



Southern Arizona Koi Association

Organized by those with the interest of raising and improving the quality of Nishiki Koi, and its culture. Promote better community and international relations for the better understanding of brotherhood among members through a common interest. To improve and promote the technology and education of Aquaculture

January 2019 Newsletter

PONDERING

Our Next SAKA Meeting:

Feb 16: Kinne Tevis & Rob Bracketti



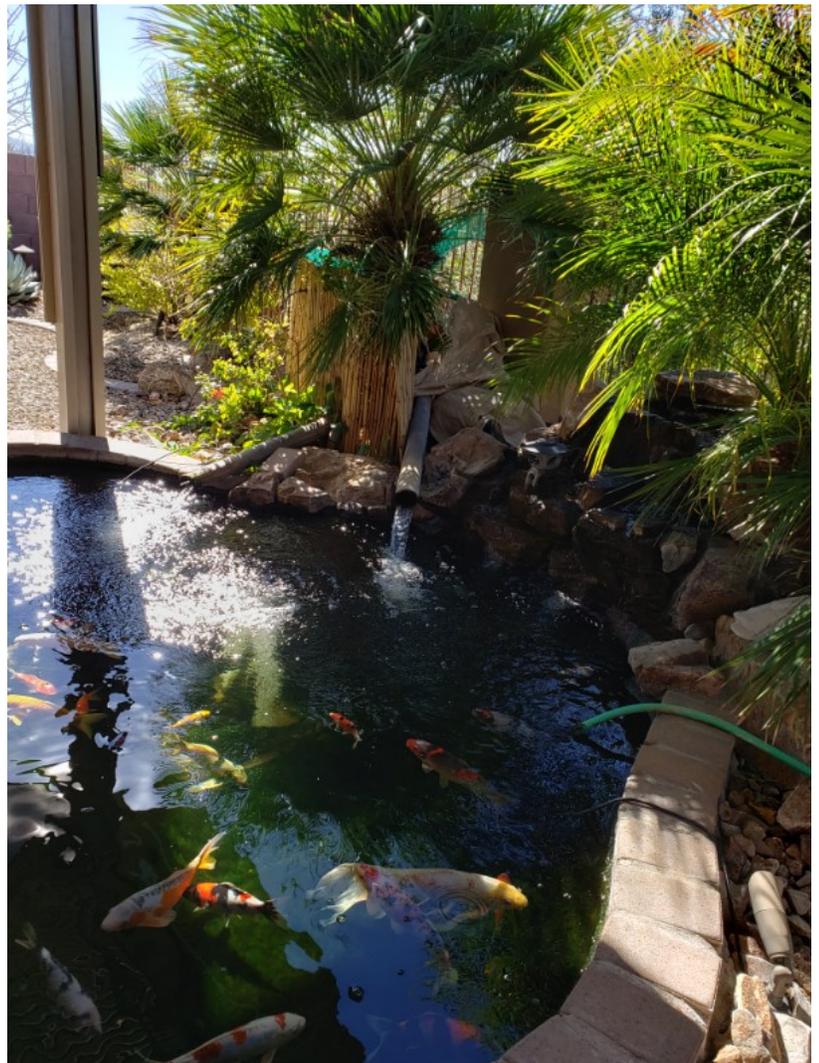
And subsequent gatherings:

Mar 16th: Heather & Billy's home
Apr 20th: Cathy Lindstrom's home
May 18th: Bret Noe's home
June 15th: Carollee's home
July 20th: Pot Luck at The Chapel Ranch,
Karen & Alan's place in Cochise

SAKA will reimburse a host up to \$50.00 for beverages and snacks served while holding a meeting. You will also be in the Annual Host Drawing for \$250 held at the Christmas Party each year.

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Our January meeting at the home of Lorna & Duane Kenny. There were 13 members attending the January SAKA meeting. The meeting was called to order at 13:25. Brent is enjoying himself in Japan at the moment and will be back on Feb 18. We are all jealous!



Here is a picture of Duane's pond. He has some very nice Koi in that pond.

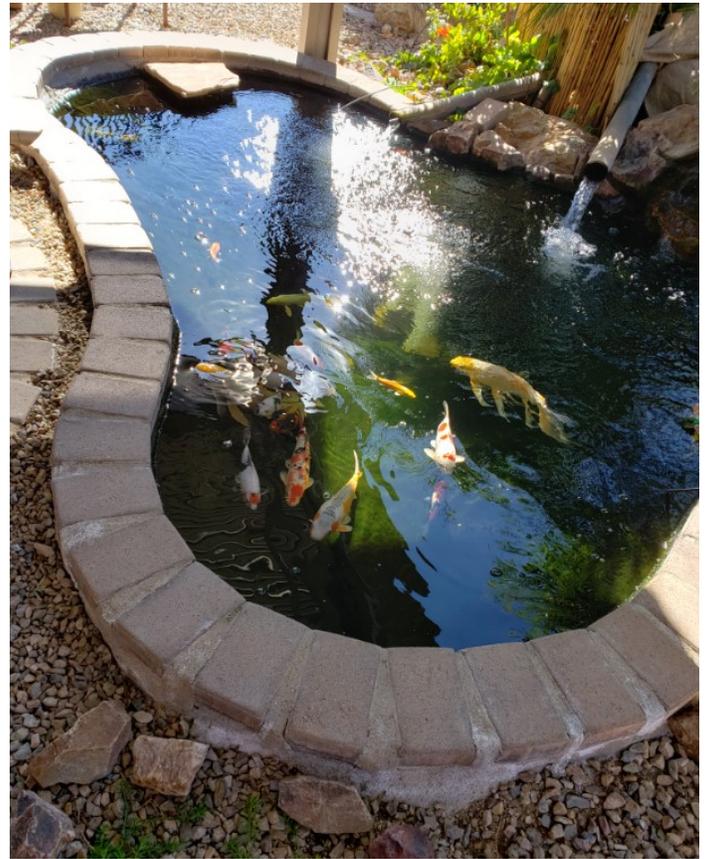
Heather also showed us a very large book called "Kokugyo", which translates literally to: "rich fish". It was, indeed, an incredible catalog of hundreds of Koi by coloring and shape. Heather was asked to do a book review, and the book was priced at \$350! It was a hit among us, that's for sure!

The Japanese Festival on January 19th was a big hit. Brent, Heather, Billy, Cynthia and Bret setup and hosted a SAKA Koi booth, including a tank with a few Koi from Brent's pond. Heather reported that there was a lot of interest and many were not aware that a Koi Club even existed in the Tucson area. There were nearly 30 people that signed a sheet indicating interest in the Club. Heather has since sent out an email to most of them, and I have tried to call a few of them.

We held a Board Meeting on January 12th. Attending were Brent, Duane, Todd, Bea, Martha and Dan. Several subjects were discussed, but not all were resolved. We still have opportunities for Club Officers, but it is not easy to get members to step up to the task. Fortunately, none of the Officer roles are very time consuming, and we would all like to see others take on the roles.

We all would like to organize a Pond Tour for this Spring. The unanimous decision was to keep the tour small, and localized. Entrance would be free and the primary objective to get more people interested in joining and participating in the Club.

It was also agreed that most of the fees for the upcoming 40th Annual Koi Show would be adjusted. We all would like to keep the changes relatively small. Final decisions will be made as we approach show-time.



Advertise here— 1) join our club with a Commercial membership or 2) offer 10% discount to our members or 3) be a vendor at the show

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Tucson, AZ

Heather agreed to lead the Pond Tour project and John Lindstrom and Bret Noe agreed to help. More volunteers would be highly appropriate. Anyone interested, please contact Heather or myself. We are looking to run the Pond Tour in late April. Heather had a great idea to come up with some 'generic' postcards that could be printed and handed out at a large number of locations. If we do this right, we could use those postcards for more than just one of our annual events. Heather is our master marketer!! But we need to give her support.

It was after the SAKA meeting that I received a call from Carolyn Lawley. She has agreed to do the trophies for the 40th Annual Koi Show!! This is a big deal, because her artistry has turned those trophies into highly sought after prizes! The Board had agreed earlier that we could use the square, or rectangular glass tiles instead of the glass plates, which have become very difficult to acquire. As of this writing Carolyn, Brent, Heather, and myself will meet to finalize the project, and its cost, shortly after Brent returns from Japan. The cost of the trophies may be a bit higher. Tiles have to be cut, and some are quite large.

Martha Cover got up on the roof and repaired the trailer's vent cover! Yea, Martha! :)

We may need to buy some tanks. I will check with Lucy in Phoenix to see if she might be interested in selling a few of theirs. Buying them new is a bit pricey, because of the cost of shipping. But in all seriousness, I may be able to get my Son to pull a trailer down from Minnesota, if he is able to make the trip in June.

Financial Report: As of this writing we have received back the refund from Oro Valley Water department. Note that next year we must remember to CLOSE the account VERY shortly after the Koi Show event is over. Working with Oro Valley has had its challenges!

Checking account: \$9181.85

Savings account: \$5245.49

Total: \$14,427.34

I have heard from a few members that they are having problems with a green pond. So am I! I will be adding a full treatment of AlgaeFix this weekend. That should help. And I have started a regimen of adding Nualgi twice a week, too. Here's a short article from our collection about algae. Author unknown.

GREEN WATER AND STRING ALGAE

Green water and string algae are different forms of algae. Both can cause considerable problems for ponds through out the year. Green water differs from string algae in that it cannot be physically removed from the pond; whereas string algae are stringy or hair like, and can be physically removed.

What Causes Green Water?

Green water is caused by the presence of millions of microscopic algae particles, each consisting of one cell. This algae occurs naturally in almost all bodies of water, and can be a problem in ponds during the spring and summer months. In order to grow, algae requires light and nutrients. An excess of either can result in heavy growth and very green water. The nutrients required for algae to grow are normally nitrate and phosphate. Green water is normally worse during summer months when days are longer, temperatures are warmer, and light is stronger. These factors greatly increase the rate at which green water can occur.

What Causes String Algae?

String algae occurs naturally in almost all bodies of water and is encouraged to grow by the presence of phosphate, nitrate and sunlight. Phosphate is a vital component of fish foods and therefore enters the water through uneaten food and fish waste. Nitrate is produced as the end product of the biological filtration and through the natural breakdown of organic matter in the pond. Nutrient concentrations tend to build up in the pond over time particularly in the summer when the fish are more active and being well fed. The increased sunlight plus these increased nutrient levels dramatically accelerate the growth of string algae with some species being capable of doubling its weight each day or two.

Steps for Avoiding Green Water and String Algae Problems

There are a number of pond management techniques that can be called upon to help reduce the growth of algae:

- First, you should feed your fish only high quality fish food. Poor quality diets are not well digested by the fish, resulting in excess waste being produced that contribute greatly to a high nutrient load into the pond. This excess of nutrients will stimulate an increased growth of both types of algae.
- Adding plants to the pond can also help limit the growth of algae, since aquatic plants compete with the algae for the nutrients in the pond water. Water lilies in particular are great for this purpose, since their leaves help cover the ponds surface and shut out much of the sunlight required to stimulate the growth of algae.
- Keep the pond bottom clean and clear of sediment. Decaying of this sediment increases the nutrient load for stimulating the growth of algae.

Controlling Green Water

The most effective way to control green water is the addition of ultraviolet sterilizers (U.V. lights) to the pond water circulation system. These devices work by irradiating the pond water that flows through them with ultraviolet light. This ultraviolet light kills green water algae, allowing it to clump together, so that it can be separated from pond water by a filter. This is an excellent method of keeping a pond free from green water year around. It is important to size the ultraviolet light correctly, as its effectiveness depends on the contact time between the light and the water passing through. In general, an ultraviolet light should support a flow rate that allows the pond total water volume to pass through the light every hour. U.V. bulbs should be replaced every 12 months of bulb life even if they are still burning at that time. U.V. bulbs lose their efficiency over time and become less effective after 12 months life. The quartz sleeve containing the bulb may need cleaning periodically. If the sleeve gets exceptionally dirty, it will cut down on the amount of ultraviolet light effectiveness.

There are other means of removing green water if you do not have an ultraviolet light. These methods are more temporary. There are many products on the market for adding to pond water to remove green water algae. One I will mention is called AlgaeFix. This product when added, as directed to your pond water, causes the green water algae to clump, so it can be filtered out with a pond filter, or can be skimmed off the water surface with a skimmer net.

The addition of aquatic plants to compete with the algae for nutrients, and to shade the pond to deprive algae of essential light are two natural means of reducing the green water effect. A large water change will remove green water temporarily; however it returns rather rapidly.

Controlling String Algae.

The most effective way of removing string algae is by mechanical means; however this method is distasteful to most people. Again, there are numerous products on the market that will kill string algae. AlgaeFix does a very effective job of killing string algae and eliminating green water when used as directed on the container. Other products containing sodium percarbonate are very effective on string algae in very shallow water, like streams and waterfalls.

Numerous plants in the pond will reduce algae by competing for nourishment from pond water. The addition of shade over the pond will decrease the growth of string algae, since it deprives it of needed sunlight in order to thrive. After the string algae are killed, you will need to remove the floating dead algae from the pond.