



# Koi Chronicles

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A Pow  
Wow  
dancer  
at AKCA  
Seminar



**Atlanta Koi Chronicles** is a monthly publication of the **Atlanta Koi Club**. Material is selected for its interest to Koi and Pond enthusiasts. **AKC Koi Chronicles** accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents. Reproduction is permitted provided that this newsletter and/or the original source are credited. Articles may be submitted to the editor.

## By the Pond

David Boyd, President AKC

I want to thank Bill and Lynn Dowden for hosting our July meeting and Joel Burkard for speaking. It was great meeting despite the weather. Bill had taken steps to ensure that nothing would interfere with the meeting. He erected a large tent with extension cords for supplying power for Joel's laptop and the projector being used.

It is that time of year that things become busy for our club. We are getting ready for our last pond tour in August, the Koi Show in September and elections in October.

I want to thank the families that have opened their ponds for this upcoming tour. The weather is improving so we should not have to worry about rain, though it should be hot and humid. We are busy getting our yard in shape for the tour and making sure the pond looks good. There are a few things that need to be tweaked, but we are hoping to have it done before the tour. I am looking forward to see the number of people that show up to see our ponds. It is always interesting to talk to people that are putting in ponds of their own, helping to supply information that they can use to save time in building their ponds.

The Koi Show is another event that is going to cause a hectic schedule for people. We have gotten the information out on the website for everyone to begin registration. We have a wet lab with Vicki Vaughn planned. It is recommended that people who are interested sign up as soon as possible since space is limited.



There will be a silent auction to help raise money for KHV research. I am asking for people to donate items for the auction and to include the value of the item as we don't want to auction them off below value. The Executive Committee will decide at the October Officer's meeting where the money will be donated.

In October we will be voting on a new Vice-president and Treasurer. It is time to begin giving thought as to whom we wish to fill those positions. I have asked Hal Brown to be Nominating Committee Chairperson. He will be asking other members to help serve on the committee. So if there are any members that you feel will help to serve the membership as officers please let Hal Brown know.

Finally, I am asking for people who will wish to host our 2006 meetings to let me know by our November Meeting.

**ATLANTA KOI  
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**Scenes from the July  
Meeting ....**



Just before lunch .... on the Dowden's deck. They built a big tent in the woods in case it rained. Now, that's going the extra mile.... Thanks!



Vicki Vaughan & Joel Burkard,  
our speaker...



Smokey Sullins and his  
*Koi of the Year* entry.



Toni & Michael  
Anderson with their  
*Koi Persons of the Year*  
award.

**Diaphragms & Pumps**

Nope, I am not talking human anatomy here. No discussions of midriiffs or birth control (I leave that to you, your significant other, and an OB/GYN). This is about the maintenance of air pumps such as *Airtech, Alita, Hiblow, Hakko* and several other brands. The pump commonly used to supply air to stones in ponds, to air domes on drains, to air-driven fluid beds, and to air stones in non-pressurized filter chambers with matting or other media. If you don't have some of these on your ponds... don't tell me.

These air pumps typically have two things in common. They have pad filters under the lid that need to be cleaned at least once a year!!! You will be surprised at the dirty they will collect, especially if the pump is outside. The second is that they need to have the diaphragm replaced. Their diaphragm is a synthetic rubber membrane that creates the air flow when it is forced to move back and forth. Because that sucker is constantly in motion, it flatly will wear out and crack. When that happens...low or no air pressure is produced.

Most makers will say to replace the diaphragm once a year. The kits (which need to match the brand and model) can cost in the range of \$50-\$75. Yep, it ain't cheap. But a \$300 air pump with a broken diaphragm is providing zero valve! I finally had an Alita 80 diaphragm go out after 2 years of service outside in Dallas and 2 years outside in Atlanta. Am I telling you to wait 4 years to replace those diaphragms? Heck no.

What I am suggesting is the following:

- clean the air filter under the lid twice a year it's easy to get to for cleaning
- at least once a year, clean the

*(Continued on page 4)*

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**"Atlanta's Finest Landscapes."**

Four members of the Atlanta Koi Club, Charlie Atwell, Brenda Atwell, David Boyd and David Pugh, were in attendance at the ACKA Seminar held in Tulsa, OK from June 23 to June 26. The Tulsa Koi Club adopted a theme centered around the Native American tradition of Pow Wow. Next years seminar is being held in Buffalo, New York and we were given a promise by one of the organizers that there will be no snow. Let's see how many folks we can get to attend. We met individuals from all over the US and one from Melbourne, Australia. Did you all know that Koi have not been legally imported into Australia since sometime in the 1980's?



David and I began our adventure by attending the breeder tour. It was not the highlight of the seminar, but proved to be one of the more talked about experiences. We left for the farm at 3:30 via shuttle.



The driver had no idea where we were going so there was a local guide aboard. All went well until we missed a turn. The shuttle driver simply pulled into the next drive and turned the bus around in the front yard of the home. We arrived at the farm after an hour ride only to be told that we had to leave in 10 minutes. This driver was not kidding. After 10 minutes she honked the horn and proceeded to roll forward. We all managed to catch the bus and arrived safely back at the hotel for the vendor reception.

The opening night vendor reception was great fun thanks to Brenda. She made sure David and I were introduced to everyone she saw and knew (that is almost everyone in attendance). It was a great way to start the seminar. We did manage to introduce her to a few people that were first time attendees. I am not sure some of those folks knew what hit them. For those of you who have not seen Brenda in full-schmooze mode, she is a force to be reckoned with. It is truly an art. She deserves a lot of thanks for her tireless efforts on behalf of this obsession we call a hobby.



The seminars proved to be informative and varied. We were treated to discussions on koi history and varieties, a judging competition where five tanks of fish were presented to groups of judges and their comments were televised back to our seminar room, a very good update on KHV, a detailed



explanation on UV filtration, and a very informative talk on nutrition requirements for koi. One of the seminars was a live video feed from Japan hosted by Joel Burkard, last months AKC meeting speaker. We missed that due to the time. I know there were others, but these jumped to mind.

At the closing banquet all of the attendees were invited to participate in a two-step, Native American style. AKC's own Brenda Atwell joined the long line of participants. You can see a short video of her participation on the AKC website. David Boyd accepted the Koi Person of the Year award for the Andersons. There was a very lively auction for two koi and they are now living in CA.

Sunday's pond tour featured six ponds belonging to members of the Tulsa Koi Club. They were all "very" well stocked, or in my opinion overstocked. One small pond (maybe 1500 gallons had 15 -18 inch koi in it.) Everyone used the same sort of bio-filtration consisting of a large barrel containing filter media. We began calling them "Oklahoma Filters". These filters are manufactured by one of the local dealers out of Dr. Pepper Concentrate barrels. They obviously support large fish loads.

## The August Meeting Pond

**Mark Snow & Teresa Bramblett**

Pond is about 2 years old and was designed by myself and brother-in-law (company is - Over The Garden Wall). It's about 12 x 15 feet, 3 ft deep, has a 20 ft stream and about 6 waterfalls.

The pump handles about 4500 gal/hr and the filtration is mainly plants and filter mats. There's no UV lights or bead filtration.

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Something different may be that the pond is totally rock lined and was designed to look like a natural stream coming into a pond.

It's underwater night lighted and has adjoining natural seating and adjoining patios.

We've got about 15 fish with most being Koi and a few goldfish. The newest addition is a white dragon koi with two gold spots. We're looking forward to seeing him get big!

(Continued from page 2)

- pump inside and out
- at least once a year examine the pump's diagram and consider replacing it
- have a spare diaphragm kit on site!!!
- follow the installation instructions in the kit (ladies will, men won't)

Remember that the fish and filter bacteria need O2 to live. In the summer heat, water holds much less O2 than in the winter. You don't want an air pump down for days in the summer!!! Do your routine maintenance and have spare parts on hand!

Michael Anderson

## Koi Health Management Seminar

February 17-19, 2006 Athens, Georgia

The Koi health Management conference is designed for veterinarians, hobbyists, retailers, and producers involved with ornamental fish. Conference topics cover all aspects of fish husbandry, and the labs range from beginner to advanced levels. Ample staff will be available for individual instruction. Each day concludes with a roundtable Q & A session.

The conference is limited to 40 participants. Cost for hobbyists is \$500.00 plus room and some meals. (Friday evening reception, continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshment breaks are included.) All lab supplies are furnished, as well as instructional materials.

For more info contact:  
Dr. Bruce Hollett or Sandi Kilgo  
706-542-1451  
bhollett@vet.uga.edu  
skilgo@vet.uga.edu



## Disinfecting Plants



When purchasing new plants, there are ways to protect your tank from the plants introducing possible harmful pathogens, parasites, and snails.

**Potassium permanganate** Ten minute soak. This is particularly effective against harmful bacteria.

**Jungle Products Clear Water** A diluted form of potassium permanganate

**Lime It from Aquatronics** An aquarium product effective against snail eggs and bacteria

**Alum USP** Available at drug stores. This kills microscopic bugs and snail eggs. 10 teaspoons to a gallon of water. Soak the plants for up to three days.

**Household bleach** 1 part bleach to 19 parts water. Effective against pathogens, algae, and snails. Can also cause severe damage to plants, particularly sensitive stem plants. Do not allow the roots, bulbs, or rhizome to come in contact with the bleach. Soak for two minutes and rinse completely with clear water and de-chlorinator. **Michael Anderson**



## Treasurer's Report

Ron Scott

Beginning balance  
\$5,279.75

Income:  
Flower Show \$0.00  
Pond Tour \$520.00  
Koi Auction \$ 33.00  
Membership \$133.00  
ZNA Dues \$100.00  
Name Badges \$ 25.00  
KOIUSA Subs. \$ 17.00  
Monthly Raffle \$116.00  
Money Transferred From Savings  
\$3,000.00  
Checking Acc't Int. \$ 0.25

**Total Income \$3,944.25**

Expenses:  
AKCA Dues \$100.00  
Pond Tour \$599.51  
Koi Auction \$319.28  
Koi Show \$2,175.00  
Donations (Fish Scale @ Tenn.  
Aquarium) \$55.00  
KOI USA Subscription \$17.00  
Monthly Raffle \$66.23  
Meeting Expense \$100.00  
AKC Web Site \$29.95  
Koi Store (5 - 8' Tanks & Covers)  
\$2,645.00  
Bank Fee (Monthly Maintenance Fee)  
\$14.00  
Club Sponsored Friendship Awards  
\$466.15

**Total Expenses \$6,587.12**  
**NET \$2,642.87**

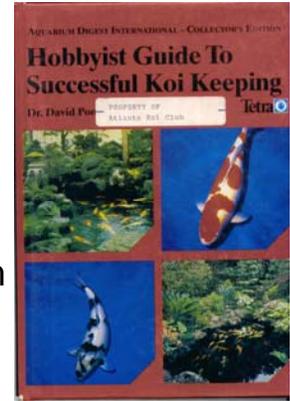
Bank Statement \$2,636.88  
Uncleared Transactions  
Checkbook Ending Balance \$2,636.88



## Library

Jane Lu

In the *Hobbyist Guide To Successful Koi Keeping*, clear and balanced advice is provided on how to maintain koi. Areas covered range from the importance of water quality and how to feed koi, to breeding them and preventing disease problems. The information provided will enable you to keep your koi in the best possible condition and get the most from this fascinating hobby. The 128 page book has over 100 color photographs.



## August Heat



We are soon to enter August Heat. If you get the chance, read the short story *August Heat* by William Harvey.

Ok, we all know that water's ability to carry oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) varies with the water temp. In 50F with slow koi metabolisms and higher O<sub>2</sub> levels, you don't think too much about needing to crank up air domes on bottom drains, air stones...etc. But now in mid summer the koi metabolisms are cranked up. As the water passes 85F, their ability to digest food starts to decrease (ever felt it was too hot to eat?).

So, we have lower levels of O<sub>2</sub> in the water, and perhaps an increasing levels of organics....not good.

What can we do?

Back off on the food amounts — use lower protein goods

Increase aeration for the fish by doing waterfalls, air domes on drains, air stones in ponds (which may or may not look so good)

Measure water quality at least once a week (and do water changes as needed)

OK, the above may help the fish, but about the other set of organisms...the filter bacteria? If they go south, so does the entire pond. Helping the bacteria gets into the limitations of the filter design.

If the bio portion is a fluid bed driven by air, there is not anything practical to improve in that portion of the filter.

If the bio portion is a open, non pressurized container (i.e. barrel, vortex,) then. put some air stones in the bio chambers to feed the bacteria.

If the bio portion is a closed pressurized container (i.e. bead filter), there may little to nothing to do to improve the situation with that container — which is a reason to seriously consider total dependence on such designs as your only bio conversion area..

Regardless of your current pond and filter design you can probably help the koi and filter bacteria beat the heat by using:

air domes on bottom drains

air stones in filter or waterfall chambers

noisy waterfalls and weirs

trickle towers and/or bakki showers



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Vernard L. Hodges, DVM  
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**Support the Pond Tour !  
Visit all of the ponds if you can.  
Encourage our club members!**

## A TOUGH PILL TO SWALLOW

6

# ONE MAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH A LARGEMOUTH CATFISH?

From Panama to the Great Lakes, Bill Driver's done pretty well fishing over the past 50 years. Now he's wondering if he'd have done even better with a different kind of bait.



"I never considered using a kid's basketball," Driver said. "Maybe I should have."

Friday afternoon, Driver was standing on the deck of his house near 119th Street West and Central when he saw an eight-inch ball floating in Sandalwood Lake.

Noticing the ball wasn't floating normally, Driver wandered to his dock for a closer look. A catfish had its mouth stuck around the ball.

Driver hollered for his wife, Pam, to get a camera while he unrigged the sail from his nine-foot boat, wading into the lake and corralling the fish toward shore with the sail as a seine.



Several times, the flathead tried to dive, only to have the ball buoy it back to the surface. The fish appeared to be exhausted and offered little resistance once in the shallows. Things may have gone easier had the fish the strength to struggle.



"I just couldn't pull that ball out of its mouth," Driver said. "I was lifting up out of the water as best I could by the ball. I finally sent my wife to the house to get a knife."

Driver carefully deflated the ball. Estimated at 50 pounds, the fish swam toward the deepest part of the lake. Driver has no plans of targeting the fish in the near future. Instead, he'll probably continue to fish for the bass and pan fish that swim within the one-acre lake.



"I guess I might try fishing with a golf ball," Driver said. "Smaller fish, smaller bait."

*This article, by Michael Pearce, appeared in the Wichita **Eagle** on Sunday, May 30, 2004. The photos are courtesy of Pam Driver. Both the article and the photos are reproduced here with permission from Wichita **Eagle** and Pam Driver.*

## But, that's not all of the story ..... A LEGEND ARISES FROM A LOCAL POND

-- WHEN THE BASKETBALL-SWALLOWING CATFISH SWAM PAST LAST MAY, TWO WICHITANS DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE A WHISKER AWAY FROM NATIONAL FAME.

Believe it or not, last week the folks at Ripley's were clamoring for the rights to a Wichita tale.

The National Enquirer called Pam Driver this week to see whether the story was true.

Driver is the unexpected spokeswoman for Wichita's famous fish - a huge catfish that tried to snack on a basketball.

The story and photos of the fish with the ball stuck in its mouth have circulated over much of the world since appearing in The Eagle on May 30.

"Never in our wildest dreams could we imagine all this attention," Driver said. "We were tickled just to get the pictures, then to get them in the newspaper. It's been amazing what's happened since."

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## June Board Meeting Minutes

Vicki Knill

The club President David Boyd called the meeting to order. Present were, David Boyd, Charlie Atwell, Vicki Knill, Ron Scott, Jerry "Shorty" Hord, Susan Brown, Ray Brock, Robin Scott.

### NEW BUSINESS

David Boyd said he thought it would be a good idea if the club had a fundraiser to raise money in support of KHV Research performed at the University of Georgia. Recently NAWGS raised a large amount of money for the research. As a way to raise money Ron Scott suggested an auction to be held during the club's Annual Koi Show in Sept. After discussion it was felt a silent auction would be the best method. Members would be invited to donate items for auction with a monetary value of the item set as the starting price. The items would be placed on display Friday, people could place their bid on a bidding sheet accompanying the item. Saturday afternoon or evening (time to be determined) final bids would be tallied and winners announced. All monies raised will be handed over to UGA. Charlie Atwell added that AKCA will match the amount collected. Anyone wishing to donate an item should inform the club property manager Shorty Hord or the club president David Boyd by the August meeting to determine if enough items will be available to conduct the auction. Items should be new or if vintage in very good condition.

Susan Brown membership chairperson presented a plan to provide the club's members with a reward system to promote membership growth. If a member encouraged 4 persons to join the club within a one year period, that member would then get their following year dues free. This idea was agreed on, Motioned by Shorty Hord and seconded by Ron Scott.

Vicki Knill, pond tour chairperson, said the tickets were selling well, but the club was in need of someone who could look after advertising for the club's events. With all the various aspects and places for advertising having one person knowing the medias available would be beneficial to the club. Conducting the pond tour was enough of a job without the added responsibility of advertising. Possible member names were brought up and David Boyd said he would address the matter.

Charlie Atwell reported that the guest speaker for the August meeting would be Scott Taylor a club member and Goldfish judge.

A discussion about the upcoming koi show followed. The benching team is in place, other teams are being formed. Greg and Elaine Jucha will again look after catering food for the judges, vendors and working volunteers. A private area will be available only to those with passes. The club will again provide a hospitality room Friday night 5-10 pm, at the hotel, open to vendors and members. Hospitality will again be graciously provided by Hal and Susan Brown.

David Boyd stated to protect the privacy of past and current members all archived newsletters will be password protected. Passwords will utilize member's address and/or phone number. If the newsletters are not password protected the last page would need to be dropped as this contains meeting locations and directions.

If anyone knows of a club member who is ill or has suffered a loss, please inform the club's secretary, Vicki Knill. An appropriate card will be sent to that person on behalf of the club membership.

The date of the August meeting coincides with that of Koi America. As a result many members of the executive committee will be absent. The executive meeting will then be held the following weekend at the home of Ron and Robin Scott.

The meeting closed and the membership enjoyed an enlightening presentation provided by Joel Burkard in a creatively built backyard theater constructed by Bill Dowden.

### **Wet Lab at The Atlanta Koi Show .**

Vickie Vaughan has graciously taken the time from her schedule to once again hold the Wet Lab at the Atlanta Koi Show this September. Registration is \$50 per person. Register early as there are only 25 seats available. This WetLab is a great value considering the amount of information given and koi experience. Vickie will be bringing microscopes to use and sell.

Contact David Pugh [atlkoishow2005@aol.com](mailto:atlkoishow2005@aol.com) to register.

## Check It Out

OK goldfish fans! Here's what you've been waiting for: a program devoted entirely to goldfish keeping and care! Scott Taylor, one of our members, is a certified goldfish judge! He'll be speaking at the meeting on August 14th. He has all kinds of info about goldfish.

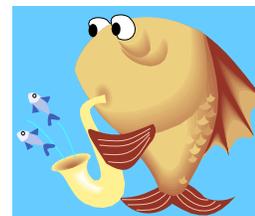
He became interested in goldfish in the mid-80's, and joined the Goldfish Society in 1987. He's on the Board of Directors and is Goodwill Ambassador for the GFSA. He became a goldfish judge in 1997, and has judged over 16 shows. He belongs to five Koi Clubs and four Goldfish Clubs across the United States.

*Carassius auratus auratus*



He will be at our meeting to answer any questions that members have about goldfish. Scott will also talk about:

- Canadian Goldfish
- Buying and showing Goldfish
- Color, eye types, food, medications
- Quarantine and stress problems
- Spawning



Sounds like a jam packed meeting. Bring all your questions, and get some valuable information.

# Congratulations, Joel!

## Joel Burkard Chosen Top English Speaking Koi Dealer in the World!

*Journal of Japanese Gardening* polled sixteen leading koi experts, and asked them the following question: "Who are the most reputable English-speaking koi dealers in the world?" Joel Burkard and Zak Schmidt (*right*), of Pan Intercorp in Seattle, placed first out of more than 50 dealers. Here are the top-10 results:

1. PAN INTERCORP Kenmore, WA, USA owner: Joel Burkard
2. EASTERN NISHIKIGOI Westminster, CA, USA owner: Ken Tran
3. NISHIKIGOI OF NIIGATA Midlothian, VA, USA owner: Ray Able
4. KEIRIN KOI Allentown, PA, USA owner: Carl Forss
5. INFILTRATION Cheshire, United Kingdom owner: Peter Wadington
6. JAPAN KOI ONLINE Menifee, CA, USA owner: Taro Kodama
7. CALIFORNIA KOI FARMS Fallbrook, CA, USA owner: Takemi Adachi
8. QUALITY KOI Penns Grove, NJ, USA owner: Joseph Zuritsky
9. GENKI NISHIKIGOI San Jose, CA, USA owner: Kevin Pham
10. MEC KOI Meckenheim, Germany owner: Josef Bertram



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