



June 2012 Issue

Editor: Carol Mathis

We held our monthly meeting for May at the home of Don and Mary Ann Penix. Don has done a lot of work keeping his ponds in good order and his fish healthy. There were 2 new fish that were purchased from Lisa Warren at her recent pond pull that Don and Mary Ann participated in earlier in May. A nice 2 step Kohaka and a very pretty Gin Rin Ochiba. Several of the attending members purchased fish during this pond pull. I was not able to attend due to work demands rainy weather put me behind and I had to catch up. I have been having problems with my pond and have lost about half a dozen fish in the past month and a half. Checking the water parameters found nothing amiss. Did not do any scrapings at this time but did find one eight inch fish with half of his gill plate eaten away treated this fish Gave it shots of Baytril and Amacican this fish is doing just fine and the plate has healed. The six fish that died had no outward signs, no sores nothing. I did a 5 day PP treatment as a preventive measure this must have helped since I have lost no more fish. I did a scraping of six different fish, three days after the last PP treatment, and didn't find anything on any of them.

There was some discussion about a phone call I received about a new breakthrough drug for the prevention of KHV from what I understood this is a submersion drug that all fish in your ponds has to be submitted to. One of our KHAs Jeff Reiter said he would check on this and report at the next meeting. This would be great if it is true. I still think the best prevention is to buy from dealers that have been certified KHV free and only these dealers. Even then you should quarantine every fish before it goes in your pond. I recommend at least 60 days and take scrapings at least twice before placing it in your pond.

Don Manus

Koi Care – Spring

Spring is one of the worst times of the year for Koi, there are so many things to deal with. There are the water temperatures that have more ups and downs than a roller coaster. Then there's the large amount of predators that are probably really hungry and are looking for a nice fresh meal. Don't forget *Aeromonas Alley*, of 40°F - 50°F where your Koi's immune system is shut down, but harmful bacteria are still active. Your Koi are also having to deal with draining organisms, parasites.



after a long winter the danger zone immune system are still active. with those life

But don't let all that get you down. The best thing that you can do for your Koi are supplying them with adequate Oxygen and making sure they have as little stress as possible. If you are lucky enough to have a pond heating system, you should get through that 40°F - 50°F zone as quick as possible. You can also use it to keep those temperature fluctuations in check.

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Keep a close eye on your Koi. Look for any signs of distress, like an ulcer or if your Koi isn't swimming right. If you do have an emergency, get in contact with a veterinarian that is knowledgeable in Koi health. Start feeding your Koi when the water temperature is constantly above 50°F. A good rule of thumb is: If your Koi are begging for food at the surface of the water, they probably are hungry and have decided for themselves that it is time to start eating. It is a good idea to use a Koi food that is high in wheat germ, it is easy to digest.

Koi Care - Summer - Summer is the warmest and sunniest time of the year. The warm water temperatures boost your Koi's metabolism and their immune system. Summer is the growout period for Koi, they'll easily eat 3-5 times a day. You just have to make sure that your filter can handle all of your Koi's waste, otherwise they will suffer from a buildup of ammonia and dissolved solids in the water. Also, if you don't have a sufficient size filter, your pond will probably end up looking like a bowl of split pea soup!

One thing that you have to watch in the summer is your DO (dissolved Oxygen) level. The warmer your water, the less oxygen it can hold. Keep an adequate amount of aeration going in your pond at all times. It doesn't matter if it is an air pump and air stone, or a large waterfall. The minimum level that Koi need is 4 ppm (parts per million). Keep in mind that 4 ppm is the *minimum* level, the DO level should always be well above that. Your Koi need oxygen to live.

June SOCIAL MEETING
Saturday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Home of Larry & Phyllis Rosen

Address: 4712 Linda Kay Drive, Waxhaw, NC. 28173

Telephone: 704-243-1722

Directions: Take 485 to Providence Rd and go south about 6 miles [following signs to Waxhaw/Weddington] until you see railroad tracks at the Waxhaw main street area. Cross over the tracks and make a left turn onto Route 75. At the fork in the road by the gas station stay to your right. Travel a few blocks until you come to Linda Kay Dr [on your right across from school] and turn right. Go slowly over 3 speed bumps, and we are the last house on the right. It is a long white ranch house with a 3-car garage in front.

Upcoming Social Meeting Dates:

Check on line for 2012 Calendar!

JUNE	– Larry & Phyllis Rosen
JULY	– Wayne & Cecelia Pritchett
AUGUST	– Allen & Regina Lee's
SEPTEMBER	– Terry & Mary Ellen McClain
OCTOBER	– Larry & Phyllis Rosen
NOVEMBER	– Brannon & Lee Raines
DECEMBER	– Wayne & Cecelia Pritchett

PIEDMONT KOI AND WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2012 MEETING

By Mary Ann Penix, Secretary

The May 12, 2012 meeting of the PKWS met at the home of Don and Mary Ann Penix in Mint Hill. President Manus opened meeting at 6:55 PM. There were 17 members present.

Old Business:

All tanks have been sold.

Thanks to club members who helped with Lisa Warren's pond pull.

New Business:

President Manus contacted by person whose company has developed KHV vaccine. President Manus will investigate and report back to club. Best defense against KHV is quarantine and to only buy fish from breeders who test for KHV.

Fish food available for pick up.

Motion to adjourn by Leo Bollinger. Seconded by Larry Rosen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Penix, Secretary

Koi Care – Summer (con't) The ideal temperature for Koi in the summer is around 70°F - 75°F. This is the most comfortable temperature range for them. Watch out for those dog days. If you have a shallow pond, the water temperature could rise up to dangerous levels and your Koi could suffer. Provide some cover or some shade for your Koi, so they have a place to get out of the direct sunlight.

Koi love to eat bugs. It is not uncommon to hear them splashing around at the surface at night while they try to get insects that are near the water's surface. Eating bugs, along with their daily feedings and warm water temperatures, will make them grow very fast.

A treat for your Koi - Koi are omnivorous, so they can eat a variety of things, including fruit. Fruit is a good thing to feed your Koi because it provides a fresh source of vitamins and minerals. It is also entertaining to watch your Koi swarm around the fruit and try to eat it. Be sure to wash the fruit very good before you put it into a pond, there could be pesticides or chemicals on the skin. Here are the three best fruits to feed your Koi:

-Oranges

Oranges are a great source of Vitamin C. Oranges can be halved or quartered, and then put directly into the pond. Koi will swim behind the orange as a group so that they can each get a nibble of the pulp. Koi will eat everything except for the skin, this must later be removed from the pond.

- Watermelon

Watermelon is a good fruit to feed Koi too. It should be cut into 2 – 3 inch pieces so that it can easily be eaten. Try to remove most, if not all, seeds, for they are not very easily digested and are going to be hard to clean out of your pond.

Feeding your Koi fresh fruit is very good for them. Vitamins and minerals in manufactured Koi food tend to break down after a couple of months. Feeding your Koi fresh fruit is a great guarantee that they are getting all of their nutrients.

Koi Care – Fall Fall, the season when everything seems to drop: leaves, water temperatures, and don't forget the worst one, immune systems. Koi are Poikilothermic, which means cold blooded. Their body temperature matches the water temperature. You will notice that when the water gets below 60 degrees, your Koi will slow way down. This is a critical time

period. Watch your Koi for any signs of distress or any complications with parasites. If you have an indoor over-wintering tank, now would be a good time to take your Koi in for the winter. You do not want to wait for the water temperatures to get too low, otherwise you'll hurt your Koi with a big temperature change. Make sure that your over-wintering tank is covered, Koi seem to like to jump whenever they get new surroundings.

When the temperature starts to fall, switch to a Koi food that has a high percentage of wheat germ and a low percentage of protein. This mixture will be easy for your Koi to digest and will help clean out their digestive system. Stop feeding your Koi altogether when the temperature gets below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. They may look hungry, but if you feed them, the food in their stomachs will rot and they will suffer.

Keep your pond absolutely clean in the fall. I will write it again, **KEEP YOUR POND CLEAN**. That means immediately remove leaves and other debris out of your pond. If you leave this stuff in your pond throughout the winter, it will start to decompose and it will release toxic gases. It will also harbor anaerobic bacteria; they also produce a toxic gas, hydrogen sulfide.

Koi Care – Winter Winter, the coldest season of the year. If you live in the nether regions, then you probably get snow and ice. Koi go dormant in winter, so they do not eat or produce any toxins. Do not feed your Koi if the water temperature is below 50°F. Food will sit in your Koi's stomach and rot.

It is a good idea to keep a space open in your pond for gas exchange. Carbon Dioxide needs to get out of the water and fresh oxygen needs to get in the water. This can be done with an aquarium powerhead and/or an airstone. A horse trough heater can be used too, but they are expensive to run. It is also a good idea to put an airstone in your pond to supply your Koi with fresh Oxygen. Put the airstone near the surface so that you do not mix the pond water up.

You will probably notice your Koi sitting on the bottom of your pond. This is normal, Koi are Poikilothermic (cold-blooded), so their activity level coincides with the water temperature. In the winter, Koi will go to the warmest area. Since water is at its densest at 39.2°F, the warmer water will be at the bottom of your pond.

Make sure your water temperature doesn't drop below 34°F. If it does, ice crystals will start to form on your Koi's gills. Ice crystals can kill a Koi. Don't add any salt to your pond in the winter either. Salt lowers the freezing point of water, so if you add some to your pond, it could possibly kill your Koi because the water temperature could drop below even 30°F.

It is also a good idea to shut off any waterfall. The only thing a waterfall will do in the winter is lower the water temperature. A waterfall could even freeze up, causing all of the water to pump out of your pond.



PKWS MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society (PKWS) is a not for profit organization. The membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Annual Membership Dues for a family for the first year is \$55.00 AND INCLUDES UP TO TWO (2) NAME BADGES. Additional nametags may be purchased at a cost of \$15.00 each. For renewing members the dues are \$24.00 Please complete the following form and return it with your membership dues to:

ALLEN LEE 900 Club Drive Monroe, NC 28112

Please print clearly (this information will only be used for club records). Please print your names as you would like them to appear on your name tag(s). You can also find an electronic copy of this form on our website.

Name(Last): _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone # _____ Membership Dues: (New member) \$55.00 or (Renewal)

\$24.00(Circle One) Additional Name tags (\$15.00) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____



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