

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



KOI CHRONICLES



Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

April 2013
Volume 25 Issue 4

Gary Elmore, President

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What will April showers bring to your pond?



Feeding Guide

50°F or below:	Fish should not be fed as they are unable to correctly digest food at these temperatures.
50°F - 55°F:	Feed once every three days in the morning. Do not exceed the amount fish will eat within ten minutes. An easily digestible food, e.g., wheat germ, should be used.
55°F - 65°F:	Feed once daily. Do not exceed the amount fish will eat within ten minutes. An easily digestible food, e.g., wheat germ, should be used.
65°F - 85°F:	Feed 2 to 4 times daily. Do not exceed the amount fish will eat within ten minutes.
85°F – and above	Fish should not be fed.
****	Never guess. Your pond should have a thermometer. The Temperature should be stable for several days and always watch the weather to ensure it is going to remain above 55 for a long period of time. Temperature should be stable.



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.

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2013**

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By The Pond

2

Well, after a long wait, Spring has finally arrived. My poor fish thought they would never get fed again. I assume everyone is now feeding so be sure to check your water quality as your filters come back online.

The auction will be here before you know it. There has been a change of plans due to a last minute change at Bill's place. We now have plenty of room to do it inside instead of outside as we originally had planned. So instead of setting up on Thursday, we will set up the Sunday before as we have done in the past. I know this is kinda short notice but anyone that can make it Sunday the 14th to help with setup will be greatly appreciated. Auction on the 20th, be sure to let Steve know if you need a tank to sell fish. Also be sure to let Diane know if you will be there to help. This is our biggest money making event so let's make it as successful as in years past.

Well that's it for the moment, as usual I am sure there's more but we'll get to that when it comes up.....

Gary

There will not be an April meeting other than preparing for and hosting the annual auction. Next formal meeting will be in May.



Atlanta Koi Club

18th Annual Koi Auction
April 20, 2013

Coastal Pond Supply
2110 Tucker Industrial Road
Tucker, GA. 30083
(New Location: Across street from old building)

Doors Open At 9 a.m.
Auction Starts At 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events **SAVE THE DATE!**
6/22/13 Pond Tour
www.Atlantakoiclub.org
or 770-973-2092

IT'S AUCTION TIME

Don't forget...We need volunteers to make this a success. Contact Diane Giangrande ... help@atlantakoiclub.org ... to let her know you're in. Registration forms, rules, and other info are available on the website under Auctions...2013. Complete the forms and return to Steve Castel. Steve can be reached by email at auktion@atlantakoiclub.org.

Hal has requested that anyone with Koi Club signs:

**PLEASE BRING
ALL AKC SIGNS
TO THE AUCTION.
THANKS!**

They're Needed For The Pond Tour

Your Fish Have "Bugs"

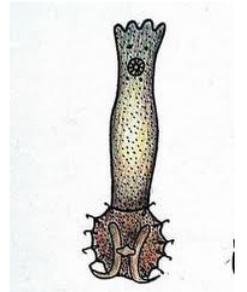
Part 1

This is part 1 of a 2 part article that will be presented over the next two newsletters. Enjoy.



In this article I will attempt to give you a basic understanding of the relationship between your Koi and the many pathogens or possible pathogens that live on and around them. Pathogens are bacteria, parasites and viruses, and a constant threat to the health of our wet pets if not managed properly. Notice I said "managed" because most of these pathogens inhabit your fish or your pond water at all times. Even fish that have been fully treated with all the types of treatments normally utilized in the hobby can still carry a small percentage of these bugs. It is almost impossible to completely eliminate them from the water or the fish. Some of them live deep within the fish where most treatments cannot touch them, and given the right temperature conditions and stressors, can come out from hiding and go to work attacking your fish. It is our job to keep those stress factors to a minimum at least. It is only when they get out of hand or become overpopulated that they usually hurt the fish. You must learn how to keep all this in perspective, and realize that it is your obligation to learn as much about fish health and disease as possible, but at the same time not let it be all consuming.

Prevention and/or the early detection of possible problems are the keys to success. We have all learned the hard way at times, but there is no better teacher than those experiences. Once you have a basic understanding of water quality and its effects on fish, you will have gone a long way in the prevention of any potential health problems. Another key factor in good fish husbandry is the early detection of problems. This is accomplished through the visual interpretation of the fish's body language. They will always give you some sort of sign of impending ill health. If caught early enough, most problems are easily remedied. The next article will be titled "Symptoms of Ill Health" for a more complete listing of the signs of poor health. It will give you a detailed description of how to detect possible problems in the early stages, be it from poor water quality and/or parasites and such by teaching you ways to read the fish's body language.



The Immune System

As mentioned above, it is important for you to understand that ALL fish can carry parasites and possibly even latent, low level bacterial and viral infections. They can and will act as transmitters and possibly contaminate each other, but may not acquire the problem themselves. Whether or not a fish becomes ill or dies because of it, is directly related to things such as stress factors, the integrity of the individual immune system, water quality, genetics, nutrition, age, environmental factors, etc. If a fish carries only low levels of infection, it is possible that they will build immunities to that particular disease or pathogen, and never show any symptoms or become ill because of them.



The immune system in Koi is very water temperature related. The optimum water temperature range to house Koi would from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. At these temperatures the immune system is working at its peak performance This is why in

many cases, the occurrences of sick fish happens in colder water temperatures when the fish's immune system is in a weakened state.

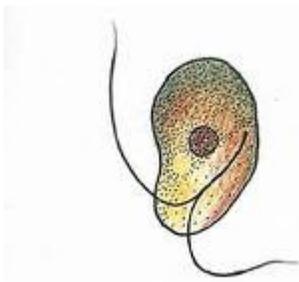
The immune system of fish begins with the layers of skin and scales, which act as physical barriers to stop or detour any potential invaders from penetrating into the organs or bloodstream. This is why it is vital to quickly address any physical breaks in this skin due to injury. Also, fish have an outer coating of slime, which plays a major role in protecting the fish from disease. This slime coat, houses some very important immune related bactericides and fungicides, which are constantly attacking any potential invaders. For this reason it is very important to avoid degrading this slime layer. Poor netting or handling of the fish, as well as poor water quality are the top culprits of disturbing this delicate layer. Never handle fish with dry hands or dry nets, as this will remove the slime very easily. If you must handle the fish, make sure your hands and nets are clean and wet. Much less of the coating will be damaged this way. Try to use a netting material that is made from a soft non-abrasive material as well.



As stated, poor water quality is usually the biggest factor to the detriment of the slime coat. Things such as low pH (below 7 ppm), or any amounts of Ammonia, and Nitrite are just a few considerations.

I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH, THAT MAINTAINING GOOD WATER QUALITY IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF FISH HEALTH.

Currently, throughout the world, there have been outbreaks of some very serious viruses. Most of these are temperature oriented, and only show outward signs in specific temperature ranges. The two most serious viruses are KHV (Koi Herpes Virus) and SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp). These can be deadly to Koi and can cause 100% mortality in the fish population of the infected system. As stated these virus outbreaks tend to be very water temperature dependent in most but not all cases. SVC usually shows itself in the spring at water temperatures between 50 and 68 degrees F. KHV usually shows itself in the spring or fall in water temperatures are in the 70's and especially from 72 to 78 degrees F. Both KHV and SVC are highly contagious and should be officially diagnosed by a qualified lab. This is also the reason you need to be very careful where you buy your fish. There are many comprehensive and strict quarantine protocols that must be done by the retailer/dealer/breeder prior to any fish being sold to the public. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of these commercial operations have these protocols in place



Parasites

All bodies of water have naturally occurring parasites/pathogens, which will eventually end up in and on the fish that live there. The life cycle of many of these parasites relies on utilizing the fish as a host in order to survive and reproduce. Most of these parasites are microscopic and not visible to the human eye, although some parasites such as mature fish lice (Argulus) and anchor worms (Lernea) are visible.

When a fish is born in a given body of water, it's immune system and slime coat immediately go to work on attacking and controlling the particular parasites and pathogens that live in that particular body of water. Even before they were born, their parents have passed down certain immunities already. It is important as well to understand that not all waters are alike in their population or type of pathogens. So, let's say a particular fish is born into or came from a body of water whose prevalent parasitic residents are primarily Trichodina and Costia. As long as the population of these parasites is not overwhelming, that fish, with good water quality will more than likely be able to keep the numbers at an acceptable and manageable level with no ill effects.



Joe

Tune in for Part 2 next month as Joe continues the tour of our ponds.

Thanks Joe.

Joe mentioned many parasites. Could you identify them in the pictures?

March Meeting at Melanie's



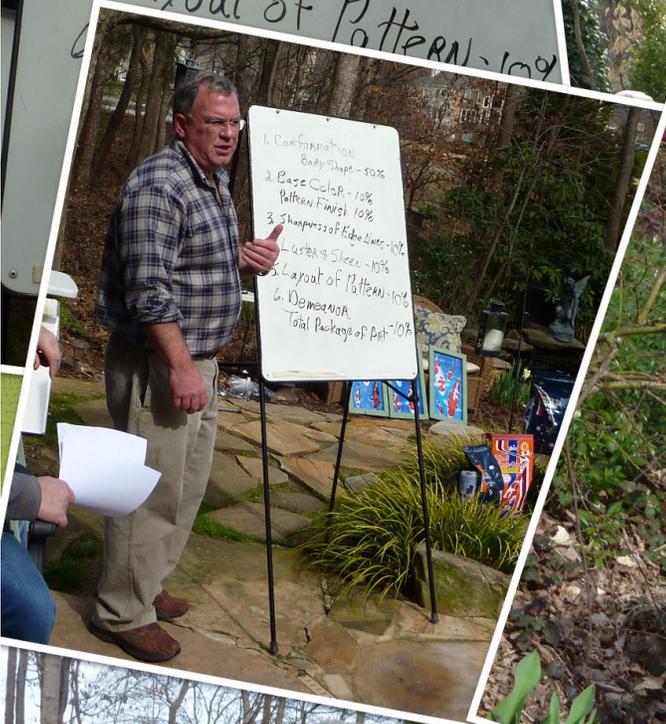
1. Conformation
Body Shape - 50%

2. Base Color - 10%
Pattern Finish 10%

3. Sharpness of Edge Lines - 10%

4. Luster & Sheen - 10%

5. Layout of Pattern - 10%



As you all can see by the pictures, Southern Trillium's display was awesome. New show rules limited our pond to 300 gallons or less but Southern Trillium made the best of the space available.

Lyle Collins, Luke Fincher and Kelly Wilson of Southern Trillium truly deserved the numerous awards they received for their efforts.



I was there when the judges were reviewing the display on Thursday and the comments were off the chart.

The event was well attended although the later hours were not as busy. I'd like to thank Hal and Susan Brown, Gary and JoAnn Elmore, Chase Tomkosky, Betty Nottingham, Diane Giangrande, David Boyd, David Pugh, Lynn Dowden and Ron Scott for taking the time to represent the club.

This event couldn't have been done without Robin Scott's dedication and knowledge of the show rules and requirements.

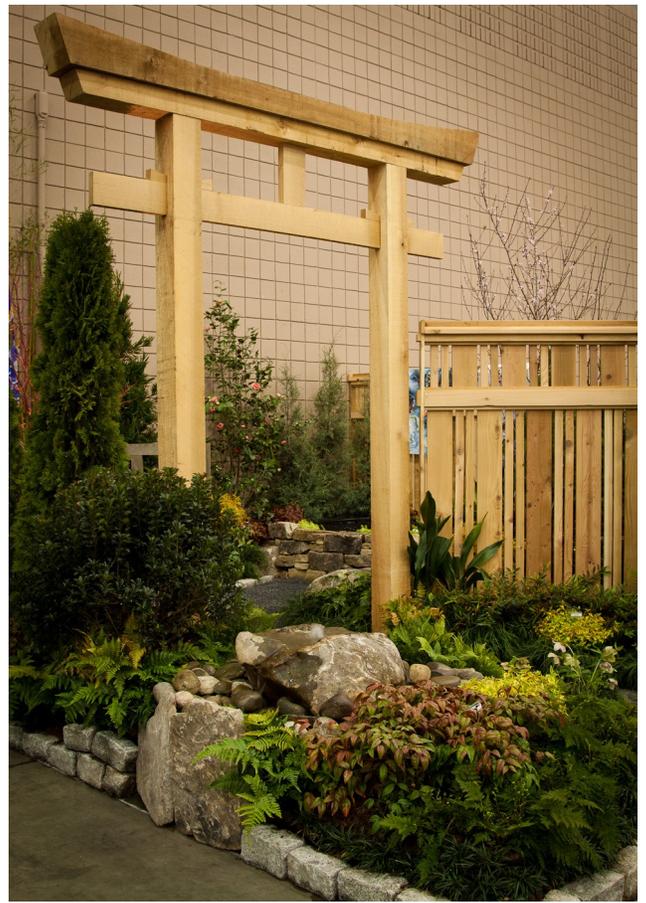
A SPECIAL thank you has to go to Bill and Lynn Dowden as they both went above and beyond in materials (pond, Koi, chemicals) and moral support. Bill's staff also helped recreate the show flyers and printed all of them.

All of the Flower Show staff that I talked with during the days of set up and show time made a point to tell me that they were impressed with the display and the AKC's dedication to continuing a long tradition of providing a pond display and educating the public with the joy of keeping Koi.

A job well done to all.

Doug Tatz
Flower Show Chairman





POND and WATER GARDEN TOUR

June 22, 2013 Saturday 9:30am - 5:30pm

ATLANTA KOI CLUB

SAVE THE DATE!



You don't want to miss this biennial event to visit some of our member's beautiful ponds and gardens. Whether you already have a pond, planning a pond or just want to escape to a little bit of paradise, we welcome you.

Koi have been kept for centuries. First for food to survive winters in inaccessible areas of Japan and then for enjoyment. The oldest known koi in captivity scaled tested 226 years. Believe it or not.

Koi and gardens come in a variety of beautiful colors and patterns. So, come visit with us and enjoy living art in motion.

Future updates will be posted at:

www.atlantakoiclub.org

**Atlanta Koi Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2013**

Today's meeting was held at the home of Member, Melanie Onushko. VP, Chase Tomkosky, presided over today's meeting, and thanked Ms. Onushko for hosting today's meeting.

There was no meeting of the Executive Committee today. President, Gary Elmore, Property Manager, JoANN Elmore, and Secretary, Gary Lee, were in attendance at the Central Florida Koi Show in Orlando, FL.

The following items were covered at today's meeting:

- New members, Jerry Johnson and Greg Heyman, were recognized.
- Another call for volunteers was made for the upcoming Flower Show; a Friday evening shift is still needed.
- The annual Koi Auction date will be Saturday, April 20th. It will be held at Coastal. More volunteers are still needed, including coverage for the Food Court. Set up will occur on Thursday, April 18th, and fish, plants and equipment are to be brought to the site on Friday, the 19th.
- Another call was made for yard signs needed for the Pond Tour.
- A final call was made for remaining overdue Membership Dues.
- Another call was made for someone to volunteer for the position of Membership Officer and someone for Volunteer Coordinator.[Subsequent to the meeting, Mihoko Chambers and Diane Giangrande volunteered for the respective positions.]
- The upcoming monthly meeting schedule was presented:
 - April – Auction in lieu of a meeting
 - May – open; still need a host to volunteer
 - June – Flat Rock Koi, Watkinsville, GA – Saturday, June 8th.
- Mike Loudermilk's birthday today was recognized and appreciated.

Today's guest speaker was Chuck Jones, owner of Wet Pets, Dahlonaga, GA. His talk addressed the lineage and cross-breeding history of present-day Koi varieties. He also talked about selecting tategoi – high-quality young Koi which have the qualities for having a great future as an adult Koi. Mr. Jones also spoke about judging criteria, ranking, and their relative importance.

36 members were present at today's meeting.

Gary Montalto,
Recording Secretary

Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statements
Year to Date
As of March 31, 2013

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

2100 Club Store	250.00
2200 Flower Show Participation	2,000.00
2730 Membership	994.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 3,244.00</u>

EXPENSES

100 AKCA	\$ 100.00
1300 Membership	40.00
600 Koi Auction	337.78
740 Monthly Meeting	150.00
800 Newsletter	5.35
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 633.13</u>

Net Income (Loss) **\$ 2,610.87**

BALANCE SHEET

Assets (not including property in inventory)

Checking Account	\$ 4,474.42
Savings Account	5,956.20
CD (for Koi Health Advisor Program)	6,365.82

Total Assets **\$ 16,796.44**

Liabilities

Outstanding Checks	
#EFT	\$ 100.00
#EFT	185.00
#EFT	2,000.00

Total Liabilities **\$ (2,285.00)**

Net Worth **\$ 14,511.44**

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