

Where Do the Fish Live While We Build a New Pond??

Nancy and I recently moved to Gainesville, Georgia, and are facing the same issues any koi hobbyist is faced with, namely how handle our koi during the move.

Our solution has been to set up 2800 gallon backyard pool as a temporary home for our collection. The pool measures 14 feet in diameter at its widest towards the bottom, and tapers up to 11 feet at the top. An 8 inch rim circles the top. The actual water depth is 34 inches.



One advantage to this pool's shape is that it provides some shade and safety as the koi swim below the rim. The bamboo fence behind the pool will eventually be used as an additional shade cover, now that our actual fence is completed. The pool will also be covered with netting to prevent jumpers and/or predators.



An arrangement of plants sits atop a stand in the main pool, and provides a hiding place for the fish. This arrangement is protected from the voracious koi, unlike the floating parrot feather I got at the auction last week, which

will most likely eventually be consumed by the koi.

The pool came with a standard external pool filter, which is a basic pump with an accordion style filter. I imagine that this media will clog quite rapidly once I stock the pool, so later I'll add some type of pre-filter to handle that problem when it occurs.



Otherwise the filtration system is home made, and consists primarily of a large 300 gallon **Rubbermaid** tub. This tub sits on a concrete block platform so that it is slightly higher than the main pool.

A small 350 gph pump recycles water from this tub to a 35 gallon container on a wooden platform, full of various media, including different types of foam and 10 lbs of crushed shells. This small filter had been in use at our old house since last year so the media is well seasoned and brimming with good bacteria. The small pump sits in a blue plastic garbage can with filled with plastic landscape scrap material (thanks Shorty!), that shields the pump's foam pre-filter from crud build-up.

Filtered water shoots back into the large filter tub creating lots of aeration. As you can see from the picture above we have many plants in this tub including Iris, parrot feather, and submerged clumps of anacharis. Several small goldfish live here as insect control.

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Perched on the other side of the 300 gallon tub is our home-made trickle filter. This is a plastic multi-drawer shelf from Wal-mart - each shelf is drilled full of holes and filled with a variety of materials. The whole contraption is encased in cedar wood in a crude attempt to represent an oriental Temple. The main purpose for the cedar is to limit the sun's effect on the plastic drawers, but certainly a little camouflage was in order.

Note the supports used to hold the trickle tower in place in the event of strong winds; believe me you don't want a trickle tower falling into the pool ... not pretty! I'll eventually replace the wooden supports with metal wires.



Water is pulled from the main pool using a 700 ghp pump and delivered to the top of the trickle filter. The first 2 drawers have nothing but plastic perforated golf balls. These are the pre-filter sections and need occasional rinsing. Increasingly tighter media is used in the lower drawers which is where most of the biological activity takes place. These lower drawers almost never need cleaning. Filtered water is returned to the tub which then flows back to the main pool.

The large white drain pipe (gutter) is a temporary fix to handle excess water capacity, and will be removed once I install a larger overflow pipe.

Water quality is excellent (right now). The main pool has 2 "test" koi and several small goldfish which have successfully survived a week. Soon I'll bring over our koi collection, ranging in size from 8" to 24". At that time I will also bring their established filter consisting of a 55 gallon drum pre-filter with a 35 gallon filter tub, and connect this unit to a 1700 ghp pump directly in the main pond.

Pond Tour Update

The planning for the pond tour is complete. We will have a total of 16 ponds on the tour, including the VIP Social. Descriptions of the ponds are on the website. Booklets will be available at through PayPal, at four Pikes locations and Atlanta Water Garden's early next month. If you are anxious and don't want to wait to get your reservations in you can always send your check to:

David Pugh
AKC Pond Tour
814 Fern Street
Marietta, GA 30067

The tour dates are June 2 & 3 and June 16 & 17 from 9am to 5pm each day. The VIP Social is on June 2 from 7pm to 10 pm.

Tickets are priced at \$25 per vehicle which includes admittance to both tour weekends and \$10 per person for the VIP Social. There will be only 40 tickets available for the VIP Social.



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Koi CPR —Ulcers

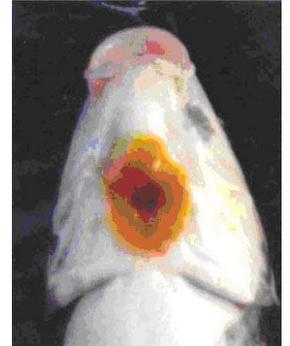
You've had your cup of coffee, got a glance at a few pages of the news and it's off to the mines. As you're walking to your car... Oh no! One of your prize Koi, stiff as a board, lying just on the edge of the drive. So you pick it up and head for the trash...

Hold on! Koi are really pretty resilient and their heart continues to beat an hour or more after they've stopped breathing (or is that "gilling"). No way!

Koi CPR

Actually there is. Here's the drill. Get your Koi to the pond... like NOW! If it only went on its walk a few minutes ago it most likely will just swim away. If it was on a really long walk, but you can still see some movement in its gill covers, start CPR! Here's how.

Jump in the water with the fish and flip it over... belly up, head facing away from you, grabbing on either side, with your thumbs facing up. In smaller fish place one thumb, for larger fish two thumbs, on the brown area in the picture. The heart lies just below the lower part of the spot, so you might even feel a faint pulse.



Your goal is to force highly aerated water through the mouth and over the gills by a combination of thumb movement and by physically moving the Koi back and forth through the water. Gently press your thumb(s) down and move them forward. You want to use just enough pressure to force the mouth and gill covers to open with each push of the thumb(s). If you're doing it right you should see air bubble from the mouth with each push. Keep repeating the maneuver at the rate of 60 – 90 pushes per minute.



If you got to the fish in time, it will start coming around in a few minutes. Keep up the CPR, but try and match the Koi's rate and don't push quite so hard. Once the Koi is fully oriented, active and insistent on getting the heck away (depends, but probably 15 minutes), let it swim away.

But this little guy is stiff as a board and there is no movement of the gill cover! When you get it back into the pond you'll be amazed and how quickly the body softens and the slime coat returns. But you must act! In the advance first aide kit (see April newsletter), Dexamethasone is listed. This drug can literally bring a koi back to life. So start CPR as above, and get someone or stop a few seconds to draw up a 3 cc syringe with 2 cc of Dex. (If it's a 6" fish give 0.5 cc intraperitoneally (IP); if 12 " give 1 cc IP; if 18" give 1.5 cc; if 24 " give 2 cc; if 30" give 2.5 cc). Then resume CPR. Results are really amazing and save many a fish that others might write off.

That was my original article, but a fair number of you folks are fighting ulcers that just don't go away. So let's talk about that a bit. Before getting into the specifics, we need to talk about how Koi get sick, your real job in keeping koi and a concept called "benign neglect."

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