



Lone Star Koi Club

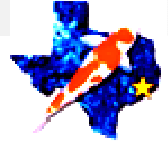
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Koi Chatter

The October 2013 publication of the Lone Star Koi Club – Houston Texas

Newsletter Editor's Message:

My apologies for the delay in sending out this month's newsletter. It's been one of those months when if it could go wrong, it did.

The pond pull was a success and a lot of fun, once the rain had passed. Thanks to Melanie and Karen for manning the kitchen stove and cranking out a really great breakfast for everyone. They had the whole act synchronized like a Swiss watch. Bravo!

Activities on the agenda, The Purdin trip, NOVEMBER 2nd & 3rd, all pertinent details are detailed in Melanie's column in this newsletter.

I could use an original article or two for the newsletter for those of you so inclined to share a little knowledge. It also saves me having to 'find' articles elsewhere. As usual, I've found some interesting info. and included it in the newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you all for our Christmas party and auction. Start looking round for anything that you'd like to donate to the auction to benefit the club. Non koi related 'stuff' is fine, and we can use anything and everything. It's always a fun experience, and with any luck, the brass duck will be auctioned and sold for yet a third or is it fourth time? It's the gift that keeps on giving.

Best To All

Paul Moss
713-992-9939

Message From The President: Melanie Nau

Hello A-fish-nados,

I bring tidings of joy.

First, is that our September meeting at the Peragine's was a blast. Patsy made hosting look easy with her genteel grace. Vince is his vigorous self again. Koi kichi heaven is talking koi and watching the Texans on a big screen. We heard newbies, Teresa & Pat Lavell and Lisa & Andrew Bradley, share what drew them to the hobby. We visited with David Pinder, another newer member from Montgomery.

Richard Black and his wife Ardis are back with a bang and hosting our December 8th Christmas Party and Auction. Many thanks to Richard for rounding up our northern members, the Nalls and Millers.

On the southern front we welcome Frenando Colin, Joni Johnson and Bill Ostrowski from Sugarland and Kelly Kaleta in Katy.

Second, Purdin Koi Farm has invited LSKC to their Harvest Weekend held Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3, 2013

. I have reserved a block of eleven rooms at Morel's Inn at New Roads, LA. Please visit their website www.morelsrestaurant.com and then let me know if you will want twins or a queen room. If you decide to stay elsewhere, Maureen (Purdin's mgr) can provide local B&B names.

Morel's Inn is small and on the river near the koi farm and their food is great. But please reserve your intentions as soon as possible by contacting me m.nau@sbcglobal.net so that you are included. LSKC will reimburse you \$50 based on double occupancy.

Club Secretary's Report from Jamie Jameson

Members were reminded of Dr Nam's pond pull in Manvel on Sunday October 6th. It will kick off early with breakfast tacos at 8:30am.

Our newest members shared the stories of their ponds.

The grow out Kohaku will be distributed to members after the selection order drawing. That should take place around 11am with selection starting shortly after that. This event is also at the pond pull.

The Purdin Koi Farm trip will be the weekend of November 2nd & 3rd.
Lone Star Koi Club will subsidize each room that members reserve with a \$50 reimbursement.

Brochures and tri-fold's of other clubs that have pond tours were passed around for viewing. There was discussion of improving the quality of our tour guide and the tri-fold that we use. Dan Cook is the lead man on this project and has gotten permission from Nelson's Water Gardens to put up a large banner to advertise the annual Pond Tour.

NEXT MEETING
December 8th, 2013
It's the Xmas Party!!!

Please Make Every Effort To Attend

Don't forget to bring a food item to the buffet!

Lone Star Koi Club Directory

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buddybush@sbcglobal.net

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281-448-0924

Joel Anderson: Webmaster

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janderson@tiburonsystem.com

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Buddy Bush
LSKC Treasurer
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Cypress, Texas 77429

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Dues Level:	Individual	\$25	_____
	Family	\$25	_____
	Corporate	\$100	_____

2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Host	Speaker/Topic
January	20th	Bush	January 1st
February	17 th	Sartorius	Gadgets and tools used to manage your pond.
March	17 th	Nau/Green	Pond transition from Winter to Spring.
April	21 st	Wall	Feeding your koi.
May	4 th & 5 th	Pond Tour	POND TOUR – NO MEETING
June	16 th	Bush	Cautionary “Tails”
July	21 st	Joiner	Oxygenation
August	18 th	Cook	To be announced.
September	15 th	Peragrin	Nomination of Officers.
October	20 th	Garrison	Winter Preparation Discussion
November			Combined with early December meeting.
December	8 th	Black	Christmas Party & Auction

Please stop by the Welcome Table at each meeting, check in and pick up a nametag if you don't have one so new members can get to know you.

LKSC Membership News

If you have anyone contact you about koi needing homes or homes needing koi, please contact Paul Moss, paulbkm@gmail.com.

Thanks to our rescue partners.

Invitations & News from Other Koi and Pond Clubs, Associations or Societies

From our good friend Ray Jordan and the Texas Koi And Fancy Goldfish Society

<http://texaskoi.org/>

Rather than cut and paste snippets to intersperse in our newsletter, I have chosen to link their website as there is much useful information including details of their upcoming show in the fall.

Comments And Observations

Here is a wonderful tool from the Koi and Water Garden Society of New York that I mentioned at a recent meeting during my talk regarding the use of potassium permanganate. It is a calculator used to figure the exact amount of salt, sodium thiosulfate etc. plus weight based on length and other applications. The caveat is that you must know your exact pond volume in order not to overdose or underdose. Just click on the link as save to your favorites. It really is a useful 'thing' just to have around as you'll never know when you'll need it.

<http://www.cnykoi.com/calculators/calcpp.asp>

Some useful information from our friends at the Southwest Koi and Pond Association

My Koi Are Not Growing !!!

If all the factors related to koi growth are in place and your koi are not growing, then there are several possible reasons:

1. The **genetics** is a limiting factor that individual fish cannot and will not get any larger. Just as with humans, so with koi, each individual koi grows to a different size. Genetics will determine the maximum size of any individual koi at any stage of its growth up to and including its final size.
2. The koi you have purchased may be **old**. It may look young because it is small. But the fish has surpassed the age in which it has the capability to grow significantly. For the first 3-4 years of their lives, koi produce growth hormones within their bodies. This is the period of maximum growth potential. Without correct nutrition during this initial period, the fish will not grow to its full potential. Older koi will continue to grow, but at a much slower rate. Under normal conditions, it is not unusual for koi to grow seven (7) inches per year for the first three years of their life.
3. **Water temperatures and/or oxygen levels are low**. Water temperature is one of the critical factors affecting koi growth. In general, warmer water up to 80° F increases koi metabolism and promotes faster growth due to increased appetites. In water below 55° koi metabolism slows down dramatically and they eat very little. At 50° their metabolism stops almost completely and they will not eat. In general, a higher oxygen level in water is better for growth. The amount of dissolved oxygen in water is one of the limiting factors in achieving growth in koi, in fact, it is critical for the health and growth of koi.
4. **Physical crowding**. Over-crowding of fish produce two elements that affect fish growth. (a) having to compete for food with other larger and more aggressive fish, and (b) poor water quality as a result of too much contamination from too many fish.
- 5 **Poor Nutrition**: Poor nutrition is a major factor in inhibiting fish growth. Good nutrition in combination with temperature, oxygen, good water quality, and genetic potential, is possibly the most critical factor in achieving growth. Under feeding of quality food, is one of the main reasons that maximum growth is not achieved in koi. This growth / nutrition link must be achieved early in the fish's life during the period when the fish can grow rapidly. High protein foods (30% to 38% protein) promote rapid growth in koi. Koi do not have a stomach, but have a straight gut. In warm temperatures, they digest their food in about four hours. To achieve maximum growth, koi should be fed every four hours. Feed only as much as they will eat in about 5 minutes.

Don Harrawood

Koi Health Advisor, The Southwest Koi and Pond Association



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Adequate Flow Through a Bioconverter

By Ken Austin

Certified Koi Keeper – Koi Organisation International

Bioconverters are the components in the circulation system of your pond where ammonia conversion takes place. The bacteria that perform the ammonia conversion function reside in a film that coats the filter media in the bioconverter. This concept is important because it means the ammonia has to be removed from the pond and brought into contact with the filter media where the bacteria can have access to it. The bacteria will not go chasing after the ammonia. The circulation system of your pond brings ammonia laden water from the pond through the bioconverter, thus feeding the bacteria.

So how much circulation do you need? A good rule of thumb for adequate water flow through bioconverters is 60 gpm per each pound of food fed per day. This can be ratioed for any feeding rate. For example if you only feed ¼ pound of food per day, then 15 gpm(60/4) is adequate flow. This is actual measured flow through the bioconverter, not some manufacturers claim on a pump label.

This rule of thumb is based on the following assumptions:

- The filtration/bioconversion system runs at a constant rate all the time,
- The average targeted ammonia level applies over a 24 hour period. It takes multiple ammonia readings over a 24 hour period to calculate an average.

At various times over a 24 hour period a dramatic increase in the pond water ammonia level will occur. These are called ammonia spikes.

- There will be an ammonia spike starting about an hour after each feeding,
- If only one feeding per day occurs, the ammonia spike will exceed that for the same amount of feed divided into multiple feeds over the course of a day,
- The ammonia spike will be effected in the following ways:
 - Rises as amount fed rises,
 - Lowers as pond water volume rises,
 - Lowers as efficiency of bioconverters rises, and
 - Lowers as flow rate thru bioconverters rises.

Testing the pond water's ammonia level a few times is an easy way to confirm that there is adequate flow through your bioconverter. If there is no measurable ammonia the flow is adequate. The presence of ammonia can indicate various things such as inadequate flow, bioconverter too small, new bioconverter (not fully cycled), bioconverter needs cleaning or maintenance, pond overstocked, or fish overfed.

For members of SKAPA, help for any pond or fish problem is only a phone call away:
Don Harrawood – AKCA Koi Health Advisor: 833-9339
Ken Austin – KOI Certified Koi Keeper: 584-6293

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Lone Star Koi Club Advertising

Rates are posted below. If you are interested in placing an ad, please email the editor at

Ad Size	Newsletter & Website (w/link) Combined	
	6 mo	Per Yr
Business Card	\$60	\$100
¼ page	\$80	\$150
½ page	\$100	\$185
Full Page	\$150	\$250
The Annual Pond Tour Booklet rate is \$200		

CLASSIFIED ADS

We welcome ads for Koi, equipment, and other items from members. Members are requested to keep the ad Koi related and please donate a portion, (5%), of your proceeds back to the club.

For Sale:

Need to list something? Let me know.

Looking for something? It won't hurt to mention it
here, again let me know

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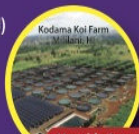
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Saddle River, NJ 07458
TEL 201.962.3915

**KODAMA
KOI FARM**

2013 EVENT SCHEDULE



- Feb 14-17: Japan Nishikigoi Expo & Aloha Koi Show (HI)
- April: Kodama Koi Food Grow-Out Contest (NJ)
- May 4-5: Koi and Pond Party (Season-Opening Event) (NJ)
- July: Anniversary Event (NJ)
- August: Kodama Koi Academy (NJ)
- Oct 11-28: Niigata Tour
- Nov: Harvest Event (NJ)



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If your Koi club is interested in hosting the Koi Academy,
please contact us at info@kodamakoifarm.com

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