

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



KOI CHRONICLES



Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

April 2009
Volume 21, Issue 4

Inside this issue:	
Calendar Koi Events	2
Dinner with Koda	3
February Meeting Minutes	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Alkalinity	6-7
Big Plans for AKC	8
Membership	9
Meeting Information	10

By the Pond



Mike Roach, President AKC

I will first start off by saying that I am a 47 year old man... but at this point all I want to say is YIPPEEEEEEEEEEEEE. We're getting decent rainfall, the grass is a beautiful color green, many spring plants and tree's are coming into bloom, and best of all my wet pets have become very active again... just love that!

Although I was absent, I hear that our last meeting went very well, and I would like to specially thank Splendor Koi for hosting our March club meeting. Thank you Chuck!

This month we have the ever exciting Club Auction. My first experience with this event was last year and I had a blast. And if everything happens as planned this will be even better. I'm looking forward to what Steve Castel has planned for everyone! For members, if you are planning to provide fish for the auction, be sure to visit the Auction Details at AtlantaKoi-Club.org and submit the appropriate forms. If you would like to volunteer and help, please contact Bill and Peggy Fricke.

Lastly, if you have volunteered to show your pond on this year's Pond Tour, please be sure to fill out your Pond Description and submit back to Gloria Jones. If you would like to show your pond, please be sure to contact Gloria as well. We would love to have you on the tour, and it is events like this that help further our hobby of Koi keeping!

See you on April 18th at Coastal Pond Supply for the 2009 Koi Auction!



Carolyn Swanson won the Judges Award in Orlando!

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.

Atlanta Koi Club Officers 2009

President

Mike Roach
pres@atlantakoiclub.org

Vice President

Michael Anderson
vp@atlantakoiclub.org

Secretary

JoANN Elmore
scribe@atlantakoiclub.org

Treasurer

Steve Castel
money@atlantakoiclub.org

Property Manager

Bill Fricke
stuff@atlantakoiclub.org

Appointed officers

Membership

Phyllis Loudermilk &
Robin Scott
join@atlantakoiclub.org

Koi Show

David Pugh
koishow@atlantakoiclub.org

Koi Auction

Steve Castel
auction@atlantakoiclub.org

Pond Tour

Gloria Jones
tour@atlantakoiclub.org

P.R. Director

Josh Bare
pr@atlantakoiclub.org

AKCA Director

Vicki Knill
rep@atlantakoiclub.org

Newsletter Editor

Toni Anderson
report@atlantakoiclub.org

Webmaster

Michael Anderson &
Adam Therrell
wizard@atlantakoiclub.org

AKC CALENDAR

If you would be willing to host the November Social, please contact me .
vp@atlantakoiclub.org or 678-297-7926
Michael

The currently planned meetings and events are:

April 18, 2009 Auction @ Coastal Pond
Need hosts to operate the concession stand

May 17, 2009 Flat Rock Koi

June 14, 2009 Summer Social
—Mike & Phyllis Loudermilk

July 12, 2009 Chuck & Heddy Hamann

August 9, 2009 Harm & Ev Garrin

September 13, 2009 Work day for Koi Show @ Coastal Ponds Hosts: David Boyd & David Pugh

October 11, 2009 Elections Doug & Nancy Tatz

November 8, 2009 Winter Social
We need a host with inside entertaining space

Flat Rock Koi is having another pond pull (IKEAGE).

We will be harvesting ponds on May 16th and 17th.

The Atlanta Koi Club is invited on the 17th as a club function. Regular May meeting.

We will have BBQ and beer. Bring your waders if you wish to participate. Address is on the website www.flatrockkoi.com



Koi Shows and Events

May 1-3 2009 — Macon GA — First Annual Koi Show. Reserve your tanks immediately.

Bart asked to tell all the Atlanta folks that a vendor at his show is bringing special plants to sell. Koi & Lilies was a vendor @ Orlando and will be a vendor at the Macon show on May 1. She (Kathy Barnard) is coming from Alabama with some interesting and awesome pond plants.



The *REFERENCES* pages of our web-site have been extensively updated. Most books can be purchased on Amazon or by looking up "books" search engines. Check it

out!

<http://www.atlantakoiclub.org/refernces/refernces.htm>

Let's Celebrate!



This is AKC's 20th Anniversary year!
Let's plan a year long party !!

Dinner With Masaharu Hoshino

Toni Anderson ³

When the invitation from Flat Rock Koi came, I was excited and puzzled. Excited because I was actually going to meet Masaharu Hoshino of Koda Koi Farm...and be able to talk with him about koi. I was puzzled by my nervousness about choosing questions to ask. I'm seldom at a loss for words. This was different. I was very mindful of cultural differences, and I didn't want to come across as rude or thoughtless. I should have found something else to worry about.

Masaharu is a gentle man with a ready smile and a firm handshake. He put me at ease. Four couples had been invited to dinner (Chuck & Heddy Hamann; Gary & JoANN Elmore; Eric & Melanie Hurst; and Michael and me.) We came early so we could spend time with Masaharu and Carl — and talk fish.

I've been keeping koi for many years. I have longed to go to Japan "just to see how this whole business works" — that said, I realized going on my own was just not feasible. When I first began buying koi the breeder was unimportant — I just picked fish I liked. As my taste grew for better quality fish, my need to know about the breeders grew. Koi magazines began interviewing different breeders. Interesting articles to be sure, but something was still missing. Now, I know just what.

Carl had told us about Masaharu's keen eye for quality. In order to show his guest at his best, Carl devised a game which would require Masaharu to choose the best fish from a tub of randomly chosen fish. The guests collaborated first — then Masaharu showed us his choice. Koda Koi Farm specializes in Gosankes — most of these fish were not Gosankes. The first four or five were Kujaku, a couple of showa, a few sanke — etc.

In the beginning I observed rather than playing in earnest. Everyone expressed opinions. Masaharu joked with us and showed his comedic side... we should have realized the ruse.

Carl picked a Kujaku first. "What about this one?"

Almost instantly the Kujaku disappeared back into the tank. "Hi will fade in time." Was the reply. The next Kujaku went back because it was male. Carl caught it again and flipped it over. Sure enough...male. Lucky guess? No.

We went through the whole lot of fish. One by one they kept being put back — none was a bad fish...the game was to pick the BEST fish.

Finally there were two fish left — a persimmon sanke with a very unusual markings and a gin rin showa with a lightning bolt across the tancho—and very white skin. We had learned to be very picky by this time. Masaharu clowned around ...seemingly ignoring the fish in the tank.

(Continued on page 7)

THE POND PROFESSIONAL™



Dave A. Jones
(770) 592-2273 office
(770) 924-9589 fax
(770) 924-1337 home



**Certified
Master Pond
Contractor**

[www.ThePond
Professional.com](http://www.ThePondProfessional.com)

Water Features	Landscaping	Tree Removal
Retaining Walls	General Contracting	Koi & Goldfish



KOL KOI
Pond and Water Garden

Blackwater Creek Koi Dealer

Josette Costa
Owner
www.kolkoi.com
info@kolkoi.com

2908 Moon Station Road
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
Phone: 678.932.9277
Fax: 678.659.9904



Officers Present: Michael Anderson
Steve Castel

Bill Fricke
JoANN Elmore

OLD BUSINESS:

Rental Agreement with Middle Georgia needs to have a dollar amount assigned . Since Bart Atkinson is a member of the Atlanta Club also, it needs to not to be perceived as a loan. Bart was present at the meeting and an agreement was reached.

Agreement with Cary, North Carolina Club needs to be finalized. Steve will contact them to determine how many tanks they need. It should be done in 2 weeks.

Greenville show is October 2-4. Since the Cary show follows an Agreement needs to be established between Greenville and Cary to exchange tanks rather than both Clubs coming to Atlanta.

Discussed if Non-Member Ponds should be included on the Pond Tour in June and if so, how many. All Officers discussed whether or not anyone wanting to have their pond on the Tour should be required to join the Club. Bill Fricke suggested that it would be a way of allowing our sponsors to advertise their construction abilities. They support us and it would be a way for us to support them. It was determined later via Executive Board email that 50% of the Ponds can be Non-Member constructed by Club Sponsors. The number will be equally divided among the Sponsors.

Purchase items:

Steve will purchase a 70" Projection Screen for under \$200.

Cardboard fans will be ordered for the Auction to be number for bidding.

75 new air stones will be ordered for the tanks for the Auction. Old stones will be donated to the Middle Georgia Club.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Nashville, TN Koi Club is hosting the May 19-23, 2010 AKC Show/Seminar. Kay Rice from the club has begun negotiating borrowing tanks for the event. Need to check what dates the Middle Georgia Club will be renting tanks.

ACTION ITEM: Establish a price table for renting equipment.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Peggy Fricke volunteered to coordinate the Auction setup and takedown. She is looking for volunteer assistance.

Toni Anderson announced this is the Club's 20th Anniversary, 15th Show and 14th Auction.

Gloria updated Pond Tour information. It will be held the weekend before Father's Day and the weekend after. This year it will be divided East/West instead of North/South.

New on our Web-site:

2009

Auction pages with entry forms.
Koi Show pages with entry forms for exhibitors and vendors

2008

Photos from show, banquet etc.



Carolyn Swanson gave the AKC Friendship Award in Orlando in March photo C. Weise



Treasurer's Report

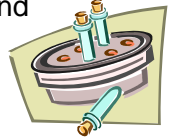
Stephen Castel

5

		For:	February
	<u>Checking</u>		
	Beginning Balance:		\$6,512.05
<u>Income Categories:</u>			
		Total Income	\$1,485.00
<u>Expense Categories:</u>			
		Total Expense	\$353.09
<u>NET</u>			\$7,643.96
	Cleared Balance		\$7,643.96
	Uncleared Payments		\$555.44
	Uncleared Deposits		\$44.00
	Register Ending Balance		\$7,132.52
	<u>Savings</u>		
	Beginning Balance:		\$ 12,372.76
<u>Income Categories:</u>			
		Total Income	\$ 1.42
<u>Expense Categories:</u>			
		Total Expense	\$ -
	Savings Ending Balance		\$12,374.18
	Uncleared Transactions		\$ -
	Register Ending Balance		\$12,374.18
<u>Certificate Of Deposit</u>			
	Beginning Balance:		\$ 6,124.59
	Payments		\$ -
	Register Ending Balance		\$ 6,124.59
<u>Total Assets:</u>			\$25,631.29

How we get it and where it goes

As good water keepers we need to know several things about the make-up of our water and what takes place on a daily basis. We all know that pH is the measure of water being acidic or alkaline. A pH below 7 is acidic and a pH above 7 is called alkaline. 7 is neutral. The pH of fish blood is about 7.4. The blood comes into very close contact with the surrounding water in the fish gills. If the pH of the water is drastically different from the pH of the blood, then the fish has to work extremely hard to maintain its blood pH. At extreme water pH, either very high or very low, the fish is unable to maintain its blood pH and will die. Therefore, the optimum water pH is about 7.4, koi/goldfish can effectively deal with a water pH of about 6.5 to 9.0, and they quickly die when it is below 5 or above 10. The water coming from our tap varies a little but is usually pH 7.2 to 7.8. That is ideal. If you have never asked your water authority for a water test read-out you should. **If you have never tested your source water you should...,NOW.**



Things start to change once we put water in our ponds or tanks. The food we give is broken down by the fish and bacteria and one of the major by-products is carbon dioxide (CO₂) added into the water by their respiration. The carbon dioxide reacts with the water to form carbonic acid. This could make the water acidic and we would expect the pH to slowly decline as we feed day after day and the fish and bacteria continue to respire and release carbon dioxide. But, in the real koi world, we find that the pH fluctuates from day to night, but changes very little overall from one day to the next. So, where is all that carbonic acid going?

Besides having a desirable pH, our tap water has some amount of alkalinity. Depending on the area, alkalinity in our tap water is generally between 100 and 150 ppm. As we will see, you should worry about low alkalinity in your pond when it is below about 50 ppm. At very high alkalinity (200 to 300 ppm) is said to affect color of koi and it does not develop properly. As a general rule, high alkalinity makes beni (red pigments) weak and prone to disappearing all together. However, high alkalinity often makes sumi (black pigments) develop very well.

Alkalinity is also called "buffering capacity". The alkalinity or buffering capacity refers to the waters ability to neutralize acids. The fish and bacteria produce carbon dioxide and the carbon dioxide becomes carbonic acid, the acid is neutralized by the alkalinity. Alkalinity can be thought of as a reserve of bicarbonate. Another familiar type of bicarbonate is those chalky antacids like Tums or Rolaids that we take for heartburn (acid). The bicarbonate neutralizes the acids in our stomachs or our fish ponds.

As long as there is a reserve of alkalinity, the pond water pH remains somewhat stable. That's what we want, stability. However, the alkalinity reserve will eventually be depleted. When the alkalinity is depleted there is no longer anything to neutralize the acids being produced and the pH will plummet. The pH can drop to dangerously low levels almost overnight. Some call this the dreaded pH "crash". Terrible things happen in a pond during a pH crash. The fish are stressed and died very rapidly along with the bacteria in the biofilter.

(Continued on page 7)

**POND
Depot.com**
Your online watergarden Superstore!
www.PondDepot.com
10% Off Enter Coupon Code ATLKOI

**FLAT ROCK
KOI**

3831 Flat Rock Road
Watkinsville GA 30677
706-769-8951
706-769-5305 (fax)

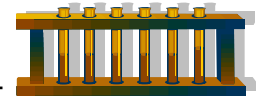
www.flatrockkoi.com
carl@flatrockkoi.com or vicki@flatrockkoi.com

There are several ways to replenish and maintain alkalinity. In a pH crash emergency, you can add baking soda (also called bicarbonate of soda) which will quickly react with the acids to immediately raise the pH. You must check your ammonia and it should be Zero before adding baking soda. However, for routine use baking soda is not really a good choice. As alkalinity is replenished baking soda also raises the pH higher than we may like. It is not uncommon for the pH to reach 8.4 after adding baking soda to a pond but it should not go higher than 8.4. A better way to slowly replenish alkalinity is to have some oyster shells or clam shells in the system. Oyster shells are composed of calcium carbonate and they can be kept in a filter chamber or anywhere that water flows over and through them. The oyster shells will slowly dissolve (over years) as acids



in the pond water attack the shell. Oyster shells will not raise the pH above that of our source water yet they will constantly replenish alkalinity. You can use whole shells or the crushed shell sold at feed stores for poultry grit. Most koi and goldfish keepers replenish alkalinity without realizing it when they do water changes. The amount of water change required to maintain alkalinity at acceptable levels depends on the feeding rate and fish load, but is generally in the range of 20 to 50% per week.

So, how do you know if you have sufficient alkalinity? Well, you can routinely measure the pH and look for signs of a falling pH and a looming pH crash. Just be careful because when the crash happens it happens fast. A safer approach is to measure the alkalinity directly using a KH test kit although the alkalinity kits are much more tedious to use than a pH kit or meter. Good brands of alkalinity test kits, like LaMotte and Hach, cost about thirty bucks, but Aquarium Pharmaceuticals brand kits cost about half as much. You can find one at one of our sponsor koi dealers. You should have a routine water exchange schedule and a steady feeding rate and you should routinely measure alkalinity. If your alkalinity has dropped to 50 ppm before the water exchange then you will want to consider adding oyster shell, baking soda, or changing water more frequently.



(Masaharu Koda Continued from page 3)

Collectively we chose the showa — all of us secretly wanted it. Some of us commented that the sanke looked washed out. Masaharu just waited. When we got through talking... he reached down and picked up the showa and started to put her back into the tank. We protested — all of us! WHY?

With a huge grin he said, “Her head isn’t just right.” We weren’t sure about the translation. HUH?

Carl took the fish between his palms and laid his index fingers alongside the showa. Sure enough. There was an almost imperceptible irregularity : her head did not sit exactly straight on her shoulders. She was perfect in every other way. This minor irregularity, however, would, in Masaharu’s eyes disqualify her as the BEST fish. Very likely a lesser experienced person would never have noticed.

Then we looked down into the bowl at the remaining persimmon Sanke. Masaharu pointed to me and said, “Do you like the color?” He knew the answer. In Japan the persimmon color is prized ... to many Americans,

(Continued on page 8)



**Splendor
KOI &
POND**

www.splendorkoiandpond.com

770-321-FISH
1552 Rosewood Circle • Marietta, Georgia 30067



**Atlanta
Koi & Pond**

Breeder & Dealer of Koi Pond Design & Construction Co.

Imported, healthy, quality Japanese Koi
Clean, clear, healthy, easy maintain pond
Pump, filter, U.V., bottom drain, skimmer
Koi food, medication, water treatment

11:00AM -- 6:00PM
THURSDAY THROUGH MONDAY **770-454-6799**

3291 Shallowford Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341

Celebrating Our 14th Auction



Saturday, 18 April 2009

**Auctioning Koi & Goldfish
Selling used pond equipment and pond plants**

- All bidders must register before the auction.
- Doors open at 10:00 A.M. to view the fish.
- Auction begins at 11:00 A.M. and continues until all fish are sold.
- Purchases must be removed from the premises at the end of the auction.

**Coastal Pond Supply
2101 Tucker Industrial Road
Tucker GA 30083**

For more information www.atlantakoiclub.org

OR

Steve Castel scastel@mindspring.com
www.atlantakoiclub.org



Note to all club members:
If you are planning to sell fish/plants/equipment at the auction... please read the information on the "Auction" pages on the web-site.
www.atlantakoiclub.org

the persimmon looks faded out. To some of us it's an acquired taste. I'll stick with the red.

"No, not my favorite color."

He chuckled. "She is the **Best One**. The color will deepen and the sumi is just started. It will take a lot of time. Look at the depth of the color — you will see. Her skin is very white, her eyes are just right. Time to grow on this one."

We had all learned something. This koi choosing thing is very difficult. Yikes! Can you imagine what culling must be like — when your livelihood depends on choosing for the future?

Later I got to just "talk" about his experiences with the koi. Koda Koi Farm began about 30 years ago. It was his father's venture. He helped and learned, then took over the business about 15 years ago. His father still works with him. His son is currently learning the business.

When asked what his favorite part of the koi business he liked best, he replied: "Breeding the fish." His face showed the love and excitement of this part of the work... "I like to see what we get."

When I inquired about the least favorite / hardest part of the koi business he replied: "Selling! It is so very difficult." I would never have guessed.

Thanks, Masaharu and Flat Rock Koi for making a truly magical evening possible.

Celebrating our 15th Koi Show!



September 18-20, 2009

Coastal Pond Supply
2101 Tucker Industrial Road
Tucker, GA 30083

Koi and Goldfish	Showing Times:
Vendors	9 AM-5 PM / Saturday
Pond Dry Goods	Showing Koi,
Vendors	Long-fins (butterfly)
	and Goldfish
	9 AM-2 PM / Sunday

No Admission Charged



**Want to show off your pond and koi?
Contact Gloria Jones so you can be on
the Pond Tour! (770) 592-2273**

Club Members:
If you are planning to show fish at the show... check out the "Koi Show" pages on the web-site for information about registering and showing fish.

www.atlantakoiclub.org

These posters are for info only... they are not the official posters





Membership

Robin Scott 9

The March meeting was at one of our great sponsors, Splendor Koi & Pond, with a very informative presentation from Doc Johnson.

Please join me in welcoming new members Jack & Pamela Giles and Chris Brechtel & Ana Segarra hope to see all of you at this month's meeting.

We had a great turnout with 52 members and 7 guests attending. AKC's total membership is currently at 134 members plus 6 Sponsors.

Hope to see everyone at Coastal Pond and Supply for the annual auction.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ATLANTA KOI CLUB

"Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi"

www.AtlantaKoiClub.org



Date: _____ Check No.: _____ Check Amount: _____

Type of Membership:	Household:	\$50 for 1 Yr. _____;	\$90 for 2 Yrs. _____
(Check One)	Individual:	\$30 for 1 Yr. _____;	\$54 for 2 Yrs. _____
	Sponsor:	\$150 for 1 Yr. _____	

Other: KOI USA Magazine Subscription: \$20 for 1 Yr. _____
 *Name Badges: \$5 each. _____

Names: _____ & _____
 First Last First Last

Address: _____

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:
Robin Scott, 4331 Filppen Trail, Norcross, GA 30092.

* 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.

Celebrating Our 14th Auction

10

Saturday, 18 April 2009

Auction begins at 11:00 A.M. and continues until all fish are sold.

**Coastal Pond Supply
2101 Tucker Industrial Road
Tucker GA 30083**

**Note to all club members: If you are planning to sell fish/plants/
equipment at the auction... please read the information on the “Auction”
pages on the web-site. www.atlantakoiclub.org**

