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March 2017

By the Pond

by Diane Giangrande

Hi All,

Thanks to Bill and Lynn for letting us meet at Coastal last month. Also, thanks to Michael Anderson and Gary Elmore for their respective presentations on the web site and koi confirmation.

I just got back from the Orlando koi show with Melanie and Jerry and it was a lot of fun. They were at a new venue this year and took a hit on the number of fish entered, but it was still a great show. We used the opportunity to speak to vendors and koi folks about coming to our show and have potentially secured a couple of new vendors. All in all, it was a success.

As a reminder, if you haven't already done so, please sign up to volunteer at the auction – we need lots of people. Also, you can sign up for a sales tank on the web site or by contacting Gary Elmore directly.

I am sure you are all as anxious as I am for the weather to warm up and stay warm. So far, it's been a funny spring and as we all know Spring is a time for issues with our fish to surface. There are several great articles on the web site about coming out of cold weather and Aeromonous Alley that I highly recommend reading. Keep doing regular back flushes and water changes as water quality plays a huge role in your fish coming out of winter unscathed. One of the benefits of being in the club are the resources available for help. If you have questions or are having a problem you are not sure about how to deal with, please reach out for help. Our next meeting is at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens – Jerry will have more info below.

Hope to see everyone there.

Thanks,

Diane

MEMBERSHIP

Please join us in welcoming some new members: Dave & Gyna Robertson, Kim Munie and Dwane Bacak. We are glad you joined the club and look forward to meeting you at the Bonsai Show Meeting at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

Membership rosters have been emailed to everyone. Those who didn't get around to renewing will receive their copy the next time it's emailed in June. We had 103 people renew for this year and I still expect a few more right before the auction. Thanks to all of you for renewing and sharing your experience and knowledge with your fellow koi keepers. I look forward to working with you at the auction.

Melanie

March Meeting at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

As a reminder, the Atlanta Koi Club will meet at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens this Sunday, March 19th as part of the Atlanta Bonsai Society Show. 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. **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 as the show will probably be over by the end of our meeting. 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.

Also, remember we will not have a meeting in April due to the Club Auction on Saturday, April 22nd.

See you Sunday.

Jerry Johnson

Fractionators for Sale!!!! Only 1 left!!!!

Here's a photo of a sad Mike Anderson. He bought enough material to make 4 Fractionators, but sadly, he still has 1 left. This really works!! Copious amounts of dirty foam are removed from the pond water. Contact Mike to be the first one on your block to have a genuine fractionator!!!



AKC Survey Update

Thank you to all of you who have completed the survey. As a reminder, all survey data is anonymous but the application that we are using knows if you've completed, stopped in the midst, or never attempted.

For those that the application has as incomplete or not attempted, I have sent out a "last call" email. We have received some great feedback that will help us to improve and fine-tune our efforts for member involvement. If you have not completed the survey, we would like your input.

I will be downloading and consolidating data later this month so that the club doesn't have to continue to pay for the survey application. I look forward to presenting the data to the executive team and eventually presenting an action plan tied to the data to the membership at large.

For those at "last call", if you have any issues with assessing or completing, please feel free to contact me at ken-jettmiami@gmail.com.

~Ken

Calling All Members... to Volunteer at the Auction!!!

Our annual auction is on April 22nd and several of you have already signed up to volunteer. However, we still have major areas of need!

Some roles are more physically demanding than others and some roles will give you the opportunity to learn a new skill. We've also introduced floaters this year that will give you the opportunity to dabble in it, all based on the needs that day. We will happily instruct you on any selected role.

Please take the time to find a way to volunteer your time and effort at this event. It is the event that helps to fund all of our activities for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions about the roles or would like to have me help match you to a role, please contact me at kenjettmiami@gmail.com.

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 Elmore's from their collection, along with chances to win some Koi Bucks. Let's make KOI FUN!

Ken

Koi Club Members:

It's that time of the year! On April 22nd the club will be having our **2017 Atlanta Koi Club Auction**.

Last year was a HUGE success in helping the club to fund our other club functions and that success can't happen without **YOU!**

WE NEED YOU! Please find the link below to access our SignUpGenius roster for the auction.

We need your help to do it ALL! From set up to tear down; from bagging, transporting and sorting to sales and check out; none of it can happen without your kind volunteering.

To allow space for all of our members to volunteer, please fill slots accordingly. If you are able to lift a bit, please leave the non-lifting slots for our other members who would like to take part in helping the club. Bagging, Bagged Fish Helper, and Fish Check Out will require more lifting. Transporting may require some lifting. Other slots are less physically demanding but no less important, such as bag markers which requires lots of concentration to ensure that the correct information about bidders and tanks are recorded. The floaters may be tasked with filling in for all positions. So please, help us, challenge yourself a bit, and allow space for others to also volunteer at their capacity.

This is my third year at the auction and I know that last year I got roped into transporting for two shifts when I hadn't signed up for it. To make the event more enjoyable, as the new Volunteer Coordinator, I'm trying to make sure that stuff like that occurs less. We all want to help and we all want to enjoy the experience.

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!

Ken

May 6th POND TOUR

I hope you're all getting excited about this year's Pond Tour "Sounds for the Soul". We have 9 great ponds, stretching from Atlanta (Inman Park area) to Lawrenceville and beyond. I would really like to have 2 more ponds. So, if you're in Atlanta, Tucker, Lawrenceville, let me know quick and I'll get you in the book. Also if anyone wants to advertise their business, this is the last chance. Books will go to the publisher next week! Make sure to put the tour on your calendar. Tickets will be available starting in April on our website.

Melanie 770-315-5200 melanie_o@comcast.net



Caring for Fish Fry (1995 Newsletter)

Fry is the term used for baby fish. A lot of folks have fish fry right now, as the Koi have already begun to spawn.

Koi eggs hatch within 72 hours under most circumstances, and the new fry sink to the pond bottom. After 24 hours, these fry resorb their yolk sac and begin to swim about, looking for tiny morsels of food. In many ponds, particularly where there is a lot of green water, the plankton and algae form the basic diet for Koi fry.

Sometimes it is desired to raise fry in holding facilities and feed them prepared feeds.

There are several options:

You can hatch and feed fresh baby brine shrimp.

You can buy frozen baby brine shrimp. You can hard-boil an egg and feed the fry the yolks. You can buy tubes of emulsion made by Wardleys. You can also raise your own daphnia and such, but that's pretty complicated.

Ron Abe told us many years ago about a way to make a good fry food:

Simply get water to a rolling boil. Crack a raw egg into the water and then stir the eggy water briskly. Eventually, you will accumulate a layer of scum on the surface. Apparently, the white (albumin) of the egg cooks around micro-particles of boiled yolk, making bite-sized morsels for the fish. The scum is collected onto cheesecloth, drained and put in the refrigerator.

Problems with raising fry:

1. They need a lot of space to grow. I wouldn't count on much success in containers under 100 gallons.

Massive mortality will result in fish in 30 gallon tanks, dropping numbers to a manageable 300-400 fry. Survival is much better in larger tanks.

2. There is a tendency to overfeed. Natural green water is best of all, and feeding can be minimal. But in very clean new water, you'll have to feed, but feed sparingly, MANY times daily.

3. Fry cannot survive ammonia or nitrite accumulation to any degree. In the process of feeding them all, and in the process of keeping them fairly crowded together, the koi fry will suffer massively if the water experiences ammonia spikes. Daily water changes of 30-40% were required to minimize losses in the batches of goldfish I raised in Vet School. There are devices that constantly inflow fresh water while removing old water, these can be worth it if the fry are decent.

4. Fry grow faster and do a little better if kept a little warmer. 76-78 degrees will optimize feed conversion and growth, and get them to a releasable size sooner. To summarize my suggestions: Feed frequently but sparingly, feed egg and yolk or baby brine shrimp, keep the water changed daily, and monitor ammonias. Try to use the largest digs you can.

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



Transporting Koi

E.L. Johnson D VM (from our 1995 Newsletter)

For many reasons, it becomes necessary to transport Koi. One reason is a prominent Koi Auction, another is a prominent Atlanta area Koi show, and finally, sometimes you have to send or carry fish to the Vet.

In any event, transporting Koi is safe and without risk if it is done correctly. Let me step you through this beginning with the fish in the pond and you on the edge.

The Koi you are after will "know" within one or two strokes that you are after him, and will accept no substitute. Other fish will quickly realize the same thing, and will actually school again, lazily eating and ignoring the goings on.

Two tricks:

Get a professional net. They feature the following characteristics:

1. They are black
2. They are an open weave
3. They are round and very, very shallow.

The black color helps to get near the fish, the open weave allows you to move the net rapidly through the water, and finally, the shallowness of it allows you to use the net properly, read on!

To catch a Koi:

Remove the plants if you can. It's just sage advice.

Put the net in the deepest part of the pond, and level it out with the surface of the water. Slowly bring it up out of the depths and as much as possible bring it under the fish to be caught. Invariably, the fish will move to the edge, and then up to the waterline. You just slowly slide the net along up under the fish.

Within a few feet, the fish will begin to edge off right or left, you have to angle the net up and under the direction he seems to want to go. He'll freeze, and try to reverse. A few more maneuvers like this and you can get the net about a foot under the Koi

Then, with a whoosh, raise the net.

At the split-second you raise the net, the fish WILL move off, and you have to have some idea which way he'll go, and raise the net in that direction.

Now you are ready to handle the fish with extreme sensitivity. Do NOT haul the fish in the net. Use the net to corral him in the water, but do not lift. Quickly get a large tub or bowl, or even a large plastic bag to run him into. The entire key to this procedure is to spare the cuticle and the scales.

Run the fish into a tub or bag and then lift from the pond. To create optimal shipping conditions, provide one of the following:

FOR LONG TRIPS, SHIPPING:

Only ship fasted fish with empty bowels. Fasts should be at the very least 24 hours long, but ideally 48 hours long. Double bag the fish in a mixture of 50% pond water and 50% fresh dechlorinated tap water with 1 tsp per gallon (approximated) non iodized salt added to the shipping bag.

Use only enough water to cover the backs of the fishes, and do not pack too many per bag. Ideally, no fish over 8 inches would be shipped more than one per bag.

Some folks even put a tiny amount of Methylene Blue in the bag, and I think that is a good idea.

Fill the bag with pure oxygen and rubberband or staple it.

FOR SHORTER TRIPS (<6 HOURS)

Simply use a large cooler. Use 50% Pond water and 50% fresh, dechlorinated tap water. Add 1 tsp salt per gallon in the cooler, and a touch of Methylene Blue (make it a faint blue color).

Use just enough water to cover the backs of the fish.

Pack sparsely.

Do not allow the water temperature to exceed 76 degrees, - one way to accomplish this is to float ice packs or even ice cubes in the water with the fish.

Do not worry too much about sloshing. This only increases oxygen mixing, and the fish is insulated from concussion by the water in the cooler.

It is of little to no use to put live plants in with the fish.

They will not produce oxygen in quantities sufficient for the fish, and they will not produce oxygen if shaded, e.g. the cooler covered.

Fasting the fish is very useful but not essential.

If the fish are showing signs of Oxygen deprivation: Hydrogen peroxide can be used to increase the dissolved oxygen in the system.

$H_2O_2 + H_2O \rightarrow H_2O + O_2$

Simply use 1/2 cup per hundred gallons. I prefer, however, to apply peroxide in a spray bottle, squirting it forcefully under the surface of the water into tanks and vats in trouble, I use 60 squirts per 100 gallons. What you will see is the fish will leave the surface, and swim about as if there was no dissolved oxygen deficit. The time for this to occur is approximately one hour. The benefits are seen for a full 4 hours.

The hydrogen peroxide to use is drugstore 3% peroxide. It's great in emergencies.

Introduction: What is an ORP meter?

By Dr. Roddy Conrad, October 16, 2002

An ORP meter measures the Oxidation or Reduction Potential of the water. This is a direct measure of pollution index of the water, since more pollution gives a lower ORP reading. As described by Chris Walster, a veterinarian at the Island Veterinary Clinic in Staffordshire, England, in the Summer 97 issue of Koi Health Quarterly,

Put simply, ORP is a measure of pollution. In a well conditioned koi pond you want oxidation reactions to occur, as they indicate the breakdown of water products. Therefore, the higher the ORP level, the less polluted the pond; the lower the ORP level, the more polluted the pond. A low ORP can indicate low dissolved oxygen, high nitrites, or high DOC (Dissolved Organic Carbon), with the DOC promoting the increase of harmful bacteria....A pond with an ORP value below 200 mV will promote growth of slime algae, between 200 and 250 will promote blanket weed or stringy algae, above 250 algae growth will be prevented.....As ORP increases, the rate of healing of ulcers increases and at high levels ulcers can be prevented...

Quick Summary of ORP levels as applied to koi ponds:

At readings of below 150, significant improvements to the filtration of the pond should be made as soon as possible to avoid massive fish health problems.

At readings between 150 to 200, fish health will not be marginal, with green water and slime algae a usual occurrence, especially in the absence of UV lights.

At readings between 200 to 250, fish health will usually be okay, but not optimum, and stringy algae or blanket weed will normally be a problem.

Readings between 250 and 400 reflect good to superb water quality, and prevention of fish health problems by water excellent water quality control. The higher end of this range is preferred over the lower end for dependably good fish health and fast fish growth.

Readings between 400 and 450 reflect the use of either potassium permanganate or ozone to increase water quality by addition of a chemical oxidant to the pond to oxidize the various dissolved organic compounds and solid waste materials on the pond bottoms and in the filter systems. Readings in this range usually do not harm the useful bacteria in biofilters if the length of time is less than 30 minutes in this range.

Readings between 475 and 550 reflect active potassium permanganate levels which should kill fish parasites without harming the fish, and quickly oxidize pollutants, provided the fish exposure is only a few hours per week. Water with ORP in this range should not be circulated in biofilters since the useful bacteria may be oxidized significantly.

Readings between 550 and 600 should not be continued for more than 15 minutes because of likely damage to the gills of fish.

Water with readings above 700 will sterilize a system of all life forms in about 10 to 15 minutes.

Things that increase ORP readings and improve water quality:

Factors to increase ORP

Griff Thomasson's list:

1 Flow rates. Pond turn over at 1.5 hours min. The faster the better for higher ORP readings.

2 Aeration, water falls, TTs, spray bars etc. the more the better.

3 More efficient mechanical filtration, with frequent cleanouts or solid dumps, increase ORP readings.

4 Temperature. Cooler temps will generally give a higher orp reading as there is a higher level of dissolved oxygen.

5 Fish load. Lower fish loads give higher ORP readings.

6 Heavy feeding gives lower ORP readings.

7 System Maintenance. Clean out filters. Back wash beads filter, rinse filter media in submerged filters.

8 Dead Spots. Find and eliminate dead spots in pond with low flow since this can accumulate solids wastes which lower ORP readings.

9 Add biofiltration capacity to increase ORP. Good mechanical filtration systems, with frequent dumping of collected solids, goes a long way towards keeping ORP levels up by removing the solid organic pollutants. There are many different ways to accomplish this goal, with many, many good mechanical filter system designs, and it is not the goal of this document to list all those good mechanical filter designs.

Aeration of the water in waterfalls, or with air stones, or with trickle tower filters increase the ORP level of the water by providing more oxygen to oxidize the organic pollutants such as fish poop.

Higher recirculation flow rates increase the ORP levels of the water in various ways. Better solids removal, more aeration, better biofiltration all go with increased water turnover rates.

Using activated carbon to remove DOC (Dissolved Organic Carbon) increases the ORP levels of the water by removal of pollutants from the water. Here the typical charge is 3 pounds of activated carbon per 1000 gallons, changed out with fresh carbon each 3 months. The usual

charge is put into mesh bags, laundry bags for example, some place in the filtration system or the waterfall system or stream system. Or even in the actual pond itself.

More biofiltration increases the ORP value of the pond. Trickle tower biofilters do this better by providing a higher level of oxygen to the aerobic (oxygen loving) bacteria which do the biofiltration. But well designed submerged media filters can also deliver superb water quality with high ORP readings.

Addition of low levels of potassium permanganate to increase the ORP reading to the range between 300 and 450 has been beneficial to ponders who have filtration systems which do not automatically maintain water quality in those ORP ranges as a temporary emergency fix of a fish health problem.

Some ponds use ozone injection with on line ORP controllers to maintain ORP levels at a narrow desired range.

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

Committee	Name	Present
2017 Auction	Gary Elmore	X
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	
AKCA Director	Gary Elmore	X
Publicity	Karoy and Chery Jacobs	X
Volunteers	Ken Jett	X

Executive Team Discussion Items

Auction:

Ken provided information about volunteer status.

Jerry took cash register and directions home to create directions for use.

Gary reiterated that tanks and nets would be back in time for auction.

Diane questioned impact of Dekalb hydrant communication and it's potential impact on the event.

Pond Tour: Melanie asked Volunteer Coordinator to solicit for volunteers for the event.

Club Table at Bonsai Show: Melanie asked to solicit volunteers for the event.

Website: Michael will add form to gather emails from non-members who visit our site and want to receive information on annual events.

General:

Team asked secretary to look into creating an email for executive team to use for our blast communications.

Jerry reported that the Hall County paper interviewed him.

Ken put forward the idea of van VIP shuttle service for added price for future pond tours.

Ken updated team on survey status and will work to close out survey later in the month.

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

Meeting was held at Coastal Pond Supply. Michael Anderson led the group through all of the functionality of the updated website. Gary Elmore gave a presentation about the importance of and differentiation within koi conformation. The presentation included comparisons of conformation and a brief history of how preferences for body shape have changed over time with revitalized breeding lines. New members were welcomed.

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.

Financial Statement
Year to Date
As of February 28, 2017

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BAL- **\$985.35**

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

2100 Club Store		\$250.00
2140 Club Equip-	\$250.00	
2500 Misc.		\$79.00
2545 Monthly Raf-	\$79.00	
2700 Membership		\$1,724.59
2720 Member Name	\$34.50	
2730 Membership	\$1,565.09	
2735 Koi USA	\$125.00	

Total Income **\$2,053.59**

Expenses

600 Koi Auction		\$146.59
675 Water Quality	\$146.59	
700 Misc.		\$150.00
Food For Monthly		
740 Meeting	\$150.00	
1100 Rent		\$185.00
1101 Rent @	\$185.00	
1250 Advertising		\$348.18
Advertising Club in Gen-		
1252 eral	\$348.18	
1300 Membership		\$279.00
1310 Name Badges	\$154.00	
1325 Koi USA	\$125.00	

Total Expenses **\$1,108.77**

Month Net Income/(Loss) **\$944.82**

ENDING BALANCE: **\$1,930.17**

Outstanding Checks:

\$2,065.01

05/13/16	EFT	\$342.00	10/08/16	EFT	\$16.85
05/16/16	EFT	\$615.00	10/24/16	EFT	\$216.00
05/25/16	EFT	\$18.00	11/14/16	EFT	\$121.78
7/18/2016	EFT	\$137.20	10 2/6/2017	EFT	\$18.00
9/7/2016	EFT	\$65.00	2/22/2017	EFT	\$185.00
			2/27/2017	EFT	\$330.18