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## November 2022

### By the Pond

It's that time of year again for the Club's last meeting before 2023 rolls in, and there's no better event to bring 2022 to a close than the AKC's Winter Social! We are incredibly grateful for the wonderful hospitality Brad and Diana Mohs have shown by opening up their beautiful home for this year's social as well!

#### AKC Winter Social

**When: Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 - 9pm**

**Where: Brad and Diana Mohs**

**Theme: Football Tailgating Food**

There is **NO PARKING on their street and no room in the driveway**. Please park at the **Elementary school** at the corner of and walk the short distance to their house. (school and address locations will be sent privately to members via email cover letter) The school is safe and well-lit, and there are sidewalks and streetlights. You won't need to bring any chairs. Feel free to drop off anyone at the end of the driveway before you go park.

The theme for the Winter Social will be **"Football Tailgating Food."** Brad and Diana Mohs will be providing the meats, and beverages. Everyone is asked to bring sides and desserts with the Tailgating theme in mind. Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in their favorite football team attire – college or Professional!!! Brad will have the college football games running in the home theater so you can keep an eye on the scores. **GO TEAM!!!!**

Can't wait to see you all there!

Marlon Tiller

Vice President

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name badges were recently mailed out to those that had ordered one. It is appreciated to come to a meeting at some point to pick up your name badge so the club can save on postage.

We make sure to carry them to the meetings and the auction and show every year. Just keep that in mind if you order one in the future. We had accumulated a bagful of name badges that had been ordered as long as a year ago, so I finally wanted to stop dragging them around everywhere and had a mass mailout last week. We were only able to do that thanks to a surplus the club had from the functions this year, as well as the addition of the pond tour. If you think you ordered one and do not receive it in the next week, please email me so I can check our records.

And if you do not have a name badge, you can go to the Shop tab on our Web page at [atlantakoicub.org](http://atlantakoicub.org) to order one. Remember, you get one free raffle ticket for wearing your name badge to our meetings and functions. Also, it is a really great way to learn other members' names when we see each other.

Thanks!

Membership Chairperson:

Rhonda Eubanks [membership@atlantakoicub.org](mailto:membership@atlantakoicub.org)

## October's Meeting at the Jim Dricker and Elaine Zitomer's pond

The weather was exceptionally great for our October 23rd meeting. Jim and Elaine had converted their swimming pool into a Koi pond. Nominations and elections for president (Diane Giangrande), secretary (Robb Phillips), and equipment manager (Neal Phelps) were also held.



## **Barley Straw as a Water Garden Treatment** from **The Pond Guy**

Barley straw is no magic bullet to rid your decorative pond of unsightly discoloration. But when used as a preventive measure, barley straw offers pond owners an attractive option to chemical products to manage water quality issues.

### **The Science behind Barley**

Barley straw has been widely used for decades to control water quality issues in many bodies of water, including large reservoirs and canals. Researchers have yet to precisely pinpoint how it works, but generally, it's believed that as barley decomposes the by-product released may protect from future issues. It has not been found to harm fish, waterfowl, or pond inhabitants in any way and, in fact, some studies suggest the straw benefits fish.

### **Using It in Your Pond: Science aside, what's important to pond keepers is how to use it in their ponds.**

Currently, hobbyists can choose from three different types of barley products: barley straw in bale form, barley pellets, and barley extract. Barley Straw Bales are typically available loose in a mesh bag, barley straw bales and planters should be placed in the pond early in the season (around March or April, depending on your climate) as the straw must start to decompose before it releases its beneficial substances. One pound of barley straw will treat a 100-square foot pond for approximately four-to-six months. Bales do tend to become messy and may contribute to algae problems if large amounts remain floating in the pond so be sure to keep the straw well-aerated, and contained in near your waterfall, stream or in shallow water, if possible.

### **Barley Pellets**

Compressed into a compact form, the barley pellets also contain all the beneficial substances found in barley straw without the unsightly look of bales, pillows or pads. They're designed to break down quickly and produce phosphate-combating humic substances. The pellets may also buffer pH and control alkalinity in your pond. A 6-pound bag will treat an 800-gallon pond for up to six months, while a 12-pound bag will treat a 1,600-gallon pond for up to six months.

### **Barley Extract**

Also offering the benefits of barley straw without the mess or unsightly bale floating in your pond, barley extract contains only the beneficial by-product in liquid form. Because you don't have to wait for the barley straw to decompose, it also acts faster than pellets and starts to work on contact. An 8-ounce container treats up to 4,000 gallons for three months; a 16-ounce bottle treats up to 8,000 gallons for three months. Your best defense against algae has always been a good offense. Keeping your pond clean and balanced with adequate filtration, bacteria treatments, minimal fish loads and sun exposure will reduce your dependence and need for additional treatments in general.



By: Karen Pattist



There are many myths about Koi Nutrition, so here are some scientific facts behind K.O.I.'s feeding recommendations. Let's look at the myth that Koi should not be fed when water temperatures are below 50 degrees F.

Koi have evolved over millions of years to need a period of fasting, and even the top Japanese breeders who want to maximize growth are fasting their Koi for at least a month over the winter. The duration of the fast varies, depending on whom you talk with, but all seem to agree that 1 to 3 months is ideal.

Remember that Koi are Poikilothermic (or cold-blooded), which means that their body temperature is completely controlled by their environment. So their metabolism is slower when the water is cold, and faster when the water is warmer.

Koi also live in an oxygen-poor environment. Air holds 21% oxygen, while water holds only 0.0009% at 70 degrees F. Koi have no stomach (just a long gut). These facts influence their ability to digest food. And finally, Koi need more protein in their diet than

most mammals. Humans require 10-15 percent protein, dogs require 15-27%, cats require 30%, Catfish require 32%, but Carp require 35%! (R. Strange, 2006).

In one study, Koi were offered a variety of protein feeds at different water temperatures, and they never selected low protein food, even in the coldest water. Koi have evolved to prefer high protein food at all water temperatures.

Koi food produced from plant sources contains some protein, but not enough of the essential amino acids required by Koi. Plant based foods such as wheat germ should *not* be included in the Koi diet, ever. Fish meal – specifically from high quality Capelin, Anchovy, Herring and Menhaden should be the first ingredient of Koi food. Fish Meal is different from White Fish Meal, which is a byproduct, and has a higher ash content and lower protein content, making it less digestible by Carp. White Fish Meal also increases the waste in the pond.

Based on the above scientific evidence, K.O.I. recommends that Koi be fed the same, high-protein feed year round, and only the quantity should be changed depending on water temperature. Koi food does not rot in the Koi's gut at low water temperatures – Koi will simply not eat what they can't digest, but uneaten food will foul the water unless quickly removed.

Thus it is ideal to offer our Koi one or two (really – one or two!) pellets each, *if and only if* they are swimming near the surface, and are actively looking to feed, when water temperatures are below 50 degrees. Feeding in cold water should only be done in extremely low quantities (one to two pellets each, remember?), and never more often than once a week. This does not disturb their fast, but will substantially improve their health as they are coming out of winter, and has been shown to help them start eating earlier in the spring.

Each month, I'd like to highlight a member's pond. Submissions would be very much welcomed. We also want this to become a "current newsletter of club members" rather than a reprint of old articles. If you have any articles you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, please send them to me. It would be very appreciated if any of you could provide any articles concerning Koi, as well as other items of club interest. Pictures would help, also. Got anything to sell? We can list them, too!

If you'd like to send a picture of any hints or pond features of yours, it would be greatly appreciated. Submissions may be sent to [editor@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:editor@atlantakoiclub.org)



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