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Diane Giangrande

September, 2019

By the Pond

Hi All - attached are a couple of items. First is the show poster - if you could print it and post at local business that would be great. Cheryl has been busy posting it any where on the internet she can find, but if you know of something where it is not posted, please post and let Cheryl know where so she can add to her list. Her email is arakaki60@yahoo.com

The second attachment is a document titled Fish Handling 101 - this document was written by Henry Culpepper, a well respected AKJA Judge. I would encourage everyone to read it as it contains a lot of great information. For those wanting to work in the show ring this is the "required" reading that was mentioned in the last newsletter. Prior to benching of fish we will have a quick review at the show site. As you can see, this is nothing to be nervous about so if you want to volunteer for the show ring this is all you need. This will be old hat to a lot of folks, but it's a great way for others to learn.

Thanks to all those who have signed up to volunteer at the show - it is very much appreciated. There are still plenty of spaces available if you haven't signed up - we could really use the help. Also, if you want your free show t-shirt you need to have your name in the Sign Up Genius. You can find the Sign Up Genius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-20191>

Also, if you plan on entering fish in show - koi or goldfish - please get your tanks reserved. People showing for the first time are entitled to a free show tank - please contact us so we can reserve a tank for you. This is a wonderful learning opportunity and a great way to have your fish critiqued.

If you have any questions or need help, please let us know.

Thanks,
Chad & Diane

25th Annual Atlanta Koi & Goldfish Show

Sept 28 – 29, 2019
Sat 9am - 5pm • Sun 9am - 2pm

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds
2405 Sugarloaf Parkway • Lawrenceville, GA 30045

**Koi & Goldfish
Competition
Koi Auction - Sun 2pm**

**Atlanta Bonsai
Society Display**

**Vendors Selling:
Fish, Pond Supplies,
Equipment, Plants &
Crafts**



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Free Parking**

(Enter from Davis Road NOT Sugarloaf Parkway)

**Raffles all day Saturday & Sunday
Food Available**

For more information visit: www.atlantakoiclub.org

Vice President

As you may or may not remember, I completed the previous VP's term as Vice President. This position is probably one of the easier ones on the board. Since we had 6 club sponsors this year and we host a meeting at each one of their locations, it made it much easier to schedule locations and topics. That being said, I will not be running for the upcoming 2 year term. But, the nominating committee has come up with several good names, which we will vote on at the October meeting.

October meeting! Who is going to volunteer their house? Also, the November Social, who wants to have it at their home? Please send me an email I need volunteers! There are 142 club members, I'd like to hear from you all!

Membership

We had a great turnout at Diane's new house for the August meeting. We had 38 people in attendance. Rich Carter of Kol Koi Pondscapes explained the pond build and some of the difficult features and what was done to make them work. We also got to see a Baki Shower set in the back corner of her property that returned water through underground pipes to the pond.

We now have 142 club members. Remember that this is a social club, so please chat with people you haven't met at our meetings. You may find they live near you.

Nominations Committee

The nominations committee consisting of James Dricker, Cynthia Landon and Diane Giangrande did a great job of coming up with names for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. They came up with 10 names for VP and 13 for Treasurer. The people that have agreed to run for these positions are VP: Angie Jones, Kim Munie, Diane Giangrande, Kevin McDonough. Treasurer: Ron Scott, Angie Jones. These names will be on the October ballot, and there may be a couple more that I haven't heard back from yet. People can be nominated right up until the time of the vote.

Thank you so much to the committee for coming up with such great names, and thank you to members for agreeing to run for these positions. This is how we keep the club going strong!

Thanks, Melanie VP, Membership Chair

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 8th at 2pm, at Iquatics located at 3492 Satellite Blvd, Duluth GA 30096. Please bring a chair.

Veterinarian, Chad Bishop stitches a split tail fin on a 35" koi.

Some details for our newer members of the Fish Show:

For Friday night the club will be purchasing the main course. We will be asking members to bring desserts.

For the auction on Sunday we will be auctioning fish with 100% of the proceeds going to the club. It is not like the auction in April where members bring fish.

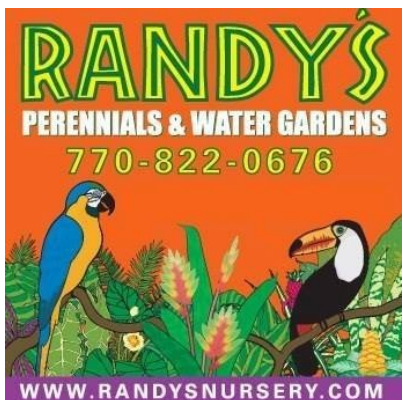


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So you want to be a Koi show fish handler

This guide is intended to provide a uniform set of procedures the Koi show fish handlers should follow in order to safely handle the Koi and to prevent cross contamination between show tanks. All members of the fish handling team should review these procedures prior to the start of the show.

The job of fish handler starts when the first fish arrives at the show and does not end until the last fish is removed from its show tank. The four main phases of the job are:

- Registration – helping the owners properly float, then release their fish into their assigned show tank
- Benching – netting each fish into the standardized measuring tub for inspection and measurement
- Judging – netting each fish into a show tub to enable a better view of each fish for the show judges
- Removal – helping the owners catch and bag each fish

General Guidelines

Grooming and attire: All show staff that might at some time handle a fish with their hands should be sure their fingernails have been trimmed as short as possible and filed smooth so as not to risk scratching a fish. All rings should be removed for the same reason (smooth wedding bands are usually OK). Watches can cause nicks on Koi during handling as well. Also, the disinfectant water can be harsh on a watch and not all areas around a watch may be properly disinfected (between watch band links, skin under the band), so remove watches as well. Short sleeve shirts should be worn to prevent their sleeves from absorbing water from one tank and contaminating other tanks. If the weather is too cool for short sleeves, long sleeves must be pushed up above the elbow and secure enough to not slip down during handling. If a long sleeve does slip down and get wet, the contaminated area must be dipped and rung out in the disinfectant water.

Netting a fish:

Netting a fish is an art form learned from years of experience. Anticipating where a fish will swim and how to corral it without causing undue stress is not something easily described in words. One of the main tips is to not chase the fish. The net should be moved slowly towards the fish and underneath it. Take advantage of the fact that fish cannot back up as well as they can swim forward. Approach the fish from the front rather than behind. Once underneath the fish, tilting the net one way or the other will prevent it from swimming away while the net is raised towards the water surface (the end of the net the fish is swimming towards should be raised). The fish should be slowly guided towards the show bowl and allowed to swim into the partially submerged bowl. The fish should not be lifted out of the water, especially not larger fish. If the bowl is not low enough in the water for the fish to swim in, ask the bowl handler to lower it further into the water. There will always be that one fish that just panics anytime a net enters the water. It will race back and forth to avoid the net and possibly jump when the net approaches. If a fish swims frantically or jumps, the net handler should try to cut the show tank in half, meaning start the net 2 about 4 feet in front of the fish and have the edge at least half out of the water. When the fish stops or changes direction, again get the net 4 feet in front of the head before trying to net it. Do not try to immediately get the net under the fish; you are trying to guide it by the net movements. Once the net is up to the head, meaning within 6 inches of the head, then drop the part of the net that is underwater under the fish, keeping the lead edge still out of the water. If the fish still wants to jump, it will jump right into the

net and back into the water since the net is almost vertical or perpendicular to the bottom of the tank. For these wild ones, the bowl handler should wait to put the bowl into the water until the fish is under control; otherwise it just tends to get in the way. Patience and slow movements will eventually bag your target.

Bowling a fish:

Once the person netting the fish to be bowled has control of the fish, the show tub should be submerged well into the water. Tilt the tub so that the side closest to the net is under water and the other half is still above water. The front lip of the tub should be submerged far enough so that the fish and net can enter the tub without having to raise any part of the fish up out of the water. For smaller fish (under 15 inches), if the bowl handler pushes the edge of the bowl down just as the fish arrives, there will be a current formed that will actually suck the fish into the tub. Once the fish has entered the tub, raise the submerged end up out of the water. Tilt the tub to remove the appropriate amount of water while keeping an eye on the direction the fish is swimming. If the fish swims towards the lowered lip, raise it to prevent it from swimming out. The water level in the tub should be high enough so that the fish can float in the tub with its dorsal fin covered with water. Too much water will make it easy for the fish to jump out of the tub as well as make it harder to move the tub through the water. Too little water and the fish will become restless and may thrash about or try to jump.

Removing net or tub from show tank:

Once a net or bowl is no longer needed at a particular show tank, it must be removed and transported directly to the disinfection tank. This must be done without splashing or dripping any water into another tank. Do not attempt to shake water off a net at anytime. Even when the net is held over the center of a show tank, shaking it will sling water into an adjacent tank. The fish handler should stand at an area of the tank that will allow for the net or tub to be removed without it crossing above an adjacent tank. The net or tub should be removed from the tank and then lowered below the level of the show tank rim. It should then be carried at that level directly to the disinfection tank. The net should be held with the net near your shins and the pole in a vertical position. Keeping the net or tub at this level helps to prevent it from possibly dripping into another tank. It is very easy to accidentally cross over another tank if not held below the level of the show tank rim.

Disinfection:

The used net or tub must be fully disinfected and rinsed prior to being used in another show tank. A round tub should be fully submersed in the disinfectant solution then removed and as much disinfectant drained off as possible. It should then be fully submersed into the rinse tank. A net should be placed net section first into the disinfectant solution and as much of the pole submersed as possible. Any net that has a hollow handle (the metal telescoping ones are an example) must be completely submerged in disinfectant. If the handle is too long, after dipping the net end, reverse and dip the pole end. For solid core handles, using your hands, rub disinfectant solution onto the portion of the pole that can not be submersed up to and past the point it was submersed in the previous show tank. Remove the net from the disinfectant tank and repeat the same procedure in the rinse tank. If the net or tub is not going to be immediately used, leave them in the rinse tank. Also remember your hands. If you just held a bowl within a show tank and the bowl was left in the show tank, your hands are contaminated. Never shake your hands dry after exposing them to water in the show tank, instead move directly to the disinfectant tank without allowing

your hands to cross over another show tank. Rinse your hands and forearms in the disinfectant and then in the rinse tank.

Registration:

Once an owner has registered and been assigned a show tank, they will need to move their fish into their show tank. Most owners prefer to perform this task themselves, but the fish handlers should keep an eye on all owners to verify they are not contaminating other show tanks by splashing or dripping water into them. Once their fish have been floated for a sufficient amount of time (determined by the owner), they should remove the fish from their bags while attempting to release as little water from the bags into the tank as possible. Once the fish are out of the bag, the bag with the transport water must be removed from the tank. The bag should be lowered below the level of the show tank rim and carried to a location away from the show area and the water dumped. Once the bag is empty, it should NOT be shaken in an attempt to remove the remaining water as this will usually sling water into another show tank (unless well away from the show area). Bags that were used for transport must be removed from the entire show area by the owner, or thrown away by show staff to avoid contamination.

Not all owners transport their fish in the preferred manner (bagged with oxygen). Some owners will transport their fish in high-end transport tanks, while others will use simple Rubbermaid containers or coolers. Again, as little water should be transferred from these containers to the show tank as possible. If a sock net is used to transfer the fish, a mesh type sock net that does not hold water is preferred. If a solid sock net is used, as much water as possible should be drained back into the transport tank as possible prior to moving it to the show tank. This type of transfer usually has the greatest possibility of contaminating an adjacent tank. The owner should be positioned so that their fish will enter their tank as far away as possible from all the adjacent tanks. If an owner is witnessed shaking their hands or equipment to dry them, they should be informed they are contaminating other show tanks and politely asked to leave the show area.

Once the owner has transferred all their fish into their show tank, all their equipment must be removed from the show area. The only equipment allowed to remain is a show bowl that should be floated in the show tank. No owner nets will be allowed to remain in the show area for they tend to be left on top of the tank dripping into an adjacent tank.

Benching:

The benching team is comprised of 4 people; the Bencher, the Netter, the Photographer and the Benching Assistant. If there are several fish to be benched, it is best to count how many fish need to be benched and advise the Benching Assistant of the quantity so they can be sure that all fish are benched. The team locates the next fish to be benched and the Netter guides that fish into the measuring tub. The Bencher inspects the fish for any obvious signs of disease then positions the fish for measurement. For larger fish, be careful not to bend the fish in order to get its nose on the correct side of the tub. Bending a fish too much can damage their spine. If needed, lift the tail end of the fish when rotating it in the measuring tub. The fish is held firmly against the measuring tub wall with its nose against the appropriate end of the tub. The fish's tail fin is extended similar to how it would be positioned if swimming and the fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail fin except for Longfins which are measured from the tip of the nose to the peduncle (this is the part of the tail where the actual tail fin starts). The Bencher informs

the Benching Assistant of the variety and length of the fish. The Benching Assistant records the variety and which size grouping it falls into. The Bencher then positions the measuring tank so that the Photographer can take photo of the fish. Once an acceptable digital photo is taken, the Photographer will tell the Benching Assistant the photo number and it is recorded along with the other information. To prevent misinformation, it is best to have the Benching Assistant read back what has been recorded and everyone agree the proper information was recorded. Improperly recorded information can cause significant delays in getting the judging forms ready as well as during judging. The Bencher releases the fish from the measuring tub and the process is repeated until all the fish in the tank have been benched.

Judging:

Each fish handling team during judging is comprised of 3 people; the Team Director, the Netter and the Bowl Handler (in smaller shows the job of the Team Director is usually performed by either the Netter or the Bowl Handler). The Team Director determines which tank requires a fish to be bowled in next (the goal is to keep ahead of the judging team so the judges do not have to wait for a fish to be bowled). The team is directed to the appropriate tank and the fish to be bowled located. The Bowl Handler either brings a disinfected show tub or uses the tub located in the tank. The Netter brings a disinfected net and guides the fish into the bowl held by the Bowl Handler. The Bowl Handler ensures there is enough water in the bowl to cover the fish's dorsal fin and leaves the tub floating in the tank. Once the judges are finished judging the variety/size that has been bowled, the team releases the fish from the show tubs. The show tub is left in the tank if the owner provided it; otherwise, it is transported to the disinfection tank.

Most times the larger size fish are not bowled during judging. Instead, the judges may request that a fish be "brought up". The Netter brings disinfected net, nets the fish and raises it up towards the water surface in front of the judges. The fish should only be raised up so that its dorsal fin is near the surface. The judges may also want the aeration for the tank to be temporally stopped so they can clearly see the fish without the ripples caused by the aeration. It is better to fold the airline to stop the aeration versus pulling the air stone(s) from the water. Pulling the air stones out of the water will usually contaminate the person's hands with water from the tank. It is easy to forget to disinfect one's hands after that action. 5 On rare occasions the judges may want to have a fish bowled and carried to another area with better light. A net cover should be used to prevent the fish from jumping and at no time should be left unattended while the bowl and fish are sitting on the ground. During judging, the fish handling team should not converse with the judges about any of the fish unless they are asked a question by the judge. The judges have a lot of information to concentrate on and should not be distracted by questions or comments, especially not from the fish handling team. After a fish is bowled the Netter and Bowl Handler should step back from the tank so the judges will be able to view the fish. The netter or bowl handler sometimes will be asked to bring the bowl over to the edge of the tank so the judges can better see it. Once this is done, they should step back again.

Removal:

Once the show is over, there will be a flurry of activity within the show area as the owners collect their fish. Just because the show is over, it doesn't mean the proper protocols can be ignored. All the care that was taken to prevent cross contamination during the show is pointless if the proper steps are not taken during fish removal. If a tank is provided with "take home water", the owners cannot be allowed to touch that water with any contaminated equipment or hands. Only new, not previously used bags may be placed

into the take home water. If the owner is using the same bags the fish came in, they cannot be placed into the take home water. A sterile container (usually a plastic pitcher) must be used to scoop water out of the take home water tank and then poured into the bag outside the tank. After bagging one fish, the owner must disinfect their hands prior to returning to the take home water tank. A careful eye should be kept on the entire show area to be sure owners are not splashing or dripping water into adjacent tanks. If witnessed, a fish handler should politely point out the proper protocols that are not being followed. The steps in netting the fish for bagging are similar to those used to bowl a fish. If the owner is transporting the fish a short distance and the fish will not be in the bag more than an hour, usually the show tank water will be suitable for transport. If this is the case the fish may be netted, but not lifted from the water. The netter brings up the fish and the owner may simply scoop the fish and water together directly from the net into the bag. Once the head of the fish is in the bag, the netter should lower the net out of the way. If the owner has some distance to travel then clean treated transport water should be placed in the bag as described above using the pitcher to fill the bag being careful not to contaminate the pitcher or reserve transport water. Once the fish are bagged and boxed, the containers with fish should be kept in the shade until the owner is ready to leave.

Night Thief at Work

Bob Chaffer

To feed my 17 Koi, I installed an automatic fish feeder. It contains about one gallon of fish food, and feeds adjustable quantities three times a day. It was mounted onto a four-foot long horizontal pole projecting over the pond., and also had a 16-inch diameter pizza pan mounted to the pole, to keep the squirrels away. It worked extremely well, and needed refilling every 12 days.



However, in July, the feeder began to empty-out every 3 days. This happened during the entire month. I thought that either the fish figured out how to adjust the feed rate, or maybe the feeder had malfunctioned. My intuition let me realize that fish don't have hands, and that they probably can't jump 3 feet up to the feeder. So I wisely concluded that I had a bad feeder (ah...maybe the batteries somehow accelerated the timing!!!!) But, no.....There was nothing wrong with the feeder...it fed the right amount at the right time of day.

Fortunately, I had an infrared "Wild Game" camera, and mounted it to an adjacent pole. I was shocked to find a masked villain purloining my fish food. The photos indicated that he started his nightly visit at 9:15 pm, stayed all night, and retired to sleep it off at 5 am every day! He was the gosh-awful biggest and fattest critter I had ever seen....of course he would be....he ate 20 pounds of my fish food! And he made nightly visits for 12 out of 14 days. Although the lid was secured, he learned to reach into the feed nozzle to extricate enough food by jiggling the nozzle.



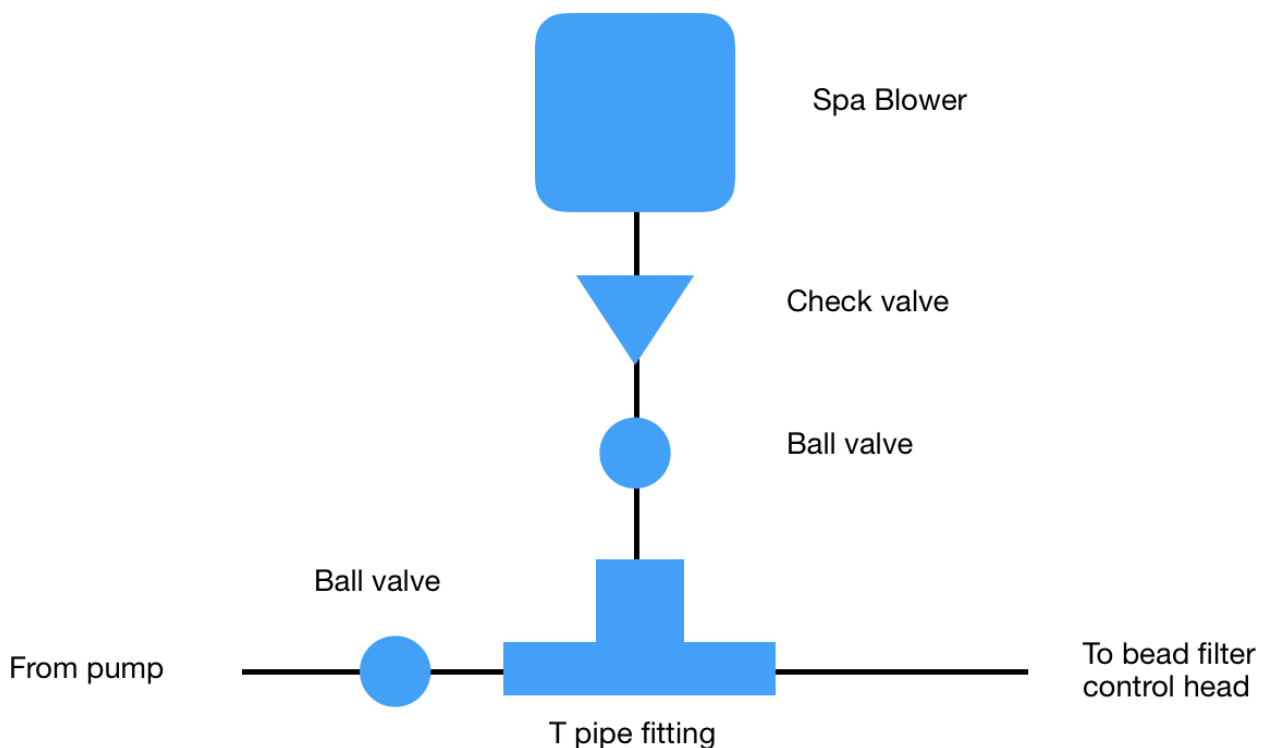
By attaching a 3" diameter PVC pipe extending above and below the nozzle, the culprit was thwarted from obtaining any more tid-bits, although he continued to try unsuccessfully during the next four nights. He simply couldn't bend his grubby little paws up the pipe and into the nozzle.

Installing a Blower onto a Bead Filter

submitted by Mike Anderson

On Facebook's Koi Keepers of North America page, someone asked if they could add a blower to a bead filter that did not have one. A spa blower can be used to push a large amount of air with pressure through a bead filter, breaking up the bead pack. This will make it much easier for the water pump to backwash and rise the bead media.

Attached is a simple diagram showing how to add a spa blower to a bead filter. The needed parts would be: spa blower (1.5 to 2 horsepower), a spring loaded check valve (to help protect the blower), two ball valves, and a Tee fitting, some small pieces of PVC pipe, PVC primer, and PVC glue. You would use either 1.5" or 2" pipe and fittings that match your existing bead filter installation. Most bead filter installations would use 2" diameter PVC pipe.



....Some excellent thoughts provided by Mike Anderson: to encourage folks to not only show their koi at our September show, but also to come to the show to purchase koi from the vendors.

A thought for koi keepers

Chai Taevanitcharoen ZNA Certified Judge

1. **Do not believe whatever everyone says until you see with your own eyes or prove it yourself.**
2. **Koi are living things.** They do die, either by accident or natural causes. Learn to accept it and learn how to identify a sick fish or symptoms that a fish is getting sick. Learn how to treat sick fish before you spend a lot of money on buying new koi.
3. **Invest your money on filtration system before you invest money on expensive fish and expensive fish food.** Koi will get sick easier and may die from poor quality pond water. The beni can break or disappear, skin may get rough or turn yellowish, fish lost appetite. In order to maintain or improve the beauty of a koi to its potential you should have:

a. A koi with quality	=	50%
b. Water quality	=	30%
c. Raising technic and koi food	=	20%
4. **Dark red or red beni doesn't mean high quality and thick beni or orange color tone beni doesn't mean low quality. The basics of beni quality:** Each beni pattern should have evenness of color tone and luster from the top of the pattern all the way down to the end of the pattern. And, all the kiwa should have the same evenness of color tone. It is better if it is harder to see the outline of the scales.
5. **Buying the quality not the Brand name.** "Champion koi doesn't always breed Champion koi". Each parent koi of well-known or no name breeders will produce low and high quality offspring. It's up to you to be able to tell the difference in quality. If you are depending on the brand name only, you may be disappointed.
6. **Buying koi from a photograph or video is not preferable.** It is difficult enough to make a quality assessment when the fish is in the tub. It is almost impossible to tell the quality of beni, shiroji, sumi, deformity, and how a fish swims from pictures or videos
7. **Learn to look for the quality (body, shiroji, beni, sumi, metallic sheen) of the koi first and the pattern last.** Everyone can learn pattern but not everyone can learn "Quality". If you try to learn the quality of the koi first you will learn the koi faster.

- 8. Color food does not make beni get thicker and does not stop beni from breaking up.** Low quality beni is low quality beni, there is no fish food can change the quality of the beni
- 9. Training eyes to see different color tone.** Kohaku, Sanke, and Showa *do not have the same beni*. Each has more than 4 types of beni. And each beni has its own color tone, characteristics, and development.
- 10. Take pictures or video of the same fish from time to time.** Good quality pictures or videos can be good learning tools. As you know, tosai can change (especially the sumi) a lot.
- 11. Knowing the purpose of buying koi.** Is it for the pond fish? Is it for the koi show? Or is it for the future (Tategoi)?
Show fish is like a cut flower. It may be beautiful now, but don't expect it to last forever. There are some quality koi that can be beautiful now and later.
Future koi (Tategoi) is hard to learn and select, as well as find, without continual learning. It takes a lot of koi knowledge, raising skills, and luck to select a Tosai Tategoi which will grow to be a beautiful koi for years later.
As a hobbyist, I use my own scoring technique to predict Tategoi. I use the following point system from 1 to 10 for each category. 1 being the poorest and 10 being the best.
1. Body quality
 2. Shiroji quality
 3. Beni quality
 4. Sumi quality
 5. Metallic sheen quality
 6. Pattern quality
- The more categories that score higher points, I believe, the fish will have better chance to make it in the future. I prefer numbers 1,2,3,4, and 5 to be the most important on scoring 7 points or higher.
- 12. Training eyes by Comparison.** When you visit your friends' pond or koi dealers, always look for *koi of the same type and size (or within 2 inches difference)* to determine what you think has the best quality(body, shiroji, sumi, beni, metallic sheen) and worst quality. If possible, put both fish in the same tub and compare body to body, shiroji to shiroji, sumi to sumi, beni to beni, metallic sheen to metallic sheen.
- 13. Look for the good things on the fish before looking for the faults on the fish.** There is no perfect fish. If you look for the faults first you may miss a good quality koi..
- 14. One koi in the tub at a time.** When you are purchasing koi, putting more than one in the tub may confuse you and it will be hard to see how each koi is swimming or its deformities.
- 15. Learning from the koi shows.** Take the opportunity to ask the koi judges why this koi won The Best in size, first, second or third, etc. You can learn a lot from the judges and from the koi show.
- 16. Get involved at Koi shows and koi clubs.** Learn from Senior Koi keepers and Judges.
- 17. Learning about koi is never ending and no graduation no experts.** There's always something new to learn.

Happy Koi hunting

Diane's new pond

Our August meeting was at Diane's new house....complete with a brand new pond. It's about 6' deep, constructed of rubber lining and spackled concrete block walls. Her equipment is still in process of installation, but she has a Baki biologic filter on line. Rich Carter, of Koi Koi Pondscapes gave a presentation of the pond's construction details.



Monthly Officer Meeting Minutes

Executive Officers:

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

Executive Team Discussion Items:

- Nominating committee for upcoming election
- Insurance committee to review policy
- By-law revision to be conducted every 2 years