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AKCA Director	Gary Elmore
Volunteer Coordinator	Ken Jett
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**April, 2017**

## **By the Pond**

by Diane Giangrande

Hi All,

The March meeting was at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens with the Atlanta Bonsai Society. If you missed it you missed some amazing bonsai. A few of us purchased bonsai at their auction. Just what we need – another addiction....oops, I mean hobby!

As you are all aware, the auction is this month – April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the single largest fundraiser for the club. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, please do so. Remember, there will be a fish (donated by the Elmores) and koi bucks raffled off to volunteers.

Jerry and I have already been in serious show mode with lots more to do. I am happy to announce that Brendan Berg has agreed to take over as store manager for the show which is a tremendous help – thank you Brendan! We are still looking for people to help solicit donations for raffle and auction items. This is a critical part of the show and helps defer some costs. We are trying to put together a team of people to do this so it is not so onerous for 1 individual. Many hands make light work! If you can help, please contact Ken Jett.

It looks like the weather has finally turned for the better. Keep those back flushes and water changes going and feed lightly – let your filter catch up and get online.

Hope to see everyone at the auction.

Thanks,  
Diane

Our pond tour is May 6th and tickets will be for sale on our website starting in April and also at our Auction on April 22nd.

The tour runs on the SE side of 85 from Lawrenceville to Loganville, Lilburn, Chamblee and into Atlanta's Inman Park and Decatur area. If you have a pond you would like to have on the tour, please email me **to-day or tomorrow**. I would love to add a few more ponds. You can email me a picture and I will help you with a write-up. If you have a friend with a beautiful pond, call them tonight and ask them. I appreciate your help in making this a great pond tour!

# Urgent!!! We Need You!!!

There's still time to volunteer for our annual auction on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The proceeds from this event fund our show in the fall. Please show up, spend your money, donate your time, and encourage your friends to attend.

Visit the SignUp Genius volunteer roster by clicking the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445A5A629ABF49-2017>

Thank you in advance for making this event a success. Volunteers will be provided with lunch. At the end of the day, volunteers will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful fish that has been graciously donated by the Elmores from their collection, along with chances to win some Koi Bucks. Let's make KOI FUN!

For more info, contact Ken Jett at [kenjettmiami@gmail.com](mailto:kenjettmiami@gmail.com)

Remember to bring your pop-up tent to the auction so we can shade the fish!

## Calling On a Few Members

Our pond tour is right around the corner (May 6<sup>th</sup>) and all across the map. Our pond chairperson, Melanie Onushko, is looking for 10+ members to assist with visitors as needed at ponds along the tour route.

Pond Tour volunteers will be given the opportunity to visit the ponds (free of charge) on May 7<sup>th</sup> along with pond owners who were on the tour.

Please see Melanie at the upcoming auction to signup or contact me (Ken) at [kenjettmiami@gmail.com](mailto:kenjettmiami@gmail.com)

**Please remember our Sponsors:  
Pondscapes of Atlanta and The Koi Store**



# POND TOUR

## MAY 6<sup>th</sup>

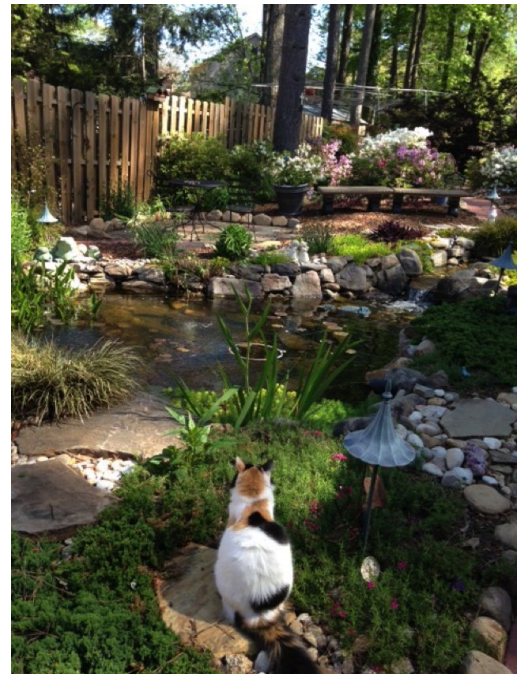
Tickets are available at our wet sponsors:

Splendor Koi  
Randy's  
Kol Koi Pondscapes  
The Koi Store  
Or [www.atlantakoiclub.org](http://www.atlantakoiclub.org)

Your tickets can be traded in for a booklet at the 3 locations on the back of the ticket.

It's a great tour! Some very creative ponds are on this tour. You will see large multi-level ponds, to very small footprint ponds with a lot of depth. One of our owners is a koi artist and has some beautiful paintings available.

Get your tickets now! The tour is the weekend before Mother's Day. It's a great treat for your Mom!



On April 22nd the club will be having our **2017 Atlanta Koi Club Auction**.

**WE NEED YOU!** This event funds our show in the fall. Without the auction, we cannot afford the show! We need your help to do it ALL! Many of you have already signed up AND we still have large gaps in roles. We need transporters and fish helpers and baggers!

There will also be need for extra set up on that Saturday morning that I have not created slots for in the sign up. If you are on one of the early shifts, please feel free to show up 30-45 minutes early if you can to make sure that we are up and ready for the public. Based on need, we'll update the list for next year but this time will also give you a chance to peek at the available fish!

Lunch will be provided for volunteers. Volunteering will also give you entry to a drawing for Koi Bucks and a special fish donated by The Elmores!

**Come help us, enjoy the fun! The SignUpGenius Volunteer Roster can be found at the link below:**  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2017>

If you have questions about any of the volunteer positions or need me to sign you up, feel free to contact me. Thanks again and I look forward to your help in making this the most successful and fun auction that we've ever had!

Ken Jett, Volunteer Coordinator  
[kenjettmiami@gmail.com](mailto:kenjettmiami@gmail.com)  
[816-225-8690](tel:816-225-8690) cell

## **The Hidden Dangers of Waste Matter in Water Gardens**

(from July, 1995 Koi Newsletter written by Jim Rogers)

Some of the most strikingly beautiful representations of the aquatic hobbies I have seen have been those of the water garden hobbyists. The spectacular sight of the magical fountains, and rushing waterfalls combined with the palette of colors displayed by the flora and fauna offer dramatic pictures of nature's true beauty. With a little time and effort it is often amazing what can be achieved with a water garden. Unfortunately many hobbyists, though careful in decisions involving planting and stocking, pay little attention to the natural processes involved in their picturesque ecosystems. One of the primary areas of neglect involves water quality and its changes due to the natural processes of a water garden. This is of particular importance in older water gardens lacking proper filtration or long term maintenance. Water chemistry is much more susceptible to rapid change in these environments and since pH is a major factor of these changes the danger of serious losses to the flora and fauna of a water garden is much more probable. With continued neglect, it is quite possible to send a beautiful water garden down a spiraling pathway of disaster and disappointment.

In nature, pond environments not fed by a constant supply of fresh water, such as a spring or stream, undergo steady changes that significantly determine their future. Many such ponds are cyclical in the manner in which they evolve and change. For instance, a pond forming in a soil depression will slowly grow to support various forms of plant life. The plant life, in turn will support the growth of various forms of animals. The animals will then assist with the growth of more complex plant life, which will assist the growth of more complex animals and so on. Eventually the soil depression will evolve into a very complex ecosystem including many different species of plants and animals all thriving in a natural food chain. However, the evolution of the pond environment continues beyond a thriving ecosystem.

The typical pond will also undergo many types of chemical changes as it begins to grow and thrive as an ecosystem. One of the primary driving forces of these changes is the vast amount of organic waste that develops from leaves, stems, roots, and feces slowly settling to the bottom of the pond. Macro and micro organisms begin the natural processes of decay by devouring and digesting the waste into smaller and smaller components. Many of these components will consist of various forms of soluble acids. These acids work to negatively impact the environment in several ways. First, the chemicals produced by the decay of leaves, stems, and roots are all of an acidic nature. They produce an acidic environment that ultimately enhances their production by accelerating the breakdown of organic waste, and thus producing more acids. This results in an accelerated decline in pH known as a "pH crash". Also, most of these acids tint the water a brown to reddish color. This occurs as the acids bind with the available air of the environment which in turn increases both oxygen and chemical demand on the environment and starves many species of respiratory capability. In addition, the acid produced by the breakdown of the waste are poisons, having an even more dramatic impact on the pond environment. Weaker species unable to adapt to the changes in their environment die off, which only worsens the situation by adding more decaying organic matter. Eventually the pond will fill with decaying matter and eroded shoreline forming a bog. The bog continues the evolution of a much

more harsh environment and eventually will fill or dry out to become a very fertile meadow. At some point the meadow may fill again and start the process all over.

Of course, an average water garden hobbyist will not allow these processes to continue unchecked in most cases. Usually the impact on a water garden is less extreme. However, knowing a little more about the types of acids produced by the breakdown of leaves, stems and roots in a water garden may make a more dramatic impact on this opinion. Among the acids produced is sulfurous acid, also known as sulfur dioxide, which is most easily recognized by its nauseating odor comparable to that of "rotten eggs". This acid in concentration will prove lethal to some animals and certainly irritating to the average hobbyist. Tannic acid is also released in the breakdown of these wastes tinting the water to a slightly brownish red color as the acid reaches higher concentrations and is exposed to the dissolved air within the water. The danger then will increase dramatically as tannic acid breaks down further into gallic acid, which can cause neurological disorders in some animals. Gallic acid then breaks down into pyrogalllic acid, a cause of renal and circulatory failure among other problems. More deadly are the resulting quinones and phenylic acids, also called phenols, which can cause necrosis or tissue decay, respiratory failure, convulsions and paralysis. Obviously the conditions which produce these acids are best avoided at all costs considering the investment of time, effort and money that most hobbyists put into their water gardens.

There are several ways to avoid the problems inherent with decaying matter in a water garden. Filtration is probably the single most important aspect of water garden maintenance and its benefits are three-fold. Filters will remove decaying matter directly and thereby allow for the easy removal of waste from the water. They will also produce current throughout the pond which will move waste about until it is captured by the filter. A filter will also aer-

ate the water which can help release potentially hazardous gases from the water and reduce oxygen demand in the environment. When looking at filtration, always invest in a system that is easily accessible and cleaned. Though a filter may trap waste, the waste must be removed from the water, or it continues to break down. The more easily a cleaning is accomplished, the more likely it is to be done often. Also, find a filter that produces a fair amount of flow throughout the volume of the pond. This will assist with physical removal of waste and, as mentioned assist with aeration. In many cases the filter can be combined with a return to the pond as a waterfall or fountain head. These are both very efficient means of aerating a water garden, but be sure that thought is given to the amount of current produced under water, which is also very important. Another thought to keep in mind is the potential for a filter to house chemical media such as activated carbon. Many different chemical media can assist greatly with, not only organic acid removal, but removal of phosphates and silicates - primary nutrients of many forms of algae. Always clean a filter often, excepting biological filters which use bacteria to break down ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. A filter cannot do its job unless the waste it collects is removed.

The other primary way to avoid difficulties with the acids produced by decaying matter is to use a freshwater pH buffer as necessary to maintain an optimum and, more importantly, a stable pH. Using such buffers often results in green water, a bloom of green micro algae. Most importantly, do not add buffers without first checking water parameters with a reliable pH test kit. Adding buffers needlessly can be wasteful and dangerous by causing drastic pH swings unnecessarily.

Freshwater pH kits are fairly inexpensive and it behooves any water garden hobbyist to check pH frequently - at least weekly.

The pH of almost all aquatic environments will have a natural tendency to fall as the breakdown of most organic waste will produce acids of one kind or another. These acids, which are usually toxic to a degree, are easily avoided with proper pond filtration and maintenance. Always look for warning signs that something may be wrong. Is there an odor to the pond water? Is the water clear or does it

have a light brown to reddish look to it? Depending on how these questions are answered may give an early clue to a growing a potential lethal. Avoid the spiral pathway to disaster and disappointment. A regular regime or schedule for upkeep on a water garden is quite vital to the long term care of all of its inhabitants. By keeping up with proper maintenance regularly, the task is much more easily accomplished leaving more time to enjoy the natural beauty the water garden hobby has to offer.

# ATLANTA KOI CLUB

March 19, 2017 – Atlanta Botanical Garden with Atlanta Bonsai Society – Atlanta, GA

Topic: Bonsai – Mark Kirkpatrick

Attendance: 30

## Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes

Executive Officers:

Office	Name	Term	Present
<a href="#">President</a>	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	

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

## Executive Team Discussion Items

Auction: general updates including need for volunteers.

Pond Tour: general updates.

Show: general updates.

General:

Ron made motion to adjourn, Diane seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting was held at the Atlanta Botanical Garden as a guest of the Atlanta Bonsai Society. Mark Kirkpatrick presented an informal discussion on bonsai. New members were welcomed.

Please send corrections or updates to Ken Jett at [kenjettmiami@gmail.com](mailto:kenjettmiami@gmail.com) with “AKC Meeting Minutes” in the subject line.

No corrections were identified in last month’s minutes.

**Atlanta Koi Club**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Year to Date**  
**As of March 31, 2017**

**BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:** **\$1,930.17**

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**Income**

2500 Misc.		\$65.00	\$65.00
	2545 Monthly Raffle	\$65.00	
2600 Pond Tour			\$600.00
	2630 Advertising	\$600.00	
2700 Membership			\$200.00
	Membership		
	2730 Dues	\$200.00	

**Total Income** **\$865.00**

**Expenses**

200 Club Store			\$225.00
	Club Owned Equipment - Filing		
	240 Cabinet	\$225.00	
1100 Rent			\$185.00
	1101 Rent @ Coastal	\$185.00	
1400 Bank Charge			\$7.44
	1466 PayPal Charges	\$7.44	

**Total Expenses** **\$417.44**

**Month Net Income/(Loss)** **\$447.56**

**ENDING BALANCE:** **\$2,377.73**

**Outstanding Checks:**

							\$742.98
07/18/16	EFT	\$137.20	10/24/16	EFT	\$216.00		
09/07/16	EFT	\$65.00	11/14/16	EFT	\$121.78		
10/08/16	16.85	\$18.00	3/27/2017	EFT	\$185.00		