



# Koi Chronicles

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## By the Pond

David Boyd, President AKC

Let me start by thanking Jerry and Katy Hord for hosting the Summer Social. A special thanks to the club members that brought their favorite culinary delights to share as well.

In response to my letter last month, I received an email that raised many excellent points. I am taking the opportunity to answer that letter in the Newsletter for a couple reasons. First, I take every email I get from a member seriously. Second, I want to clarify some things for all the members to understand. I included a copy of the letter in the Newsletter since the member gave his approval to do so. (Gary's letter is on page 6).

Gary,

I want to thank you for referring to my writings as "editorial musings" instead of "rantings" about "The Great Fish Debate".

I am not sure where the rumor came from that we were planning on becoming a goldfish and water garden club only and that the Koi Club would be dissolved. What was proposed is that we include goldfish and water gardens in the club. What has been resolved is that we include access to the information about goldfish and water gardens in the website.

I am not sure why people automatically assume that when growth is talked about, it means numbers. I myself am talking about the growth of our knowledge about fish husbandry. I want to personally thank Toni Anderson for coming up with this term for me. We have some people in the club that include goldfish in their ponds. Many of us started with goldfish and I would have loved to have been able to talk to someone about what I was doing right or wrong. Is it wrong to want to accommodate them?



We do have a good number of members in the club and we are slowly getting more. The dues we get from members help to sustain us in a limited way. The cost of equipment and getting events off the ground can be high. An example, we determined that we need eight more tanks for the September show. At \$400+ dollars each that adds up. This is not including shipping. This will be close to \$5000 dollars that will come out of the treasury. The money that we will get from Vendors and Sponsors of the show will not be available until later when we sell the booths and sponsorships. What do we do until then? It is hard to plan an event with no money in the bank. For a Treasurer's Report each month, please read the Newsletter. It details the money earned and spent. As for making the statement about the AKC directors looking at the club as a money maker, I can assure you, we don't. We are happy each month that we are not in the red.

*(Continued on page 2)*



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(Continued from page 1)

As for the issue about "Lost Members", I know of a few. Some have moved away and are no longer part of our community. Others have left because of personality conflicts with other members. How do you stop that? If we, (meaning the club) expel members that are we don't like or get mad at. It will be a small club in the end. How would you plan on bringing them back? Does our Membership Chairperson need to contact them to find out if they want to come back?

Finally, you said that the club should inspire and motivate the club members into taking a more active roll in the club. Any suggestions on what can be done? As an example, the trip to the Tennessee Aquarium was offered to all members as a special event. The people that went were the ones that are always involved in doing things with the club.

It is easy to make observations from the outside, but once you know what is going on by working with others, you gain an understanding of the uphill battle things can sometimes be.

As President, it is my responsibility to listen to everyone. I may not agree with what they say, but I do listen. I also try to answer in a timely manner, but sometimes time gets away.

In closing I thank you for your feedback. It is appreciated.

Gary's letter is on page 6.

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**Can You Guess Who the Poet Is?**

One of our club members is a published poet. Guess who wrote this poem.....

Did you ever sit and wonder why,  
flowers bloom and quickly die.

Why love will blossom overnight  
and quickly die so that we night

Wonder again just what is life  
that lives in beauty and dies in strife.

Only to be reborn once more  
to briefly live to leave it's spore.



**ZNA & AKCA**

**Report**  
**Michael Anderson,**  
**Director**

**ZNA**

We have received and forwarded to ZNA headquarters a total of 5 memberships. We need 5 more to maintain our status as a ZNA Friendship Club. Please consider joining ZNA!!!

**AKCA**

The reports from the AKCA Seminar in Tulsa were "A good time was had by all". The 2006 Seminar will be held in Buffalo NY. This will give folks a chance to see "the falls". Which falls? Plan to go and find out.

## Recent Happenings...

3

Jay Drew and David Marier attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual MAKC Young Koi Show in Fredericksburg, VA recently. A young koi show is one that limits the size of the koi entered; in this case 17" was the largest a koi could be to compete. They had four size categories as compared to our "normal" six categories.

Ray Jordan was the head judge, assisted by Brett Rowley (our guest speaker from March 2004). It was very educational and entertaining to watch these two gentlemen from Texas judge the koi. The show had exactly 100 koi entered.

The AKC Friendship Award was presented to Turelle and Pam Holmes for a really interesting Kumonryu. They are just beginning to show koi, receiving our award was really special for them.

We were fortunate enough to receive the Tategoi Award for our Size 4 Shiro Utsuri and two Best in Variety Awards for Utsuri and Goshiki/Koromo.

Fredericksburg, VA is about 8 hours away. Koi America, the largest koi show and pond/water gardening exhibit on the east coast is slightly farther north in Chantilly, we're looking forward to that koi show in August and encourage AKC members to join us in the trip. Whether you show koi or not, this would be a great experience.



## Mind the GAP!

Michael Anderson

No, we are not talking about the recorded messages that play on the Tube in London. We are talking about the gap between the floor of your pond and the bottom edge of the dome on your bottom drains. What, you don't HAVE bottom drains. Don't get me started! That is a whole other rant!!!

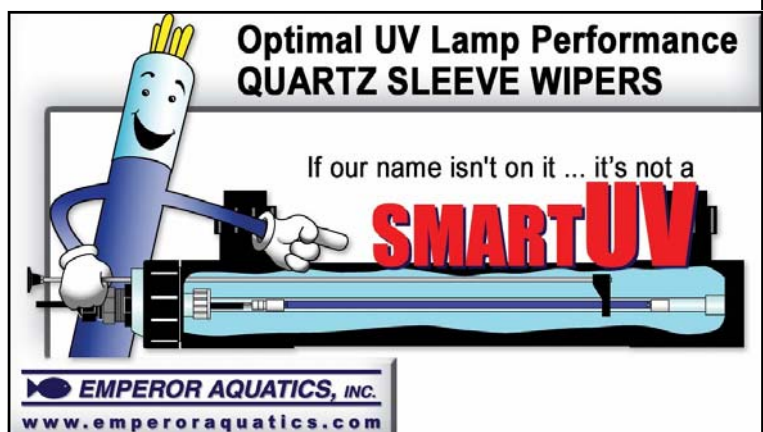
Bottom drains such as *Spindrifters* and *Rhinos* have a central pipe column that holds up the dome or cap over the drain. The column can be trimmed to lower so that the dome's bottom is at a specific height off the pond floor. When folks build their ponds, they will have varying degrees of pitch or slope leading to the drain. The approach of using an adjustable column lets the installer get just the right height off the pond floor.

So, what is the right height off the floor? The gap should just be tall enough to not restrict the water flow, but, if it is too high, the vacuum effect will be minimized. Let's work on one example to see how this is done.

Going into this we need to know two things the diameter off the pipe from the drain to the filters; the diameter of the drain's dome. For this example we will assume the drain pipe is good old 4" PVC from the Orange DIY store. We need to know the cross-sectional area of a pipe with an inner diameter of 4". We use that good old middle school formula for finding the area inside a circle. What, you don't remember? OK, since I KNOW you are not about to ask your teenage, I will tell you. The formula is *Pi times the radius squared*. Since the radius is half the diameter, our calculations for a 4" pipe are:  $3.1415 \text{ times } 4 \text{ (2 squared)} = 12.566 \text{ square inches}$ .

Remember we said in our example that the diameter of the drain's dome is 10" So we need to know the circumference. Here we go again with those old middle school formulae! The *circumference of a circle is Pi times the diameter*. So if the diameter is 10" our calculations are  $10" \text{ times } 3.1415 = 31.415"$ .

So, now we take the target of 12.566 square inches and divide by the circumference of 31.415...to get a value of 0.40299220117778131465860257838612". Lets round that puppy to 0.40". We know that  $3/8" = 0.378"$  and  $7/16" = 0.4375"$ . A  $3/8"$  gap is too short because it will cause a flow restriction compared to what the 4" pipe can handle. The gap of  $7/16"$  should be the ideal target. And, the world would not end if the gap is  $1/2"$ .



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## Just for Grins

Toni Anderson

Several weeks ago I sent Herve Rijnveld some pictures of our pets. The first was a picture of our Ochiba, Caramel, who is known as "Queen of the Pond". The second picture was of our American Eskimo, Dexter.

Herve did a bit of tinkering. and sent the above picture back.

We thought it was hilarious. Hope you like it.

Now, what do you think this new variety of koi should be called?

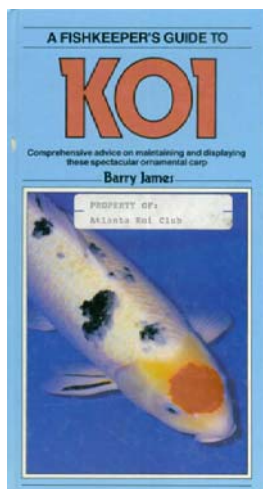
Send Herve your ideas.



## Library

Jane Lu

*A Fishkeeper's Guide to Koi* gives comprehensive advice on maintaining and displaying these spectacular ornamental carp. This guide forms an excellent introduction to their management and display. This book consists of 120 pages with 100 color photographs. Contents include pond construction, filters, pumps and aeration, buying koi, feeding, seasonal care, diseases and predators, and koi varieties.



See the librarian to check this book out.

## Treasurer's Report

Ron Scott

Beginning balance \$15,004.28

### Income:

Pond Tour	\$110.00
Koi Auction	\$110.00
Membership	\$310.00
ZNA Membership	\$100.00
Name Badges	\$ 20.00
KOIUSA Subscript.	\$ 51.00
Monthly Raffle	\$192.50
Misc. (Aquarium bus ticket)	\$25.00

Checking Account Interest \$0.51

**Total Income \$919.01**

### Expenses:

Flower Show	\$ 890.83
Pond Tour	\$1,699.15
Koi Auction	\$7,533.84
Name Badges	\$ 355.77
KOI USA Subscript.	\$ 68.00
AKC Web Site	\$ 29.95
Bank Fees (Checks & Deposit Slips)	\$66.00

**Total Expenses \$10,643.54**

**NET -\$9,724.53**

Bank Statement	\$5,279.75
Uncleared Transactions	\$0.00
Checkbook Ending Balance	\$5,279.75



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## Beware of Koi Dogma

Joel Burkard/Pan Intercorp

The most gratifying aspect of Koi keeping is to watch a Koi that is in your care develop and improve over time. To this end, the enthusiast is forever experimenting with new and improved methods of filtration, the latest advances in nutrition, and an unending parade of water conditioners, mineral additives, ozone generators and the like, all in hopes of helping our Koi reach their true potential.

Although most of us have no qualms about trying and evaluating new techniques and products, many have a hard time letting go of old ideas that have been presented to us as fact. Sometimes, we are unconsciously hampered by unconscious adherence to beliefs in concepts that may or may not have a basis in experience, but have been sustained through repetition by some of the more "experienced" Koi keeping community. These concepts are often presented to the acolyte as Koi Dogma, to be accepted without question, but to be treated with great reverence and passed on to those who would follow.

At a recent Koi show, two enthusiasts were discussing the potential future of a small Showa that was offered for sale. The prospects were looking great until a third, more experienced hobbyist came along and expounded, "It's common knowledge that the sumi (black) on the Showa gets darker, and more excessive as they mature. Anyone can see that this Showa has much too much black for a young Koi, and will probably become even darker as it grows older." The less "experienced" enthusiasts accepted this statement as dogma, and wandered off in search of a more suitable investment.

In November of 1995, Mr. Katsuhiko Tashiro, of Tokyo, purchased this 6" Showa from Magoemon of Niigata. With an evenly spaced hiban (red pattern) partially obscured by strong but blurred sumi, and an almost nonexistent white, this Showa would surely have become a victim of Koi Dogma had it been offered for sale in the United States. Note how the pectoral fins are completely overrun with black, dashing any hopes of a classic motoguro pattern. The sumi of the head shows promise of connecting in the much desired menware pattern, but "experienced" Koi keepers would warn us that this Showa has altogether far too much black.

The second photo shows the object of Mr. Tashiro's esteem in all its glory as Grand Champion (43 Bu) at the 13th Rinyukai Young Koi Show.

Still far from finished, the sumi has receded into a well-defined checkerboard pattern complemented by perfect motoguro. Balanced between the sumi and crisp white field is an impeccably spaced red pattern that leaves nothing to the imagination.

The following example produced by Takeda Fish Farms of Hiroshima, illustrated the other end of the spectrum in the development of Showa.

The first photo features a rather robust two-year-old, with excellent white skin providing the backdrop for somewhat unbalanced three-step pattern. The sparse black is scattered haphazardly across both the red and the white, making it difficult to predict what the future will bring. Dogma would dictate this to be a Kindai Showa.

Two years later, we see that the sumi has begun to emerge strongly on the shoulder and just to the rear of the dorsal fin, reaffirming the Kindai Showa appearance, but threatening to obliterate the third step. We can also see a clear indication of menware, and just a hint of gray beginning to appear at the base of the fins.

Finally, as a majestic six-year-old measuring 30" long, our Showa shows her true colors, never again to be mistaken for a Kindai Showa. Her sumi has filled in beautifully,

creating a strong counterbalance for her subtle, three-step pattern.

With brilliant white, motoguro, and menware all perfected, she is the picture of the classic old style Showa.

The last Showa featured in this article is quite possibly the epitome of textbook Koi development, and the ultimate dream of all Koi keepers. If we could dictate a step-by-step pictorial scenario of how the perfect Showa

*(Continued on page 8)*

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Hi David,

This email is in response to your editorial musings on the future direction of our club in the June '05 newsletter.

You expressed a desire to see the club "grow". WHY? Has anybody really asked that question? We Americans have a nasty habit of always thinking "growth is good" or the lack of growth is bad. And every AKC president in its history has had the same desire/goal. But has anybody stopped to question WHY?

What's wrong with our club at the size that it is? I don't see a financial reason that the club "has" to grow in order to sustain itself. As far as I know, there are only insignificant fixed costs with keeping the club viable (the trailer, equipment, storage of equipment, etc.), and the current membership level and dues easily sustains that, right? The events the club hosts like the Koi Show should already be structured financially as "break even" or better, supported with vendor and sponsor fees, fish entry fees, and public admission fees set sufficiently high to see that we don't lose money by hosting it. So, I ask again, why the desire to add more members to the club?

As you undoubtedly have guessed, I am against expanding the focus of the club to include water gardeners and goldfish fanciers. A rhetorical question: does anyone who is a member of the Piedmont Driving Club want to see their club grow? Put another way, what is wrong with having an exclusive club of people who have a narrow focus on a specific activity (koi keeping)? Bigger is not always better. I fear a "bigger" AKC which expands its focus to include every type of pond hobbyist may open a Pandora's Box of other problems that come with keeping larger groups of people happy. You already acknowledge that the diversity of opinions within our existing group is problematic. How easy do you think it will be to unify and keep happy a membership that grows to include people with even more diverse interests?

This club is corporately structured as a NON-PROFIT entity. I think that many of our officers having backgrounds in the for-profit world of normal business carry that fallacious mindset into their thinking about AKC. Our goal as a non-profit organization should be to "break even" financially, with a small cushion as a surplus in the club treasury. In the for-profit world, "growth" is seen as a way to increase profits. But the AKC directors should not be looking at this club as a money-making machine, and I'm disturbed that I see that mindset permeate the thinking of the people who make decisions for our group.

The greater issue which I see being ignored by the officers of this club is the issue of "lost" members...people who at one time thought well enough about our group to join as members, but now have chosen NOT to renew their memberships. This is the "disease" that needs to be cured. If the problem of membership falloff is the root cause of the desire to "grow" the club, then somebody needs to rethink how this problem is addressed. If I may invoke an analogy that has some relevance to our hobby...if our club "pond" has leaks and is losing water (members), the best course of action is to patch the leaks (keep members from leaving) rather than continuously adding more water (members) to keep the "pond" full. Our goals, activities, and policies in the AKC SHOULD be ones that inspire and motivate club members to take an active roll in club activities, or at least want to continue to be members. If club members are not sufficiently motivated to maintain their memberships, then THAT is what needs to be addressed, because something is seriously wrong, if that's the case.

In your editorial in the newsletter, you said you saw your mission as the club president to be a "guide, not a dictator". I hope your definition of "guide" includes "steering in the right direction". I fear the quest for "growth" expressed by some influential members of the AKC is heading our club down the wrong path. What's needed is a rethinking of our club's "mission"...and I hope it's not a mission to be "all things to all people".

Gary Montalto

P.S. I wouldn't object to this email being reprinted in the newsletter and/or on the club website, as a catalyst for a club-wide discussion of these important issues. If you or anyone else wishes to discuss these topics further, please feel free to phone me.



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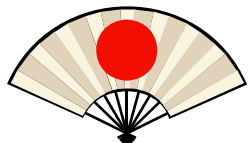
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## Future Events



**July 10 — Meeting — Bill & Lynn Dowden**  
**August 6-7 — Summer Pond Tour**  
**August 12-14 — Koi America**  
**August 14 Meeting— Mark Snow & Teresa Bramlett**  
**September 11 — Meeting**  
**September 16-18 — AKC 11th Annual Koi Show**  
**October 9 — Meeting, Elections**  
**November 13— Winter Social**



## June Board Meeting Minutes Vicki Knill

The club President David Boyd called the meeting to order. Members present were, David Boyd, Charlie Atwell, Vicki Knill, Ron Scott, Jerry Hord, Michael & Toni Anderson and Jane Lu.

### OLD BUSINESS

Rather than changing the club's name to include another aspect of pond keeping such as goldfish or watergardening, it was decided to include more diversity into the club meetings. This would be provided by speakers who are knowledgeable in fields such as water plants, or fish husbandry to include aspects of both koi and goldfish. Members are encouraged toward more tolerance regarding the views of others when subjects such as watergardening and goldfish keeping. This is to keep in mind that many of the club members enjoy keeping both water plants and goldfish. Encouraging more members to volunteer may be addressed using a rewards point system. This idea has been touched on previously and will require further planning if it is to be initiated.

### NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Hord stated that this years koi show will have much more floor space. At the last show a large area in the back of the building was sectioned off and not used. This year we will have use of that area. Due to the increased floor space we will be adding more show tanks. The purchase of 5 more 8foot tanks (with covers) was motioned by Charlie Atwell and seconded by Jerry Hord.

David Boyd thanked Vicki Knill for a great spring pond tour. More tour books had to printed up as some stores sold out just before the tour.

Charlie Atwell announced he had hosts for all of the up coming club meetings for this year.

The meeting closed and members enjoyed the June social in a comfortable setting provided by Jerry and Katy Hord's pond and gardens.

## East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection

### June 25–September 4, 2005



*Utagawa Hiroshige, No. 13 Numazu—Dusk Scene, color woodcut from the series The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido (Hoeido edition). Private collection.*

Lyrical landscapes, colorful characters—the woodblock prints of Utagawa Hiroshige brim with natural beauty and reveal a world now past. *East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection* will feature Hiroshige's famous series, "The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido," a travelogue of stops along an ancient highway known as the Tokaido Road. On the journey through the mountains and along the sea, Hiroshige captured the rhythm of life in 19th-century Japan with dramatic landscapes, humorous vignettes, and vivid portrayals of the shifting seasons.

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Sunday: 12:00–7:00 pm June–September: 12:00–5:00 pm

**This would be a wonderful side trip if you are planning to go to MAKC in August!**

**Check it out on the web ....**

**[www.phillipscollection.org](http://www.phillipscollection.org)**



## Joel Burkard/Pan Intercorp

Joel Burkard is our featured speaker for the July meeting. His company, Pan Intercorp, can be viewed on line at [www.panintercorp.com](http://www.panintercorp.com). Check it out!

Joel Burkard had the great fortune to have been raised in Japan. After spending 30 years in the Orient, Joel uprooted his family, his business and his love of the Japanese culture, and moved to the Seattle area.

In the subsequent years, Joel has established Pan Intercorp as one of the premier importers of quality Japanese koi to the United States. His knowledge of both koi and fluency the Japanese language have taken him all over the world both as a koi Judge and as translator for numerous koi related events.

In recent years, Joel's articles on koi have become regular features in KOI USA and several other publications, both in the United States and abroad. Of particular note have been his series on Tategoi, the development of koi.

Joel has promised to share with us some of the secrets of selecting young koi, how to compete effectively at koi shows, and some of the little known secrets of the Japanese Koi Breeders.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Joel in person and ask him all those koi questions that you've been dying to have answered.

One of Joel's articles is featured in this newsletter — beginning on page 5.

*(Continued from page 5)*

should develop, this might be what it would look like.

Bred by Echigo Fish farms, this Showa was originally purchased by Koi No Taisho, a Japanese Koi dealer known to have a good eye for tategoi. Koi No Taisho kept the Showa in a concrete pond for about one year before it was purchased by Mr. Makoto Yanagihara of Toyoma Prefecture, in April 1996.

Unquestionably Championship material, the Showa was impressive even at 12". In October of 1996, Mr. Yanagihara entered his Koi in the 5th Tachiyama Koi Show where it was chosen Best In Size 35 Bu.

For the year following the Tachiyama Koi Show, Mr. Yanagihara elected to keep the Showa at home in his personal pond. The results of his Koi Keeping skills became obvious at the 28th Rinyukai Koi Show in November of 1997, when the Showa, now displaying a proudly bold sumi pattern, was selected Champion 45 Bu.

The ultimate dream of Japanese Koi enthusiasts is to compete successfully at one of the All Japan Shows. Among the most coveted awards are the Best In Size, or Kokugyo awards. Koi attaining this level of recognition are few and far between and are treated with great reverence. In April of 1998, at the 16th All Japan Young Nishikigoi Show, Mr. Yanagihara's Showa received the ultimate honor of Kokugyo 43 Bu.

One could not ask for a more refined ambassador to convey to concept that is Showa. From the point of body confirmation, color, pattern, balance, luster, and poise, this Koi truly portrays the image of excellence.

On the other hand, it would be sheer folly to demand that every Showa be held to the light of this candle. The allure of Nishikigoi lies in the fact that no two are alike. When we impose overly rigid or unrealistic standards as a prerequisite for Koi appreciation, our capacity for learning and growth can only suffer. The important thing is to judge each Koi on its individual merits and above all, beware Koi Dogma!

- **Hiban:** pronounced heban (as in hero)-literally: red surface.  
*Refers to the red area on a Kohaku, Sanke or Showa. Can also be used to refer to the orange, gold, yellow, or red area on other Koi such as the Kujaku.*
- **Motoguro:** pronounced moe-toe-goo-row-literally: basic black.  
*Refers to the black at the base of the pectoral fins on Showa, Utsuri, Kin Showa, and Hikari Utsuri. Well balanced motoguro is considered highly desirable; however, lack of motoguro is not considered a defect.*
- **Menware:** pronounced men-wah-ray-literally: split mask.  
*In Kendo, a Japanese martial art, this term describes a sword stroke that lands between the opponent's eyes, splitting the mask, and ending the match—a killing stroke. In Koi, it refers to a black line of sumi that runs diagonally from the Koi's forehead to its nose or mouth, in effect "splitting the mask."*
- **Kindai Showa:** pronounced kin-die show-wah-literally Modern Showa.  
*Refers to a style of Showa that has predominately more white than black, as opposed to the classic Showa, which usually shows more black than white.*



# Membership

Susan Brown



We are so happy to welcome two new members Eric and Mary Ann Crossfield to Atlanta Koi Club. Hope to meet you soon. I also want to welcome back Paul and Darlyne Ketterer whom we haven't seen for awhile. Glad to have you join us again.

Everyone had a great time at the Hord's beautiful pond. The weather cleared before we started and was perfect throughout the gathering. The hosts and food were terrific. Even with the threat of rain, 36 members attended. We now have a total of 173 Members and 5 Sponsors.

For those of you that have ordered badges, they will be available for pick up at the July meeting. Hope to see you there.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ATLANTA KOI CLUB

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: **Household:** \$50 for 1 Yr. \_\_\_\_\_; \$90 for 2 Yrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Sponsor:** \$150 for 1 Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: KOI USA Magazine Subscription: \$17 for 1 Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Name Badges: \$5 each. \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*ZNA International Koi Club: \$100 for 1 Yr. \_\_\_\_\_



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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:  
**Susan G. Brown, 191 Kings Row, Marietta, GA 30067.**

\* 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.

\*\* Zen Nippon Airinkai (ZNA) is an international organization dedicated to the koi keeping hobby. Members receive the Nichirin magazine. Membership runs May through April of each year. There is no prorating of dues. Full dues are always paid.