

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



KOI CHRONICLES



Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

March 2009
Volume 21, Issue 3

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By the Pond



Mike Roach, President AKC

First, a quick thanks to Michael Anderson for putting together a great February Meeting. He showed a couple of great videos on building ponds, one American Style, and a second one English Style. Due to the length of the videos, one was shown as people arrived to the meeting while the other was shown after club business was finished. If you missed the first video, as I suspect many of you did, let us know if you are interested in seeing it again. And also a special thanks to Steve Castel for hosting the meeting in your company's warehouse. We really appreciate it, and I certainly found it fascinating to see all the various robotics you and your company have produced. Really amazing!

At our last meeting, we also announced that Dave and Gloria Jones will be chairpersons for this year's Pond Tour. I'm excited to see this event take place in 2009, especially since it is the 20th Anniversary of the Atlanta Koi Club. As Dave and Gloria look for ponds to showcase, please think about volunteering your pond. The pond tour is a great way to show off our hobby. Heck, it might even bring in a few more members. That's what happened with me, and I suspect I'm not the only one. J

As the days begin warming up, I get more and more excited about seeing my fish become more active. Along with the warm weather comes spring "pond" cleaning. I've already spent a couple of days over the last few weekends cleaning out our ponds. As I was looking at our main pond yesterday, I was reminded that this is a never ending process as there was already new debris which needed to be cleaned out. But having a clean pond is well worth it not just from a visual perspective but I know the fish love it too!

(Continued on page 3)



Japanese Garden
Photo — David Boyd

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**2009
CLUB DUES ARE PAST DUE!**

Atlanta Koi Club Officers 2009

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Property Manager

Bill Fricke
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Appointed officers

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Koi Auction

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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:

March 8, 2009

Splendor Koi

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



Koi Shows and Events

March 13-15 2009 Central Florida Koi Show Orlando FL
www.cfks.org

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

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.



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/referencnces/references.htm>

Got Signs???

When the trailer was inventoried... we noticed that almost all our club yard signs were missing. Are they hiding at your house? Please bring them to the next meeting. We really need them. Thanks!

Let's Celebrate!



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

From the AKCA Seminar in San Diego



The AKCA changed the seminar dates this year from the last weekend in June to February to allow San Diego to hold the seminar and their annual show simultaneously. David and I had decided last fall that this presented us with a perfect opportunity to combine a trip to the seminar with a trip to San Francisco to visit friends. This was the fifth seminar we have attended. It seems that each year it becomes less about the seminar and more about the chance to connect with koi folks we have met from throughout the country. This year was no exception. We had a great time visiting with many of the past AKC judges and others who have volunteered at our show or whom we have met at the seminars.

The seminar itself was the largest we have attended, but I believe we enjoyed last year in Jacksonville the most since so many other AKC members were in attendance. San Diego made every effort to offer talks that would appeal to a wide audience. The seminars we attended proved to be educational and in some cases entertaining. We attended seminars on subjects ranging from Matching Your Pond to Your Personality to How to Select and Grow Jumbo Koi. One seminar of particular interest was on retrofitting an existing pond. There were also the usual koi health seminars.

This was a special seminar for us as we were able to accept the Koi Person of the Year Award that you honored us with in person. Thank you.

Since there was also a koi show we elected to give a friendship award. The winner was a novice exhibitor, Sandy Fishell. Her fish is a size one Kikusui. We had to work hand in hand with other club representatives to so that we each selected a different fish. Luckily we all agreed on different fish.



Next year the seminar is in Nashville and will be held in May.

(Continued from page 1)

As I wrap up this editorial, I'd like to just mention that I'm very happy to be a part of this club. As I wrote out my check to the Atlanta Koi Club for 2009 dues, I thought about the great friends I've made over the last year and a half, and the fun I've had not only at the club meetings and socials, but at the Auction and Show events too. I've learned so much over this time period that I was happy to write out that check.

A couple of other quick notes... we got some great news from Janet Brock a few weeks back. She shared that her father, Ray Brock, was doing much better. That is truly wonderful news. Additionally, please help me in congratulating David Boyd and David Pugh. They were attending the AKCA Seminar this past weekend in San Diego when they received their award for Koi Persons of the Year for 2008. Congratulations guys...it was well deserved!

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Officers Present: Mike Roach Michael Anderson Bill Fricke Steve Castel JoANN Elmore

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve Castel reported on the issue of Insurance coverage for renting Club Equipment. The Insurance covers the equipment while it is in storage or on loan. The coverage is \$30,000 diminished value.

Mike Roach covered the issues ICW North Carolina rental. Mike has received a copy of a Rental Agreement from Joe White. He has forwarded it to Steve Castel who will review and edit as necessary to cover the rentals. North Carolina only needs tanks and tank nets.

Review last meeting with Bill Fricke and emphasized the he need to be present when the tanks are taken out and returned to make sure everything is recorded.

Bill Fricke reported that the tank borrowed at the Auction last year has been returned. Harold Biggio will be returning a tank today.

Mike Roach brought up the Pond Tour and said that a Volunteer Coordinator by next meeting or there will not be one. Also discussed setting up a MOP for Coordinating a Pond Tour.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michael Anderson said Friendship Awards will be going to the Shows in Hawaii, Orlando and Macon. Doug Tatz has suggested a Form be added to the AKC Website for Non-Members to request information. Michael Anderson will build a method to keep a copy on the site and forward a copy to Josh Bare.

Steve Castel proposed a new Auction format. Attendees will be seated, the fish will be bowled, brought to the front, photographed and projected on a screen while being auctioned. The fish will then be bagged and tagged with the Winners information. The fish will then be taken to the holding area and the bowl and water returned to the original tank. Will need carts and bowls dedicated to each tank. Need to establish procedures and try before implementing.

Bill Fricke said he will be needing supplies for the Auction and Show. Steve told him to buy what he needed and send him the receipts.

Mike Roach mentioned the Survey and said he will be asking the Members at the meeting to review and make suggestions as appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Mike Roach said he received an email from Janet Brock and said that her father is doing well since he was taken off foods with Potassium. They have recently celebrated his 82nd birthday. The Ponds are leafy but doing well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pond Tour – Everyone is interested but no one has volunteered to lead.

Equipment Rental – The Insurance coverage and Liability has been verified for coverage of up to \$30,000 @ diminished value and covers the equipment while stored or on loan. North Carolina has agreed to sign an agreement for tank care and reimbursement. Member agreement was motioned and seconded. The Auction will be April 18, 2009. Reviewed the idea of using a video to auction the fish.

(Continued on page 7)



Treasurer's Report

for January

by Stephen Castel

<u>Checking</u>			
	Beginning Balance:		\$7,297.66
<u>Income Categories:</u>			
		Total Income	\$930.00
<u>Expense Categories:</u>			
		Total Expense	\$1,715.61
<u>NET</u>			
			\$6,512.05
	Cleared Balance		\$6,512.05
	Uncleared Payments		\$883.09
	Uncleared Deposits		\$44.00
	Register Ending Balance		\$5,672.96
<u>Savings</u>			
	Beginning Balance:		\$ 12,371.18
<u>Income Categories:</u>			
		Total Income	\$ 1.58
<u>Expense Categories:</u>			
		Total Expense	\$ -
	Savings Ending Balance		\$12,372.76
	Uncleared Transactions		\$ -
	Register Ending Balance		\$12,372.76
<u>Certificate Of Deposit</u>			
	Beginning Balance:		\$ 6,124.59
	Payments		\$ -
	Register Ending Balance		\$ 6,124.59
<u>Total Assets:</u>			\$24,170.31

AEROMONAS BACTERIA

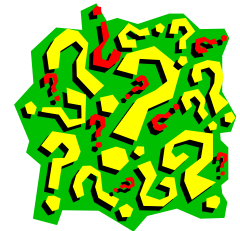
It's lurking in your pond

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.



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carl@flatrockkoi.com or vicki@flatrockkoi.com



October 10, 2008

Dear Mr. Pugh:

On behalf of all the patients and families served by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite, as well as our staff, let me express warm appreciation to you and the Atlanta Koi Club for your \$750 donation to be used for the upkeep of the koi pond. Your generosity had already made possible the "extreme pond make-over" earlier this summer, for which we are most grateful.

We are delighted that you were present for the release of 15 koi fish into the pond. The koi pond is a unique and tranquil spot in the meditation garden where families, patients and staff can experience its therapeutic benefits. It provides a place of privacy and solace for the troubled parents of a critically ill child.

Mr. Pugh, thank you again for the difference you and the Atlanta Koi Club members are making in the lives of our precious children.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Hodoval
Vice President, Development

*This letter was sent to David Pugh because he wrote the original check... and was reimbursed.

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

Suggested the membership review the Survey and making suggestions as appropriate.

Friendship Awards will be taken to Hawaii, Orlando and Macon.

Bart Atkinson reviewed the preparations for the Macon Show May 1-3, 2009. The club has been in existence since 1985 and this will be their first show. Tanks are still available but are going fast if anyone wants to reserve one for their fish. Directions are 1 ½ hours south of the Airport, exit 149 off of I-75.

Mike Roach and David Boyd & David Pugh are going to San Diego for the AKCA Seminar. "The David's" will receive Koi Persons of the year Award.

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THURSDAY THROUGH MONDAY **770-454-6799**

3291 Shallowford Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341

(Continued from page 6)

- 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

(Continued on page 9)

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 never by direct introduction and it will be hygienically maintained on a very regular basis either 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 Hatfield
Master KHA



A beautifully healthy koi...at San Diego Show!
Photo— D. Boyd

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.

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For more information www.atlantakoiclub.org
OR
Steve Castel scastel@mindspring.com



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

**Want to show off your
pond and koi? Contact
Gloria Jones so you can
be on the Pond Tour!
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**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.**



Celebrating our 15th Koi Show!



September 18-20, 2009

Coastal Pond Supply
2101 Tucker Industrial Road
Tucker, GA 30083

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

No Admission Charged





Membership

Robin Scott

The February meeting at our treasurer, Steve Castel's business, TEC Automation, Inc. was very informative. We saw movies about pond building and saw the latest in industrial robotics.

Please join me in welcoming Dana & Jason Daugherty, Mike Elble, David & Benita Gabbard, Melissa West, Deepak Raghavan and Priys Deepak of Sandy Springs and Russell Vinson of Loganville. We're happy you chose to join us in learning about koi and ponds.

We had 41 members & 1 guest attend and AKC's total membership is 177 members plus 6 Sponsors.

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.

Sunday, 8 March 2009 Meeting

Officers meet @ 1:00 P.M. Members meet @ 2:00 P.M.

Hosted by: Splendor Koi

1552 Rosewood Circle Marietta GA 30067

Speaker: Dr. Erik Johnson, DVM

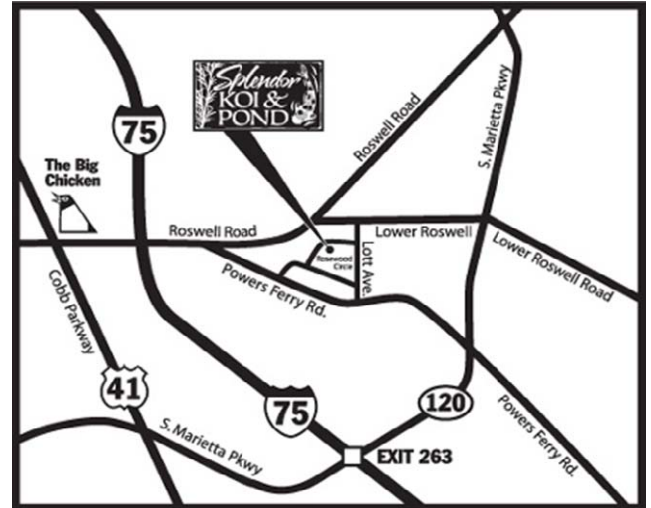
Ten Hindsight Essentials for Koi Keeping Success

From I-75 North or South:

Take Exit 263 and head east toward Roswell. (120 loop) Stay on 120 until you reach Lower Roswell Road. Turn left onto Lower Roswell. Take a left at Lott Avenue. Rosewood Circle is on the right. Turn right, and Splendor Koi and Pond is on the left at 1552.

From Cobb Parkway:

Turn onto Roswell Road (near the Big Chicken) heading toward I-75. Go under I-75 and turn right onto Lower Roswell Road. Take a right at Lott Avenue. Rosewood Circle is on the right. Turn right, and Splendor Koi and Pond is on the left at 1552.



Meeting is planned for outside ... depending on the weather. If it's warm and pretty — outside...if the weather is cold/ raining etc. we have a meeting place INSIDE. Come to the Store for directions to the alternate meeting place —about a block away. Bring your lawn chairs!!!!

