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October, 2021

By the Pond

Greetings Koi, Goldfish and Water Garden aficionados!

Ahhhh, Fall...the type of weather and time of year that just seems to excite me most! Well, unless you're talking about leaves and those dang fallen seed pods, pine needles and such that find their way into our water-fall, skimmer, bottom drain, gutters... I digress!

A big "thank you" and sincere gratitude to the entire team at Kol Koi Pondscapes. Once again, Kol Koi volunteered their time to take great care of the AKC. In particular, an explosive "fist bump" to Richard Carter who helped coordinate the event and along with Brett, did a great job in the detailed discussion in comparing Goldfish & Koi. Please, if you haven't already, get out to Kol Koi and support their business. The entire team is great and I am personally appreciative for all they've done for us - They've been great to the AKC and we want to see them flourish!

Okay, folks, our next AKC meeting is as follows!

When: October 10th (Sunday) @ 3PM

Where: Bob & Sue Chaffer's Residence (location cover letter)

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS We will conduct Voting for two impending Board Vacancies - Vice President and Treasurer (Bring your megaphones, pitchforks and tear gas and prepare to state your case!)

Once the smoke has cleared, we'll then move into the Training/Discussion below:

Discussion: (a) Fall is upon us - Here come the leaves & such - Tannins in the Water

(b) Whole-House Standby Generator - Just Installed - Complexities of the Installation

Prepare to ask questions and please say "Thank you" to Bob & Sue - Their extensive involvement and contributions to our AKC have truly been superb...for "years".

Hope to see all of you Sunday, October 10th at Bob & Sue's residence!

Stay safe and healthy,
Hope to see you there!
Kevin

Volunteers urgently needed for the show!!!

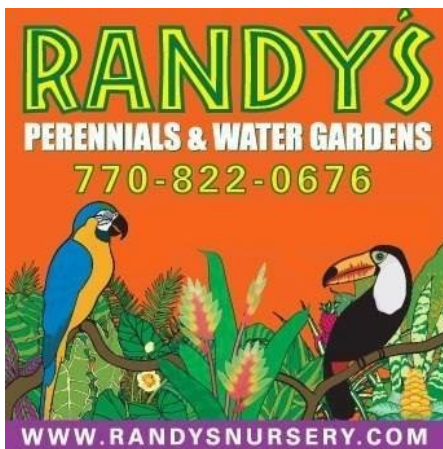
We are now just under 2 weeks away from the show. First off, thanks to everyone who has already volunteered - it is very much appreciated. For those of you that haven't....what are you waiting for? :) But, seriously, here is the link to volunteer to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445A5A629ABF49-20212> Remember, you must sign up and work to get your free t-shirt!

As always, we are having our vendor and volunteer appreciation dinner on Friday night. It is a great way for volunteers to shop at the vendors early before the show opens on Saturday. The club is providing the main dish (Publix fried chicken) and we are looking for volunteers to bring sides and desserts. Beverages will be supplied by the club. There is a sign up genius for the dinner to ensure we don't get too much of the same thing. It can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-20213>

If you plan on showing fish and have not signed up for a tank(s) yet, please do so now. The water quality chemicals need finalizing. Also, if you want to come to the banquet, please purchase your banquet tickets now - we need to give a final count to the caterer. Remember, for every \$100 in trophy sponsorships you get a free banquet ticket. For those of you who purchased Goromo from The Koi Store for the grow out these fish will be judged as a group with an award going to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The fish will also be judged as part of the main show so if you'll want to be at the banquet in case you win! You do not need to reserve a tank for the Goromo - they will be in one tank together, but if you want to bring additional fish you will want a separate tank(s). The tank reservations, banquet tickets and trophy sponsorships can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a5a629abf49-20213>

Please remember our Sponsors:

Randy's Perennials, Kol Koi Pondscapes, Coastal Pond Supply, T&T Uniforms, The Koi Store, and Paradise Ponds



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Membership Voting for officers

Dear Members: The following people, recommended by the Nominating Committee have agreed to run for the open positions of Vice President and Treasurer.

Vice President: Marlon Tiller

Treasurer: Angie Jones and Susan Starr

Nominations can be made at the meeting on October 10th at the Chaffer's house. Floor nominations will be taken, all candidates will speak and then the membership will vote via ballot. Please make sure to attend so we have a quorum. Thanks for volunteering your time to keeping this great club going!

On another note: Our show is coming up on October 16-17. Please post the show poster at your place of business, local businesses and other clubs that you may belong to. We have all kinds of vendors to appeal to a variety of different interests!



**26th Annual
Atlanta Koi & Goldfish Show
October 16-17, 2021**

Saturday 9am – 5pm Sunday 9am - 5pm

**Gwinnett County Fairgrounds
2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy,
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
(use Davis Rd. entrance)**

**Free Admission Free Parking
Koi & Goldfish Competition
Koi Auction - Sun 2pm
Vendors Selling: Fish, Pond Supply
Equipment, Plants & Crafts**

**Raffles all day Saturday & Sunday
Food Available**

For additional info visit: www.atlantakoi.com

MEMBERSHIP Melanie Onushko

We would like to welcome new member Michael Gokey. He helps bring our membership up to 135.

If you need a name badge, please go online and pay for it. You can also pay at the show. I will be placing a large order after the show. You get 1 free raffle ticket at each meeting, just for wearing your name badge!

NOMINATIONS

As you all know, Kevin McDonough is completing his 2-year term as Vice President, and Angie Jones is completing her 2-year term as Treasurer. The nominating committee came up with a list of names to fill these positions. The following people have agreed to run for the positions:

Vice President: Marlon Tiller

Treasurer: Angie Jones and Susan Starr

People can still volunteer to run for one of these positions. They can be nominated at the October meeting and have their name added to the ballot.

Please make sure to attend the meeting at Bob & Sue Chaffers house. We need to have a quorum! Thank you all for participating and help keep the ball rolling (fish swimming) in this great club!

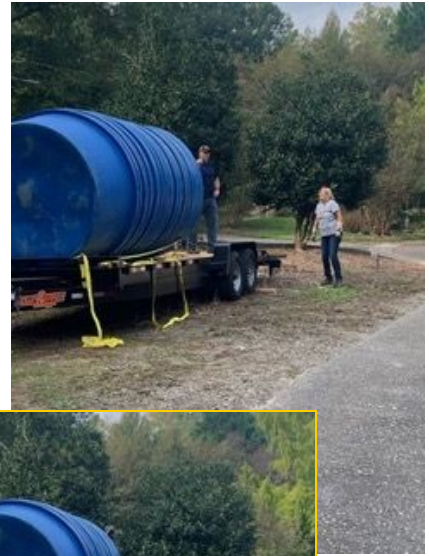
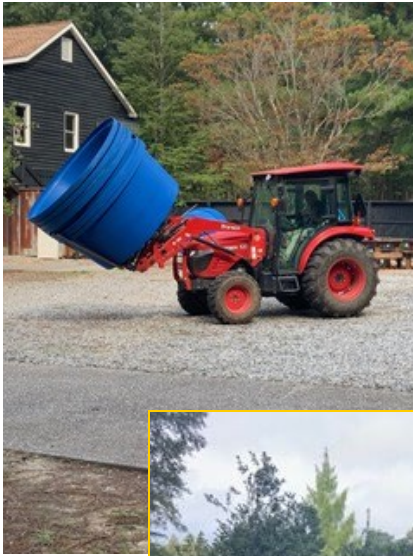
We got it!

The board had this trailer made to house our 54 tubs! It arrived just in time to be loaded up for the koi show and moved to the Gwinnett Fairgrounds.



Thanks to these members who stepped in to help!!

Thanks to Angie Jones, Chase Tomkosky, Diane Giangrande, Marlon Tiller, Melanie Onushko, Neal Phelps and Paul Onushko for getting our new trailer loaded and ready to be moved to the show site. It was a lot of work for only 7 members (out of 133), but with the right equipment (forklift from Furkids) we got it done!



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Melanie Onushko

I'd like to thank this year's nominations committee for putting together a great slate of potential prospects for the open positions of Vice President and Treasurer. Chad Bishop, Rhonda Eubanks, Angie Jones, Alan Puch, Steve Schreimen. You have gone above and beyond to come up with a slate of 18 names for VP and 17 for Treasurer. We will be voting for these offices on October 10th.

The positions are not too time consuming, say an hour per week.

All positions and requirements of the positions are listed in the By-Laws. They are as follows:

Section B – The duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Vice President shall be:

1. To assume all duties of the President during his or her absence, or upon his/her resignation or other departure from office, or upon request by the President, in addition to other duties which may be assigned.
2. To assist the President as requested.
3. To secure the location for regular monthly Club meetings and to establish meeting dates and times for the coming year.
4. To secure programs for regular monthly Club meetings.
5. To provide information to the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster regarding monthly programs and meetings.

Section D – The, duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Treasurer shall be:

1. To receive funds for deposit from various sources and advice of deposits made by the Membership Chairperson for dues collected, name badges ordered, and any magazine subscriptions ordered; said funds to be deposited into the Club's account(s) with its primary financial institution ("Bank").
2. To recommend to the Executive Committee the Club's Bank which will have, at a minimum, federal insurance in an amount at least equal to the highest balance held by the Club in the preceding 12 months or the highest amount carried in the current year's budget, whichever is greater.
3. To be prepared, if asked, to report to the Executive Committee at its meetings, or to the Membership at Club meetings, the financial condition of the Club at any given time.
4. To pay bills and reimburse Members' expenses in accord with the Club's approved annual budget or, if over-budget, unbudgeted, or greater than the established limits set for Committee Chairpersons, to obtain approval from the President, Executive Committee, or Membership in accord with the Bylaws.
5. To request a financial accounting from any Chairperson at the conclusion of any major Club project.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY FISH IN THE WINTER?

Goldfish and Koi are amazingly resilient. As the water temperature drops, their metabolism slows down proportionately. They need less food and less oxygen to survive and enter a lethargic period. During this time they are still moderately active, but are expending much less energy.

Because your fish are using less energy, they require less food. Generally speaking, when the water temperature drops to 53 degrees, it is best to stop feeding your fish altogether. They will find enough organic matter in an established pond to satisfy them. Decaying plant material and algae provide an adequate diet in most cases during the winter months.

THE NUMBER ONE KILLER IN FISH PONDS AND AQUARIA IS OVERFEEDING!!!

No, they don't get fat and have a heart attack ... it's much worse! The more fish eat, the more ammonia they produce. With the pond in a dormant winter stage, the nitrosomonas and nitrobacter bacteria are at their lowest numbers. Without the bacterial colony to process the ammonia into nitrate, the free ammonia in the pond water strips the slime coat off the fish and suppresses their immune system, thus setting them up for a viral, bacterial, or fungal infection which may, at this point, be lethal. In a worst case scenario, the ammonia levels may become so high as to actually kill the fish. The same thing can happen in warm weather, of course, but it is less likely since the bacterial colony is much stronger in warm water. During the warm season, feeding your fish a high quality diet sends them into the winter with a fully functioning immune system and little need for food during the cold winter.

In a properly designed water garden or Koi pond, the water should never freeze solidly in our area. At the very worst, we normally have no more than 4 inches of ice on the top of the pond. The fish are snoozing comfortably on the warmer bottom of the pond.

If your pond freezes NEVER BREAK THE ICE!!! Hitting the ice with a solid object sends shock waves throughout the pond often rupturing the air bladders in the fish. All too often we hear the story of how the fish died from lack of oxygen even after the homeowner broke the ice with a hammer. It wasn't the lack of oxygen, but rather the ruptured air bladder which killed the fish!

The easiest way of keeping the pond from freezing-over completely is to leave the waterfall running. Should it get cold enough to freeze the entire surface of the pond, the best thing to do is to heat a metal sauce pan full of water to boiling. Then place the entire pan on the surface of the pond and allow it to melt a hole in the ice. Repeat this procedure as often as needed. Commercial floating de-icers are also available and work very nicely.

In short, you really don't have to worry about your fish in the winter. Feed them a high quality diet during the summer. Don't feed them in the winter, and don't break the ice!! They should be fine in the spring.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PLANTS IN THE WINTER?

There's no great mystery to keeping aquatic plants. In general, they respond to their environment in the same way as their terrestrial cousins. Provide them with the appropriate environment and they will perform well for you.

As fall approaches, and the water temperature begins to cool, most of the aquatic plants will begin to enter a dormant stage. New growth of foliage slows or stops completely, and the plant may begin to develop yellow areas on the older growth. When the first frost hits, most of the plants will lose their foliage and become dormant. At this time the old foliage should be cut away and removed from the pond along with floating plants such as water hyacinth and water lettuce to prevent their deteriorating over the winter and contributing to the sludge in the pond. Since most of the plants suffer badly when the root stock freezes, it is not a bad idea to lower your potted plants to the deepest part of your pond at this time. We rarely get more than 4" of ice on the surface of our ponds here, and moving them to the bottom of the pond will remove them from this "freeze zone."

In most cases, the water at the bottom of the pond is somewhat warmer in the winter than that at the surface, and this additional warmth helps to protect the plant during its dormant period. When the water temperature begins to rise in the spring, bring the plant material back up to its accustomed level and enjoy watching your plants come back to life.

Just as you have annual and perennial plants in your garden, you have tropical and hardy plants in your pond. Depending on where you live, your survival rate among the tropical plants varies. Although, in general you should assume that a tropical plant will not make it through the winter, we have observed that here in the Atlanta area many tropicals survive quite well if they are provided some protection by moving them to the deepest part of the pond for the winter. We have also noticed that even a plant like the umbrella palm, *Cyperus alternifolius*, often does quite well if placed next to the return flow from an ultraviolet sterilizer. The heat produced by the UV unit seemed to be just enough to protect the plant from freezing. Your pond will, of course, have its own personality and individual differences which you can turn to your advantage with a bit of thought and planning.

In short, if you leave the plants in shallow water where the root stock can freeze, you will almost surely lose tropicals and some of the hardy plants also. If you remove the dead foliage and move the pots to the deepest part of the pond, you stand an excellent chance of saving all of the hardy and many of the tropical plants in your pond. Watch them carefully and move them to shallow water when they begin to put on new growth. This is a critical time for your plants since a late freeze can "burn" the foliage, but rarely will we get a hard freeze in our zone (7) in the late spring. Once we get into April, plant growth usually begins to come on strongly in anticipation of summer.

Koi Development

Submitted by Brady Layman

Here are two Shiro Utsuri Tosai (One Year Old) that we acquired in April 2021 at 12cm (center photos). They both are from Otsuka Koi Farm, and came from the same Oyajoy (Female Parent). These were not expensive Koi, and I do not have a crystal ball for how they will turn out in the future, but it will be interesting to see how they develop compared to each other.

Out of about 50 Shiro Utsuri Tosai we viewed, the left one was our number one pick. Now around 18cm (right) we have high hopes of the future of this Koi. The aspect that I appreciate most about this Koi is its body. It is not bulky yet (nor should it be as a tosal), but it has the frame to support itself once it hits Nisai (Two Years Old) and Sansei (Three Years Old). Additionally, I really like the more modern Shiro Utsuri Pattern. While it is not the classic Itchimatsu Moyo (Checkerboard) pattern, the "tiger stripe" like pattern is really appealing.

This Shiro Utsuri was our second choice out of the group. I really like the skin quality on this Koi. Specifically the bright Shiroji (White) on the shoulder area, contrasted to the heavy Sumi (Black) towards the caudal peduncle (Tail Tube) creates an interesting Koi to appreciate.

These two Koi are currently being raised in a 1200 gal indoor pond, and being fed Sakia Hikari Growth food.

