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February, 2021

By the Pond

Hi All,

I want to start by thanking Lynn and Bill Dowden at Coastal for everything they've done for the club over the years. They have been a tremendous help. The building that Coastal occupies has been sold and we've been notified that the 2021 auction will be the last one at that location. I am writing to ask if anyone knows of a place where we can: 1) store the trailer and tanks and 2) have the auctions from 2022 on. Ideally it would be the same place. Keep in mind that we need access to a fire hydrant and electricity. Any ideas are welcome and greatly appreciated. Please respond to this email with any info.

Thank you,

Diane

AKC President

Hello fellow "amantes de los koi"!

We're quickly approaching March...and thus the certainty for warmer temperatures. And whether or not you believe the groundhog prediction about this or that, it's time to begin preparing your pond for warmer temps.

February 21st's Zoom meeting is featuring "The Koi Expert" and The Koi Store Owner, Vicki Vaughn. Vicki will be discussing Koi Health and Treatments. This is your time to listen, ask questions and get answers from a true koi expert. Vicki's koi-related resume reads like a detailed documentary in the koi world. Please join us via Zoom February 21st @ 3PM. A separate email containing detailed Zoom link information will follow.

We're working on another very special guest for our March meeting. Stay tuned! Please help get the word out and make every effort to jump on the Zoom meetings, gain knowledge, mingle and have fun with your fellow AKC members!

For those of you who missed any of the previous videos, they are now visible on the AKC YouTube page - Search YouTube for: Atlanta Koi Club Organization

The AKC really needs your volunteer help in 2021. If you have a koi/pond topic that you believe that the AKC members could benefit from, please let me know. We need volunteer speakers who can help teach koi topics (on our Zoom meetings and in person...whenever that may be): Pond construction, koi diseases, filtration...what's worked for you...what hasn't? We need your volunteer efforts to keep the AKC fresh and fun. If you can teach a topic and have some ideas, please let me know: vp@atlantakoiclub.org

Get your shotguns with "rock salt" ready...the herons are overhead!

Stay safe and healthy,

Kevin "Your AKC VP"

When: February 21st @ 3:00 pm

Discussion: KOI HEALTH & TREATMENTS

For some of you, this may be one of the most informative meetings you'll attend this year. It's not only a highly important topic that many Koi lovers dread and ultimately deal with, but it's a topic being covered by one of the most knowledgeable and respected Koi experts in the industry, Vicki Vaughn.

Vicki Vaughn: (Owner (Along with her husband Carl Forss) of The Koi Store/Flat Rock Koi) – Vicki is a Koi Health Specialist, Koi Food Sales – Koi Sales. *20 years at University of Georgia involved in fish research.* Instrumental in the development of potentiated antibiotics for use in fish as well as the development of KHV testing for the koi hobby. Coordinator of the Koi Health Management Course. Director of KOILAB LLC which is a full service reference lab dedicated to helping hobbyists, breeders and retailers maintain optimal health for their fish.

Vicki and Carl are strong supporters of our AKC and their willingness (again) to share their vast knowledge and experience is really something that you shouldn't miss.

SPECIAL NOTE: I had a detailed conversation with Vicki and Carl regarding their selection of high-quality Koi. RIGHT NOW, The Koi Store has an exceptional selection of high quality Koi. Their tanks are full of premium-grade koi! They are practicing social distancing and will allow you space to peruse the tanks and be comfortable while making your selections. Don't worry, if you don't need "the-high-end-stuff", they have you covered there too. Many very affordable options are also available. They have an enormous selection to choose from...and oh yeah...they are all quarantined!

Please support the AKC & The Koi Store and "Zoom with us" for this important meeting **February 21st, @ 3PM**

****Zoom Details and login Link/Password to join the meeting will be sent in a separate email****

Come on, let's meet on-line and soak up this knowledge!

Sincerely yours,

Kevin McDonough

"Your AKC VP"

The Atlanta Koi Club is a member of K.O.I. Here are some of the benefits our club members can take advantage of.

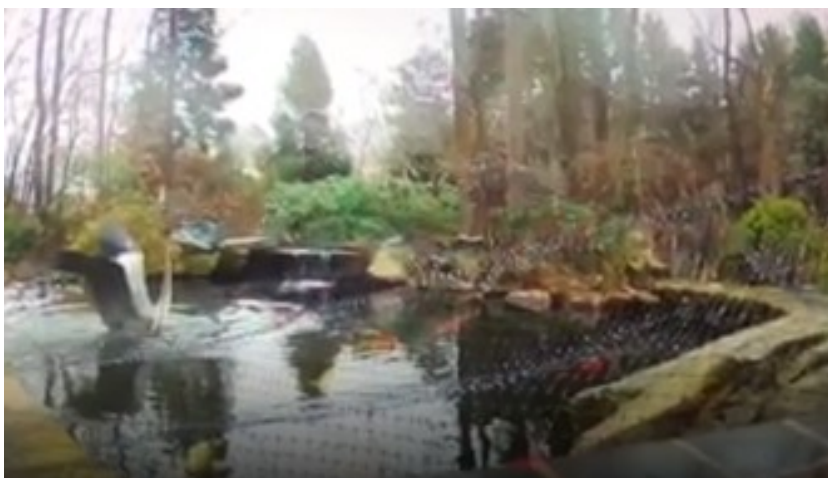
Club Membership Benefits - \$100 [CLICK HERE](#)

- K.O.I. will partner with your club to provide 1 CKK SCHOLARSHIP PER YEAR for only \$100 (that's 7 courses, including the LAB)
- 1 PRESENTATION to club by a K.O.I. Director (using Skype or another webinar package)
- Your Newsletter Editor receives a copy of the K.O.I. NEWS plus an article EVERY MONTH
- Your Newsletter Editor has access to all K.O.I. Archived Articles and Blog Entries to help provide additional good content for your members
- Group Courses at HALF PRICE for any \$25 K.O.I. course (minimum 4 students, no maximum)
- Group Courses at HALF PRICE for any \$50 K.O.I. course (minimum 6 students, \$37.50 each for groups of 4-5 students)
- Group LAB at \$40 per Student (minimum 3 students, no maximum)
- Access to Group Buys at Member Prices
- Post your club events (meetings, shows, pond tours, etc) on our site!

Who says Herons can't swim?

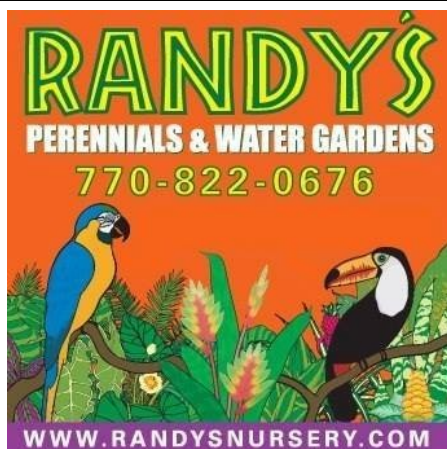
Melanie Onushko

I've had a 3' tall fence around the perimeter of my pond for 15 years. Apparently THIS Blue Heron, thinks it's a pelican. It dives and floats in the middle of my pond! I've had to net the whole 22 x 15' pond. The net I got from Randy's Perennials is actually easy to see through and pulls nice and tight. It looks so much better than the perimeter net I had up. Now my BB gun and I can sleep in past sunrise, the koi are safe!



Please remember our Sponsors:

Randy's Perennials, Splendor Koi and Pond, Koi Koi Pondscapes, Coastal Pond Supply, Atlanta Water Gardens, T&T Uniforms, The Koi Store, Neptune Aquascapes, and Mosquito Curtains



www.**TandT**uniforms.com

The following were excerpted from the Fish Stories Newsletter, a publication which ran from January 1994 until mid year 1995.

Article: Cold Gold

...A side note to Oranda and other short bodied Japanese carp enthusiasts: These highly selected Japanese fish are to be kept in waters no cooler than 70 degrees. You would be surprised the number of people who regard these fish as coldwater, outdoor or over-winter specimens, and/or who do not heat their systems indoors over winter when temperatures may drop into the 60's.

Does this mean that Ranchus and Orandas cannot tolerate these temperatures?

No. I am telling you that to avoid illness, and dropsy, and floating sickness in these fish, they should be kept warm!

Especially in larger fish, remember to maintain temps above 70 degrees for best results. If you over-wintered an Oranda or Ranchu outside this last year, and it lived, consider yourself lucky, and avoid that risk next year, or I may just say it; "I told you so!" The most common thing you see with cold Orandas, Ranchus and Ryukins is floating sickness. It's a heartbreaker.

Article: Fresh Fish!

At this time of year, the question on most folks' minds is how to care for a new fish when you bring it home. I have some opinions on this.

First, be sure the fish is eating at the seller's establishment. If so, that would be a fair selection. If not, the fish may be getting ready to succumb to bacterial septicemia, or may be parasitized in some other way. I am seeing fish now that have Capillaria, which is a worm that is not fatal in and of itself; but causes wasting and fish that do not seem to get fat, no matter what they eat.

When you get the fish home, check the pH and the ammonia in the bag. Of course, ammonias should have come up in the bag somewhat, but pH will be largely unchanged, unless the trip was a long one.

Knowing the pH and the ammonia levels of the original water can tell you a lot about how the fish will do upon entrance to your pond. For example, if the original water had a pH of 7.8-8.0 and you place him in your pond, perhaps with a low pH like 6.6 or so, the fish will have some troubles, probably isolating itself or laying on the bottom lethargically for a day or two until it adjusts.

If the original water was high in ammonia due to crowding or poor husbandry, the fish can be expected to do poorly at first, due to burns on the gills and skin, as well as the immune suppressive effects of chronic stress, and ammonia.

Some people go so far as to check temperature as they unload, and there is some common sense to this, because some fish are shipped on, or with, ice. These fish are not going to like going from 55 degree shipping water into 80 degree summer water temperatures without some careful acclimation.

It seems like a lot of hub-bub, I admit. But it answers a lot of questions in the next few days if the fish is doing poorly. The testing of the original water affords some explanations after-the-fact and helps the diagnosis.

Finally, what can you do about parasites? The most prudent course would be to salt dip the fish until it seems stressed. There are two ways to do this.

Recipe one:

....requires a 5 gallon bucket to which you have added 9 tablespoons non-iodized, or water softener salt per gallon, or 45 tablespoons. Be sure all the salt is dissolved. Add the fish, one at a time until they are stressed.

Recipe Two:

....is the way I do the dip. I take a salt shaker and salt the fish every few minutes or so until the water tastes like the ocean. In a short while, the fish will be weakened. The parasites will be gone, and I simply transfer the fish out of the bag into the main system.

There are three things that can still enter your pond despite this treatment: Lerneia, (AKA Anchor worm) and Fish Lice (AKA Argulus) and bacterial pathogens. For starters, you can see the Lerneia and Argulus with the naked eye, or with a hand lens, so by simply scrutinizing the fish, you can substantially exclude these. The salt dip kills the immature phases (females) that might be trying to lodge under a scale.

If the fish begins to fail and you do suspect he is succumbing to bacterial infection, due to visible ulcers or reddened skin and fins, then injection probably should be solicited from a veterinarian that treats fish.


Filter Control Valve Repair and Maintenance

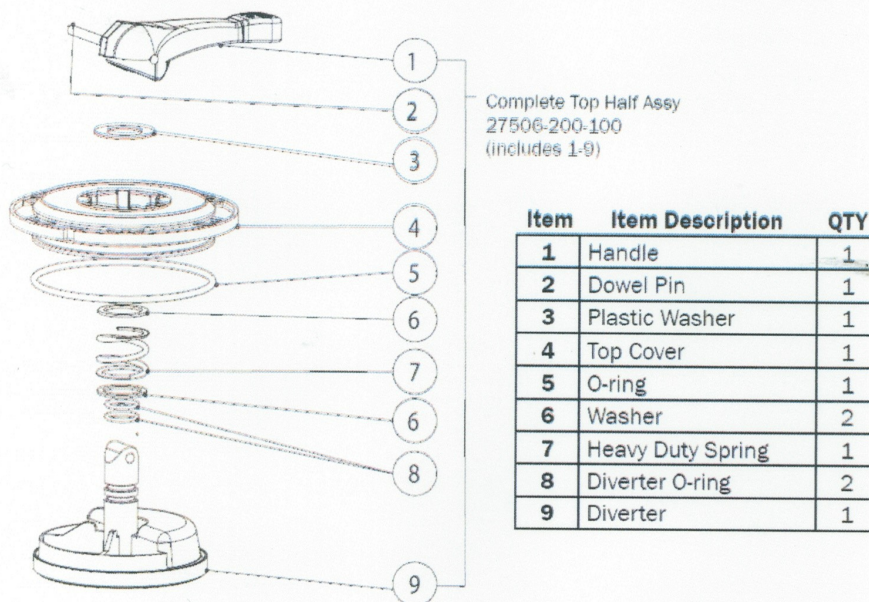
By Don Harrawood, SKAPA, reprinted with permission from K.O.I.

An atmosphere of wind and blowing dirt can result in contamination of filter control valves. When control valves become excessively hard to turn from position to position, this means the valve mechanism is contaminated with sand or other forms of debris and should be cleaned and lubricated. If this condition is not corrected, continual use may result in worn out parts and broken handles. With a little effort, these valves can be disassembled, cleaned, lubricated and reassembled at little cost. If parts need to be replaced due to wear or breakage, larger costs due to replacement parts may occur.

Beads can sometimes get jammed into the control valves, causing leakage or total malfunction of the valve. The same procedure should be undertaken to clean out any smashed beads that have found their way into the valves.

Shown below are the various parts that make up the Key, Cover, Gasket, and Handle Assembly used on most pond filters including Aquadyne and Ultra models. This assembly is the top removable portion of the control valve.

 IF O-RINGS REQUIRE LUBRICATION, USE ONLY SILICONE TYPE LUBRICANTS



If you wish to repair or lubricate the control valve yourself, just follow the method described below:

- First step, either snap a picture or remember exactly how the assembly is attached to the filter. Shut off the pump and make sure the handle is positioned into the "filter" position.
- Remove the dowel pin (2) that secures the handle. This can be easily accomplished with a medium size screw driver and a small hammer to drive the pin out.
- Remove the top screws, either 6 screws or 8 screws depending on size of the filter.
- Remove the Key, Cover, Gasket, and Handle Assembly (exploded view above). Pay particular attention to the diverter (9) to make sure the sealing surface on the bottom portion of the part is in good condition, meaning no excessive imperfections, embedded rocks, etc. If it was found that when running in the filter position, water is also coming out of the waste line, this indicates that the Diverter (9) seal is torn, out of place, or has debris (rocks) under the seal. This repair generally requires that the Diverter (9) be replaced. Check the "O" Rings on the shaft for excessive wear, then clean and lubricate the "O" Rings.
- Remove all the individual parts from the assembly. Clean all the parts, including the bore hole in the Top Cover (4). Lubricate all the parts (except the stainless steel parts) with a good grade silicon grease and re-assemble as shown in the view above.
- Note that there is a white plastic bearing (3) located between the handle (1) and top cover (4). Clean the bearing and the cavity in the top cover and lubricate the bearing area on the top side that contacts the handle.
- When re-assembling the components they must be properly aligned radially on the shaft. To do this, the discharge hole in the Diverter (9) must be radially aligned to the "Filter" position on the Top Cover (4). If this procedure is not followed correctly, the handle will be 180 degrees off location and the water flow will not work properly. A picture before disassembly may be good here.
- Reinstall the assembly back onto the filter with the radial location same as when removed. Assemble screws and tighten down snugly. Assemble the handle (1) in the "Filter" position and insert the pin (2) through the hole in the handle.
- Re-assembly is now complete and the valve should work well as when new.

To minimize contamination of these valves, it is recommended that the pond owner cover the valve with a shower cap, plastic bag, or some other item in order to prevent dirt from blowing into the valve cavity. This will allow the assembly to go longer between lubrications.

Items that Impact Koi Health

Written by Michael Anderson- Atlanta Koi Club

We all want our koi to thrive and not just survive. There are several factors that influence the growth, development, and health of koi. Some of those factors are:

- Genetics
- Water quality
- Nutrition
- Quarantining new arrivals
- Pathogen treatment

Genetics

We have all heard the old saying "Can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.". Lots of truth in that. Good breeding practices with known bloodlines will typically deliver a higher percent of good to superior offspring. Such animals will likely be healthier and do a better job of fulfilling the judging standards for their specific koi variety.

Purchase the best quality koi you can afford. Purchase from a known dealer; not a Backyard Bubba. Learn about what makes a good quality koi. To help in the education about what makes a good koi, consider the following books:

- ***Koi Appreciation - the first step***, Kate McGill, ISBN: 1 86126 468 2 (available on Amazon)
- ***Koi 1 Go Sanke Varieties***, Harald Bachmann, ISBN: 978-3-981 1622-2-6
- ***Koi 2 Kawari Varieties***, Harald Bachmann, ISBN: 978-3-981 1622-3-3
- ***Koi Breeders - Creators of Living Jewels***, Mamoru Kodama, Library of Congress Control Number: 2009936135

Water Quality

If it said that we koi keepers and not really fish keepers at all; we are water keepers. If we do not keep the water quality parameters within the appropriate ranges, we set the stage for having stressed koi. And just like us humans, a stressed koi cannot do as good job in fighting off diseases and parasites. So if you have purchased good koi, give them every opportunity to fulfill their genetic potential by providing excellent water quality.

The following table provides a high-level overview of the main water quality parameters and good target ranges for the parameters. Most of these water parameters should be covered in any good book about koi keeping.

	Target Values	Comments
Chlorine or Chloramine	0 mg/L	Target is always zero
Heavy metals such as copper	<0.001mg/L	Smaller is better
Temperature	Thrive range: 65-77F	Survive range: 35-95F
Ammonia	<0.01 mg/L	Smaller is better
Nitrite	<0.01 mg/L	Smaller is better
Nitrate	<20 mg/L	Smaller is better
pH (acid or base)	7.0 to 7.5	Stability is the key
KH (carbonate level)	100 to 150 mg/L	Have enough to stabilize pH
GH (general hardness)	100 mg/L	Higher levels may cause shimmies
Oxygen level	6 to 9 mg/L	Temperature dependent
ORP level	300 to 400 mV	Higher is better

Nutrition

I know you have heard "You are what you eat." That translates to the koi world very well. To once again give our koi every opportunity to fulfill their genetic potential, we need to feed them a food designed for koi. Put away the trout chow or catfish pellets. Those do not have an appropriate mix of protein types and percentages and likely too much fat. In koi keeping we want to raise koi for the long term, not rushed to market as a food stuff.

Suggestion is to stick with major brands of koi food that have been in the koi industry for years. Major brands would include:

- Saki Hikari
- Japan Pet Design (JPD)
- Nijikawa
- Tomigai
- Kenzen

Each of these brands will have different foods with different mixtures targeted at: fry, young fast-growing koi and, mature koi. There may also be food with special probiotics that may help boost a koi's immune system. Talk to other koi keepers and do your research.

Quarantining New Arrivals

One of the fastest way to clear out a pond of koi is to introduce new koi that have not been quarantined. You could easily be bringing in a several varieties of bacteria, viruses, and parasites that will kill or disfigure your pond of koi. There is where you need a separate pond or tank to house the new arrivals for weeks while they undergo the quarantine protocol you have selected. By the way, you cannot be moving bowls, nets, or other items between a QT system and your regular pond. That defeats the purpose of the quarantine. Plan ahead for how, when, and where you will quarantine new arrivals. One of the items you will need for quarantining new koi is a microscope with 400x optics. You will need to scrape and scope the new fish to see if they any parasites. If so, then you can use koi health books to determine the best choice in treatment protocol.

Pathogen Treatment

You found parasites or a bacterial infection on a koi in the quarantine facility or your pond. What is the treatment protocol to use? You refer to any of several good books that describe symptoms of pathogens and usually provide photos of what parasites look like under the microscope. These books will typically suggest corresponding treatment protocols using one or more chemicals routinely used for ornamental fish. Some of the recommended books on koi health care are:

- ***Advanced Koi Care***, Nicholas Saint-Erne,, available via Amazon
- ***Koi Medicine***, Lance Jepson, ISBN: 1 85279 177 2, available via Amazon
- ***The Koi Doctor***, Maaten Lammens, ISBN: 9080856630, available on Amazon
- ***Step by Step Advanced Koi Diagnosis & Treatments***, Duncan Griffiths
- ***Koi Health and Disease 2***, Erik Johnson, available on Amazon

Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
As of December 31, 2020

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: **\$9,905.91**

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

2500 Miscellaneous Income		\$41.50
2510 Donations		
2700 Membership		
2730 Member Dues		\$108.00

Total Income

\$149.50

Expenses

1400 Bank Charges		
1466 PayPal Charges		\$4.78
1000 Raffle Expenses		
1030 Monthly Meeting Items		\$102.19
1100 Rental Expenses		
1101 Rent at Coastal Pond		\$185.00

Total Expenses

\$291.97

Month Net Income/(Loss)

(\$142.47)

ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: 12/31/2020 **\$9,763.44**

Outstanding Checks:

\$1,538.52

09/07/16	EFT	\$65.00	09/27/19	EFT	\$175.00
10/08/16	1311	\$16.85	12/07/20	1538	\$150.00
10/24/16	EFT	\$216.00	12/10/2020	1540	299.88
10/03/17	EFT	\$107.17	12/10/20	1541	\$49.99
06/15/18	EFT	\$150.00	12/29/20	1542	\$275.00
10/03/18	EFT	\$33.63			

PETTY CASH:

Beginning Balance: **\$136.00**

Income:

11/01/20

2500 Miscellaneous Income		
	Raffle -	
	Monthly Meet-	
2545	ing	

Total Income:

\$0.00

Expenses:

Total Expenses:

\$0.00 \$0.00

Ending Balance: **\$136.00**

Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
As of Januaray 31, 2021

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$9,763.44

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

2500 Miscellaneous Income	
2510 Donations	\$501.00
2700 Membership	
2730 Member Dues	\$2,372.00
2720 Name Badges	\$24.00
2745 Sponsorships	\$300.00

Total Income

\$3,197.00

Expenses

1400 Bank Charges	
1466 PayPal Charges	\$80.54
1100 Rental Expenses	
1101 Rent at Coastal Pond	\$185.00

Total Expenses

\$265.54

Month Net Income/(Loss)

\$2,931.46

ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:

1/31/2020

\$12,694.90

Outstanding Checks:

\$774.87

12/07/20	1538	\$150.00
12/10/20	1540	\$299.88
12/10/20	1541	\$49.99
12/29/20	1542	\$275.00

PETTY CASH:

Beginning Balance:

\$136.00

Income:

2500 Miscellaneous Income	
2545 Raffle - Monthly Meeting	

Total Income:

\$0.00

Expenses:

Total Expenses:

\$0.00 \$0.00

Ending Balance:

\$136.00