



Have you paid your SAKA dues? This is the last issue if you have not...

AKCA Fish of the Year



Tancho owed by Ron Oscislawski

AKCA Person of the Year



Dennis Leonard

Direction to the Kline's

East on River Road



Turn RIGHT onto N SABINO CANYON RD. 0.2 miles



Turn LEFT onto E CLOUD RD. 1.5 miles



Turn LEFT onto N LARREA LN. 0.6 miles



Turn LEFT onto N RIDGECREST DR. 0.1 miles



Turn RIGHT onto N FERNHILL CIR. 0.2 miles



End at 4220 N Fernhill Cir
Tucson, AZ 85750-2459, US



25th AKCA Seminar June 22-25, 2006 Buffalo, New York

HOTEL

Hyatt Regency Hotel –
Buffalo (\$104 seminar rate) –
Reservations 800-233-1234



Activities

Koi over Niagara, Excitement in the Water
includes:

Seminars (partial list):

Aquatic Plants – Larry Nau; *Chemicals in the pond & Trickle*

Tower Filtration – Dr. Roddy Conrad

DIY Trickle Tower – Griff Thomasson

Dream Ponds – Carl Forss;

Keeping Koi in Cold Water – Mike Masterson

Koi Health – Tim Miller-Morgan;

Koi & Goldfish Surgery – Dr. Helen Roberts

Pondside Triage – Dr. Erik Johnson

Spray on Pond Liner – Kerry Snyder

Stress – Dr. Sandy Yosha

Update on Koi Health – Victoria Burnley Vaughan

You Thought Mold Only Grew in Your Refrigerator – Richard Carlson

and more...

Thursday Buffalo Architectural Tour:

This tour will focus on the city of Buffalo, including designs of HH Richardson, Louis Sullivan, and Frank Lloyd Wright. One featured structure will be the Darwin D. Martin house complex, the most extensive Prairie house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Lunch will be at the Pearl Street Grill & Brewery. Forest Lawn cemetery, designed by Charles E. Clarke will be featured, which will include the *Sky Mausoleum*, the only Frank Lloyd Wright designed memorial open to the public.

Thursday Niagara Falls Tour:

This tour will showcase the mighty Niagara, one of the “7 wonders of the world”, from the American side.

Participants will be afforded a view of the Whirlpool rapids, the Niagara River, the marooned barge, etc. Additionally participants will “get up front and personal” with the falls, as they ride on the Maid of the Mist boat. This will literally take participants to the foot of the falls, where they will be able to appreciate first hand, all of its might! (Rainwear will be provided). **Passports are required for all US/Canadian border crossings**, so be sure to bring your passport, if you plan to visit Canada!

Sunday Pond Tour:

Our pond tour will include 6 ponds, 3 located north of the city of Buffalo, and 3 located south of the city. For lunch, we will stop at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, one of only 2 of the large Lord and Burnham conservatories in the United States, and the only one located in an Olmstead park!

Wet Lab:

Our wet lab will offer one half day of instruction in handling fish, anesthesia, skin scrapes/gill snips and other diagnostic procedures, injections, blood draws, etc. Experienced instructors will take the students through the entire process starting with anesthesia and ending with reintroduction into the pond or quarantine facility. You won't want to miss attending this lab!

Registration Information

Choice of Package I or Package II

Package I Offers

- * Entry to All Seminars
- * Friday Lunch
- * Saturday Lunch
- * Saturday Banquet
- * Sunday Pond Tour (Box Lunch)
- Single \$280.00 \$ _____
- Couple \$390.00 \$ _____

Package II Offers

- * Entry to All Seminars
- Single \$150.00 \$ _____
- Couple \$210.00 \$ _____

***Tradeshow is Free to All!**

Extracurricular Activities / Single Events:

Thursday, June 22

- Niagara Falls Tour/Lunch \$62.00 \$ _____
- Buffalo Tour/Lunch \$62.00 \$ _____
- Wet Lab (limited capacity) \$60.00 \$ _____

**Friday, June 23 Food Choice:**Friday Lunch \$38.00 \$ _____ **B C V****Saturday, June 24**Saturday Lunch \$33.00 \$ _____ **B C V**Saturday Banquet \$60.00 \$ _____ **B C V****Sunday, June 25**Pond Tour/Lunch (subs) \$48.00 \$ _____ **B T V****Single Events total: \$ _____**Dietary: **B** = beef, **C**=chicken, **T**= turkey, **V**=vegetarian

Money Saving Offers

Stay at the Hyatt and get a 15% rebate off Package I/II
Instructions for rebate will be in the registration packet**Early Bird Registration:**Sign up for Package I or II on/before April 1, 2006 and save
\$30 single/\$50 couple on Package I or \$15
Single/\$25 couple on Package II**First Timer Special:**If you have never attended an AKCA Seminar, take an
additional \$30 single/\$50 couple off Package I;
\$15 single/\$25 couple off Package II**Payment Information**Payment by check or credit card (VISA or MasterCard)
must accompany registration form.**Cancellations must be received in writing on or before June 1,
2006 to be refundable.**

Twenty Disgusting Parts of Pond Keeping We'd Just As Soon Forget

Reprinted from Koi Club of San Diego Newsletter

#1. The gunk at the bottom of the filter stinks. It's mucky, it's slimy and it smells like a stagnant pond. But plants love it because it's already pre digested for them and you are likely to have the greenest, healthiest garden in the block when you dump the muck on your garden.

#2. Pea Soup Green water is not very esthetic when you want to show off your fish. All a you can see are shadowy shapes moving through the water and you might as well own all white ogons as that expensive red and white kohaku or nifty brown chagoi if you can't see anything but pea soup murk. But the green water is actually quite healthy for the fish. It offends our sense of esthetics, means we cannot see the disease on the fish early, and creates a great deal of competition with the fish for

the dissolved oxygen in the water. However, newly hatched fry thrive in it, it shades the water and keeps it somewhat cooler and it is definitely a deterrent to blue herons. What they can't see they won't get. The hardest bit about pea soup green is waiting long enough for the pond chemistry to balance, the filter to take charge and start breaking down the raw fertilizer the fish and their decomposing food create.

#3 The water in your pond is pond water. You do recall those fascinating biology slides in High School with all the unicelled organisms swimming around and eating each other? Guess what is in your pond water swimming around eating each other. But this is exactly what carp live in. The majority of those organisms eat each other, not the fish; some even provide food for the newly hatched fry or other things that provide food for the fish.

4. Nobody has a perfect pond and all the answers. Everyone will give you different answers for the problem you are asking you bout. If your fish are ill you can buy medicated food, make your own, inject them with drugs or dip them ahead of time for immunization. Which should you do? It depends who you talk to. The Koi community is probably one of the friendliest groups you will encounter, because although everyone has their own favored filter type, they are willing to share and demonstrate to you why that one is right for their situation, but might be wrong for yours. The answers are out there, as well as a lot of experience, some of which is bound to match yours and have a hard won answer to your problem.

#5. Koi are carp and carp, like puppies, eat what ever they can get in their mouths. Like protective of what gets available to them -- making sure guests and children don't dump their sodas in the pond or throw in copper pennies. But along with eating everything, it also means we can treat them with a varied diet -- the left over watermelon from the picnic, the half a grapefruit from breakfast, a quartered head of cabbage because it is so darn cheap at St. Patrick's day.

#6. The Spawning procedure is a very violent brutal experience. The males almost literally batter the eggs out of the female, leaving bruises on everyone who participates -- which is usually the whole pond. It is literally a dirty thing with the pond full of scum from the milt and the thrashing. Crystal clear water becomes murky with stirred silt. But the experience of finding a fingerling or two in the pond that you know you did not purchase and that turn out pretty nice makes up for the temporary dirty house.

#7. Fish are slimy. Snakes are smooth and dry and slick, but fish are slimy. When you catch them for the show or to medicate them, they are slick slimy wiggly creatures. But that slime coat is part of their protection and design. One of the indications of fish health is the consistency of the slime coat. Adding salt increases the slime coat on our fish and increases the fish's resistance to external parasites.



#8. Serious fish breeding means culling. Culling is sorting through the 250,000 eggs that hatch out of the 500,000 that were laid and fertilized and discarding the baby fish. But as cruel and inhumane as it sounds, culling insures the strength of the baby fish you do keep. You are initially discarding the deformed fish, then the ones with non desired color patterns. You are also ensuring that as those baby fish grow they have adequate space in which to grow and a better chance at the food. A pond that is adequate for twenty large Koi quickly becomes inadequate for 100,000 babies.

#9. The pond is likely to contain all sorts of strange animal life right along with your fish. Leeches, anchor worms, fish lice, mosquito larvae, you name it. They're the big brothers to those unicelled creatures you looked at under the microscope. But most of those critters provide food for the fish or, if they are not eaten, are easily controlled with a dose of Dimilin before they get out of hand. Snails seem to come out of thin air whether or not you have introduced plants. Dimilin knocks them down as well, although the fish like escargot as well as they like caviar during spawning season.

#10. There are no guarantees in Koi keeping. That beautiful baby fish you bought that was glorious platinum white and metallic yellow is as likely to fade to a dull white as he is to remain bright and exciting. Take note of the fish in the last KOI USA that was bought as dynamite red and white kohaku, faded in poor water and was brought back again. But that rather strange little fish is just as likely to change into something really wonderful as it is to change into something ugly. "Tategoi" simply means "a fish with potential." Not "Instant champion, just add food and time."

#11 A properly set up pond will need constant upkeep and attention. But consider just why you put the in your pond in the first place. Attention becomes part of the pleasure of Koi keeping. Would that all obligations were as onerous as sifting by the pond feeding the fish and observing them for a while each day, watching for disease and bruises and potential problems. A properly designed pond is like a good car; upkeep can be minimal most of the time with occasional major tune ups and filter changes once or twice a year, depending on the fish load.

#12 Fish die. Usually the one you are the most attached to, paid the most for, or was a special gift from a special friend. But please try and keep some perspective on the fact this is just a fish. An expensive fish, a beloved fish, but not a child. Your fish will not be covered by your HMO (and I've tried. It would be especially nice when it comes to medication) and most likely your vet will give you a polite turn down when you call him. Fish are remarkably hardy healing creatures, healing fins and sores frequently without showing a scar. And sometimes they die for no apparent reason (or from quite apparent raccoons or blue herons). There will never be one

quite a special as that one, but please recall that Koi, unlike Macaws, usually do not insult us by outliving their owners.

#13. Fish grow. Another unsettling fact for those who have stocked their pond to capacity with 8 inch to 15 inch fish in June and can't figure out why their pond is full of green water the following June after the winter. The more you feed Koi, the better the chances they will grow. Large. But unlike a house with too many children Koi do not grow up and move out. You will have them with you forever. You can't abandon them along the side of a country road, you can't release them to fly away, and they're your responsibility. Now they've grown and you've been both lucky and skilled enough that none died over the winter. Over crowded ponds are unhealthy for the fish and stunting to growth. Find a friend with a pond. Donate one or two to the meeting raffle. Support the Friends of Koi Auction in August with some "time to move on" fellows.

#14. Koi swim in their toilet. Yucch. But with an adequate filter system that toilet can be flushed and purified hourly or better. How fast does your pump recirculate the water? That toilet water (no pun intended, ladies) is the same stuff that is nourishing the algae on the sides of the pond that provides food.

#15. Algae are invasive. Pea soup algae, hair algae, velvet algae on the side, brown algae, scummy algae, all sorts of algae. A brand new pond will have no algae. Everybody else's has algae. But that algae, as with the pea soup clouding, is good for the fish. Hair algae is the fine stringy stuff floating out like hair in the water, attached to the sides, the filter inlet, the waterfall, everywhere. Koi generally don't get caught in it and it is easy enough to pull off with hands or pool scrubbing brush. The second year my pond was in operation I had a strong growth of the hair algae. I put up shade cloth, allowed the fish to grow (lots) and the next spring the hair algae growth was minimal. The Koi ate the little that sprouted. They also snack on the velvety coating that is all over the side of my pond. Another reason I don't worry about them missing a meal as they have plenty of veggies.

#16. It is probably not possible to feed your fish without getting splashed. But a good deal of the pleasure of watching the Koi is seeing their enthusiasm over food.

#17. Koi and plants mix with caution. But it can be done and done well. Koi, like pigs, like to root. They are not rooting to munch on your prize water lily roots, but they will break off the new growth and cloud the water with the disturbed soil. If you want to have lilies with your Koi fill the top of the lily pot with large rounded river rocks that are too large for your Koi to move. And keep your Koi population down. Think about a marginal planting area where the fish are isolated from the plants by a barrier or dike of some sort, allowing the water to



flow from the pond to the plants, but too shallow for the fish to navigate.

#18. Koi are expensive. Undoubtedly at some point the one fish that catches your eye will be more expensive than your house payment. But with careful shopping and knowledge of what constitutes a good fish you can find smaller "tategoi" at a great price and have the pleasure of raising them to that larger size.

#19. No matter how large your pond is constructed, it's never large enough. It is a Koi enthusiast axiom that the minute the pond is finished and filled you want a bigger one, while you're planning the next excavation, you still have this one to enjoy.

#20. Truly disgusting is probably being able to tell your co-workers that you're going to HAVE to go home and talk to the fish, or spend your vacation watching the water lilies bloom. In these lazy summer days could a pond be any more irritating (to others) than that? Talk of relaxing and peaceful

Koi Person versus Pond Person

By Steve Hamilton
Reprinted from [KOI USA](#)

Koi Person - Primary goal is to obtain show quality fish.

Pond Person - Primary goal is to establish a small ecosystem containing water, fish, and plants. etc.

At a recent meeting of the Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society, one of the members asked the guest speaker a question. She wanted to know if a person could keep a pond with a few fish and plants without getting into all of this other "stuff". The guest speaker had just finished explaining the nitrogen cycle and all of the gizmos from bio filters to Ultraviolet Sterilizers to keep water clean and safe. The "stuff" she was referring to was the knowledge and equipment needed to support any Koi pond and most goldfish/watergardens.

To answer her question without offending our speaker or those who will read this. I referred to the club name. The Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society was formed in April of 1990. We chose that name to reflect the different levels of interest of our founding members. These areas of interest continue to change, evolve and mature. My ponds are a good example.

My first pond was a dismal failure in my opinion. It failed to stay clear in spite of my "balanced" approach mentioned in the books. I kept fish down to a minimum, planted it with water lilies and the like for 80% sun blockage, but the water still went green. The fish didn't seem to care, but I was frustrated, I

didn't want to raise lips, (that's all I could see when they fed). I wanted a clear, inviting environment. Had I understood the nitrogen cycle back then, I would have known that I had too many fish putting out too much ammonia. I was also overfeeding and the pond was anything but balanced. The green water was the only reason my fish were even alive as I had no filter of any kind. This pond was a success in one way though; it fueled my desire for knowledge. I remember looking at a book on watergardening in a pet shop one day, when I turned the page to see a beautiful red and white fish swimming in clear water in a Japanese garden. Yes, it could be done, and that was now my goal.

My focus shifted from landscape to water and fish. Notice I said shifted, not changed. I began to read everything I could get my hands on. I subscribed to KOI USA. I finally achieved some success later that year when I discovered the bio filter. I built this new pond with the filter but I also read up on that red and white fish and the garden I had seen in the book. I discovered the fish was a Koi and the garden was called Zen. I attempted to create that look with a rock bridge, stone lantern, water basin, and trimming on the pine trees and shrubs. I also traveled around the country trying to find and purchase the imported Japanese Koi.

When completed, the garden with Koi pond draws toads, frogs and dragon flies, the water stays clear and safe and I spend many hours beside it letting the sights and sounds wash away the stress of the day.

Conclusions

Which comes first, Japanese garden or the Japanese fish? Does the filter keep the fish alive or do the fish keep the filter alive? Is it okay to put water plants in a Koi pond or is it not a pond if only fish live in it? Can you achieve success with the balanced approach or is all of the other "stuff" necessary? I say YES! There are as many ways to do things as there are opinions and pocket books. The one place that takes the versus out of the discussions is your local club. You get involved and make sure that your area of interest is met. Don't have a club in your area, neither did we until I made the first mess of a pond in 1990.

Water Quality

By Grant Fujita
reprinted from ["Koi"](#)

The health, growth, and color intensity of are all dependent on water condition. A chemical examination should be made at frequent intervals and this analysis should include tests for: pH, water hardness, oxygen concentration and chemical content. Ten to twenty minutes should be spent every day checking the pond condition, especially in the morning.



- 1. Look to see if the Koi are swimming normally? If all the Koi are swimming all over the pond area that is an indication that they are healthy.
- 2. Is there any scum on the water surface and are many small bubbles forming? These suggest the water is very old or the biological purification system is not working effectively.
- 3. Are some of the Koi gathering at the waterfall area? This normally indicates that the water is lacking in oxygen content.
- 4. Are the Koi accumulating in one area and some of them scratching their sides at the pond edges? If so, there is a possibility they are having problems with parasites and the pond should be treated immediately.

This daily checking is very important for the health of your Koi.

Although many important things about Koi have been learned from well known Koi keepers in Japan, we cannot use 100% of their knowledge for our systems. For example, on the West Coast of the United States, mostly in the California area, the water has a high pH and is very hard, the opposite holds true in Japan. Also, water temperature in California is much higher.

Japanese Koi magazines often suggest the use of special kinds of minerals to combat problems. Trying to use those cures in one of our ponds could result in more problems. For example, Japanese Koi keepers use the high "Bakki" tower system (air and water turbulence system) to raise pH. If the same were used in parts of the U.S. pH would be increased to a point detrimental to the fish. They also suggest the use of oyster shells to neutralize the chemical content in the water. However, oyster shells would not be beneficial in hard water. The California area is much warmer and has much less rainfall than Japan therefore larger biological purification systems are required.

Some Koi keepers in the United States use chemicals to control the water condition. This type of control requires the water condition be checked every morning and night every day because nature will change each second, minute, hour and day. The environment affecting the water changes continually. As a result the weather temperature, atmospheric pressure and chemical content in the air and the pH will change accordingly. A pH reading taken during the early part of morning might register low; however, after the mid afternoon, that reading will go up. In the same pond the water can show a change of as much as .5 to 1.0 on the scale.

The water condition can be stabilized if the pond and purification system is well designed. Do not bother with chemicals to adjust. Once it is stabilized by a good system, the Koi will adjust to the environment of the pond even though the

pH maybe a little high and water a little hard. In effect, don't panic if the pH reading is high, more harm can be done to the Koi by adding chemicals to reduce it.

Some Nishikigoi such as those with black color patterns, ie. Showa-Sanshoku and Utsuri-Mono, do well in hard water as it is known for improving blacks. However, if the water is very hard, there is a possibility a Kohaku could get black spots on the body.

Most Koi keepers in the California area use the local urban water system. Although the oxygen content is high and presence of harmful bacteria very low, when added to the pond in large amounts, it maybe harmful to the color and health of the Koi due to chemicals added by the water company causing high pH and extreme hardness. The chemicals added include chlorine and chloramines. Although these chemicals kill bacteria, they also can kill the Koi. Therefore, large quantities of city water should never be added in a short time period. High water hardness is a critical issue because it can seriously affect the shine or gloss (Tsuya) of the Koi's skin and dull the color intensity. High pH and hard water can be overcome by use of a well designed purification system.

Large amounts of fresh well water are used by some Koi keepers to get by without a purification system. Even though well water is very cheap or free and without harmful chemicals such as chlorine and chloramine, a large amount of fresh water should not be put into the pond at one time. Carp like to live in the same water condition and environment. Japanese Koi keepers who have good quality Nishikigoi do not add large amounts of fresh well water to their ponds, even though it is readily available. If a quantity of fresh water is entering the pond, the Koi's body system has to adjust to the new water condition. A loss of shine and color fading can be a result of excessive water changes.

Water circulated for a long time without change becomes aged and can cause small bubbles and scum in the pond. Most purification systems cannot eliminate 100% of the harmful chemicals such as ammonia. It is suggested that 5% to 20% of the pond water should be exchanged every week and fresh water added. This fresh water should be added in small amounts on a continuous basis, 24 hours a day, to prevent a major environmental change in the pond. When the sediment tank and mechanical filter are backflushed, the water lost equals the amount of fresh water that should be replaced daily.

Clear water does not necessarily mean healthy water for Koi. Clear water is good for the eyes of the Koi keeper because the fish can be seen but harmful chemicals cannot. Carp are usually dwellers in muddy water and, consequently, Koi seem to enjoy the same conditions.



SAKA News



Kawarigo Korum

UP COMING EVENTS

May 21, 2006

Ron & Denise Kline

June 3, 2006

Hereford Pond Tour
Hereford, AZ

June 18, 2006

Bruce & Wanda Triebel



25th Annual AKCA Seminar

Buffalo, NY

June 22-25, 2006

July 23, 2006

Kurt & Lisa Orgen

August 27, 2006

TBA

September 24, 2006

TBA

May 2006

October 6-8, 2006
1st Las Vegas Koi Show

October 22, 2006
TBA

November 2006
27th SAKA Koi Show & Auction

December 2006
TBA

26th Annual AKCA Seminar
Phoenix Marriott Mesa
Mesa, Arizona
June 22-24, 2007
Hosted by SAKA & VSKC



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Pond size: _____

Would you like to host a meeting?

Would you like to serve on a committee?

___ If yes which one?

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