

President: Diane Giangrande pres@atlantakoiclub.org Vice-President: Kevin McDonough vp@atlantakoiclub.org Secretary: Kim Munie scribe@atlantakoiclub.org Treasurer: Angie Jones money@atlantakoiclub.org Equipment Manager: Marlon Tiller stuff@atlantakoiclub.org Membership Melanie Onushko membership@atlantakoiclub.org **Auction Chairs:** Alan Puch stuff@atlantakoiclub.org koishow@atlantakoiclub.org Diane Giangrande Koi Show Chairs: Diane Giangrande koishow@atlantakoiclub.org

Chad Bishop

Pond Tour Chairperson: Melanie Onushko tour@atlantakoiclub.org Public Relations Chair: Cheryl Jacobs pr@atlantakoiclub.org

AKCA Director: (vacant)
Volunteer Coordinator: (vacant)
Newsletter Editor: Rob Chaffer

Newsletter Editor: Bob Chaffer editor@atlantakoiclub.org
Webmaster: Cynthia Landon wizard@atlantakoiclub.org
Koi Rescue: Chase Tomkosky rescue@atlantakoiclub.org

# **April, 2021**

# By the Pond

# Here we go! April is an important month for the AKC!

But *First*, a big thank you to Richard Carter of Kol Koi Pondscapes for a very informative topic on pond building. Please reach out to Richard & Kol Koi for all your pond constructing, pond maintenance and pond supplies. Kol Koi has been a sponsor of the AKC for a long time and the AKC is truly grateful for the continued relationship that we share with them.

April is easily one of the most important times of the year for your AKC. The AKC Auction (April 24th) is a time where the AKC generates much of its yearly earnings to cover expenses as a non-profit organization. The once-a-year auction allows you to buy and sell fish. With that in mind, the AKC needs your help to make this event successful. Even donating just a few hours of your time really goes a long way. If you haven't volunteered for any of the events and want to help, please volunteer via the following Sign Up Genius link: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2021">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2021</a>

For those wanting to sell fish, please register here (under seller registration): <a href="https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions">https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions</a>

And lastly, consider this when performing any task...or when offering any advice...

6+3=9 ...but so does 5+4 The way you do things isn't always the only way to do things.

Hope to see you at the auction!! Stay safe and healthy, Kevin Your AKC VP Hi All,

The 2021 auction is scheduled for April 24th with a rain date of May 1st. Having missed the auction last year it's important for the club's financials that this year's auction is a success. As always, we need volunteers in order to make that happen. We are going to require that masks be worn and do what we can to social distance.

To volunteer, please use Sign Up Genius - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2021

For those wanting to sell fish, please register here: <a href="https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions">https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions</a> under seller registration.

If you want to sell fish at the auction, you will need to register. The link to register is: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/70255302898157">https://form.jotform.com/70255302898157</a>

There is a 2 tank limit per member/household. Details can be found here: <a href="https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions">https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions</a>
If you have any questions, please let me know.

For the 2022 auction (next year, not this year) there will be a change to the active vs non-active member classifications. The new rules are below.

#### Who can sell

Club members may sell koi, goldfish, plants or used pond or garden equipment. There is a limit of one seller per household. Active members are classified as those who: hold an elected or appointed position, host a meeting, or have volunteered for at least 6 hours at Club events. Events include the auction, show and pond tour in years we have it. Also, speaking/presenting at a meeting will count towards the 6 hours. Membership must be current and the Membership Chair will determine eligibility of members who wish to participate. Members who do not meet the above requirements will be considered non-active. Any exceptions will need Board approval. Non-active members will be able to auction fish, plants and equipment at a reduced percentage. Non-members will not be able to have fish auctioned or sold.

#### **Percentage of Sales**

All sales are divided into the following classifications. Active members will receive 75% of any sale with 25% of any sale going to the club. Non-active members will receive 50% of any sale with 50% of any sale going to the club.

Thanks to everyone that has already signed up to volunteer at the auction - it is very much appreciated! There are still slots available and we really need the help. You can find the Sign Up Genius here: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2021">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2021</a>

Also, if you want to sell fish at the auction, and haven't already done so, please sign up for a tank (limit 2 per person) here: <a href="https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions">https://atlantakoiclub.org/auctions</a>

If you have plants or equipment to sell please make sure they are labeled with your name and selling price. Thanks,

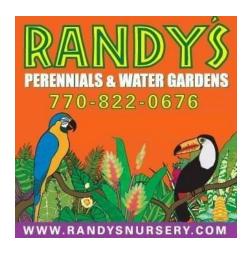
Diane

Folks can subscribe to KOI NET magazine for free. There are now 33 issues to download and read. While it is focused on the UK, it is a great general source of info on advanced pond equipment and koi keeping techniques. http://www.koinet.co.uk/koi-net/

Michael Anderson

# Please remember our Sponsors:

Randy's Perennials, Koi Koi Pondscapes, Coastal Pond Supply, T&T Uniforms, The Koi Store





- \*Repairs or Expansions
- \*Water Plants
- \*Liner and Concrete Ponds \*Pumps / Bead Filters / Skimmers \*Pondless Waterfalls and Lighting
  - \*Water Treatments (Clarity)
  - \*Fish Meds



T&T Uniforms South, Inc.



Our Specialty is Your Uniform & Gear



(For our newer members who are unfamiliar with preparing your fish for transportation to the Fish Auction, following is a reprint of our article from a recent Newsletter....)

# **Koi Transportation**

(How to Move Koi from here to there)

by H. Gene Ewy, MD Reprinted from the AKCA 17th Annual Seminar (Reprint from an Atlanta Koi Newsletter of 1998)

## Koi Isolation and Handling

When a koi hobbyist wishes to closely inspect or move koi from a pond, the specific koi must be isolated and guided to a specific container. A good quality koi net with knotless fine mesh and the circular frame totally and guided to a specific container. A good quality kol net with knotless fine mesh and the circular frame totally covered is commended to minimize the risk of damage to the koi. The bay depth should be shallow. The koi net should be as large as possible (depending on the size of the koi) though large nets are more difficult to move through the pond water, particularly if the net has a telescopic handle and it is extended.

Take it easy, don't get the koi or yourself agitated. Don't agitate or stress the remaining koi. It's risky to approach the koi from the tail, as the caudal tin may be damaged while the koi responds vigorously to the net touching its tail. Minimize the net contact with the koi. Ideally approach the koi from the front, getting the net

under its head and gently guiding it into a floating tub or tank.

One advantage of the koi net is that a single person can guide the koi into a floating tank. The rim of a large koi net (guiding a koi to the floating tank) is used to submerge an end of the floating tank. The koi is then guided into the floating tank. This maneuver is easier if a second person appropriately submerges the floating tub or tank. A single person can also bring the koi in the net adjacent to a floating tub or tank. The net is controlled by one hand which has been advanced on the pole to a position near the net. The floating tank or tub is submerged with the other hand and the koi is gently guided into the container. Don't lift the koi from the water with the net, particularly larger koi.

Koi can be collected from a smaller pond readily in the manner described with a koi net. A telescopic pole will allow the net to isolate koi in a larger pond. If this is not practical consider PTTN - patience, time and two nets. The second koi net handler gently guides the selected koi into the koi net of the primary handler, who

guides the koi into the tub floating tank.

If your pond doesn't lend itself to any of the above methods, a seine may be used to partition the pond into areas from which the koi may be collected. The mesh of the seine should be knotless. The seine should be longer than the width of your pond. The width of your seine should be greater than the depth of your pond. The seine should have floats the top and weights at the bottom. Koi are not lifted with the seine.

## **Koi Handling - Short Distance Moves**

The koi that have been isolated and guided to a container are ready to be moved. This can be accomplished in a number of ways. If the koi is in a tub in the pond with enough water in the tub to cover the koi, the tub containing the koi can be lifted from the pond. The tub or other container in which a koi is being carried should be covered. A mesh cover, a solid cover or plastic bags on the surface of the water can be used. The container with the koi can be carried by hand, placed on a cart and wheeled, or the container itself may be on wheels. The koi should be transferred promptly to the destination water isolation tank, show tank, etc.).

Koi sock nets are open ended fine mesh nets attached to a circular covered frame with a relatively short handle. The net is much longer than the diameter of the opening (42 inch sock net with an 11 inch diameter opening as an example). The koi is brought through the opening of the net head first by carefully advancing the net over the head of the koi or by manipulating the head of the koi into the net with your free hand, the koi is positioned in the body of the net, the end of the net is closed by one and of the holder, the other end of the net is folded over ) retain the koi, the hands are held tightly tautly apart as the koi is lifted from the water and transferred for hopefully only a short distance. A head first exit of then koi from the sock is preferred to avoid unlikely, but perhaps possible, fin or scale damage. Some mucous may be lost from the skin. This is a safe method to distance move koi short distances.

I prefer to use plastic bags for most short moves. Double plastic bags (one bag inside another) should be considered particularly for larger koi for safety. Three mil and four mil bags are quite strong. Bag size depends upon the size of the koi. Fish should be carried horizontally. Small fish may be carried in the small end of the plastic bag with the bag held upright. Large koi may need to be carried with the bag horizontal and held tautly between both hands. The largest koi may need to be carried by two handlers.

The top edge of the plastic bags should be rolled over. This results in a large relatively fixed orifice which frees one hand that can be used to direct the koi head first into the bag. Some pond water should be in the bag when the koi is gently introduced. There should be enough water in the

bag to cover the gills of the koi as the bag is carried to its destination. A head-first exit from the bag is ideal but I think the smooth plastic surface allows a tail first exit with negligible risk if done carefully. If the opening into the bag is large enough the koi can be lifted out by hand. For a short move without adding transfer water to the destination tank consider transferring in a plastic bag with a corner cut out to drain the water.

I have noted from a UK publication (Koi Health Quarterly) an instance of torn plastic bag from the dorsal fin of a koi. From both a UK publication (Koi Kichi) and a Japanese publication (Rinko) recommendations are made to remove a palpable 'hook' on anal fins of larger koi which may tear a plastic bag. If this could happen it would be an added reason to double or triple bag larger koi.

Moving koi by hand is best reserved to transfer koi from one container to an immediately adjacent container. Koi have a slick slime coat, they may be quite active, and they can be dropped. Dropping koi is not recommended. The handler's hands should be thoroughly wet. No hand-held jewelry should be worn. The koi may resist movement in a direction that it is not going and become agitated.

If it is difficult to place your hands under a larger koi in the proper position for support of the koi during transfer, considering taking advantage of the temporary disorientation produced when rotated in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction for a few turns. If going clockwise, the handler should place his right hand across the left hand and shoulder area and support the under surface of the Koi just back of the head with his right hand when the Koi is facing at eleven or twelve o' clock. Continue the clockwise rotation with the right hand, place the left hand under the posterior aspect of the Koi when the head is at four to six o' clock. Lift the Koi from the water. Bring the head close to your body for control, move your hand with the Koi if it moves as you deliberately and promptly transfer the Koi into the adjacent container.

### **Preparing Koi for Transportation**

Stress during Koi transportation should be minimized as much as possible. Stress may lessen the effectiveness of the Koi's immune system. The possibility of infection or other health related problems which could be transmitted to other Koi in you pond is enhanced.

Koi should not be fed at least three days and possibly seven days before transport. The production of ammonia during transport is reduced and the transport water is not polluted to the extent that it would if the Koi had been fed during the fasting period. Koi may be eating algae from the pond wall during the fasting period when they are not fed. If an iso-lation tank with an adequate water volume and an active biological filter is available the Koi could be in this tank at least during the last part of the fasting period.

Additives to the isolation tank water could be salt, mineral salt or various medications. Be accurate and do not over-medicate.

There will be less stress when the Koi is in a dark environment during transport. Transport water can be cooled to reduce metabolism. Mild sedation should be considered.

#### **Long Distance Transport**

In general, Koi may be transported for many hours safely in plastic bags or rigid containers. The development of the plastic bag had an immense impact allowing safe worldwide Koi transportation.

### **Transporting Koi in Plastic Bags**

It's time to get physical again. We're going to put our Koi in plastic bags for transport. There is a wide choice bag size and thickness. The bag should be longer than the rectangular corrugated Koi box or any other container into which the bag will be placed. This allows secure closure of the bag, using most of the length of the box.

Double plastic bags should be used placing one bag inside the other. Large Koi transported long distances by airplane within the USA or from overseas may be within the inn-er bag of three to five bags. It is helpful to roll the mouth of the bag down before placing the Koi into the plastic bag.

This produces a relatively fixed opening and keeps water from going between the bags. Put some water from the pond, or water prepared specifically for the transport, into the bag.

The Koi is put into the bag by hand transfer or by using your free hand to direct the Koi into the bag. Usually one koi 18 to 20 inches in length is placed in a bag, perhaps two 5 to 18 inch Koi are placed in the same bag, etc. The gills should be covered with water, I prefer to add enough water so that the Koi can float, and not rest on the bottom of the box.

Some hobbyists and dealers put additives in the transport water. This includes such things as salt, mineral salt, antiparasitic medication, antibacterial medication, etc. If you choose to do so, do not overdose. Prepare the transport water accurately and add it to the bag. Transfer the fish into the bag by hand, sock net, or bag with a corner cut out to drain the pond water from the bag so that the mineral water will not be added to the transport water. The transport water will not be significantly diluted.

The bagged Koi is placed in a corrugated rectangular Koi box, Styrofoam box, polystyrene box, ice chest, etc. The length of the box is usually two times the width or height. The width and height are normally similar.

Newspapers are often placed in the bottom of the Koi box for insulation. I won't say that Japanese newspapers are best, but the Koi I have received directly from Japan have been calm and happy.

Look closely at the bagged Koi in the transportation box. If water needs to be added or removed, do so. Remove all air from the bag by carefully compressing the bag down to the water level. Pleat the plastic bag near the mouth of the bag so no air reenters the bag. Insert the hose from the regulator (attached to an oxygen cylinder) through the mouth of the bag. Slowly fill the bag with the pure oxygen to about three fourths full and withdraw the hose. Twist the neck of the bag closed so that no oxygen escapes. Fold the neck of the inner bag over and secure it with rubber bands tightly placed over the folded neck. Use two rubber bands for safety. Seal the outer bags in sequence in the same manner. Insulating material (usually newspapers) is placed over the bag in the box and the box is sealed.

If one wishes to gradually lower the water temperatures in the bag during transit, place frozen reusable freeze packs on top of the bags before the newspaper insulation, support the bottom of the cardboard box when it is being carried.

Place the transport box or other container holding the bagged Koi in transport vehicle sideways to the travel direction. Braking during transit would then move larger Koi sideways and would not bang their nose or tail against the end of the box.

### **Moving Koi in Transport Tanks**

The other common method of moving Koi long distances is in transport tanks. Many varieties are used: 1) flexible liners such as vinyl coated industrial fabric liners in a rigid frame made from PVC, tubular steel or other material, 2) polyethylene tanks, 3) fiberglass tanks, etc. The tank must have a secure cover to retain water and the Koi. The zippered covers with vinyl tanks allow easy closure and access. The size of the tank is determined by the type of vehicle and the amount of weight that can be safely carried in the vehicle. Water weighs over eight pounds per gallon and there are seven and a half gallons in a cubic foot of water.

My transport tank for a station wagon measures 3 foot by 4 foot wide, and is just over 18 inches high. Usually we carry 10 inches of water, which is 75 gallons weighing 625 pounds. Obviously transport tanks in trucks can be much larger, carrying more water and fish. All tanks must be stabilized so they will not shift during transport.

The transport tank water should be oxygenated before Koi are added and the dissolved oxygen in the water should be maintained at about 8 parts per million, or over. Pure oxygen can be diffused into the water easily using an oxygen tank with a regulator through an air stone or a fine pore diffuser for pure oxygen. The advantage of a fine-pore oxygen diffuser would be a smaller bubble size (approximately 0.5 to 2 mm diameter) which would increase the total surface area per unit of oxygen. Oxygen saturation is maintained with a slow flow rate. This system is used worldwide with great success.

Air, which is 21% oxygen, can be introduced into the water through an air stone (approximately I to 3 mm diameter bubble size). The flow rate would have to be significantly higher than the flow rate of pure oxygen to maintain the same oxygen level in the water. The source of air could be from a 12 volt portable piston or diaphragm compressor operating from the car or truck battery during transit. An adapter from the cigarette lighter socket is used. If the tank is to be aerated for some time when the power source is not from the vehicle's 12 volt battery, a 12 volt marine or deep cycle battery (larger capacity) could be used as the power source.

Members of the Louisville Koi Club have developed and use a nice transport tank system utilizing a 12 volt sub-mersible bilge pump which pumps about 500 gallons of tank water per hour through a spray bar through aeration. They have kindly shared this system with a number of Koi hobbyists.

## Why and How We Should Quarantine

(From Atlanta Koi Club Newsletter- 1995)

Spring is in the air, birds are chirping, and the fishies are up. As every red blooded Koi Kichi person is contemplating, "What fish should I get next"? We have an Auction and Sale coming up very soon and there will be some keepers there for us to add to our collections.

Before you take that new Hi Utsuri home we need to talk about the Big Q. That's right Quarantine. Quarantine is the best known method to reduce disease introductions. You gotta do it. There are several reasons to quarantine "ALL" new fish. Here are a few for consideration:

The new fish "WILL BE STRESSED" and very susceptible to disease and parasite attack.

Second, you do not want to subject your collection to an outbreak of any kind that the new guy may bring to your pond.

Third, even though your pond is very clean of what you think are all those bugs you don't have, the new little fishie has not been subjected to whatever you have living there. On top of the stress of the auction, the ride home in a plastic critter receptacle, the new surroundings, and if you just float the bag and drop it in, utsuiri will not be given the best chance for survival. We want the best chance to survive.

#### What is a Quarantine Tank?

Ideally, you want a tiny little version of your pond. You will need to have a pump, filtration, aeration, a net to cover the tank, a small aquarium heater, and do not forget to conduct water changes often, along with religious daily testing. Things you utilize for you Q tank "SHOULD NOT BE USED" in your regular pond. (Cross Contamination and stuff). What size tank you say. That depends on how many fish you buy at the auction and how big they are. In a pinch, a 50 gallon garbage can will do (cleaned and disinfected of course). Most feed and seed stores here in the south sell Rubbermaid 100 gal feed tanks fairly cheap (\$73). Larger containers of course are better depending on the size of your new fish. You can even put small fish into a 30 to 40 gallon aquarium. Whatever works. The Important thing is that you have near-perfect H20 conditions all the time.

#### What Kind of Filtration?

The filtration need not be sophisticated. Small filters can be obtained from most pond supply dealers. It should have a mechanical section to filter solids, and a biological section to clear ammonia, and convert nitrites and nitrates. The tricky and time consuming part is to have a cycled filter before your fish get home. Think about adding some filter medium from your existing pond. Many hobbyists run their Q tank all the time to keep the filter cycled just in case they just cannot live without that sanke in the window.

## Adding a pond fish to the Q Tank.

It has been proven that a good practice is to place one or two small koi from your pond into your Q tank to help cycle the filter and to introduce your pond conditions to the new fish. Use one that you would not mind losing just in case.

#### **How Do I Treat The New Fish?**

Once you get home with your new additions, again do not get into a big hurry. Don't start throwing a lot of chemicals on top of your very stressed-out, new and expensive fish. When you get the fish home, float the bag for at least 30 to 45 minutes before you add to the tank. Do not dump the bag contents of ammonia, poop laden water into your pristine Q tank. Have a cover for the tank to protect from jumpers and you may even want to float a large piece of Styrofoam to give a hiding place for the fish. (It makes them feel warm and cozy)

LET THEM REST for a few days. Observation of the new arrivals is a very good practice. The tank should start out with a very light salt load if any. May be less than .1% and then over the next week or so push the salt up to .3%. If you plan to treat with Proform C, salt will need to be zero. Please don't dump the salt into the tank and risk burning your fish. If rock salt touches their skin it will burn. Dissolve the salt in a bucket and distribute around the tank very S-L-O-W-L-Y. Do not feed for the first two to three days. When a fish is under stress they will expel the food not utilize the food for nutrition. Let the fish adjust first, they won't starve.

If you do not have a microscope to check for parasites and treat specifically, we must assume they have everything. Doc Johnson has a "Shotgun Treatment" that he recommends that won't hurt the fish. This is his recommendation slightly modified.

- (1) Temperature should be 72 to 78 degrees in quarantine. Warm the fish no faster than one degree per hour, up to the mid seventies, or if you want to combat Koi Herpes Virus, use the same "one degree per hour" heating from their ambient temperature up to 86°F for four days with seven days being better. Heating your fish to 86 degrees will also kill Ick and ends bacteria overgrowth. Make sure you have plenty of 02 in warmer water.
- (2) PH must be buffered. Small Q tanks are subject to PH crash. (Check Daily along with ammonia.)
- (3) After two to three days and if you wish to treat with the broad spectrum Proform C, treat per instructions. 24 hours after the last Proform treatment then treat with salt.
- (4) Salt to 0.3 to 0.6% over a period of several days.
- (5) Feed Romet or Medikoi food. It will help control bacterial infections. (No longer sold- ed)
- (6) The Q tank can be treated with Dimilin, even with salt, to handily control comparatively rare but large parasites like Anchor Worms and Fish Lice.
- (7) Prizi or Prazi containing medications control of Flukes on Koi. A Formalin treatment on the way into the quarantine where the above will be applied will break the lifecycle of Costia and prevent it emerging in the quarantine tank.
- (8) Small and numerous Water Changes are a definite requirement.... 10 to 15% every other day, maybe. (Don't forget to replace the % salt after the water change)

Finally, Quarantine should last for at least 14 to 21 day after you complete treatments, so long as with water changes the water quality can be properly supported. Watch your fish for signs of stress or disease during the process.

Quarantine is an essential part of our hobby. Enjoy! Koisan Joe

#### HERE'S SALT IN YOUR EYE

(A Scary, but interesting tale taken from our 1993 Newsletter) by DeWitt Smith Watkinsville, GA (1193)

The cheapest, most readily available and safest to handle of all medications we use to help our fish may be more valuable to you than you may think: salt, sodium chloride. There has been much written on the value of salt in relation to treating koi for parasites and other things.

However, this article is not about treating koi. I recently found myself being attacked by some invader the doctors believe came from my koi pond, and the cure came from, yes, salt!

As most of us know, there are untold numbers of microscopic creatures swimming in the water and living on the surfaces of a koi pond. Most of these creatures are acellular and unicellular animals called protozoa. There are, as we are painfully well aware, some protozoa that are parasitic to fish. Unfortunately there are present in koi ponds, lakes, rivers, and even dirt, protozoa that are parasitic to humans too! In the course of handling fish, cleaning filters, and maintaining our ponds, we also come into contact with these untold numbers of protozoa. During that contact, if you are not careful, they can get into one of the most vulnerable spots of our human bodies: the eye. It can happen easier than you might think.

For instance, you have just netted and tubbed a koi for some reason. You have your face close to the water to inspect him; now he decides to give a quick flip of the tail. There you are with a pond-water soaking, right in the face! Such a scenario is a distinctive possibility and coupled with just sticking a wet finger on an itchy eyelid, there is reason for caution. Though the human body is a formidable adversary when it comes to such things, sometimes these invaders can get a foothold, then take hold with most unpleasant results.

There is no way of knowing how long my "visitors" had been having their lunch on my cornea, but once they had gotten to a certain point, I was awakened to their presence. Naturally, at first I had no idea what the problem was. I felt as if I had a foreign body in my eye--and a big one! The next morning I could hardly open it due to the foreign body sensation, as well as light sensitivity.

A trip to the eye doctor was quickly arranged. This was the first of three I was to see before my ordeal was finished. One doctor said it looked like a bacterial infection, probably due to an abrasion of the cornea. Two antibiotics were prescribed. Four days later the antibiotics had done no good, and I had a corneal ulcer. The doctor decided to send me to another doctor more familiar with such conditions. This doctor took one look and said, "I don't know what this is." He then referred me to a cornea specialist. There I am diagnosed with having a virus which was causing the corneal lesion or ulcer. A viral culture and two bacterial cultures were prepared. In the meantime, I am sent home with an antiviral and a different antibiotic medication. A few days later the cultures all are reported to be negative, and my eye was slowly getting worse!

After telling the doctor of my koi pond and my own suspicion of it being the source of this problem, he confirmed it to be the probable source. He said that he now felt it was an amoeba, probably a type that was pandemic, specifically acanthamoeba (an amoeba is a protozoa). This would explain why none of the

several broad spectrum medications had thus far worked. The next step was to do a biopsy to get a positive identification. Of course, having part of your cornea cut away, along with the damage already done by my "visitors", would pretty well incapacitate me. Then I asked what the treatment was for this kind of thing, and was told it is a long term program with eye drops that the doctor would need special permission to use. By that point I was ready to hear some alternatives!

In the course of our discussion, I mentioned that we use a three percent salt solution on protozoan parasites in koi (which is very affective), and did he think it would work on my eye? He said it would not; he was quite sure it would not. But there was a five percent salt solution they had there that he would give me, because even if it would not help, it would not hurt either. So the biopsy was put off temporarily, and I was told to get back there quickly if it got worse.

The prescribed dosage was one drop every two hours while awake, and it was no fun putting it in either! But, it worked! One week later there was hardly any sign of the lesion. The three different antibiotics and the antiviral that I used for almost two weeks had not worked because that was not the problem. The salt made short work of whatever creature infected my eye, but no positive identification was ever made. Therefore, saying it was a protozoan parasite is an assumption, but logic would tend to make it a firm assumption. One thing is certain--the salt was the cure. You should see a doctor, though, if you have a similar experience. However, keep the salt close in mind, because to more than fish', it will be kind!

#### 1993 Editor's P.S.

This account, by one of our most dedicated members was not included to scare anyone. We undoubtedly encounter more danger driving to and from Koi Club meetings. Indeed, DeWitt left out the scary part. At any time during this drama, a careless wipe of the hand could have transferred the parasitic amoeba to his nasal passages, and from there it could have eaten its way into his brain. DeWitt presumes that he picked up the critter when he dove into his pond to work on the bottom drain. Goggles will be used in the future. A fellow pondkeeper was a microbiologist with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. When told this story, he replied that C.D.C. gets a few reports each year of trouble with Acanthamoeba. I asked him what C.D.C. advised the unlucky people to do about the problem. He said, "That wasn't our department".

#### **BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:**

\$11,734.90

**INCOME STATEMENT** 

Income

2700 Membership

2730 Member Dues \$268.00

2720 Name Badges

2745 Sponsorships \$100.00

Total Income \$368.00

**Expenses** 

1400 Bank Charges

1466 PayPal 1466 PayPal

Charges \$9.60

Total Expenses \$9.60

Month Net Income/(Loss) \$358.40

**ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:** 3/31/2021 **\$12,093.30** 

**Outstanding Checks:** 

\$834.87

 12/10/20
 1540
 \$299.88

 12/10/20
 1541
 \$49.99

 12/29/20
 1542
 \$275.00

 02/22/21
 1544
 \$150.00

 03/11/21
 1545
 \$60.00

**PETTY CASH:** 

Beginning Balance: \$136.00

Income:

2500 Miscellaneous Income

Raffle - 2545 Monthly

Total Income: \$0.00

**Expenses:** 

Total Expenses: \$0.00 \$0.00

**Ending Balance:** 11 **\$136.00**