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March, 2022

By the Pond

Hi All,

The auction is going to be held on April 30th. If you plan on selling fish you will need to register for a tank or tanks. There is a limit of 2 tanks per household. Please follow the sellers link on the website: <https://atlantakoiclub.org/wp-admin/post.php?post=30&action=edit>

As you know, this is our major fundraiser for the year and in order to have a successful auction, we need people to volunteer to help. The Sign Up Genius can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-2022> Kyle Barry is our new volunteer coordinator and as soon as I get her all the Sign Up Genius info she will be managing the sign up. This will be her first event as volunteer coordinator so make it easy for her by signing up please.

If you have any questions, please respond to this email.

Thanks,
Diane

Our next meeting will be face-to-face on March 20 at 3PM (Board meets at 2PM) at AW Pottery 3200 Cumberland Dr., Chamblee, GA

Membership

Rhonda Eubanks, Membership Chairperson

I still show 17 members/households that have not renewed memberships for 2022. Some people don't necessarily need to renew if they had paid a two-year membership last year. Needless to say, I will be updating the membership list at the end of this month. So if you have not renewed, you will no longer be getting emails and notifications from the club. If you have a question about your membership, feel free to email me at rhonda8768@bellsouth.net.

Also, if you have ordered a nametag since January, I do have them and will bring them to this upcoming meeting. I have several, so please come to the meeting so you can get your nametag.

Thank you all!
Rhonda Eubanks, Membership Chairperson

Pond of the Month

Rick and Jennie Pettigrew are Atlanta Koi club members. Back three years ago, during a meeting at the Koi Store, Rick and Jennie invited members to see their pond while in the area. They have a beautiful pond, and this month have provided us with several details of their pond. Following are photos and comments from Rick and Jennie.....



Here are some pictures of our pond. We put in a rotating drum filter (RDF) last April and saw an immediate improvement. We were desperate- since there wasn't an auction in 2020, our pond was very overcrowded. After we put in the RDF, we decided to raise some fry in our upper pond. It has always been strictly for plants to filter all the gunk out before going down to the lower pond. Now there isn't any gunk:). One of the pictures is of Rick feeding the babies. Our dog Freckles is always by his side- so the babies think Freckles is feeding them. Freckles loves to drink the pond water. There are no chemicals in it- so that is fine.

Hope you enjoy these pictures and if you are ever in the area to visit Carl & Vicki, feel free to stop by our house too.

Carl put the RDF in for us last year. Rick didn't want to spend that much money (we got the bigger unit), but I told Rick we either get the RDF or he could mow down the pond. Now Rick brags about what a spectacular job the filter does and loves to show it off. Here is a photo of Carl & Rick putting it in.

Each month we'd like to feature one of our members' pond. If you'd like to share your pond, please send an article with photos to our editor, Bob Chaffer at rchaffer@comcast.net



Meet our newest Sponsor- Select Koi

The Select Koi team works with top breeders in Niigata, Japan. We make beautiful, unique, high-quality koi available to each of our valued clients. We've made the connections, opening the doors for each of our clients to enter the exclusive community of koi farms and breeders in Japan.

The goal is to provide a buying experience as close as possible to the Japanese buying experience. Our clients place requests with us, we enter them into the database, and then, when we are at their farm of choice, we give them a call. On this call, we hand-select what we think they'll like, gradually adding and taking away until we find their dream koi! It's a really cool experience; you can see it in action on our Youtube.



Select Koi is our newest sponsor, and they are located at 2253 Boyds Creek Hwy, Sevierville, TN 37876

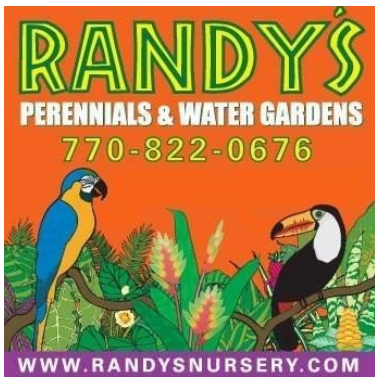
Malorie Garrett
Select Koi Inc
Operations Manager
(615)571-5321

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Paradise Ponds, and Select Koi



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Keeping predators from your pond and protecting your fish

Raccoons and herons can be very troublesome to fish and pond owners. There's nothing worse than looking down at your lovely pond to find that all of your precious fish have suddenly disappeared! We've heard too many stories to count... not to mention our own experiences. So what can be done?

Depth/Size

Our biggest recommendation when creating your pond is to have steep sides and at least a depth of 3ft. Having steep sides on your pond can help with raccoons because they will not enter water that they can't wade into. If your pond is deeper than 2 feet they will not be able to harm your fish because they typically can't hold onto a fish while swimming. The easiest way to prevent herons from cleaning out your fish is to have a pond depth of at least 3 feet. Herons cannot stand in 3 feet of water, and therefore makes it more difficult for them to fish.

Plants

It sounds kind of odd but actually if you have heavily planted bog or marginal plants around your pond can deter animals. Submerged plants can offer some shelter for your fish.

Tunnels/Caves

An easy solution to protect your fish from predators is by adding a shelter. It is a great way to keep your pond fish safe from herons and other predators. You can create tunnels or caves easily using milk crates or a piece of drainpipe in the bottom of your pond to give your fish some place to hide and seek shelter from predators. The faux log fish cave has a natural-looking faux wood design that provides shelter to koi and pond fish and a safe retreat. This shelter is made of heavy-duty, poly-resin that will not decompose over time, unlike natural logs.

Netting

Pond netting is a good solution for deterring heron. We recommend putting the net a good 1ft or more above your pond. The reason for this is that the higher the netting the less likely the heron is to get your fish. If you place the net right above the pond the heron will still be able to get your fish but will just not be able to get it out. Pond netting does not work for keeping raccoons out because they are extremely crafty.

Spring Concerns

By Chris Neaves, K.O.I. Instructor KOI Organisation International

Koi care in spring is probably one of the most difficult times for Koi keepers, because most losses occur during this time.

The variations in winter temperature are such that it is hard to give generic advice that will be applicable to all. The fact remains that whatever the winter temperature, the problems experienced by Koi keepers in spring remain the same. The temperature sensitive bodies of the Koi are going through the same cycle per season and per year, regardless whether the temperature ranges are extreme or mild. It is almost as if Koi are genetically programmed to go through a resting period.

A friend of mine, while still residing in the North Coast of KwaZulu Natal, was very keen on showing Koi. His modus operandi was to buy batches of the best Tosai that he could find and then grow the lot of them on in a special pond that was built specifically for this purpose. This growing on pond also served as a long term quarantine pond for the young fish to guard against any possible disease. He would then release the best fish for showing purposes in his main pond and pass the rest on to hobbyists. The pond was equipped with a heater, protein skimmer, sand filter and an over-designed biological filter. A waterfall and air pump provided the oxygen. The temperature was maintained at 24 degrees Celsius (75 degrees Fahrenheit) to ensure optimal growth of this Koi. The result was the same every year. Like clockwork, parasites and the resulting ulcers will appear in the middle of November (early summer, late spring). Needless to say my friend was utterly dismayed because some of his future hopefuls were ruined and not suitable for showing in future.

Every year was the same old story. I will do the water tests, scrapes for parasites, inspecting the filters etc. Every year we found the same results. The checklist confirmed clean filters, impeccable water conditions, fresh food etc, but there were a cocktail of parasites present.

In my experience with koi and disease treatments over many years and in many ponds, I have never seen an uneventful spring/early summer if koi collections have been subjected to stress during the winter such as overstocking, where new additions have been added to a pond or where a new environment has been created by moving collections to new ponds or doing major alterations to ponds during winter time.

Although not all the under mentioned will manifest itself in every pond, the following are the most common problems experienced during spring:

Green water

Green water may actually appear any time of the year but it is most prevalent during springtime. Mostly the appearance of green water is only harmful to the ego of the hobbyist. The Koi enjoy it!

Some of the reasons for this bloom by suspended algae are the following:

The rotifers that feed on suspended algae have died off because their food supply has dwindled during the relative algae free winter months. These plant-eating organisms will only multiply to sufficient numbers to control algae once the food source (algae) has established itself.

The tube of the ultra violet sterilizer needs replacement.

Accumulation of Nitrates over the winter months, and a rise in temperature may act as a trigger for the algae to multiply.

Spring Concerns (continued page 2 of 3)

High ammonia/nitrites

At very low temperatures, the biological activity in the filter system has slowed down considerably and the water parameters will fluctuate until the required balance is restored. Contrary to what is believed, Nitrifying bacteria do not die off during cold water conditions, but like the other pond inhabitants go into a state of inactivity. The nitrifying bacteria responsible for converting ammonia to nitrite are the first to respond. The bacteria that convert nitrite to the more harmless nitrate, always lags behind and a window period for a nitrite spike will then occur. The increased feeding rate that automatically follow the arrival of spring, also contribute a sudden increase of ammonia. In subtropical and tropical climates however, the threat of high ammonia/nitrites are not so high.

Parasites

One of the golden rules in keeping Koi is to remember that you cannot get a Koi to be parasite free. Medication that will kill all parasites will inevitably also kill the fish. Most parasites flourish and multiply in warmer water conditions. In cold water, these organisms do not just cease to exist. They are always present on fish and wait for conditions to improve. The improved conditions can include an increase in temperature and anything that may stress the Koi like temperature swings, dirty filters and bad water conditions. The exception is the dreaded Costia. Costia remains active even in the coldest conditions and must be guarded against!

Bacterial problems

During spring, the water starts to heat up and the first activity will be at micro level as bacteria have simple structures and can respond quickly to the change in environment. Although experts differ on the exact temperatures, most agree that Koi are most susceptible to disease between the temperatures of 8.3 and 16.8 degrees Celsius (about 45 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit). Below 8.3 degrees Celsius, one can say there is a ceasefire in the pond. The Koi's immune systems are not functioning, but the pathogens are also not very active. Below 16.8 degrees C, the immune system of Koi is not fully functional but the pathogens are relatively active. Above 16.8 degrees Celsius, the immune system is again functional, and can normally reduce the pathogens, provided the Koi is not already in a weakened state. The critical range, described by many authors on immune systems, as "Aeromonas alley," is the range over which the pathogens are active but the Koi's immune system is compromised. Koi with a compromised immune system, regardless of the cause, will be less able to adequately fight disease. Combined with a cocktail of parasites as described earlier, it may prove fatal to Koi.

Dropsy

Although it is also a bacterial problem, dropsy is mentioned separately because regardless of the pond and water condition, it is a very common to lose one or two Koi in spring due to dropsy.

Summary

To summarize the above, one can say that although the Koi may have seem healthy going into winter, there is a definite chance that they were carrying a low number of parasites. Many Koi change hands during all seasons and even if a Koi has been quarantined, pathogens may come into ponds and only wreak havoc during spring. When in low temperatures the immune system of a Koi is at its lowest, as well is the parasite activity. But, as the water warms, bacteria and parasites become active quicker than the Koi's immune system. This is a critical time for the Koi.

Spring Concerns (continued page 3 of 3)

Prevent problems with a clean pond With the above in mind, the best way to protect a Koi collection is to prevent problems by cleaning every component of the pond as early in the spring as possible. Take apart the filters and clean each piece. Assure the bottom of the pond is 'squeaky' clean and bottom drains are functioning well. Clean any settling tanks, and replace the UV bulbs. Clean the waterfall or stream basins of any winter detritus. If the Koi must be moved or disturbed, use a gallon of Ultimate in the pond to help prevent pathogens from penetrating any areas where slime coat may have been scraped or removed. Meanwhile, it is always crucial to keep a close eye on the Koi's behavior and to diagnose any problem early.

Atlanta Koi Club

Nathaniel Lack

Ever get that sinking feeling of dread that when you leave on a trip, your pipe will burst and your pond will drain while you are away? Well, it happened to me. So maybe it's less likely to happen to you. You're welcome.

In Maine for the weekend and my filter pipe sprung a leak after we left for the airport yesterday. By this morning, this is what it looked like. Fortunately my son turned off the filter pump and refilled the pond. Hopefully with enough water still in the pond, the water added won't shock the fish. But I cannot do too much until I return tomorrow night. All fish seem ok according to my son and the live stream I can see from Portland.

There's much that can be learned from this. Most important to me is that when it hits the fan, have access to someone who can quickly help refill the pond and/or turn off the offending pump. Scary but hopefully disaster averted with no loss of life.



Is it time to start feeding the fish? They look hungry.

FROM THE POND GUY

Talk about feeling hungry! If your fish are actively (or anxiously!) swimming around your water garden, nibbling and tasting your budding plants, and gazing at you forlornly as you eat your peanut butter sandwich pond-side, it sounds like your finned pals are ready for some grub after their long winter fast. Signs like these are telling, but to make sure your fish are ready to start eating regular food again, here are some guidelines to follow.

Take Your Pond's Temperature

Last fall when water temperatures fell below 40 degrees Fahrenheit on the thermometer, your fishes' metabolisms slowed way down. For the next few months, they rested in a hibernation-type state when they fasted and lived off the fat stores in their body. They needed no food from you – in fact, feeding them when they're hibernating can make them very sick. Once spring has finally arrived and the sun has warmed your pond's water to 50 degrees F, your fishes' metabolism has kicked back into gear. They're swimming around and searching for food to fuel their increased activity levels. Begin feeding your fish up to 3 times per week, and only what can be consumed in a 5 minute period. They will need a wheat germ food that's easy to digest. Packed with plant-based nutrients, the diet will satiate their hunger, and stimulate growth and fertility.

Pump Up the Protein

Late spring and summer bring even warmer 50 degree-plus water temperatures, and that's when you can switch your fishes' diet to one that will help them develop and build some serious bulk. If growing big koi and goldfish is your goal, feed your scaled friends a high-protein diet that includes ingredients that will make their colors pop.

Check the Forecast

Mother Nature has fun with weather – particularly with temperature fluctuations in the spring – so be sure to check the long-term forecast before you start feeding your fish on a regular schedule. Ideally, the weather should be consistently keeping the water a warm 50 degrees F. At that point, feed slowly to make sure they're consuming the food at a steady pace and increase the amount as they're ready.

Happy feeding!

**Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
As of January 31, 2022**

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: **\$10,991.44**

INCOME STATEMENT

Income	\$0.00
2300 Koi Show Revenue	
2350 Tank Rental	\$180.00
2700 Membership	
2720 Name Badges	\$36.00
2730 Dues	\$2,596.00
 Total Income	 <u>\$2,812.00</u>

Expenses	
700 Miscellaneous Expenses	
710 Club Registrations	\$183.98
 1400 Bank Charges	
1466 Paypal	\$74.09
 Total Expenses	 <u>\$258.07</u>

Month Net Income/(Loss) **\$2,553.93**

ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: **\$13,545.37**

Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
As of February 28, 2022

**BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BAL-
ANCE:**

\$13,545.37

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

\$0.00

Total Income

\$0.00

Expenses

1100 Rent Expenses

1110 Storage Building

\$380.00

Total Expenses

\$380.00

Month Net Income/(Loss)

(\$380.00)

ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: 2/28/2022

\$13,165.37