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**July, 2019**

## **By the Pond**

Hello everyone!

Thanks to everyone who attended the June meeting at Randy's Water Garden. Luke gave a great talk about a pondless water feature and we appreciate his time and their hospitality. This month is an exciting meeting because it is our Summer Social. The social will be hosted by Angie Jones, and I'm sure it will be a fun time. If anyone hasn't been to a meeting or you are wondering which meeting to start to come and meet the rest of the club members then I would encourage you to make it to this meeting! **Bring a side dish and enjoy the company and great food.**

The only business that we will cover will be voting for our logo. The new logo options will be included in this newsletter. The voting will go as follows:

Ballot filled in for favorite new logo design

Winner of the new logos will go up against our current logo

The winner from the second vote will be the logo we will institute going forward. One more thing about the logo is this year for our show and show shirts our traditional logo will remain regardless of the outcome of the vote. Due to timeline, planning and respect to the traditional logo and the 30 yr anniversary the show chairs have decided not to change or institute a new logo on such a short timeline before our show.

A couple of reminders for those who are new koi keepers;

Hot summers mean very warm water temps and low O2 carrying capacity. So keep your aerators running for happy koi. Low oxygen leads to greater stress on your fish which can allow many other health issues to pop up.

Heavy rains in your area could drastically change the kH of your water and lead to a pH crisis. Check the kH level and add your baking soda as needed to prevent problems.

I hope to see everyone in July!

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Last month's meeting was at **Randy's Perennials & Watergardens**. They had a great setup for us in the greenhouse complete with food and fans. Luke started his lecture on pond-less waterfalls and then we moved outside to actually see one that they had recently completed. He gave us instructions and very helpful tips on how to "Do It Yourself". Randy's has all the supplies for you to make your own. Thanks Luke for the great presentation and for the raffle donation of the beautiful water lily. For those of you who missed it, stop by and see their ponds, koi, goldfish and wonderful plants.

### **July Meeting SATURDAY night July 13th 6pm**

This is the time of year we move our meeting to Saturday evenings to avoid some of the heat. Our July meeting is the Summer Social at Angie and Craig Jones house in Johns Creek! This is always a fun meeting because we get to see people who we don't see often. Angie will also be talking about raising fry. For those of you who want to try breeding, this is a great chance to learn and get useful tips.

We ask you to bring a dish to the summer social. It's your chance to show off your cooking skills! So, if your last name starts with an A through K, please bring a dessert. If your last name starts with L through Z, please bring a salad or hot dish to share. Sue, you can bring deviled eggs ☐

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We currently have 123 members and we had 32 in attendance at the June meeting. Club directories will be emailed in July. These are for your convenience to contact members. They are not to be used for solicitation purposes.

### **Updated LOGOS to vote on vs. existing logo**

## **Angie Jones has some fry to sell:**

I plan to sell approximately 25 or so. I'd like to offer them to club members first. \$10 each.

I have them from last year. I'm also going to get some fry that were just hatched a couple of weeks ago, so I'll have some little bitty ones to show as we talk about babies, but we'd need to let people know in advance so they could be prepared in case they want to purchase any.

And, BTW, they are in 100 gallon Rubbermaid tanks so they aren't hard to catch.

ps: Our July's social meeting will be at Angie's house.

## **And now, a word from our editor....**

We welcome any of our members to submit articles that are of interest to the club, as long as they aren't copyrighted. Photos are also encouraged, and we'll give you the appropriate bragging rights! **Wouldn't you like to see your name in print?** And, if you have any Koi-related equipment to sell, we'll be happy to put it in our newsletter!


## September's Koi Show

Hi Everyone – the show is 3 months away and soon you'll be seeing requests to sign up to help. We just wanted to give everyone a heads up that if you want to work in the show ring – benching, bowling, etc. there will be a fish handling meeting that you must attend. This will be mandatory and if you do not attend you will not be allowed in the show ring. More details will follow as to when the meeting will be. If you've had interest in working in the show ring but were concerned that you didn't know enough, this is the perfect opportunity for you to learn.

As you are all aware, this is a special year for us. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. If anyone has any ideas of special things we could do, please let us know. We are looking forward to another great show and hope everyone will consider showing and volunteering

Thanks,  
Diane and Chad

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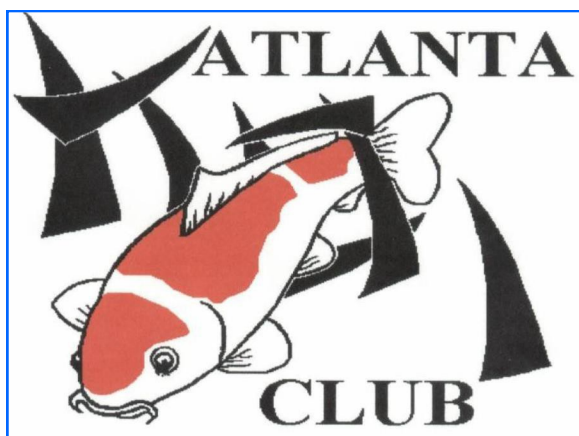
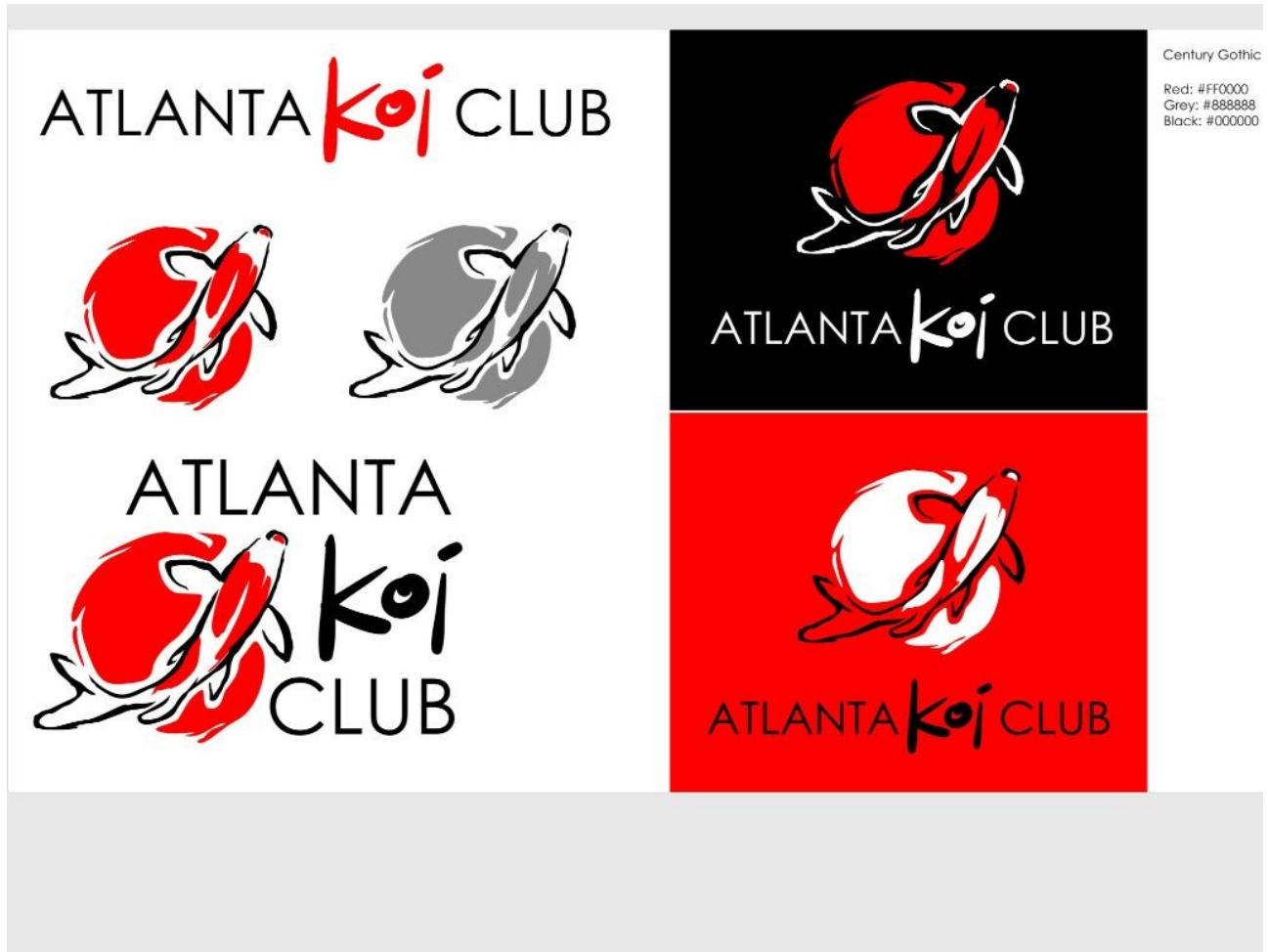
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These 5 new logos will be voted on first at the July meeting. The winner of these will be voted on against the old logo, which is also pictured below.



This is our present LOGO







Our June meeting was held at Randy's Perennials and Water Gardens on June 9th. Luke presented a discussion on waterless pond gardens, after which, the gang went outside to view construction techniques of a small pond.

On June 22nd, a **FEW (7)** stalwart volunteers toiled to reorganize our trailer. If you remember our bulging trailer last year, the only thing keeping the equipment inside was the closed doors . A very big **THANK YOU** to those brave seven for their splendid efforts, some of whom are shown below...



# Show Quality Koi Photography

## Equipment

A digital camera is required. but there several manual adjustments are needed to obtain the best results. Manual focus is best.... not autofocus. Auto-focus cameras will center the focal plane at the water's surface, and not the fish. This is a very common mistake.

Short Zoom Lens with Macro capabilities if it is very sharp focus. Otherwise a fixed focal length lens is better, a short telephoto that will focus up close is better. A wide angle lens will allow you to get in close, but will make the fish look small. Try using a tripod and shutter release. If you wait until the fish is relaxed, the fish will glide into the center of the tub where you want it.

Use the flash setting.

Use fast exposure.

Use a Polarized filter if you are shooting outside on a bright day with a lot of glare on the water.

Shoot in a rectangular blue tub, with low side walls. This will allow you to get down on the fish's level, and look him in the eye.

Don't use a round tub. A fish will tend to curl up to fit the sides. In a photo, it is hard not to get the walls into the shot.

When faced with a choice between color and shape, go rectangle.

## Environment

Shooting in the morning shade is best, using flash.

Mid day, using available light, also works, but you must avoid shadows and glare; and no air stones while shooting.

watch out for glare, shadows, reflections

watch exposure levels; most shots are ruined by not enough light and improper settings

Keep the water clean. More shots are ruined by fish feces than anything else. Look for debris floating and on the bottom.

Make sure there are no bubbles floating on the surface of the water.

## Technique

Koi are best photographed in Portrait (Vertical) position.

Get in close - fill as much of the frame as possible

Shoot into face of the koi, at 45 degree angle. This means getting down on your knees and looking at the fish almost at eye level (compared to shooting straight down.)

This gives the best look, and avoids flash reflections in the photo

Notice that you can see the eyes and barbels. You can only see the face when shooting from a low angle. This is important to the quality of the shot.

Have an assistant help you position the fish in the tub, (this usually means waiting for the koi), Sometimes it helps if he is opposite of you down in close. This reduces the tendency for the koi to swim away from you.

Make sure the water is still, as well as the koi.

Avoid getting the side of the tub in the photo.

Be sure to include the tail, ALL the tail.

Move slowly, to avoid startling the koi, and take your time.

Don't shoot right after judging. The fish are stressed, and don't look their best. They will be quite timid, hugging the side of the tub.

Some sense of movement in the photo is good, but it should be complimentary to the fish. A bent tail doesn't look good. A graceful natural look of the fish is best.

Shoot lots of photos! Digital photos don't cost anything, and there's bound to be at least one picture that's a keeper!

Here's an article dug up from a 1994 issue, presented by our very own Bill Dowden....

### **Bill Dowden of Coastal Pond on Pea Soup:**

One of the most misunderstood happenings every year in the life of pondkeepers is the spring PEA SOUP. The cries of "Oh My God, my pond is green!!" echo throughout the land. However, a little understanding, and a splash of education, and it "t'ain't so bad after all!"

The winter-pond is very much like a refrigerator. It stores all sorts of leftovers, like fish wastes, and other organic stuff. As in your refrigerator, the "food" does not rot too badly, or too fast. But when we pull the plug and leave the door open for the spring cleanout, Watch Out! All of this organic material has had time to age, and when that temperature rises, the material processes and decays very rapidly. The stuff in the pond is also ready to rot, but it does not do so until springtime begins to warm the refrigerator.

A lot of the pond material is converted into ammonia, and from ammonia into nitrite, and then into nitrate. But the nitrates have nowhere to go. The plants that use them have been "asleep" in the winter chill and have not been able to convert the nitrates into "plantstuff." (The plants, you may recall, take in the nitrates and convert it into cells and a bigger plant.

...As part of this cycle, the plants actually remove the fertilizer (nitrates) from the water, using it in their own construction. But back to the refrigerator....

When mother Nature hits the pond with a good warm sunny day, the water warms up enough to allow algae to grow. And it does! After all, the pond is getting full of nitrogen fertilizer! (AKA Algae food)

So the algae starts growing geometrically, that is: Each day it might double in quantity as it "eats", grows, and reproduces. You look in horror at it like it's the Blob come to eat your pond. But, and here is where it gets interesting, it actually comes and saves your pond! All those nitrates that had been building up over winter are being removed by the helpful, but unsightly algae. The smart pond keeper encourages algae growth in the spring to reduce or eliminate the nitrates from the system, converting potentially toxic nitrates into algae the fish love. At this time, the pond keeper should also start housekeeping and clean the pond of all the larger stuff- leaves, sticks, etc. from the ponds bottom with his/her skimmer net.

Then, POOF! One day, after a week or two. the pond is clear as a bell. Now you have to act to do your part. The pond is clear only because the algae has converted all, repeat, all of the nitrates into algae. Then they ran out of food. No more algae. Now, you do a 20% water change off the bottom of the pond and removed the water and the dead algae from your system. What you have accomplished is the chemical cleaning of the pond with the algae, and then the removal of most of the algae. When you top off, the pond is restored with its normal stability, hardness, aging, etc. but with no Nitrates! In a week or two, warmer weather should allow normal, desirable plants to begin proliferating and they will continue to do the job of nitrate removal as it is produced! AND there will be no more pea soup in a balanced pond for the rest of the year. Ahhhh, clear water, and no more work.

Editor's note (1994): I thought the refrigerator analogy brought his points home with great clarity. Be careful to note that there is a balance struck between the fishes production of the nitrogenous wastes and the plants ability to use them. The key is to have enough plants even if in a remote vat through which the water flows, to use the nitrates and not leave enough to support suspended algae.

# Officers' Meeting

Atlanta Koi Club

June 9, 2019

Randy's Perennials and Water Garden

Executive Officers:

Office	Officer Name	Term	Present
<b>President</b>	Chad Bishop	Jan 2019 - Dec 2020	Y
<b>Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes Vice President</b>	Melanie Onushko	Jan 2019 - Dec 2020	Y
<b>Secretary</b>	Cheryl Jacobs	Jan 2019 - Dec 2020	Y
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robin Scott	Jan 2018 - Dec 2019	N
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Alan Puch	Jan 2019 - Dec 2020	Y

Executive Team Discussion Items:

## Logo

New logo designs to be resubmitted and sent out to AKC members for review

Voting to be held at July meeting

## Trailer Clean Out

Re-scheduled for Sat, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9 am

Would like to have at least 6 volunteers

The club will purchase a pressure washer (on sale at Harbor Freight) to aid in the wash down of Poly tanks that have dried pollen dust and fish eggs caked on that scrubbing with brush does not remove

## Monthly Newsletter

Executive team to submit articles, minutes and related newsletter items in a timelier manner

Will send out newsletter to members earlier to notify members of upcoming monthly meeting

## Pond Tour Re-cap

Printed 100 tour booklets and sold 160 tickets

Last minute sales contributed to the final count

Estimating printing of tour booklet is usually based on prior tour sales

May need to add disclaimer that a tour booklet may not be available if ticket purchased at last minute

Posting pond tour event online (web events calendar) requires a venue

AKC PR used Kol Koi Pondscapes venue to meet online address requirement as no private residence address is published online

This caused confusion for several ticket purchasers and Kol Koi Pondscapes workers which eventually got worked out

For future pond tours, will attempt to have at least one business that is on the pond tour so that the business address can be used as the pond tour venue