

## Help Your KHA's Help You.

We hope everyone enjoyed the pond tour and the great weather we had for our two weekends. This article will be more of a vent of frustration rather than what you have seen in the past from your Koisan's. So here goes.

The names have been change to protect the innocent. Just the facts please, just the facts.

Over the past few weeks both KHA's have visited almost a dozen ponds. Some club members some not. Folks are experiencing some problems out there. Mostly we heard "Help us, my fish are dieing and I don't know what to do."

Upon evaluation a lot of similarity has existed in quite a few places. When you get down to the bottom line the problems have all stemmed from not performing a proper Quarantine. Hey, didn't any one read the article written back in the spring on Quarantine? Guess not. Shame, Shame, Shame on you. So here is a short reminder. If you do not quarantine your new fish, you run the explicate risk of **KILLING ALL YOU FISH.**

Here is our vent. When the KHA's come to your pond they try to access problems and ask a lot of silly questions. When asked about what has been going on with ponds and fish we heard some good excuses. "I got them from a reputable source". "I don't have a Quarantine Tank." "My fish are very strong and have never been sick." "I have never had problems before." Give me a break.

People, the pathogens (bugs) that come on your new fish that you got from a reputable source can be one's that you existing fish have never been exposed to and visa versa. After you dump them into your pond, in a few short days all hell breaks loose. Those bugs get in the new water and find fresh meat. They go nuts. The fish start to flash, some sit on the bottom, others isolate under the water falls, a whole host of things that tell you they are in trouble to include death. As part of the proper Quarantine you could have slowly introduced those new pathogens via and addition of your own ponds water and maybe one of the existing pond fish to check for the problems slowly. That way only one fish will be exposed and not your entire pond.

Here is another gripe. Your KHA's show up, at their own expense, dedicate a lot of personnel time and energy to your pond, and make educated recommendations for a treatment to aid your pond and fish. After a lengthy evaluation, instructions to perform a Potassium Permanganate (PP) treatment over the next 4-5 days are left for the pond owner. We even leave the PP to do the job. The pond owner later talks to several of his buddies and decides that Fred's instructions to add H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at the end of each treatment is the way to go, and his water will be pretty and clear too. That's wonderful. What the buddy didn't tell him was that the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> counteracts the PP treatment and lasts for at least 3 days. So, all the rest of the PP treatments the pond owner is performing are not doing a thing to help your fish or overall pond water quality. The pond owner doesn't know why

his fish are still flashing and dying off. Because he didn't follow the recommendation, his fish still have Flukes and Trich.

Another pond owner decides that he would rather go with a salt treatment in place of a recommended PP treatment. The pond owner did not tell the KHA that he was not going to perform the recommended treatment. Not a problem. It's his pond and his fish. However, the pond owner doesn't understand that salt will not kill the bugs his fish have that the KHA found during a scrape and scope. The salt at best will take 14 to 21 days to do its job. In the mean time the fish continue to have severe problems. Salt is great but you have to know what it will work on. Also, you just can not dump 100 lbs of salt into your pond and not know you exact gallons. The addition of salt improperly will KILL fish. If you have no way of knowing your ponds volume or performing salinity testing, don't do it.

Another pond owner has learned how to treat ulcers. But the ulcers don't seem to heal. Upon investigation we find out the pond owner commits a very common mistake. After the initial wound cleaning and treatment, the pond owner decides to do the cleaning and treatment every day for a week. More is better, right? Not a good thing to do. The ulcer never has a chance to heal. The healing skin is cleaned away with every application of medication. These good intentions that the pond owner has as he continues to add H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on the wound every day has a very negative effect. The wound never has a chance to heal and the fish is more likely to get additional infection both externally and internally. When we return to check the critter's progress we can't figure out why we still have a problem. Owner does not tell the KHA of his new found skills until questioned days later.

When the KHA's shows up to evaluate the pond, there is a preferred method to the massive amounts of questions asks, test taken, and observation of the fishies that are done. When we ask what has been put into the pond recently and the pond owner say "Nothing", yet we see three bottles of Melafix, three bottles of Pimafix, and six empty bottles of the slew juice concocted by that reputable source lying near by we wonder what is really going on. Pond owners have to be honest and forth right with the KHA's and tell them what they have done in order for the KHA's to get a complete understanding of the overall health situation. Not knowing the addition of a simple thing can mean the difference between fish living and dying. It is the pond owner's responsibility. KHA's are not good at mind reading.

Pond owners have the right to do as they see fit with their pond and fish. However, after the KHA has made an educated assessment and gives a recommendation to that pond owner and the pond owner chooses not to follow recommendations, the KHA's have no obligation to continue to visit and provide advice, especially if it is not being utilized. Time and efforts can be spent where needed elsewhere.

KHA's performed this service because they love the hobby and want to help people. They utilize their personnel time, energy, gasoline, ware and tear on their vehicles, and personnel equipment to help fellow Koi Kichi People.

Help Us Help You.

Koisan Joe