, will determine the appropriateness of any posting to the Atlanta Koi Club social media site(s). The moderators may elect to allow postings which include the sale and/or trading of koi, pond, or koi industry related items by sponsors and members. However, the use of the Atlanta Koi Club social media site(s) for the purpose of advertising a koi industry related business is restricted to sponsors.

## Gibbs Gardens submitted by Michael Anderson

AKC members might want to know that Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground has two weekends in October of Japanese Arts and Cultural Festival activities and a two weekend Japanese Maple Festival in November.. I don't know the details of what they planned.

[http://gibbsgardens.com/calendar\\_events.php?eventid=9022](http://gibbsgardens.com/calendar_events.php?eventid=9022)

**October 17**, Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm - Japanese Arts and Cultural Festival

October 18, Sunday, 11 am - 5 pm - Japanese Arts and Cultural Festival

**October 24**, Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm - Japanese Arts and Cultural Festival

October 25, Sunday, 11 am - 5 pm - Japanese Arts and Cultural Festival

November 7, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm, Japanese Maple Festival

November 8, Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm, Japanese Maple Festival

November 14, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm, Japanese Maple Festival

November 15, Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm, Japanese Maple Festival

Speaking of our Fall Koi show....we've gotten a few donations already. Some of them will be auctioned at the banquet so get your tickets! You can see the donations on the new Atlanta Koi Club Facebook page. For those of you on Facebook please visit and like the new page. It can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Atlanta-Koi-Club/1669277749969384>

CHARLESTON SHOWA KOI CLUB  
PRESENTS

# POND TOUR 2015

COME SEE THE PONDS  
& WATER GARDENS OF CHARLESTON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH  
9:00 AM-4:00 PM

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE  
TO SEE FISH, PONDS & WATER GARDENS THROUGHOUT THE TRICOUNTY AREA!

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

WENDELL FORD 843-870-9876

TRISH BENDER 843-276-1618

ROD MACNEIL 843-817-1931

[WWW.CHARLESTONSHOWAKOICLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CHARLESTONSHOWAKOICLUB.ORG)



TICKETS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT  
[PONDTOUR2015.COM](http://PONDTOUR2015.COM)

50% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
PET HELPERS ON FOLLY RD.

THE GRAND FINALE WILL BE HELD AT THE HOME OF  
ROBERT AND LINDA LEWIS ON JOHNS ISLAND

The order deadline for the items in the attached spreadsheet has been extended until 8/17/15. If you want to order please use the attached sheet as an order form and return the sheet to me. I will consolidate and forward to James.

I will have a sheet with me at the meeting on Saturday, so you will be able to order then.

Thanks

Diane (spreadsheet is attached to the email sent to you by Diane on 8/4/15)

# Why Do Parasites Infect Koi?

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 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?

# Why Do Parasites Infect Koi? (Continued)

## 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.

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

## First Class Travelers

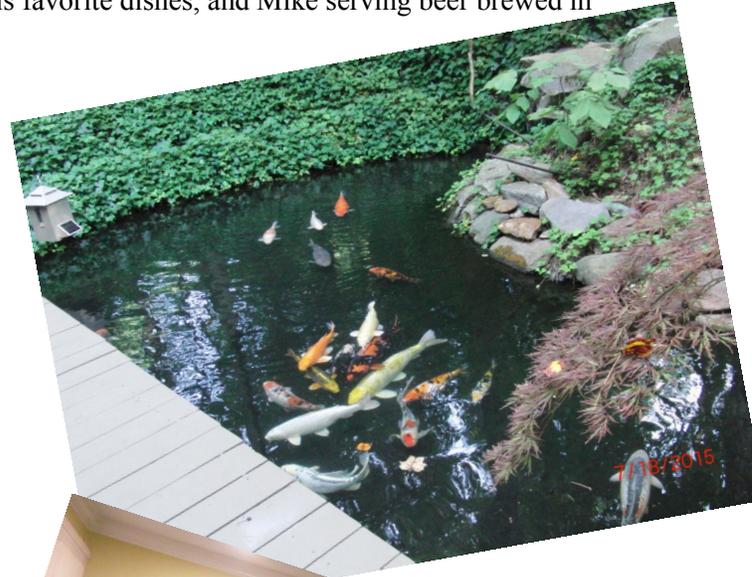
Parasites get a free ride on the skin, in the gills or even inside the body of koi and this ensures greater distribution. This second-hand frequent flyer life style has spread countless fish parasites to new environments allowing them to seek out new fish as hosts. This travel is responsible for the 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.

# July Social Meeting

Mike and Tun hosted our July social meeting. If you missed it, you lost a chance to see one of the greatest wrap-around massive pond systems!!! The four ponds in the front yard were interconnected via a stream, which circled to the back of the house, where two more ponds awaited. The evening was topped off by a tremendous pot-luck dinner, with Tun having personally prepared some of his favorite dishes, and Mike serving beer brewed in Marietta.



## For Sale by Club Members

270 gal, plumbed with bottom train and air tube.

Call Joe H. or pricing and pickup



### **For Sale:**

1 Cetus Sieve - replacement cost is approximately \$1100 + 1 Nexus filter - replacement cost is approximately \$2500 should easily handle 6000 - 7500 gallon pond requires a very small pump when you gravity feed the sieve and pump feed the Nexus. Both for \$800. Check out the company specifications at <http://evolutionaqua.com/acatalog/filtration.html>

Contact David Pugh via email at [doubledavid@aol.com](mailto:doubledavid@aol.com) or via phone at 770-937-0864.

**Atlanta Koi Club**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Year to Date**  
**As of July 31, 2015**

**BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:** **\$4,720.84**

**INCOME STATEMENT**

<b>Income</b>	2300 Koi Show		\$1,425.00
	Vendor Par-		
	2320 ticipation	\$600.00	
	Koi Show		
	2340 Sponsor	\$825.00	
	2500 Misc.		\$170.00
	Monthly Raf-		
	2545 fle	\$170.00	
	2600 Pond Tour		\$2,015.44
	2620 Ticket Sales	\$1,915.44	
	2630 Advertising	\$100.00	
	2700 Membership		\$77.00
	Member		
	2720 Badges	\$17.00	
	Membership		
	2730 Dues	\$60.00	

**Total Income** **\$3,687.44**

<b>Expenses</b>	400 Insurance		\$532.00
	Liability Cov-		
	410 erage	\$532.00	
	500 Koi Show		\$309.82
	Show Adver-		
	505 tising	\$27.82	
	Koi Show		
	592c Pins	\$282.00	
	700 Misc.		\$250.00
	Monthly		
	740 Meeting Food	\$250.00	
	900 Pond Tour		\$294.78
	910 Host Gifts	\$99.00	
	930 Printing	\$154.08	
	940 Supplies	\$41.70	
	1000 Raffles		\$84.10
	1010 Raffle Tickets	\$10.69	
	Monthly Meeting Raffle		
	1030 Items	\$73.41	
	1400 Bank Charges		\$40.42
	Misc. Banking - Credit Card		
	1465 Reader	\$40.42	

**Total Expenses** **\$1,511.12**

**Month Net Income/(Loss)** **\$2,176.32**

**ENDING BALANCE:** **\$6,897.16**

**Outstanding Checks:**

05/06/15	EFT	\$240.00		\$606.10
07/19/15	EFT	\$84.10		
07/28/15	EFT	\$282.00		