

*Frances Case's House  
March 28  
Education Starts at 3:00*



Tucson, AZ 85718  
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**Important Notice:** Going forward the newsletter will be distributed via e-mail only, unless requested otherwise. If you do not presently get the newsletter electronically, or if you wish to continue receiving it via snail mail, you must contact Brent VanKoeving at 780-3980 or [bvankoeving@longrealty.com](mailto:bvankoeving@longrealty.com).

**SAKA, Inc Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	Bob Panter <a href="mailto:sakabob@yahoo.com">sakabob@yahoo.com</a> (520) 747-7278
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**Committees/Points of Contact**

<b>2010 Pond Tour</b>	Jeanmarie Schiller <a href="mailto:Tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com">Tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com</a> (520) 299-1876
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Koi Show Co-Chairperson(s)</b>	Bob Panter and Jeanmarie Schiller
<b>AKCA Representative</b>	Debby Young <a href="mailto:debbyt@akca.org">debbyt@akca.org</a> (520) 682-7697
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Brent VanKoeving <a href="mailto:bvankoeving@longrealty.com">bvankoeving@longrealty.com</a> (520) 780-3980
<b>Koi Health Advisor</b>	Noel Shaw <a href="mailto:koidoc@noelshawdc.com">koidoc@noelshawdc.com</a> (520) 400-0335
<b>Membership Chairperson</b>	Faye Hall (520) 297-1253
<b>Raffle Chairpersons</b>	Jeanmarie Schiller <a href="mailto:crankyjean@msn.com">crankyjean@msn.com</a> (520) 299-1876
<b>Education Committee</b>	Erin Riley <a href="mailto:eriley@aol.com">eriley@aol.com</a> (520) 818-6490
<b>Librarian</b>	Jeanmarie Schiller <a href="mailto:crankyjean@msn.com">crankyjean@msn.com</a> (520) 299-1876

Editor's Note: Articles published herein are intended for the enjoyment of all and come from a variety of sources. The articles are not intended to replace veterinary advice. Pond owners, and not the club, are responsible for the health of their koi, water changes, what to do, and how to treat their pond. Reasonable effort is made to review these articles for accuracy before including them in the newsletter.

## Presidents Corner

3-18-10

Did you ever think Spring would get here" Now that it is here what have you done to insure the well being of your Koi" For one thing, are your koi swimming with each other m or are they by themselves" How is the chemistry of your water" This is important because bacteria and parasites can attack your fish in warmer waters.

A good thing this time of year is to come to a SAKA meeting and find out what everyone is doing to insure the health of their koi and ponds. When you are standing or sitting talking with each other ask those questions. You might be surprised by their answers.

Up and coming Pond Tour 2010. Mark your calendars May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a great weekend for everyone to enjoy. Tell everyone you know, or just take them with you.

For the love of Koi,

**Bob Panter**, President SAKA, Inc.

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### Boyd Equipment Center

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## Club Meetings

**Hosting Meetings:** For those wishing to host an upcoming business/education meeting, the club will reimburse the host up to \$50 (with receipts) toward food/beverage for the meeting. **We would like to see your pond!** Please contact Bob Panter if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

## Club Announcements

Officer Elections are coming soon. The offices to be filled are Treasurer and President. If you are interested in running for office or being part of the nominating committee. Please contact Brent VanKoevering at 780-3980.

We also need nominations for Koi Person of the year. Please contact Bob Panter to nominate someone.

## February Business Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: February 28, 2010 at Martha and Dan Cover's in Tucson, AZ

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Bob Panter at 4:19 PM.

January Minutes: Motion made to accept and second the January 2010 Minutes as read.

Number of members in attendance: 19 members.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance: \$7563.41. \$5000 CD is active until March 2010. \$50 in Savings. Motion made and passed that Martha Cover will roll the CD over and where, six months at a time.

2010 Membership: 57 active members.

AKCA: Debbie Young reported that at the end of May, there will be at least 19 speakers for the Seminar in Tennessee. Refer to the AKCA web site for details and reservations.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

2010 Show and Auction Committee: Bob Panter and Jean-Marie McGinnis will co-chair this year's Koi Show. Jean-Marie McGinnis gave the report for the upcoming Pond Tour. It will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; the tickets are \$5. There will be a Koi Trivia Contest with magazine subscription for the prize. Jean-Marie is asking for more ponds and also volunteers for the event. Jean-Marie also found many koi books and information that had been stored and the Club is beginning a lending library starting with these supplies. Contact Jean-Marie for more information.

Old Business: Debbie Young gave a report on the Budget Meeting and presented a written accounting for 2009 and projected 2010. Bob Panter and Martha Cover agreed to stay on in their present elected positions of President and Treasurer, respectively. Koi food is now available – please contact Debbie and Dave Young.

New Business: Motion made and seconded to have Bob Panter look into buying a clear fish tank for educational purposes. Attending membership voted for Koi Person of the year; the nominees were Craig Warren, Jean-Marie McGinnis and Brent VanKoevering. Jean-Marie is Koi Person of the Year.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Educational Talk: Noel Shaw presented a talk and slide show on Pre-Spring Clean Up of your koi pond.

Lynn Riley  
Secretary

# Did You Know... SAKA has a LIBRARY? It's TRUE!

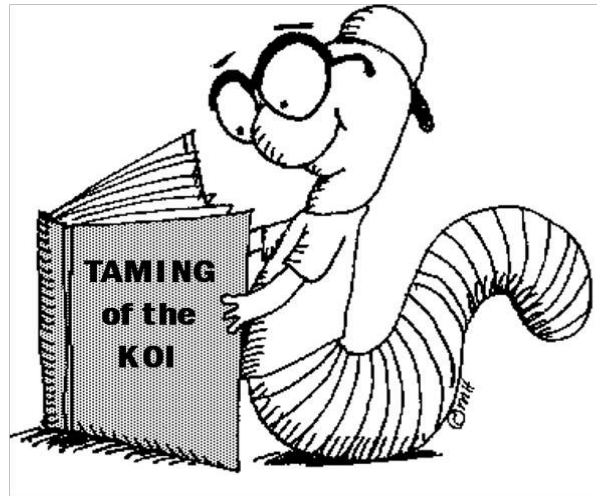
SAKA's library collection is full of great books, videos and magazines about Koi and Ponds. All are available to borrow by members in good standing at no cost.

The Library Collection is listed on our website. All you have to do is request a title 1 day before a club meeting and come to the meeting to pick it up. Then, return it at the next meeting.

It's that EASY!

To request a title  
by phone:  
299-1876

by email:  
cran kyjean @ms n.com



**Southern Arizona Koi Association's**

# Parade of Ponds

A self-guided tour of 12 beautiful ponds around the Tucson area.

**MORE INFO:**

[www.sakoa.org](http://www.sakoa.org)

[tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com](mailto:tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com)

(520) 628-0381

**APR 1 & 2, 2010**  
**9am-5pm each day**

Tickets  
**\$5 per person**  
*child under 12*  
*free with paid adult*

**ON SALE APRIL 1ST**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:** Magic Gardens Nursery, Mesquite Valley Growers, Harlow's, Tucson Botanical Gardens, Green Things, Pond Plants & More, Rillito Nursery, Sheldon's Nursery, Civano Nursery, Tohono Chul Park and Mountain View Koi (in Hereford, AZ)

POND TOUR TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE THESE FINE GARDEN CENTERS:

(Southeast): Civano Nursery 5301 E Houghton Rd. 546-9200

(East): Mesquite Valley Growers 8005 E. Speedway Blvd. 721-8600

Magic Gardens Nursery 7909 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. 885-7466

(Central): Harlow's Gardens 5620 E. Pima St. 886-5475

Tucson Botanical Gardens 2150 N. Alvernon Wy. 326-9686

Green Things Nursery 3235 E. Allen Rd. 299-9471

(Northeast): Sheldon's Nursery 4999 N. Sabino Canyon Rd. 529-0609

(Northwest): Ponds, Plants and More 2060 W. Ruthrauff Rd. 292-6774

Rillito Nursery & Garden Center 6303 N. La Cholla Blvd. 575-0995

Tohono Chul Park 7366 N. Paseo del Norte 742-6455

(Hereford, AZ) Mountain View Koi & Nursery 3828 E. Keeling Rd. (520) 378-3710

## Why Is My Water Green? And What Can I Do About It?

By John Tinius  
USA

reprinted from Koi

One of the most frequent problems with our ponds is green water. As everyone knows, green water is the result of algae growth, this article will look at some of the basics about algae and how to eliminate them.

### WHAT IS ALGAE?

Algae is one of many plants belonging to the subdivision thallophytes found in both salt and fresh water. Algae comes in many forms including both free-floating and anchored, or attached. Algae comes in many colors including green, brown, blue, and red. Algae is carried through the air by spores and may locate in any body of water.

### ALGAE NEEDS

Algae has several basic needs. Understanding them and how to eliminate them are the key to having clean, clear water.

- A. FOOD: Algae feeds primarily on nitrates and phosphates in water.
- B. LIGHT: Algae needs light to grow and reproduce.
- C. TEMPERATURE: Algae growth is faster in warmer water and slows as temperature decreases.
- D. WATER QUALITY: There are many varieties of algae that exist under a large range of conditions. However, any water that is of such poor quality that it will not support algae growth will also not support fish life.

### ALGAE CONTROLS - SOLUTIONS

The three basic ways to rid your pond of algae are:

- A. ELIMINATE FOOD
- B. ELIMINATE LIGHT,
- C: KILL ALGAE.

Algae can be eliminated by removing either food or light. It is not necessary to remove both. To understand how to literally starve out algae we need to go to the basics of biological filtration and how algae food is produced. Bio-filters consist basically of a bed or strata on which bacteria grow. That's it. Don't let a lot of complicated systems or designs confuse you. That's what is really happening inside. Fish produce ammonia as a waste product. In the presence of an oxygen-rich environment, aerobic nitrosomonas bacteria break ammonia down to nitrites. Nitrobacter bacteria break nitrites into nitrates. Nitrates are algae food. Through a similar process, phosphates are also produced. Phosphates are also algae food. By keeping nitrates and phosphates at low enough levels, algae will starve. A good bio-filter keeps these algae foods under control. I know even a pond with a well-functioning bio-filter may go through bouts of green water. This is mainly caused by phosphates reaching levels where algae life can be supported. A healthy bio-filter will react by increasing bacteria that can consume phosphates and, in time, will clear itself, if the system is not overloaded. A regular program of 10% water changes each week helps keep nitrate and phosphate levels under control. However, filter size, fish load and the amount of fish food used all play a part in how well a system works. To summarize, a healthy, well-maintained bio-filter that is large enough for the size of the pond, will go a long way toward keeping water clear. However, filters are slow to react, and changes in fish load or food load can cause filters to become out of balance causing levels of nitrates and phosphates to rise to the point where algae can grow. Regular water changes help keep nitrate and phosphate levels in check.

Algae also needs light to survive. By shading a pond, algae will not survive. This may be done in several ways. Water plants that have foliage on the surface will work, however it will take 50% to 75% shading to achieve this. If watching fish is your main goal this may not be the answer. Plants also help control algae because they are a direct competitor for the same food as algae. Some systems have filters that return into a "plant" pond before returning to the main pond. This may be an option. Another method is to construct a physical structure to cover the pond. Shading may also improve the colors of your fish by preventing sun fading. Shading by placing dyes in the water may work to eliminate algae but generally leave the water an unnatural color and may be harmful to fish. Even though algae may not be growing in your pond due to shade, don't forget that high levels of nitrates, etc. may still be present in your water. Regular water changes are important, even if there is no algae bloom.

Yet another way to deal with the algae problem is to just let it grow and then kill it. This can be accomplished in two ways. One is by the use of algaecides, algae-killing chemicals in the water. While this may be a solution there are several problems with algaecides. They may not be safe for fish and those that are may not be safe for koi. Also, algaecides are really just a temporary answer and don't really solve the problem. The other way to kill algae is by the use of an ultraviolet sterilizer light. These work by killing algae as they pass by the light, and are hooked to the filter system as the last stage. U.V. lights are a good permanent solution and also kill a lot of bacteria and parasites. However, they will have no effect on anchored or attached algae. They only kill what can pass in front of the light.

Temperature is a major variable in the growth of algae. While algae growth slows as the temperature drops, the activity of the bio-filter also slows down, which reduces its ability to handle waste material. At the same time, fish still eat and produce waste even in water temperatures in the fifties. These are times when water chemistry can get out of balance and produce algae blooms and other problems.

In nature, algae plays an important part in the water environment. It helps shade the fish from the sun and is a part of the natural food chain. Where clear water exists in nature it is due to plants shading the water and competing for food or spring fed waters-water changes! While algae may not be desirable in our ponds, it is a natural part of the water environment and to control it we must understand how it grows and what it needs.

## FINAL NOTE

Algae produces oxygen during the daylight hours but reverses the process and consumes oxygen at night, thus reducing the oxygen level in the water. Fish found gasping early in the morning are a sign of the problem.

## KOI AT THE MUSEUM

*by Jeanmarie Schiller-McGinnis*

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, I represented SAKA at the Tucson Childrens Museum's "Japanese New Year" celebration. This was part of their "Festivals of Friendship" program. The museum planned various activities and demonstrations throughout the day to introduce children to Japanese culture such as: Taiko drumming, story-telling, music, arts & crafts and of course, live koi!

Our Koi tank was a very popular attraction. We saw an endless parade of children and adults alike, who were quite impressed. "Wow, look at the big fish!" "How long do they live?" "How big do they get?" "Can you eat them?" "Do they bite?" "Do they sleep?" I felt a bit nervous being so close to the samurai swordsmen when asked, "Is *that* where sushi comes from?"

In addition to the live koi, I also brought pictures of koi for the children to color. The museum set up a table with plenty of crayons for the aspiring artists. I found it interesting that no one colored their koi to look like the ones in the tank. However, when it came to imagination, you'd be amazed at the colors and patterns those kids came up. If any breeder can perfect the rainbow and pirate koi varieties, I'll be first in line to buy one! The Grand Champion, as determined by the children, went to the "Big Yellow One" (a yamabuki ogon). Reserve Champion easily went to the "Cow Fish" (a shiro utsuri).

All in all we had a great time talking to people about koi and watching how excited the children got when they saw them. I hope by SAKA participating in this event, we've introduced many new people to the beauty of koi and perhaps inspired some to think about building their own pond some day!

*I want to thank Noel Shaw, who entrusted me with several of his koi for the day and who was even more kind to transport the fish to the museum. Also, I have to thank my husband, Kelly, who helped with setting up everything and made sure all those tiny hands stayed out of the water!*

## Kawarigoi Korner



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**SAKA, INC. WISHES TO THANK THE  
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 TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
 TUCSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  
 TUCSON ORIGAMI CLUB  
 VITAKRAFT POND FOODS  
 Thank you

If you have suggestions for the newsletter or items to be included in Karawagoi Corner or the Calendar,  
 Please contact Brent VanKoevering at 520.780.3980 or [bvankoevering@longrealty.com](mailto:bvankoevering@longrealty.com).

### Upcoming SAKA Education and Business Meetings

Date	Location
January 24, 2010	Host: Noel and Debbie Shaw
February 28, 2010	Host: Dan and Martha Cover
March 28, 2010	Host: Frances Case
April 25, 2010	Host: Dave and Debby Young
May 23, 2010	Host: Kevin Black
June 27, 2010	Host: Karen Wilson
July 25, 2010	Host: Mountain View Koi
August 22, 2010	Host: Rick Schuck
September 26, 2010	Host: Bob and Darleen Panter
October 24, 2010	Host: <b>Open</b>
November	No Meeting See you at the Show
December	Host: <b>Open</b>

### Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

Event	Dates/Location/Links
<b>2010 Greater Phoenix Open Koi Show</b>	<b>April 2-4, 2010</b> Margaret T. Hance Park & Japanese Friendship Gardens 1125 N. 3rd Street Phoenix, Arizona <a href="http://www.vskc.net/annual_koi_show2010.htm">http://www.vskc.net/annual_koi_show2010.htm</a>

May 1-2, 2010

Annual SAKA Pond Tour  
9-5 each day  
<http://www.sakoia.org/>



31st Annual SAKA, Inc.  
Koi Show and Auction

TBD



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<http://www.sakoia.org>  
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***Membership Type***

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal  
 \_\_\_\_\_ New Member

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Koi \_\_\_\_\_

Years Keeping Koi: \_\_\_\_\_

Pond size: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to host a meeting?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to serve on a committee?

\_\_\_\_\_ If yes which one?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to: SAKA , Inc.**

Mail to: Martha and Dan Cover  
 2841 W. Puccini Place  
 Tucson, AZ 85741