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Diane Giangrande

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## November, 2019

### By the Pond

There have been several of us looking high and low for a place to have the meeting/social. Thank goodness, Bill & Lynn Dowden stepped forward and offered up the front showroom at Coastal Pond Supply. So, *this Saturday, November 9th at 6pm*, Coastal will be transformed into a feast and social gathering spot! Bill & Lynn will provide the entree (spiral sliced ham and turkey), beverages and baked beans. The rest of the club is asked to bring a dish to share. Your dish is your ticket to enter. Please bring your favorite food dish and send me a quick email so I can make sure we have enough of everything. [Melanie\\_o@comcast.net](mailto:Melanie_o@comcast.net). This is a great time to meet all the new people in our club, if you haven't come to a meeting for a while, we look forward to seeing you this Saturday!

**NOVEMBER 9th, Saturday 6pm**

**Bill & Lynn Dowden**

**Coastal Pond Supply**

**2110 Tucker Industrial Rd.**

**Tucker 30084**

The AKC would like to thank Bob and Sue Chaffer for stepping up and hosting our October meeting. It was great to see their re-vamped stream, which the koi seem to love! It turned out beautiful! We also elected new officers Kevin McDonough as VP and Angie Jones as Treasurer. Thank you all for participating. It is all the volunteers that dedicate a little of their time, that keep this club going.

We owe a huge thank you to **Ron Scott** for being in charge of our finances for the past 20 years. As an accountant, it was right up Ron's alley. He did this volunteer work as if he was getting paid \$100,000. Always prompt with month end statements, attending almost all board meetings for the past 20 years and executive meetings to present the financials to the Committee. He was always at the shows to make sure people got reimbursed right away. I just can't say enough good things about his level of dedication to this club! It's good to know, that if needed, we still have Ron waiting to volunteer again. Thank you Ron.

We would like to bid farewell to **Gary** and **JoAnn** Elmore. They will be starting their new lives in Kentucky. For those who don't know them, they have been a tremendous resource for our club over the years. They are both KHA's (Koi Health Advisors), and Gary is a Judge. They have both held almost every position there is in our club at one time or another and dedicated countless hours to furthering the hobby of koi keeping. Please join in wishing them well in their new endeavors and thanking them for all they've done.

## **Vice President**

This is my last post as VP. It has been my pleasure to schedule the meetings and topics for the past year. Kevin McDonough is the new VP, so if you have ideas or meeting locations, please don't be shy. Reach out to him and offer up topic ideas, and locations. As our membership grows, it will be more and more important to have homes and public meeting spots and membership input. We need to know what new AND old members want to learn about. His email is: [vp@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:vp@atlantakoiclub.org)

## **Membership**

October was a fun meeting at Bob & Sue Chaffers home. Their koi and pond are beautiful! It's always fun to see what changes they've made, it's constantly evolving. Sue didn't disappoint, we had deviled eggs!

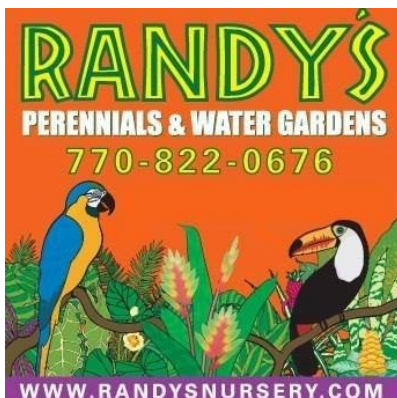
We have several new members that I hope some of you got to meet, 150 total to be exact. Those who couldn't make it, you will hopefully get to talk to at the Winter Social on November 9th. Information will be coming soon, but put Saturday evening on your calendar.

Thanks, Melanie  
Membership Chair

**Please remember our Sponsors:  
The Koi Store, Coastal Pond,  
Randy's, Koi Koi Pondscapes,  
Iquatics, and Happy Koi**



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\*Fish \*Water Treatments (Clarity)  
\*Fish Meds



## Sure-Fire Method to Repel Herons and Deer

Dr. Erik Johnson published this noisy method to repel our favorite predator– the Blue Heron. A word of caution..... When you purchase the floodlight motion detector, be sure that it has a time-delay on. You certainly don't want to awaken at night listening to a jig saw rattling in a bucket until sunrise comes!

You can make a Heron and Deer Scare That Works Every Time for about \$70 with materials you get on amazon.com



It's pretty simple to make and it relies on LIGHT and A LOT OF NOISE to scare off a critter. You need the following:

- \$15 – 5 Gallon Bucket with lid ([Green's nice CLICK](#))
- \$25 – Black and Decker Jigsaw WITHOUT BLADE and handle taped ON ([Click](#))
- \$15 – Motion Detector Floodlight that takes Standard Spots. ([Click](#))
- \$8 – A Light Socket to Outlet Adapter (Polarized!) ([Click](#))
- A drill to put some holes in the bucket
- \$15 – Stainless Steel nuts and bolts. ([Click](#))

# Saw-Bucket Motion Wildlife Deterrent

Dr Erik Johnson  
[drjohnson.com](http://drjohnson.com)



\$25 Black n Decker Jigsaw 4-5 AMP polarized plug. Handle taped "ON" position! NO BLADE.

Extension Cord

## Watch out for that UV Light!

Many of you may remember or, in my case...be quite fond of, the movie Dumb & Dumber. If you're not familiar with this classic 90's comedy, the movie is about two life-long friends who stumble through life dumb decision after dumb decision.

Recently I was just plain "Dumb" and careless while handling and thus forgetting of the close proximity of our retro-fitted UV Pond Light.



We were recently doing a fall cleaning of our pond and in doing so, I wanted to take a closer look at our pond pump (located inside the skimmer along with the UV light) which was making a strange sound. I also wanted to inspect the discharge pipe.

The first dumb decision I made during this process was that I didn't turn off the UV light (which by not doing this simple and very important task would later cause a dangerous injury to my eyes and face). I removed the UV light from the skimmer (placing it to the left of the skimmer) which was (1) a good idea, but useless because I didn't turn the UV light off while inspecting the pump and discharge pipe. During the estimated 20 minute time-frame, the UV light was faithfully glowing while being about 2 feet from my face as I laid down near the skimmer with my arms and face in the skimmer. I spent more time in this position that I had planned and forgot about the UV light.

As a result to this carelessness, I sustained dangerous burns to both corneas, surrounding tissue, burning my face, left ear and neck. My entire face, neck and ear peeled for a solid week. The really interesting thing after being exposed to this UV light (and only for about 20 minutes) was that I didn't feel anything at all (not any type of discomfort) until approximately 10 hours after being exposed. And then the pain hit. It was such a significant burning, one like I have never felt before in my life.

I was very fortunate to quickly see a prominent ophthalmologist, who proudly told me "well this is a first...you said a koi pond UV light...Cool!" "Just a few more minutes and you could have had permanent damage." Just a reminder that sometimes our lives are so busy, that we become complacent. And when this happens, we become Dumb...and sometimes "Dumber". Watch-out for that UV light!

Sincerely,  
Kevin McDonough

## Managing Ammonia in Fish Ponds During Winter

Thanks to Michael Anderson

"It is generally assumed that ammonia is not a problem in the winter because feeding rates are very low. (Fish are fed on only the warmest days of winter, usually when the water temperature is higher than 50 °F.) However, ammonia concentration tends to be greater during winter (2.5 to 4.0 mg/L, or even higher) than during summer (less than 0.5 mg/L) (Fig. 3). The relatively low concentration during summer can be attributed to intense photosynthesis by algae, which removes ammonia. During winter, algae take up little ammonia but the ammonia supply continues, primarily from the decomposition of organic matter that accumulated on pond sediment during the growing season. In general, the magnitude and duration of high ammonia concentrations during the late fall and winter can be related to the total amount of feed added to a pond during the preceding growing season.

The 30-day chronic criterion for ammonia (as nitrogen) in winter ranges from about 1.5 to 3.0 mg/L, depending on pH. Ammonia concentrations during the winter usually exceed this criterion. This may cause stress in fish at a time of year

From the article **Managing Ammonia in Fish Ponds**, SRAC 4603, Southern Regional Aquatic Center (SRAC), <https://srac.tamu.edu/searchFactSheets>

We welcome submissions of articles by members. If you have an interesting Koi anecdote, photo, items for sale, or improvements to share, please let us know. Or, if you have suggestions for a better newsletter, your comments are welcome!

## For sale by Club Members

Ceramic Bakki shower media for sale. This was originally purchased from James Lu as part of the purchase opportunity offered to the club for \$136 a box. I have approximately 2 1/2 boxes of the H-1 and 1 box of the H-4. It is previously used - \$200. Contact Diane Giangrande if interested - [dianewg@aol.com](mailto:dianewg@aol.com)



## Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes October 13, 2019

Executive Officers:

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

Executive Team Discussion Items:

VP & Treasurer Voting in Oct

Need 23 for quorum

Suggest attendance sheet sign in at meetings to obtain accurate attendance

2019 Show

Treasurer reports show was successful

Debrief with members at Nov meeting

Splash guards, air line set up

Attendees request for koi poster to purchase

Koi ID Field Guide

Koi ID Poster

Trailer

Security –Lock down area

Storage – Investigate other options

Condition – Load stressful on trailer

New tanks need engraving

Hostess Allowance

Motion to increase allowance

Monthly – Increase from \$150 to \$200

Social – Increase from \$250 to \$300

Take survey at end of year to determine if allowance adequate to cover expenses

Programs

Guest speakers – Attempt to secure 2 – 3 per year

Host KHV Symposium in Georgia

Co-host with AKCA – Inquire

Reach out to guest speakers

Invitation to regional clubs and public

Charitable projects

Miscellaneous

Color printer purchased for show - for sale if return not allowable

# Plants for the Pond

by Tim Brown (1994 )

There are two very different approaches to keeping Koi in a backyard pond. The first is to maintain something resembling an indoor aquarium, as nearly sterile as possible. I personally find this approach dull and boring, but it seems to satisfy some people. (The purveyors of expensive filtration gadgetry love this approach, for in order to maintain crystalline clarity, you'll be forever trying new ways to thwart Mother Nature.) The more interesting, challenging, and rewarding alternative is to have a real aquatic eco system of fish and plants, integrating your fish pond with your landscape in such a way as to enhance both and make the Koi pond one of the focal points of your beautification efforts.

The range of plants to use with your Koi is nearly endless. Most of us pond-keepers begin with the basic floating plant, the water hyacinth. It is a tender plant that dies back with the first fall freeze, but grows and multiplies prolifically all summer. It has choked the waterways of Florida and cannot legally be transported across state lines, but it is not expensive to purchase here in late spring. One is usually all you'll need to buy each spring. (One observer said that you can always tell the brand new pond owners because they are the ones buying up all the Hyacinths!) This cleverly designed little plant with its built-in floatation chambers serves seven different functions in the pond:

- 1) It adds oxygen to the water during daylight hours.
- 2) It removes nitrates and other excess nutrient from your water, which makes the fish happier.
- 3) It provides tender roots that Koi love to munch on
- 4) The hyacinth root makes good spawning media for Koi eggs to hold on to
- 5) The hyacinths create much-needed shade during the day
- 6) Hyacinth growth provides shade for the water which will then cut down the growth of suspended algae, thereby keeping the water clearer.
- 7) Hyacinths have lovely blue-lavender blossoms and, when you have seen a pond with a hundred or so in bloom, you'll know what the word "breathtaking" really means.

But since your Hyacinth roots are also a favorite Koi food, you'll need a Koi-proof area of your pond in which to grow them, or better still, a separate pond devoted to plants. You already knew that you should have a separate facility for quarantining new arrivals, and this area can be used for propagation of hyacinths as well!

The well rooted Hyacinths get tossed in with the Koi who eat-off their roots within days, and then the plants go back into the isolated pond to grow new roots. Dewitt Smith, master potter and Koi breeder of Watkinsville, has another approach to Hyacinths: He pots them in good dirt, and then submerges the pot in the water up to its rim. The baby hyacinths are then within nibbling range of the Koi, but the potted Hyacinths are safe, and grows even better than when free-floating!

Another foolproof plant that every beginner pond owner should have is *Iris pseudacorus*,...sometimes mistakenly called the yellow-blooming Japanese Iris. They are larger plants than Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*), and more robust, and less demanding. They can be grown in a pot under water in the pond, in damp soil next to the pond, or in regular garden soil. They bloom most prolifically in full sunlight, but can be grown in shadier locations as well. They're inexpensive to buy, and will increase rapidly if they're happy where you've planted them. They can grow from 2-4 feet tall, and have smallish, but very showy blossoms of bright yellow. Their dark green swordlike foliage looks good throughout most of the year. They make a great addition to your landscape, and are the perfect beginner's plant. Once you grow *Iris pseudacorus* well, you'll be ready for more demanding, but showier Japanese Irises.