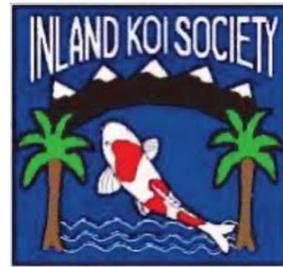


# The Inland Koi Connection



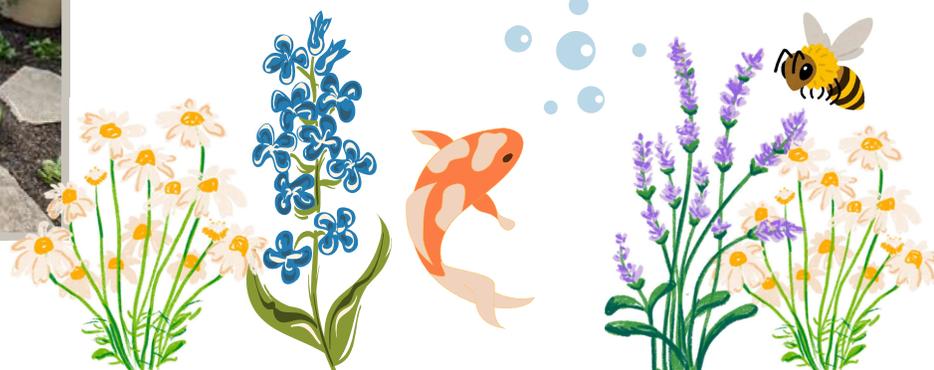
THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF IKS  
ISSUE 322  
FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY 2/22/26

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



**IKS POTLUCK MEETING**  
**2:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**  
**HOST: NICK AND PEGGY MILFELD**  
1644 NORTHHAMPTON DRIVE,  
RIVERSIDE 92506  
951.780.7395  
**BRING FOOD AND CHAIRS!!!**



Some 72 trees - pines and redwoods, ginkgoes, Japanese maples, crape myrtles and liquid amber - were planted on Nick's half acre, all on drip irrigation, and every few years the yard gets a makeover with the trees trimmed and laced to allow more light. A dozen of the redwoods have fallen victim to our hot, dry inland climate. The front yard has the best sunlight, so the roses and vegetables are there!

This month we will visit the Milfeld's beautiful pond in Riverside. Nick and Peggy are opening up their home to us where we will sit outside with a view of the pond. Please dress warm and bring a jacket because the weather this Sunday might be chilly. Remember to bring your chairs and something tasty to add to the buffet!



Nick's pond is roughly 30'x 15' rebar and gunite construction with an island in the middle and two waterfalls. One waterfall runs 24/7 as part of the filter return, while the other, larger falls can be turned on from the house. The pond ranges in depth from three to four feet, with two low walls dividing it into two sections that can be drained separately if the bottom drains need attention. The full system holds 12,000 gallons and includes the original 3-chamber up-flow rock-gravelsilica sand filter above and behind the pond which polishes water after it passes through a UV light. By 2002, tree roots had cracked a corner of one of the chambers so a combination of three gravity-fed vortexes and a 120watt Aqua UV were added by the garage. The dividing walls served to contain the koi near the deck while the larger section was drained and drilled through on the lawn-side wall so a pipe from two bottom drains, added as a retro-fit, could be connected to the vortexes. Then they could bypass and repair the cracked filter.

Landscaping and a pond were priorities when the Milfelds bought their house 37 years ago. They had a blank slate to work with and Nick had a good idea of what he wanted: a pond & waterfalls, a pool & spa, patio, lots of green, and a forest.





## 2025 Board of Directors

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- Vice President – N/A
- Secretary –

**Monica Dirac** ~ c 909.751.1944  
monicadirac@aol.com

- Treasurer –

**Nick Milfeld** ~ c 951.892.4269  
Nick Milfeld- milfeld@msn.com

- Newsletter Editor –

**Braelynn Zoetemelk** ~ c 951.529.3328  
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- **Gavin Alexander** ~ 951.922.5868  
gamial@aol.com
- **Tony Coby** ~ 951.486.1816  
Jazzman19@gmail.com
- **Deanna Fales** ~ 951.279.0181  
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- **Barbara Matthews** ~ 951.316.0263  
akerbrenda@gmail.com
- **Scott Zehm** ~ 951.237.2508  
scottzehm@eee.org

## Upcoming Events

**02 22** ~ IKS Board Meeting  
12:30 PM

Nick and Peggy Milfeld

1644 Northhampton Drive, Riverside 92506  
Interested members are welcome to attend, but please  
call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.780.7395

**02 22** ~ IKS General / Potluck meeting  
2-5 PM

Nick and Peggy Milfeld

1644 Northhampton Drive, Riverside 92506

**03 22** ~ IKS Board Meeting  
12:30 PM

Tony Coby

24888 Agusta Drive, Moreno Valley

Interested members are welcome to attend, but please  
call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.486.1816

**03 22** ~ IKS General / Potluck meeting  
2-5 PM

Tony Coby

24888 Agusta Drive, Moreno Valley

**04 25-26** ~ Riverside Community  
Flower Show  
9 am - 5 PM

Riverside Elks Lodge  
6166 Brockton Avenue,  
Riverside 92506

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# January Meeting Recap!

If you did not attend the January meeting at the Leverett's home in Riverside, **here's what you missed!**



Since we did not have a quest speaker for this meeting, we watched a very informative video of how koi gets harvested!



**Thank you to Larry and Debby Leverett** for hosting this incredible meeting and a **HUGE thank you to those who attended.** These meetings would not be possible without your participation and contribution!

**We hope to see you all at the next meeting!**



**Congratulations to Rob and Deanna Fales** for getting awarded with the Spike Cover Koi Person(s) of The Year Award! **Thank you** both so much for everything you do for the club!



“Water, never touch the stuff, heard Koi spawn in it...” (this is a family read newsletter). When we examine the health of our Koi, almost without fail, predating whatever illness we diagnose, is a problem with water quality. We all know this, but all too often we are lulled into a false sense of security because of the clarity of our water and the findings of a normal pH and temperature. Is that all we should be monitoring? Why is it that we spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars on fish, yet we sometimes skip the ten- or twenty-dollar purchase of an ammonia or nitrite test? Remember that even a crystal-clear pond might contain toxic levels of chemicals potentially lethal to your fish, while an algae bloom might look terrible (and make it difficult or impossible to see your fish) but actually might be beneficial to your fish.

Our ponds are artificial, self-contained ecosystems. Koi are ammonotelic, that is the majority of their nitrogenous waste is excreted by diffusion (the movement of a substance from an area of higher concentration to one of lower concentration attempting to achieve equilibrium) via the gills into the water as ammonia. Ammonia is excreted in two forms:  $\text{NH}_3$  the toxic form, and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  the ionized and non-toxic form. The relationship between these two forms is greatly pH and temperature dependent. The higher (more alkaline) the pH, the greater the amount of (toxic)  $\text{NH}_3$ , while the lower (more acidic) the pH, the greater the amount of (non-toxic)  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . The colder the water, the more  $\text{NH}_3$ , the warmer, the more  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . Because of Koi's body temperature and blood pH, most excreted ammonia is in the form of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ; this can change quickly depending upon the pond environment. Our biofilters become populated with families of bacteria that convert ammonia to nitrite. Nitrite is also a very toxic substance. Unlike ammonia, it does not come directly from Koi, but is formed almost solely in the filter from bacteria. Because nitrite does not come from the Koi, when it contacts the Koi's gills it enters the fish by diffusion (again from the area of higher concentration, the pond, into the lower concentration of the Koi blood) binding hemoglobin in blood rendering it unable to carry oxygen. A second population of bacteria grow in our biofilters to convert nitrite to nitrate, fairly harmless to Koi but usable by algae and plants. As the Koi eat the algae and plants, this cycle begins all over again. The bacteria that convert nitrite to nitrate are the most susceptible to aberrations in water quality and are therefore the first to decrease in number.

Causes of excess ammonia and/or nitrite may include overstocking, overfeeding, low oxygen saturation, an undersized biofilter, an immature filter (the bacterial colonies have not increased to a sufficient number yet such as in the spring), a dirty filter, a filter too aggressively or frequently cleaned (especially if chlorinated tap water is used), or chemical treatments that may harm the bacteria.

Symptoms of high ammonia may include lethargy and red streaking. Symptoms of high nitrite may also include gasping at an oxygen source, lethargy (sometimes lying on the pond bottom, though swimming up for food before going down again) and flashing.

There are two types of test kits for ammonia, Nessler and Salicylate. Nessler tests use one drop or tablet and the color goes from clear to shades of yellow. Salicylate tests use two steps of drops or tablets and the color goes from yellow to shades of blue or green. The problem with the Nessler test is that if you are using treatments in the water that bind ammonia (such as ClorAmX® or Ultimate®), the test still reads the ammonia that’s bound while the Salicylate test will not. Rather than stocking both types of ammonia test kits, it’s easier to just buy Salicylate kits. Nitrite tests usually have a color change from clear to purple.

Water Changes will dilute high ammonia or nitrite. Ammonia can be bound by ClorAmX® or Ultimate® such that the ammonia is not harmful to the Koi, but will still provide food for the filters. In small ponds, activated charcoal or Zeolite rocks can temporarily absorb ammonia from the system. Remember that salt in the system greater than 0.2% will release the ammonia bound to the Zeolite.

Treatment of high nitrite includes water changes, suspended feedings, salt to 0.1% and increased oxygenation. Remember the salt should be removed from the pond by water changes as soon as the nitrite spike has been resolved.

In all cases, try to address the underlying cause and check your filter. In the spring, check both Ammonia and Nitrite with your test kits daily until your bacterial colonies are populated and your test kits show ammonia and nitrite are zero, then weekly when the pond stabilizes. Both pH and KH (t.a.) should be checked weekly year-round. These simple precautions may prevent a small problem from evolving into a disaster!





February 2026



## Club Membership Renewals Due Jan 1 – Now OVERDUE!

- MemberClubs get **ULIMITEDCKK Scholarships** –
  - Your club pays half, K.O.I. pays half!
- Quarterly Meetings for Club Reps
  - Learn how to make your club more successful
  - Share your ideas, get ideas from other clubs
- FREE K.O.I. Presentation for your Club
- Half-Price Courses and Labs available
- Pond of the Year Competition Awards
- Koi of the Year Competition Awards
- Champion of Champion Awards

<https://koiorganisationinternational.org/product/club-membership>

## Individual Membership Renewals DUE March 1!

- Don't lose your privileges – renew NOW!

- Don't lose your privileges – renew NOW!

**Congratulations Mike Anger – K.O.I.'s Newest CKK!**



## K.O.I. Champion of Champions 2025

ZNA NW Koi and Goldfish Club  
Owner: Nick Gitts  
Koi's Size: 82 cm (32.25 inches)  
6 years old. Breeder: Taniguchi

## K.O.I. Member Clubs

Request a Friendship Trophy for your Koi Show!



Fabulous Trophies!

Donated by Tuan Trinh of Portland, Oregon  
Beautiful Koi, hand-painted in Vietnam, each different!  
Several available – reserve for your show now!



## TIP OF THE MONTH

### NEVER break a Hole in the Ice!

Concussion will harm fish!  
Is your pond frozen over?

- Must keep a hole open for gas exchange

Old Style Heaters Have Problems

- Fail Often, sometimes less than a month!
- Cannot Melt through ice  
May melt liner



New Style Heaters are BETTER!:

- Reliable
- CHEAP to run!
- Can MELT through Ice if pond already frozen
- SAFE for Liners and Koi
- Creates 2" Hole – Big Enough





# 2026 Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tour

## Garden Party

### Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & April 26

Gardens 10 am - 5 pm • Show 9 am - 5 pm

**FREE Flower Show & Seminars at the Elks Lodge**

6166 Brockton Ave., Riverside

**Garden Tour \$10 • 6 Gardens New to the Tour!**

Tickets available on our website (Children 16 and under Free)

Don't miss  
our Garden Fair  
at the Flower  
Show!

**Submit an entry to our flower show for FREE!**

Accepting entries Friday, April 24 only • 4 to 8 pm

### Flower Show Seminars Include:

#### Saturday, April 25

9:30 am A Garden Party with Hummingbirds and a Touch of Orioles  
Suzanne Colquitt  
Wild Birds Unlimited

10:30 am Creating Arrangements with Your Garden-Grown Flowers  
Ronald Lang NGC  
Certified Judge

#### Sunday, April 26

9:30 am Garden to Table: Preserving Your Harvest All Year  
Patti Reiter  
UCCE Master Gardener

10:30 am SoCal Succulent Favorites  
Dave & Karen Brandtman, Gold Badge UC Master Gardeners, Proprietors of Brandtman Gardens in La Sierra



Raffle Prizes  
at each  
Seminar!



For ticket sales and further information go to:  
**RiversideFlowerShow.com**  
**Facebook.com/Riversideflowershow**





# KOI CLUB OF SAN DIEGO 36th Annual Koi Show

March 7th & 8th, 2026  
Del Mar Fairgrounds  
Bing Crosby Hall

## **WANT TO ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN KOI OR POND OF THE YEAR?**

If you are interested in submitting a photo of your koi or your pond to be elected as our koi of the year or pond of the year, please bring a photo of your koi or your pond for everyone to vote on at our February meeting.

### **TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING KOI:**

- 1) The perfect portrait is taken head-on, looking down the back from head to tail.
- 2) The koi should be in the middle of the shot, not hugging the sides of the bowl. If you can get it on the diagonal, it's even better.
- 3) The pectoral fins are outstretched and stationary, not trying to back paddle out of the shot.
- 4) Take the shot from an angle that is not so low that all you see is a big head, nor so high that you are catching reflections of everything above you.
- 5) Zooming in helps frame the subject but make sure the whole koi, from nose to tail, fits into the picture.

**Practice makes perfect!** By taking lots of shots you should be able to get some great photos, even if they don't all come out well. You will find the more pictures taken, the luckier you'll get!

**For pond photos**, try different times of day to get the best lighting. Choose your favorite view of your pond to submit. **Print your photo(s) in color.**

**Bring your photo(s) to the February meeting and turn in at the registration table:** this includes koi photos and pond photos. **PLEASE write your name on the back, at the top.** You may submit a total of **FIVE** photographs -- that is, **one koi and four pond photos.**

**Be sure to turn in ALL submissions AT the February meeting where voting will take place!!**

**Winners will receive a CASH PRIZE!**

**Remember to turn in your renewal forms!!**

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**\*Closed on Sundays\***



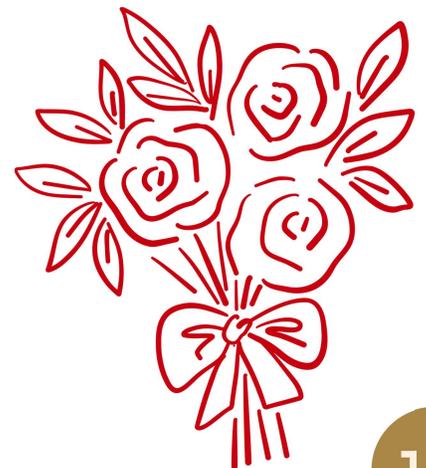
Thank you to **Chien Lee**  
of **Nijikawa USA** and to  
**Iva Gaglione** of **Ultra**  
**Balance** for supplying the  
Inland Koi Society with a  
supply of nutritional koi  
food for its rehoming  
program!!!

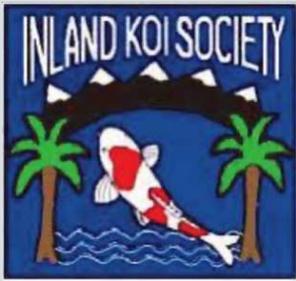


**Thank You!!!**



HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY





**INLAND KOI SOCIETY**  
**5198 ARLINGTON AVE., #146**  
**RIVERSIDE, CA 92504**

**Return Service Requested**



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