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Editor	Bob Chaffer
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February, 2017

By the Pond

by Diane Giangrande

Hi All,

If you missed the January meeting, you missed a good one. Thanks to Vicki Vaughan from The Koi Store for giving a very informative talk about quarantining. If you missed it or just want more information there are several articles on our web site.

I am happy to announce that Ken Jett has taken over as Volunteer Coordinator. Soon he will be sending out a link for the Sign Up Genius for the auction. Please make sure you sign up for something. The auction is the biggest fundraiser we have for the club and it takes lots of bodies to make it work well. The web site contains a seller registration form as well as all the information about the auction. If you have questions, please contact our auction chair, Gary Elmore.

As a reminder, the club has 2 foam fractionators available for purchase. These were built by Michael Anderson at one of our meetings last year. Four were built and 2 sold. Also, if you have any pond equipment to sell as a member you are entitled to put an ad in the newsletter.

The February meeting is at Coastal Pond – Jerry will have more info below.

Hope to see everyone there.

Thanks,
Diane

As a reminder, we will be holding our February Meeting this Sunday at Coastal Pond Supply and hosted by Bill and Lynn Dowden. Coastal is located at 2110 Tucker Industrial Road in Tucker, GA 30084. Like last year, Bill and Lynn will be offering pond supplies at great prices, so check your nets, dates on your test kits, and supplies of great products like Amquel, Minn Finn, Potassium Permanganate, Sodium Thiosulfate, and other necessities. Michael Anderson will give us a tour of our new website and Gary Elmore will teach us about the most important quality of show fish - confirmation. The Executive Committee will meet at 1:00 PM with the General Meeting starting at 2:00

We have also finalized our March Meeting thanks to Melanie Onushko. The Atlanta Koi Club will have a complimentary information booth at the Atlanta Bonsai Society Show at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens on March 18th and 19th. The Atlanta Bonsai Society has also agreed to let us hold our meeting on Sunday, March 19th. **NOTICE NEW TIMES:** The Executive Committee will meet at 12:00 Noon and the **General Meeting at 1:00 PM.** The speaker will be from the Atlanta Bonsai Society and will begin his talk at 1:00 PM. Members are encouraged to come early to view or purchase Bonsai. When you arrive at the gardens, just walk through or tell them you are with the bonsai society. If you have any problems call Melanie 770-315-5200 and we'll make sure you get in. There is no fee to the Bonsai Show, but you will have to pay your own parking. This is a separate company and the fee is non-negotiable - so plan on carpooling as much as possible. Bonsai are a great way to have plants around your pond, without having to worry about invasive roots. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens are located at 1345 Piedmont Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. Thanks again to Melanie for setting up this meeting. Jerry Johnson

The Atlanta Koi Club will have a booth at the Bonsai Show. Please volunteer for a few hours, or stop by and see the show. A sign up genius will come out shortly.

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Atlanta Bonsai Society Spring Show 2017

<p>Come to our annual bonsai show</p> <p>The exhibit will contain over 70 specimen trees</p> <p>There will also be an exhibit of Japanese viewing stones</p> <p>Judging / awards Saturday</p> <p>Bonsai auction Sunday</p> <p>Vendors will have trees, pots, stands and bonsai accessories for sale</p> <p>Saturday 9-5 Sunday 9-3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March 18 & 19 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Day Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guest artist: Juan Andrade</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: small;">2016 Best in Show winner</p> </div>
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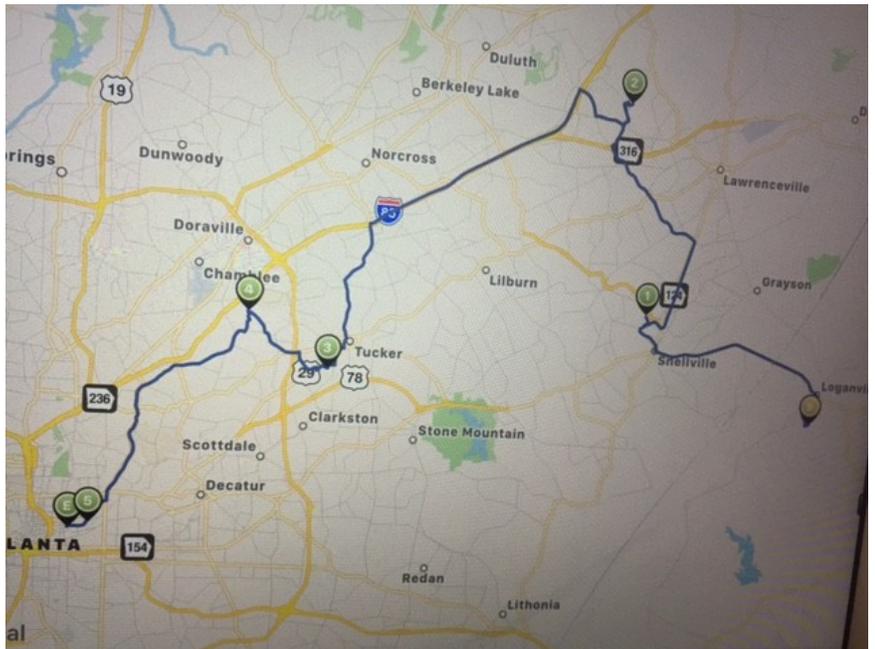
**Please remember our Sponsors:
Pondscapes of Atlanta and The Koi Store**



Our Pond Tour is coming up soon!

By Melanie Onushko

This is the area I'm looking at for the pond tour. If you are interested in being on the tour and fall in this general area, please email me ASAP. Melanie_o@comcast.net



Fractionators for Sale!!!!

Here's a photo of poor Mike Anderson. He bought enough material to make 4 Fractionators, but sadly, he still has 2 left. They are basically a tower with beads inside that aerate the water cascading through them. The aeration creates foam, which sticks to icky stuff in the water. The foam is then ejected at the bottom of the unit. This really works!! Copious amounts of dirty foam are removed from the pond water.



Club Meetings	Location	Speaker or Topics
January Meeting – Saturday, January 14 th at 2:00 PM	The Koi Store	Vicki Vaughan – Proper Quarantine; New Fish
February Meeting – Sunday, February 12 th at 2:00 PM	Coastal Pond Supply	Spring Sale, Website Tour, Fish Confirmation
March Meeting – Sunday, March 19 th at 1:00 PM	Atlanta Botanical Gardens	Atlanta Bonsai Society
April Meeting – No Meeting Due To Auction		
May Meeting – Sunday, May 21 st at 2:00 PM		
June Meeting – Saturday, June 10 th at 6:00 PM		
July Meeting – Saturday, July 15 th at 6:00 PM		Summer Social
August Meeting – Saturday, August 12 th at 6:00 PM		
September Meeting – Sunday, September 10 th at 2:00 PM		Preparation for Show
October Meeting – No Meeting Due To Koi Show		
November Meeting – Sunday, November 12 th at 3:00 PM		Winter Social
December Meeting – No Meeting		
Club Events		
Atlanta Koi Club Auction – Saturday, April 22 nd	Coastal Pond Supply	Chairman – Gary Elmore
Atlanta Koi Club Pond Tour – Saturday, May 6 th	Various Locations	Chairwoman – Melanie Onushko
Atlanta Koi Club Koi and Goldfish Show – Friday, September 29 th through Sunday, October 1 st	Gwinnett County Fairgrounds	Chairpersons – Diane Giangrande and Jerry Johnson
Surrounding Club Shows		
Orlando Show – Friday, March 10 th through Sunday, March 12 th		
Louisville Show – Friday, May 26 th through Sunday, May 28 th		
Carolina (Raleigh) Show – Friday, September 15 th through Sunday, September 17 th		
Greenville Show – Friday, October 6 th through Sunday, October 8 th		
Low Country (Charleston) Show – Friday, November 3 rd through Sunday, November 5 th		

Introducing New Koi

by Joe Darsey

Originally published in Koi, USA in our 1995 newsletter

No doubt you have read and heard many things about introducing new fish to your pond. There are myths, facts, and fallacies about this topic as there are about most other aspects of Koi keeping. Getting a batch of new Koi into the pond is not a physically difficult thing to do but is one of the most basic and important steps in proper fish management. Eagerness to see the fish in their new home (and perhaps a bit of laziness on our parts) can lead to introduction of disease which is much more difficult to eradicate in the pond, than to prevent.

The need for quarantine of new arrivals into a separate holding tank for a time has several aspects to consider, and the importance of these various aspects can change. Numerous things stress fish during removal from one body of water, transfer, and replacement into another body of water. Chemical and physical factors which we can and must consider are temperature, pH, ammonia, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels. The duration of transfer for shipping, with the attendant jostling movements must be physically stressful to fish—we can only estimate this by observing them, their behavior, and in the chemical changes we measure.

Visual inspection of new fish is important both for obvious signs of disease and physical damage.

PREPARING TO SHIP

Several of the most important steps in shipping are in the hands of the shipper. Two things he can do to reduce fish morbidity are the withholding of food for several days prior to shipping, and using an ammonia-binding product such as Kordon's AmQuel in the shipping water. Not feeding fish reduces, but does not eliminate, ammonia production, most of which is emitted through the gills, and not in the feces, as koi lore has it. Not feeding fish also reduces demand for dissolved oxygen in the water, which could be critical sooner than ammonia production. Placing AmQuel in the shipping water binds the ammonia into a harmless form for the duration of the trip—the ammonia is still there but is rendered non-toxic to the fish. Everyone seems to agree on filling a durable bag with enough suitable water and oxygen and putting it into a sturdy shipping container. The shipping bag is not the best time or place for disease or parasite treatment or prophylaxis—the fish are stressed enough already without adding anything further.

We'll assume your fish have been properly bagged and shipped, and have arrived safely.... all dangerous assumptions, but largely out of our control. When you open the box at home start thinking about temperature, pH, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and ammonia. You can float the bag in the quarantine tank or another basin of water to begin temperature equalization, while preparing to measure the other factors. Realize that reports and observations show that going to warmer water is less stressful than going to colder. Despite what you have heard about gas exchange through plastic bags, do not be concerned about it- the exchange through the walls of shipping bags is just not that significant.

OPENING THE BAG

Upon opening the bag, begin to measure pH and ammonia. The pH of the shipping water is likely to be low due to carbon dioxide build up from fish respiration. The ammonia is likely to be elevated for the same reason. Luckily, ammonia is much less toxic at low pH (and low temperature) than at higher pH, but

consider what might happen if you now threw an air stone into the bag. The carbon dioxide would be driven out of the shipping water, and the pH would shift toward higher levels releasing ammonium ions toxic to the fish. The first step then is to measure the ammonia level with a suitable sensitive test kit. If AmQuel was used in the shipping water, test with one of the many kits which test for ammonia correctly in the presence of AmQuel, which interferes with the common Nessler's test for ammonia. Test kits which read properly in the presence of AmQuel are Kordon's Salicylate/Ammonia kit, Sea Test Ammonia Kit, Tetra Ammonia Test (with liquid reagents), Aquatronics Salicylate/Ammonia Kit, and the Hach Salicylate/Ammonia Kit. If you have no ammonia test kit at all, now is a good time to put AmQuel into the shipping bag, following directions on the bottle.

Alter first controlling the ammonia, then an air stone can be safely used in the water and/or the pH and temperature adjusted by addition of small amounts of water from the quarantine tank into the shipping bag.

How "equal" do temperature and pH have to be before moving the fish from the shipping bag to the tank? As ballpark guidelines, the end point of pH should be within 0.1 pH unit and the temperature within two degrees F, if moving to cooler water, and about four degrees F if moving to warmer water.

How are fish moved from the shipping bag to the quarantine tank? Try to avoid pouring the contents of the shipping bag into the tank--the dissolved organic materials and other hazards in the shipping water make it very undesirable. In addition to the products of respiration, bacteria and parasites could be introduced in large numbers instead of smaller numbers, which will result from moving the fish, not the water. Either way, they are almost certainly going to be introduced on the fish themselves, as some bacteria and parasites are steadfastly ubiquitous in aquaculture. Minimize the risks and carefully lift each fish with clean wet hands into the tank. Another product that is said to minimize stress on the fish at this point is Kordon's Novaqua. Novaqua helps prevent and repair damage to the fish's slime layer, an important barrier to external infection, and stabilizes (weakly buffers) the pH. It can be added to the shipping bag water and to the quarantine tank as well. Experienced Koi people seem to keep gallons of AmQuel and Novaqua around and have great confidence in these products. We can hope that shippers will learn to use these or similar products routinely when packing the fish.

Acquiring and shipping new fish certainly calls for quarantine prior to introduction to the pond. What if your fish are out for several days at a show? Such environmental stress as a contributing factor to fish disease is extremely important. Isolation of individual fish at shows is a positive step toward preventing disease transmission, but one can make a good case for complete quarantine of the fish for thirty days prior to putting them back into the home pond. That the stress of handling and moving the fish alters their host defense mechanisms is a certainty.

WINTER MOVES?

What are the considerations of acquiring or moving fish in the winter months? As temperatures fall, so do the capabilities of the Koi's immune system. Just as bacterial and parasitic life cycles are slowed by cold, the Koi's immune system works on chemical and enzymatic processes which are depressed by the cold. The important common bacterial and parasitic invaders are likewise much less active at replicating and invading. Thirty days' quarantine may be standard operating procedure in the warm months, but not when water temperatures are below about 50 F. The life cycle of some parasites will be dormant and essentially unreachable with standard treatments. As the water temperature warms in the spring, bacterial and

parasitic growth can get well ahead of the recovery and response of the Koi's immune system. If disease is detected and treated, longer durations for quarantine and treatment will be necessary when temperatures are low. Realize that one of our most useful allies in parasite prophylaxis, Malachite Green and Formalin mixtures*, will not be effective below 50 F because most parasites are not replicating*.

Proper handling of new fish and use of a quarantine tank can significantly reduce or avoid later problems in the pond. If you do not have a permanent quarantine or hospital tank, there are several ways to have one inexpensively. Perhaps the easiest way is to make a wooden box and line it with Permalon or Tetra liner. A kiddie wading pool is an easy, inexpensive alternative.

If a vinyl liner wading pool is used check the label to make sure no algicide is impregnated in the liner. Usually only the largest, most expensive liners are so treated, but check to make sure. Carefully calculate or measure the volume of this tank so that medication and prophylactic baths can be accurately dosed.

Biological filtration is desirable in the quarantine tank--you can easily set up a lava rock or gravel filter in a plastic can beside or in the tank with a small pump either in or out of the water (be sure to use ground fault interruption electrical (GFCI) devices). A large sponge filter run by an air pump can serve the same purpose. Keep a couple of small inexpensive Koi or goldfish in the tank to keep the bacteriological filter bed alive. If you do not provide an adequate bacteriological filter, then you are restricted to very low fish loading or very frequent partial water changes to control ammonia. While putting your fish into quarantine may seem to be too much trouble, this is one procedure that merits repeating the old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Editor's note:

JOE DARSEY's article is timely because we all might be buying some fish this year. You need to have some idea about how the fish might have been handled when shipped to the store or dealer, and how you can introduce the fish in the best possible way. Also, when you are getting ready for the Koi Show and Auction this year, you will need the information about shipping and transporting.

*I am not a fan of Malachite and Formalin in quarantine. Salt at 0.3% is equally effective, and much less caustic to the already-stressed fish. It also permits the function of the quarantine filter to proceed. whereas Formalin may disable the filter, creating the hazard of ammonia accumulation in quarantine.

*Costia and Chilodinlia. as well as several bacteria can function well at 5 Celsius. They should not be under-estimated.

January's Meeting at the KOI Store

January's meeting was held at The KOI Store in beautiful Watkinsville, GA. After a taco lunch, a presentation was made by Vicki Vaughan. The topic was "WHY QUARANTINE?"

By quarantining, she explained that

- A It allows the fish to adapt to your new pond parameters
- B It allows fish to rest without having to acclimate to your other fish.
- C It is easy to "salt-up" without harming salt-sensitive plants and animals.
- D It is easy to determine the exact dosages of salt and other possible medication dosages.

Also discussed were the requirements for a quarantine system, and what we are quarantining for (bacterial issues, viral components (KHV, SVC, Carp Pox), and parasitic diseases (Ich, chilonella, costia, trichordina, flukes, anchor waorms, and fish lice).

Lastly, Vicki discussed analysis methods of identification, followed by discussions.



January 14, 2017 – The Koi Store – Watkinsville, GA

Topic: Quarantine Process (specifically for KHV) – Vicki Vaughan

Attendance: 26

Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes

Executive Officers:

Office	Name	Term	Present
President	Diane Giangrande	2017-2019	X
Vice-president	Jerry Johnson	2016-2017	X
Secretary	Ken Jett	2017-2019	X
Treasurer	Ron Scott	2016-2017	X
Equipment Manager	Gary Elmore	2017-2019	X

Appointed Chairpersons:

Committee	Name	Present
2017 Auction	Gary Elmore	X
2017 Pond Tour	Melanie Onushko	
2017 Show	Diane Giangrande	X
	Jerry Johnson	X
Membership	Melanie Onushko	
Web Master	Michael Anderson	X
Newsletter	Robert Chaffer	X
AKCA Director	Gary Elmore	X
Publicity	Karoy and Chery Jacobs	X
Volunteers	Ken Jett	X

Ron made a motion to accept the 2017 budget as provided. Jerry seconded motion. Acceptance of the 2017 budget passed unanimously.

Executive Team Discussion Items

Show:

Jerry reminded team of change in weekend for the show.

Auction: Michael will update website with upcoming auction information.

Pond Tour: Ron encouraged the sale of ad space to cover printing costs of tour booklet.

General:

Discussed potential topics for upcoming meetings.

Ron reported that he completed state registration requirements for 2017.

Ken presented potential survey questions for member survey to garner feedback on attendance and volunteer engagement. Ken will forward digital copies to team for feedback and work to get survey out to members before next meeting.

Meeting was held at The Koi Store. Vicki Vaughan presented an informative presentation about quarantine processes to best ensure that new koi are ready for your system. Her discussion included distinctions in testing procedures for diagnosis vs. screening, as well as issues of bacterial, parasitic, and viral concerns that may be elicited through the quarantine period.

Please send corrections or updates to Ken Jett at kenjettmiami@gmail.com with “AKC Meeting Minutes” in the subject line. No corrections were identified in last month’s minutes.

