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Auction Chair	Stephen Castel
KOI Show Chair	Jerry Johnson, Diane Giangrande
Pond Tour Chair	Melanie Onushko
Public Relations	
AKCA Director	Gary Elmore
Volunteer Coordinator	JoAnn Elmore
Editor	Bob Chaffer
Webmaster	David Marier

July, 2015

By The Pond

by Diane Giangrande

Hi Everyone,

A huge thank you to Melanie for organizing the Pond Tour. I know it was a lot of work and she did an amazing job! For those of you who missed the tour you missed some wonderful ponds. And thank you to everyone who opened your ponds to the tour. I am thankful that it's over – it was so much work getting ready, but it was definitely worth it. We had a great turnout and the weather was not an issue. Melanie will give a full report at the August meeting, as she is unable to make the July social.

Jerry and I are in full swing for the show and things are moving along. We really need someone to take on the advertising role and start getting info out about the show. Please see one of us if you are interested. We could also use a show trophy sponsorship coordinator, show donation coordinator and show store coordinator.

Thanks to those who have already sponsored trophies – it is very much appreciated. For those who haven't, remember that, for every \$100 in sponsorships you get a free ticket to the banquet. The sponsorships go as low as \$25 and any help in supporting the club is appreciated.

That's all for now. Hope to see you all at the social at Mike and Tum's.

Thanks,
Diane

Following the 2015 Pond Tour, we have a few new members, and we expect more but we're awaiting their applications. There are two new members highlighted in yellow. They joined during the pond tour. I'm expecting more applications to be arriving in the mail.

Welcome to the new members and we look forward to seeing you at the **Summer Social, July 18th, 7pm**. This is a **Saturday night and a pot luck event**.

Also, don't forget about The Koi Store auction this weekend over in Watkinsville.

Stay cool and we'll see you in a couple weeks!

David Marier

The Summer Social is July 18th, 7PM. **This is a Saturday night.**

Our hosts are Mike Akers and Tun Tunthathatakas.

Their address is on the most recent membership roster.

ATLANTA KOI CLUB "POND LIFE" 2015 TOUR



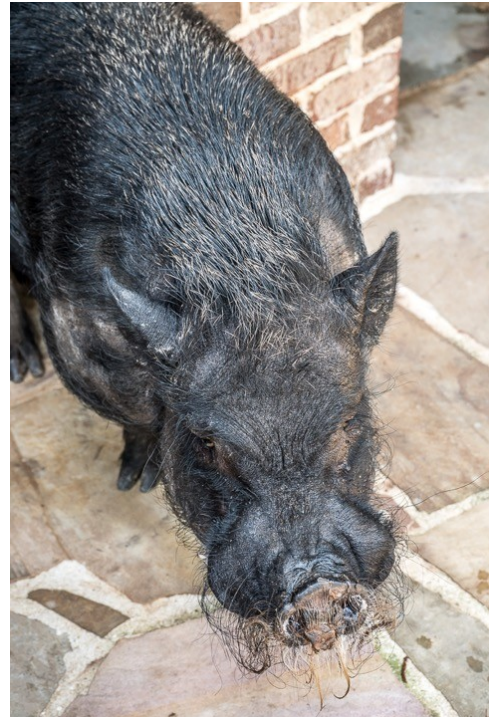
THE TOUR was a SUCCESS!

Though there was an 80% chance of rain, over 100 people showed up to tour all 11 ponds.

Thank you to the volunteers that graciously donated their time to help with different aspects of the tour:

Gary Montalto, Ron & Robin Scott, David Marier, Jerry Johnson, Marty & Earl Davison, James Dricker, Felix Morales and of course, the pond owners!

Chairperson is Melanie Onushko
A great job, Melanie!!!!



June 14th Meeting at the Koi Spot



Ask The Experts

1 How about something concerning the use of potassium permanganate? Does it work? What are the concerns? When to use? Using the meter?

Let's see :

Too broad a question for a newsletter. There have been volumes and many discussions concerning PP. Does it work? for what? PP used for several different reasons. some work -some don't. When to use? There again it depends on the problem you are treating. Concerns are numerous....wrong dosage=dead fish or compromised gills which leads to death. Get in your eyes---bad news, can lead to loss of sight. Using the meter.....research or have someone teach you. PP is a great tool that is used for many reasons, and like most tools, there is a certain amount of risk in their use, both to your fish and to your own health. For the most part I try to use an alternative (and generally safer) treatment for the problem at hand. I do use it on a semi regular basis, but never come close to the maximum dosage. It is a very complex issue, and I would recommend lots of research or a tutor before attempted use. NOT to be used lightly, too many things to be concerned about. .

2 Do all fish flash? At what point should I take remedial action? What action should I take?

Yes, all fish flash. They get an itch just like we do. Biggest difference is they don't have hands and have to scratch by rubbing (flashing) on an object. You take action when many fish flash and they do it often. Something is causing them to itch excessively. Action all depends on what is causing the problem. Fish need to be scraped and scoped to find out which parasite is present (generally the problem when excessive flashing is present). There is no one cure for them all. Treat for the wrong one and a couple of things happen. One: nothing happens and the problem just gets worse and you stress out sick fish even more, so that Two: all these medications are pretty toxic for the most part. So by the time you are on your third or fourth try you might be medicating your fish to death. Literally. It's best to find out the problem, use one treatment protocol, and get your fish back on the road to healing. And as a side bar....most fish stores will recommend meds with the term "fix" in the title for just about every problem known to fish. They don't FIX anything. At best they might help a torn fin to heal but are not anti-bacterial, they don't kill a single parasite and are pretty useless on sick fish. See above about "nothing" happens except your fish get sicker as correct treatment delayed even more.

3 How can I encourage my fish to spawn? How do I take care of the eggs? What to feed the fry?

Most people should not encourage their fish to spawn. It takes a lot of resources to spawn fish properly. You will need one or two cycled QT tanks to start the babies hatching and growing. They will quickly outgrow those (if they live) and you will have to cull them constantly. Eggs need to be treated with methyl blue to keep them from going bad due to fungus. They hatch within 3-4 days and are tiny, about the size of an eyelash with eyes. Ideally you should have a "green" tank prepped with algae on the sides and in the water. Fry don't eat the algae, but they eat all the rotifers and other microscopic organisms that graze on the algae. Baby koi are sight-feeders, and if your food reaches the bottom, then they are done with it. If you have no live food, then you need something in the powder-size to feed; egg yolk (cooked) also works. A little at a time and often; water quality is very important, and you will need to vacuum the bottom often (every day or every other day) If you can get them thru the first week then you should be good. Big if: however, fry can starve to death in 24hrs if they don't get something to feed on.

In the tanks or if you want them to spawn in your pond itself (something I really don't recommend), you can add spawning mops or something for them to spawn on. I put a larger female in the tank and two smaller males, smaller so they won't kill the female. If they spawn in the pond, it adversely affects your water and you run the risk of severe damage to the females. Males too, if there is anything they can run into (rocks or any object) They are not gentle in the spawning process.

It is a lot of fun to watch the fry grow into fish. It is also a lot of work and constant supervision. Also be aware that even if you end up say 3-400 fish....there might not be a good one in the bunch. Breeders will spawn and raise 200 to 300 THOSAND fry to get a couple of thousand salable fish. JoAnn and I bred Ki Utsuri's last year and out of the 300 fish we ended up with only one that I would take to a show, and a half dozen decent fish and 293 future auction fish.....

Gary and JoAnn Elmore

AEROMONAS BACTERIA

It's lurking in your pond

Aeromonas is a genus of bacteria that includes many species capable of causing disease in Koi. *Aeromonas salmonicida* and *Aeromonas hydrophila* are the best known members of the genus but it is the latter of these two organisms that is of most concern to the Koi-keeper. The scientific community has mixed views as to the capacity of *Aeromonas hydrophila* to cause disease. Some regard it as an opportunistic pathogen causing only secondary disease in Koi that are already in a susceptible condition. Others claim that it is capable of causing primary infection in its own right.

The average hobbyist needs proper guidance to deal with *Aeromonas* infections effectively as without management outbreaks commonly reoccur. However, it is far more important to learn how to prevent them from becoming a reality in the first place. Understanding the many situations in which an outbreak of *Aeromonas* infection is most likely to occur demonstrates that Koi require stability and when this is denied them disease often results with *Aeromonas* a very common enemy. Typically when *Aeromonas* are present *Pseudomonas* are present also.

Factors causing bacterial disease

- Recent importation is a major cause of *Aeromonas* infection.
- Improper netting, bagging, transportation, overall rough handling
- The stress of a new environment.
- Intermittent levels of ammonia or nitrite that goes untested by the hobbyist.
- Prolonged periods of poor water quality when a new filter fails to mature.
- Overcrowding increases the risks of disease transmission.
- Fluctuations in pH and other water chemistry problems.
- A lack of pond hygiene - No bottom drain fitted or the ponds not clean.
- A filter system in which fish waste and other decaying matter builds up.
- Parasitic infestation that debilitate the Koi.
- Exposure to harmful pond construction materials, heavy metals or toxins.
- Temperature fluctuations or the inappropriate use of heat.
- Adverse spring conditions water temperature fluctuations.
- The use of too many chemicals in the pond can leave Koi susceptible.
- Underlying undiagnosed health problem can predispose Koi to *Aeromonas*.
- Failure to properly quarantine new Koi creates a further risk from *Aeromonas*.
- An inappropriate diet can predispose fish to disease.
- Injuries to the body if sharp objects in the pond become infected.
- Low dissolved oxygen levels in the pond allow disease to flourish

Control measures

Avoiding every one of these trigger factors is impossible Koi have to be moved or no one could become a Koi-keeper. However, it is possible to look in more detail at each potential risk area and attempt to minimize instability for Koi as each situation arises. It is important to remember that *Aeromonas* is always present as part of the normal bacterial life of the pond and is found on the fish themselves and once disease develops it is found internally. Koi can never escape from it and it is the Koi-keeper who keeps this organism at bay by good pond maintenance. If there is fish poo in the water there are *Aeromonas*.

The influence of heat

Aeromonas can cause disease in a pond at a water temperature as low as 40F/ 5C but the outbreak is usually less virulent. The higher the temperature the faster the bacterium multiplies and more signs of disease such as ulceration or reddening of the body will be observed. Losses due to septicemia can be anticipated if the water is over 65 F /17 C. This bacterium can multiply at an amazing rate if the temperature and conditions are conducive. In just one day one *Aeromonas* organism could generate well over 20 million more and 30 million is possible in really ideal circumstances. Each new bacterium will possess genetic material that enables it to resist the chemicals former generations of the species were exposed to in the fight to eradicate them. It is a fact *Aeromonas* know how to survival.

Signs of infection

The disease normally presents in the form of ulcers or open sores on the body, although reddening is also a sign of infection. The skin lesions are created by enzymes, which in this case are the metabolites or waste products of the *Aeromonas* bacterium. Once disease has become systemic and is affecting Koi internally usually only antibiotics are effective or the fish will not survive. However, if the disease is caught in time before what is termed bacterium has developed it is possible to control an outbreak with bactericides and topical treatment.

Fluid balance

An open ulcer results in vital fluids containing electrolytes being lost from the body, the use of salt at 1/2 an ounce per gallon can help prevent this. While the treatment of ulcers with topical medications will not cure a serious systemic disease it will help to prevent the further invasion of the body by other harmful organisms such as fungus and can encourage healing.

Common problem

Aeromonas hydrophila is by far the most common subspecies causing disease in Koi and is frequently isolated in bacterial cultures along with *Aeromonas sobria*. Some species work as a team cleaning up after one another we can trust nature never to waste a nutritional resource. From the laboratory perspective *Aeromonas hydrophila* is a gram negative - positive rod with a singular polar flagellum. This means that the outer wall of this bacterium unlike some others will retain a specialist stain known as Gram's stain which colors it blue. A further aid to identification is the confirmed presence of the enzyme oxidase. The term rod refers to the shape of the organism and the flagellum is a tail like protuberance at one end, which gives the bacterium its motility.

Pond hygiene

Aeromonas species are normally aerobic but have the capacity to live in both aerobic and anaerobic conditions; we call organisms that can adapt in this way facultative. This means that the bacterium can hide in poorly oxygenated ponds or filtration systems harboring decaying matter which can become a source of disease emerging at a later date when disturbed. Regular cleaning of the mechanical filtration chambers is obvious because their purpose is to trap debris but systems with voids beneath the media also need routine maintenance.

Safe and easy cleaning

Provision for flushing to waste after all cleaning procedures should be a standard part of all filter systems; a non-return valve incorporated into the filter plumbing prevents contaminated water returning to the pond. Cleaning should never disturb the biological part of the filter. There are biological pond cleaners on the market that use micro-organisms to naturally lower the level of dissolved solids and other unwanted substances in pond water. These can reduce the workload for the Koi-keeper when it comes to pond hygiene while at the same time lowering the risks of all disease including *Aeromonas*. Recently, probiotic products (AquaMed Zyme) have proven effective.

The battle

Koi do not develop antibodies against *Aeromonas* species so the battle can become a long term one. An infection of bacterial disease may be cured with antibiotics and bactericides and then a new outbreak occurs the following year, usually in spring. Koi will not stand up to prolonged use of antibiotics as the kidneys, liver and brain tissues can be damaged by their side effects. Resistance to antibiotics plagues all branches of medicine and is now greatly affecting the Koi industry and antibiotics should only be used under professional guidance. Koi culture is in a serious situation due to continued reliance on curing disease rather than preventing it. *Aeromonas* is not the only potential bacterium lurking in pond water, but it certainly is the most common.

The ideal pond

It is possible to have a pond free of the risks posed by *Aeromonas* without resorting to any artificial aids. Such a pond will have a fully biological filter system with an excessive capacity to support the numbers of fish stocked. Any borderline system is inadequate. The pond must have sufficient water volume to allow each fish room to thrive.... 50 inches of Koi to 1000 gallons is an old statistic in Koi-keeping that still stands the test of time. This same pond will only be stocked from a proper quarantine facility, and never by direct introduction, and it must be hygienically maintained on a very regular basis through its drainage and filter system. The Koi will be well fed on a good quality food, including some fresh foods when water temperatures permit, but no uneaten pellets will ever pollute this pond. Chemicals will not be used routinely, but only if a diagnosed problem develops. Test kits will be in regular use to minimize all triggers factors and testing will include dissolved oxygen levels because the wise Koi-keeper knows the vital role it plays in the well being of Koi.

Prevention is the best cure

It is vital for all serious Koi-keepers to realize that prevention is safer and more successful than cure when it comes to all bacterial disease in Koi and this particularly applies to *Aeromonas* infections. Having to resort to the use of any chemical especially antibiotics can only be seen as a failure to maintain the pond adequately enough to keep bacterial levels at a minimum however when such drugs have to be used continuously to control disease the long term welfare of Koi is seriously threatened .

Keep things clean.

Joe

What: Koi Auction

Where: 3831 Flat Rock Rd

Watkinsville, GA 30677

When: July 12th, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.

With: AKJA Judge Gary Elmore as Auctioneer



14 JUN 2015 – Meeting held at THE KOISPOT - Lithia Springs
Topic: Overview of the Koispot
Attendance: 36

Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes

By Law Amendments

The proposed amendments were published with the May newsletter. There was a request to the membership for any updates or corrections. Only one was proposed Amendment 4 - The use of Atlanta Koi Club in social media falls under the auspices of the executive committee or their appointees. Facebook postings which include the sale and/or trading of koi, pond, or koi club related items will be limited to sponsors and members.

Koi and Goldfish Show

The chairpersons announced a change in the date and location of the Koi and Goldfish Show. The event will take place at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds from October 9 – 11, 2015. It will be an indoor event. The Hilton Garden Inn has been selected as the host hotel offering discounted room rates, a shuttle to the show venue, a discounted breakfast and hosting the Saturday evening banquet.

The show will feature wet and dry vendors, judging of koi and goldfish, raffles and seminars. The Friday night Vendor Appreciation event will take place on October 9th starting at 6:30 pm giving members a chance to visit the vendors and meet the judges while enjoying a selection of free food and beverages.

Trophy sponsors are still needed. You receive one free banquet ticket for each \$100 in trophies you sponsor.

Be sure to check the club website often for show updates.

Pond Tour

Melanie reminded everyone of the Pond Tour – June 27th. The event will take place rain or shine.

Other Meeting Minutes

Introductions (New or Returning Members)

In Memoriam

The club lost a wonderful member this month with the passing of Marilyn Carrol, mother of Peggy Fricke. Marilyn was interred in Florida near her late husband.

July Meeting Date Update

The club's summer social will be held this month. Check the newsletter or club website for the date and location.

Updates/Corrections

Please send corrections or updates to David Pugh at doubledavid@aol.com with the AKC Meeting Minutes in the subject line.

No corrections were received for last month's minutes.

**Financial Statement
Year to Date
As of June 30, 2015**

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

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

2300 Koi Show		\$1,325.00
	Vendor Par-	
	2320 ticipation	\$725.00
	Koi Show	
	2340 Sponsor	\$600.00
2500 Misc.		\$300.00
	Monthly Raf-	
	2545 fle	\$300.00
2600 Pond Tour		\$332.12
	2620 Ticket Sales	\$232.12
	Other Income (Seed Money	
	2600 for Tour)	\$100.00
2700 Membership		\$57.00
	Member	
	2720 Badges	\$7.00
	Membership	
	2730 Dues	\$50.00

Total Income

\$2,014.12

Expenses

400 Insurance		\$29.00
	Liability Cov-	
	410 erage	\$29.00
500 Koi Show		\$1,500.00
	Koi Show	
	520 Banquet	\$1,500.00
700 Misc.		\$150.00
	Monthly	
	740 Meeting Food	\$150.00
900 Pond Tour		\$148.10
	940 Supplies	\$48.10
	Other Expense (Seed Money	
	900 for Tour)	\$100.00
1100 Rent		\$185.00
	Rent	
	1101 @Coastal	\$185.00
1400 Bank Charges		\$39.95
	Misc. Banking - Credit Card	
	1465 Reader	\$39.95

Total Expenses

\$2,052.05

Month Net Income/(Loss)

(\$37.93)

ENDING BALANCE:

\$4,682.91

Outstanding Checks:

\$2,102.82

05/06/15	EFT	\$240.00	06/29/15	EFT	\$185.00
06/22/15	EFT	\$1,500.00	07/02/15	EFT	\$27.82
06/22/15	Eft	\$150.00			