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May, 2018

By the Pond

by Diane Giangrande

Hi All,

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered at the auction. We can't do it without your help!

We did a total of about \$17,000 for the auction which is down from last year, but we down a couple of sellers that sold some high dollar fish. It is still a very respectable auction. Checks are scheduled to be delivered by the 14th.

For those of you looking for a something to do over Memorial Day weekend, the Louisville koi show is a great show to attend – one of the best on the East Coast. You can get more info here: http://www.louisvillekoiclub.com/annual_show.html

I know it's a little early, but wanted to let folks plan if needed – we are ordering tanks for the club from Polytank again this year. They will be delivered to the show. Anyone who is interested can purchase a show tank for \$475 (that is the discount rate to the club) and anything else off their web site for a 20% discount. If you are thinking about getting a show tank this is the time to do it as you won't have to pay shipping. I'll be reminding everyone as we get closer, but wanted to give a heads up.

The May meeting will be held at the Ron and Robin Scott's house on May 20th. See more info below.

Hope to see you all there.

Thanks, Diane

Vice President's Report

A round of applause for all of the volunteers who made the annual auction possible! The proceeds help to defray the costs associated with our annual show. While we didn't take in as much as last year, each auction has its own special mix of bidders and fish.

Upcoming May Meeting

Our May meeting will be on Sunday, May 20th at 2 pm (1 pm executive team) at the home of Ron & Robin Scott. Their address will be forwarded as the date gets closer.

Please be prepared to put on your thinking caps and get a bit dirty. Ron will give us a tour of his current system and the hope is that we can put our heads together and determine some DIY fixes to improve filtration and efficiencies. While we will not be completing the fixes, we want to assess the system and be able to brainstorm some ideas for he and Robin to consider that are budget friendly – all you DIY gurus plan to attend.

We will also be looking at their current koi collection and performing some microscopic evaluations as allowed.

Upcoming June Meeting

The June meeting will be a field trip to Happy Koi of Greenville (214 Hyde Circle, Mauldin, SC 29662) on June 16th, which is their annual open house. The open house begins at 10 am with lunch at noon, 2 pm grow-out lottery, and a 3 pm auction. There is typically a presentation and a chance for attendees to “judge” koi. As more information becomes available, we will communicate it.

I wanted to provide advanced notice so that people could have time to consider the trip. Several members typically attend the event. It's also a good opportunity to carpool with others to make the journey more enjoyable. More information to come, but we would like to get a feel for the number who will plan on attending. If you plan to attend please let me know. Additionally if you are going and would like to carpool and ride with or open your extra space to others, let me know.

**Please remember our Sponsors:
The Koi Store**



For Sale by Club Members

100 gallon Rubbermaid Stock Tank

Retails for \$84.99 at Tractor Supply selling for \$50

May be able to bring it to the May meet-

Contact Diane Giangrande - dianewg@aol.com

Charlotte Pond Tour

Sent by Myles Weiner....President of Charlotte Koi Club

I am reaching out to let you know that our club in Charlotte is holding our pond tour on Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 until 3:00. There are eight ponds on this year's tour, located on the eastern side of the Charlotte metro area. The cost is \$10 per adult. Information on the tour, including the addresses of the three ponds at where attendees pay and pick up a brochure which will have the addresses and information on all eight ponds, at www.charlottepondtour.com. There is also a link at the top of the home page at the PKWS website www.charlottekoiclub.com.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I might provide or if I might return the favor in any way.

I hope that you will let your members know of our event in case any would like to come and make a day of it here in Charlotte.

What's in a koi food?

By Tim Nye

It's common to see a post like 'What's the best koi food?', and invariably there will be several responses of what brands of foods are used. Often the responses are based on the users perceptions, and sometimes included in that is a price-per-pound association. Very rarely are koi food ingredients discussed, and frankly I find that many hobbyists are simple unaware of how the whole koi food thing works.

So, let's discuss koi food aspects, such as understanding the ingredient list, what the ingredients are, and what the ingredients do. Please note that while I consider myself more knowing than an average hobbyist, I am certainly not a nutritionist, a koi expert, a biologist, or anything of the such. I'm simply a hobbyist that has taken some time over the years to have a basic understanding of koi foods and how they work. I also need to say that I personally don't care what other hobbyists feed their koi, and I have no incentive to promote any products. In fact, in case you haven't noticed, I rarely offer my choice of koi food, nor do I offer opinions on specific brands of foods. I would like each hobbyist to learn for themselves and make their decisions based on their own needs. But often I find that there is a lack of discussion of the matter, and that hobbyists are often left in the dark on what to use.

So, I will offer my opinions of some things, and I will try to make it simple to understand. The topic of food is quite a lengthy subject, and one could write novels on the matter. But for now we will discuss ingredients and leave the matter of feeding regimen, feeding males versus females, feeding young versus mature koi, and feeding-temperatures to a later conversation. This is just a brief introduction to koi food.

Koi absorb nutrients from food, and discard what the body cannot process. The solid waste and is ejected through the anus, and some liquid waste and impurities are purged through the body and released through the skin. Food is taken in via mouth and is ground down by the pharyngeal teeth and enter the bucca cavity (mouth cavity). From the bucca cavity, food enters the esophagus and furthers into the intestines. Koi do not have a stomach, but rather long intestines (about twice as long as the length of the koi). In the intestines are cilia which absorb the nutrients. There are no digestive enzymes to break down raw ingredients into a usable nutrition. Excessive production of metabolic waste contain high amounts of ammonia. The unused portions of metabolic waste are discarded.

So that's a very basic understanding of how the food enters and exits.

Commercially-prepared foods will often contain an ingredient list as well as a nutritional analysis. The ingredients are listed in order by volume. That is to say, the first ingredient is the most by volume, the second ingredient is second by volume, the third ingredient is third by volume, and so forth. BUT, there are some sneaky ways to how this is done. Let's say the first ingredient is wheat germ, the second is fish meal, the third is wheat flour, the fourth is de-hulled wheat. One can see that even though fish meal is second, when we add the various types of wheat products together, it would really place the fish meal lower down the ingredient list. So we must look at the total package of the ingredients.

Nutritional profiles are often expressed as: protein, fat, fiber, ash, moisture, phosphorous, sodium, vitamins and several other analyses. There is no requirement (that I'm aware of) for how these are listed... and they are not congruent from brand to brand. Most often, protein is what counts, and is what many people concern themselves with. BUT, again, there are sneaky tactics to how protein analysis is derived. The thing to understand is that not all protein is the same! In fact, some proteins are not digestible, even though they count to the total protein analysis! So even though the protein looks to be a certain percentage, that does not necessarily equate to what can actually be utilized by koi. And remember, unutilized nutrients become waste.

So when we think about food ingredients, we need to look at what is actually usable. Because paying for an ingredient that is just going to be pooped-out seems of little value to me. And when we combine the fact that some of the protein ingredients aren't usable, that furthers the waste- not only of poop, but of money too!

Let's look at ingredients.

By far the most usable ingredient is seafood, that is why a form of seafood is a primary ingredient in many foods. Included with fish would be shrimp or krill. Fish contain high Omega-3 fatty acids, desirable unsaturated lipids (oils), and desirable fats. Shrimp/krill contain Omega-3 fatty acids as well as carotene, which is used by koi to promote the red (hi).

BUT, once again, not all fish are the same. Whole herring is best, followed by mackerel, salmon, squid. Looking at fish meal, we see that fish meal is simply ground up fish parts. And ground up fish parts are usually derived from the remnants of filleted fish of whatever type of fish being used. Well, when you fillet the fish you end up with a large amount of fish bones. Bones contain chitosan which are not digested well by koi. But it adds to the total protein analysis. So we can see that even not all fish protein is the same, whole fish meat is much better than fish bones- yet they both add to the total protein analysis. Tricky, huh?

Feather meal= ground-up chicken feathers. High in indigestible chitosan, but add to the protein count.

Poultry meal= ground-up chicken parts, usually leftover chicken parts, bones, skin.

Blood meal=as the name implies it is blood that is rendered from any animal and is used as protein, some of which may or may not be utilized by koi.

Meat meal= any leftover meat byproduct including meat, bone, cartilage, hair and skin. Adds to the protein count even if not utilized.

Porcine meal=ground up pig/hog pieces.

Corn, corn meal, corn gluten meal- corn is highly indigestible by koi and a large percentage is simply pooped out. Used as a filler to add weight to koi food. Corn contains an anti-nutrient that inhibits digestibility of vitamins and minerals. Corn is bad, mmmkay....

Soy= often used as filler. Contain anti-nutrients that inhibit uptake of desirable vitamins and minerals. Soy, bad.

Wheat, wheat germ, wheat flour, wheat midlins, dehulled wheat- all are forms of wheat. Wheat is not bad. It is easily digestible, but contains low protein count, and often is used as filler to add weight to koi food.

Potatoes= sweet potatoes are best, as they contain good beta carotene.

Peas= easily digestible.

Fiber= any source of terrestrial plants that contain fiber. Fiber has not been shown to have any benefit to koi digestion. Often used as filler.

Garlic= good anti-oxidants. Tastes good to koi.

Stevia= artificial sweetener. Koi enjoy the taste. No benefits, though

Molasses- sweetener. No benefits.

Beets- good.

Fish oil- good.

Spirulina- a type of algae. Good for color red (hi).

Astaxanthin- artificial carotene. Good for color red (hi). Note that as krill prices climb higher and demand increases as well; many foods are now using astaxanthin as a substitute.

We'll also see many vitamins and minerals that are added.

So now we've looked at koi food, chose wisely.

Atlanta Koi Club Auction April 21, 2018



**Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
Year to Date
As of April 30, 2017**

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$10,074.14

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

2300	Koi Show			\$250.00	
	2322	Vendor Participation Advance		\$250.00	
2400	Koi Auction				\$18,060.00
	2410	Equipment		\$260.00	
	2420	Fish		\$17,506.00	
	2430	Plants		\$68.00	
	2440	Food/Drinks		\$4.00	
	2450	Gold Fish & Misc.		\$222.00	
2700	Membership				\$100.00
	2730	Membership Dues		\$100.00	

Total Income

\$18,410.00

Expenses

400	Insurance				\$553.50
	410	Liability Ins. Premium		\$553.50	
600	Koi Auction				\$478.96
	670	Water Cost for auction		\$100.00	
	675	Water Quality Expenses		\$149.01	
	680	Labor for Setup & Tear Down		\$143.86	
	690	Misc. Auction Expenses	Totes	\$86.09	
1100	Rent				\$370.00
	1101	Rent		\$370.00	
1400	Bank				\$262.49
	1465	Misc. Banking - Credit Card Cost		\$262.49	

Total Expenses

\$1,664.95

Month Net Income/(Loss)

\$16,745.05

ENDING BALANCE:

\$26,819.19

Outstanding

Checks:

09/07/16	EFT	\$65.00	02/23/18	EFT	\$6.44	\$1,152.47
					\$235.1	
10/08/16	1311	\$16.85	04/23/18	EFT	0	
					\$243.8	
10/24/16	EFT	\$216.00	04/26/18	EFT	6	
10/03/17	EFT	\$107.17				
12/31/17	EFT	\$262.05				