



— INLAND KOI SOCIETY —
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A BRIEF HISTORY

The Inland Koi Society was founded in 1978 by a small group of koi enthusiasts in the Riverside area. Together they also helped found the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA), an umbrella organization that brought together clubs across the country. The same founders also provided funds for AKCA to purchase the *KoiUSA* magazine and make it a classic publication with national and international circulation, until rising costs forced it to fold a few years ago. Unfortunately, the IKS started to die in the mid-80's, but it was reborn in the early 90's and is now fully revitalized—albeit slowed briefly during the COVID-19 pandemic to rise again in August 2021. We currently have over 50 member families and have hard-working officers and board members.

IKS serves as a consultant and caretaker of the ponds at the Kimberly Crest Mansion of Redlands, a registered State Heritage House. Supplies and our labor have been donated so this magnificent old Victorian home and its ponds can continue to be enjoyed by the thousands who visit it yearly. We have also worked actively on the pond at the Edward-Dean Museum in Cherry Valley. We seek other public ponds with which to partner to help put water-gardening and koi on public display year 'round.

In 1997, the IKS held its first of 14 Pond & Garden Tours; by 2007 we decided to host the Tours every other year, introducing a Koi Auction & Used Equipment Sale in the alternate years. The first year, we selected five members' ponds in the Riverside area, received excellent promotional help from local papers, and saw over 600 people visit the ponds. After that, we chose six to eight ponds—small, medium and large—depending on the distance between them. Our members volunteer their time and energies to prepare for and work the tours. Our tour booklet contains schematics and detailed info about the design and filtration of each pond featured, as well as a dozen informative articles about koi keeping to educate and encourage the public to get involved. We usually have hundreds of visitors—if we set the date right—and always gain new members.

The Koi Auctions are also open to the public; their primary purpose is to rehome many of the koi that have been collected by our Koi Rescue & Rehoming team. This rescue program helps protect public waters from becoming dumping grounds for unwanted fish, and helps people who must move or can no longer care for their koi, relieving them of the worries of what to do with their wet pets.

IKS cooperates with the Riverside Community Flower Show by setting up a display pond at their shows. We try to have someone there to answer questions and sign up new members. We used to work with AKCA to set up and man the booths at the Great American Pet Expo held every Spring at the LA County Fairgrounds in Pomona, and for a while we set up a display in the garden area at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino. Over 20,000 people might have seen the displays during the shows, but those venues are no longer available to us.

The main goal of the Inland Koi Society is to increase member and public enjoyment of koi and water gardening by offering education and information in a user-friendly format. We hold informal meetings at members' homes on the 4th Sunday of each month. There is a pond-viewing period prior to the meetings so that we have an opportunity to enjoy the host's pond and discuss the type of construction and filtration. We invite guest speakers on such subjects as fish health and diseases, filter systems, water plants, picking show winners, and other related subjects. Each meeting includes a potluck buffet, a drawing, and most importantly, loads of fun and growing friendships. Visitors are always welcome. We also plan periodic socials and field trips to various points of interest, other clubs' meetings or tours, koi shows, or special events.

IKS has its own web-site and an interesting monthly newsletter, the *Inland Koi Connection*, which keeps our members informed of local koi news and business matters of the club.

Visit our website: www.inlandkoi.org
