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July, 2021

By the Pond

Greetings to all of you from under the hot & humid electric weather blanket!

A very special “thank you” to the following individuals:

Samantha Shelton (CEO/Founder of FurKids) who graciously hosted our most recent AKC meeting! Thank you Sam for allowing us to again visit your beautiful location!

Another “thank you” to Carl Forss and Vicki Vaughn (Owners of The Koi Store) who continue to support and to be involved in the AKC. These two koi professionals continue to help and support our AKC. “Thank you!”

And a super-duper-special “thank you” to Cynthia Landon (I know her husband Richard helped too!) for providing two extremely informative and fun presentations (Backup Power Options and Pond Size Calculation). Both presentations were extremely thorough. And if you know Cynthia, you’re not surprised to read this. I’m personally grateful for Cynthia’s volunteer spirit and attention to detail. Clearly, a lot of preparation was performed not to mention the extra equipment involved in the discussion. The presentation was really over the top! For a number of years now, Cynthia and Richard have given a lot of time and knowledge to the AKC; and in saying this, they have made my job easier for their gracious efforts.

With that said the Atlanta Koi Club really needs more volunteers like Cynthia & Richard (and others, of course) who have stepped up in the last year to help keep our club fun and informative. The Debbie Downer “downside” is that we simply don’t have enough members volunteering to speak or even volunteer at events. To keep our AKC exciting and fun moving forward — and if you haven’t been involved in events or talks — please consider donating some of your time. Our AKC needs you!

This weekend is the AKC Summer Social!

When: Saturday, July 10th @ 6 PM at Diane’s house (for security, we don’t usually include any addresses in our newsletters, but the address is located in cover letter of this newsletter)

Please Bring the following:

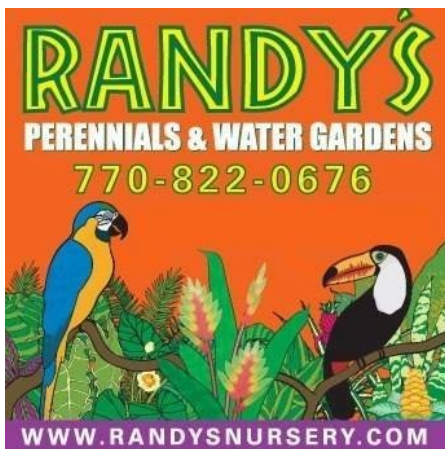
- 1 Side Dish: a Dessert, Salad, Vegetable Plate, Antipasto or Appetizer, etc.
- 1 Chair (per-person attending)
- 1 Big, friendly smile (per-person attending)

Hope to see you this weekend at Diane’s house for our summer social!

Stay safe and healthy,
Kevin

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June's presentation at FurKids in Cumming

Many thanks to Cynthia Landon for her excellent presentations of back-up power options (with sample units), and Pond-Size Calculations. As seen in the photos, the audience displayed rapt attention to this interesting and informative discussion.

In addition, Carl Foss (The Koi Store in Watkinsville) took orders for koi in the next "grow-out"....offering the koi for sale after they mature a bit more in September.



I am a friend of Vicki Vaughn, and I am in the processing of moving out of state. I have this 300 gallon Rubbermaid fish tank, 60" wide by 30" deep which I need to get rid of for any reasonable price. These go for about \$500 plus shipping, so if anyone would like to know more,

please have them contact me.

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Do you have any special news to share with or our newsletter?

Do you have any surplus equipment to sell? Is there a pressing question to ask of our members? How about some photos of your special project? Are there some critters that visit your pond nightly to snack on a fish dinner?

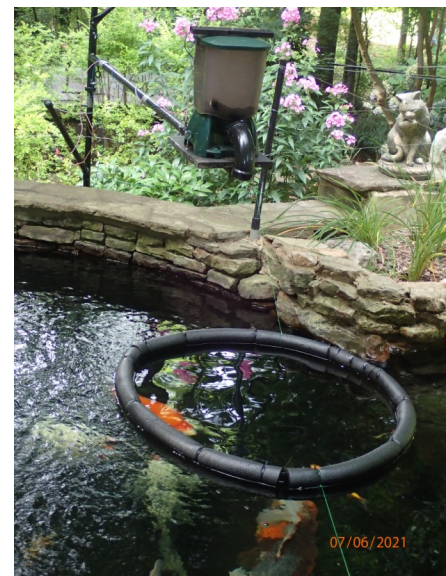
Please consider sharing your thoughts in our newsletter. Our editor is growing tired of copying and pasting articles from our 1993-1997 issues.

Much honor and glory will be yours if you send an article to editor@atlantakoiclub.org

Apparently nobody either didn't read our request for news contributions from our last issue, or there are no clever solutions to share, so here is a starter...

Member's Special Project

The Chaffers have an automatic feeder, but a lot of the food ends up uneaten in the filter strainer. The common Hula Hoop was too shallow to contain the food, so an underwater extension was added. Problem solved..the fish eat their food. Material used was: 4" wide plastic garden edging, 3/4" foam rubber piping insulation, and a few tie wraps.



The picture below Grand Champion "Kokugyo" at 6 years and 85cm(33 inches), She is quite an eye-catching Showa, large and a feast for the eyes. But take a look at her as a youngster. When she was 2 years old, she did not have any good sumi only have Shita Zumi (Sumi beneath) and some weak grayish sumi.

4 years later she got strong powerful sumi!



With good food and pond husbandry, you can grow koi into amazing designs.

Even if purchased with some weaker grayish sumi, they can still grow bigger and better while you own them. Take a look at our auction koi with potential.

Membership

We have several new members that we hope to get to know at the July social. Please introduce yourselves to the following people.

David Chamblee

Scott Hansen

Nathaniel Lack

Joshua Lowery

Bernard Mattox

Donna Moniz

Trai Nguyen

Cheryl Pett & Ken Franco

Neal & Melissa Phelps

Kevin Shelnett

Everyone wear your name tag! If you don't have one, send me an email and I'll have it made for you. They are \$8

Melanie_o@comcast.net

Fractionator: Does it work?

This photo displays the foam created by a fractionator...and this is just a few days after a clean-up with Potassium Permanganate, and located after the biofilters. It gets rid much of the residual organics in the water.

Mike Anderson still has two of these PVC kits available



Green Water How to Get Rid of It By: Edward Broomfield (Koi Organisation International)

We love our koi and are mesmerized by their beauty as they swim, and it is quite natural for pond owners to be frustrated when they cannot observe their koi. One of the biggest frustrations is green water which obscures or even completely blocks our ability to see our beloved babies. Then there are “THOSE PEOPLE”.... you know who they are. Their pond is always crystal clear, and they smile a lot. We are so envious that we even turn a little green ourselves. So, let us talk about how to become one of “THOSE SMILING PEOPLE”.

Green water what is it Most of us know it is algae but not much more. Planktonic algae are microscopic individual free-floating cells and turns our water green and are referred to as green water algae. At least that is what we call it in polite company. Koi do not mind the green water but pond owners dislike it a lot. Planktonic algae are problematic for these reasons.

- They are prolific breeders and reproduce 30 – times an hour. They can literally overtake a pond in a day.
- These algae are exceedingly small, between 5 and 10 microns in diameter, which is too small for most mechanical filtration to remove. The screen size on one manufacturer’s Sieve is 200 microns and the rotary drum filter is 70 microns. Neither of these will come close to filtering out planktonic algae. Filters with diatomaceous earth can filter down to 5 microns but are impractical for Koi ponds as they would require hourly cleaning.
- Planktonic algae blooms occur during periods of increasing daylight. So, the thinking goes if we reduce the amount of sunlight on the pond, we can slow algae growth. It is true that algae need light to grow and reproduce. However, the amount of light needed is small. Controlled experiments show that sunlight needs to be reduced by 90% to significantly reduce algae growth. There are good reasons to shade your pond unfortunately stunting algae blooms is not one of them.
- Planktonic algae need nutrients to grow and some believe that if we control the amount of nutrients in the pond, we can control the bloom. However, laboratory analysis consistently shows background nutrients levels exceeding the level necessary for a bloom to occur.

Methods of controlling green algae.

There is a lot of misinformation about controlling algae blooms most of which range from just ineffective to outright dangerous. Any bottled product sold to kill algae, especially those containing copper, is reptilian lubricant, and for the long-term health of your Koi should be avoided. Planktonic blooms are most effectively controlled by killing off the algae.

Here are two proven methods of stopping these blooms which if installed and used properly will clear your pond and not harm your Koi. First, and most popular, are ultraviolet clarifiers/sanitizers. These work by exposing planktonic algae to ultraviolet (UV) light, (specifically UVC light), as they pass through the device. The UV light incapacitates microorganisms by deactivating their DNA. The difference between a clarifier and a sanitizer is the intensity of the UV light. With a clarifier the algae are damaged and cannot reproduce and with a sanitizer the light is intense enough to outright kill the cells. Your choice as to how much electricity you want to consume. The upside to UV lights is it kills the algae without changing the water chemistry. Sizing and installing UV lights is critical. You will need to provide at a minimum ten watts of light per 1,300 gallons (5,000 liters) of pond volume. Clarifiers should be installed after mechanical and biofiltration. Manufacturers flow rates need be adhered to. Too fast a flow and the algae will not be exposed to the light long enough to be effective. Too slow a flow rate and not enough algae will be exposed to the light to clear the pond. I do not recommend any specific brand, but a name brand 57-watt UV clarifier cost about \$700 and is rated for a 6,000-gallon (22,700 liter) pond. The flow rate on this unit is 3,200 gallon per hour. Note that this is half the recommended bioconverter flow rate of 6,000 gallons per hour. You will need to install flow reduction to the UV light for it to be effective. UV bulbs lose their effectiveness after 12 – 18 months. It is best to replace them every spring. When replacing your UV bulb, shop around for aftermarket products. A 57-watt manufacturer's bulb is \$84 and an online aftermarket bulb costs \$28. I have used the aftermarket bulbs for years and never had a problem. Second, are ozone generators. Ozone generators work by splitting oxygen molecules (O₂) and forcing them to join up in threes creating O₃. O₃ is very unstable and soon the third atom breaks away and looks for a new partner. A single oxygen molecule is very corrosive if it encounters organic cells it will burn through the cell wall killing the cell by a process called lysis. These single oxygen molecules do not discriminate and will kill any living cell and if the system is not properly installed and maintained, the ozone WILL KILL YOUR KOI. These systems start around \$1,200 and should only be installed by people with strong knowledge of Koi pond filtration and ozone systems.

In summary, controlling environmental factors and mechanical filtration is not effective against algae blooms. To stop a bloom, you must kill the algae. For the average pond owner, the most predictable cost- effective and safe method is with a UV clarifier. So, if you experience algae blooms and want to become one of those smiling pond owners install a UV clarifier. But hey, if you’re one of us pond owner who just cannot stop upping their game go for the ozone generator. Information for this article was sourced from Koi Organization International. Specifically, from Norm Meck – Pond Water Quality, Chris Neaves Koi Pond Filtration and Syd Michell – Advanced Koi Pond Filtration. Syd is an excellent source of information on all matter Koi.