

# ***The Inland Koi Connection***



**THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF IKS  
ISSUE 221  
MARCH  
2015**



Hosted by

**Aiko Howo**  
1555 Stirling Road  
Redlands 92373  
909.798.1436

**Sunday, March 22**  
**IKS General Meeting & Pot Luck ~ 2:00 - 5:00 pm**



The IKS Board meets monthly, generally on the Wednesday evening following the fourth-Sunday regular meeting of the club. Meetings begin at 7:00pm and are open to any interested members.

At the February 25 meeting, hosted by Jack Marrin, we discussed:

- All agreed prayer works! The day could have been warmer for the February meeting, but we had good cover on the patio and with EZ-ups. Only 37 attended, way down from normal fair-weather meetings. Rob apologized for lack of a featured speaker—everyone opted out. A panel of experts fielded questions, we had great food, hot coffee or chocolate, good fellowship, and fine prizes on the table. And we closed up early, just before it started raining in earnest!
- Mac was thanked for his years as President with a pair of wine glasses etched around the bowl with koi...something for his *other* hobby.
- Important dates we missed announcing at the meeting were birthdays for Mark Krakower, Theo Zoetemelk, and Rob Fales; and the 50th anniversary of Theo & Jeanne Zoetemelk on March 26. *Congratulations!*
- AKCA's Annual Meeting and Wet Lab will be June 20-21, at Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento, hosted by the Camellia Koi Club. Registration may be done online at a personalized group webpage: [http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/S/SMFSNGI-KOICLU-20150619/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/S/SMFSNGI-KOICLU-20150619/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) The group name is AKCA, group code KOICLU, checking in on June 19.
- RE Koi Rescue: Tom Wright and his brother helped Ed Kushner set up a replacement QT pool and transfer all the koi into it. After weathering the four previous auctions seasons, the pool liner had irreparable leaks. Marjory Hall's ponds were to be cleared out March 1, adding 20 more large koi, plus many babies and a few turtles, to the rescue pool.
- Nick reported more members signed up to work the Auction, and plans continue. Debby Leverett is handling advertising. Members are asked to "pre-register" the number of koi they wish to sell so we know how many we are dealing with; he wants a limit of about 100 'lots' or bags of koi to control the selling time.

We are pleased to announce that the printer of our newsletter,

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**W**e're going to make a first-time visit to **Aiko Howo's** home for the March 22 general meeting. Because of conflicted schedules and illness, we have not been able to coordinate a pre-visit, but Aiko sent a few tantalizing photos and a wonderful 'bio.' I am intrigued by what I see.

**A**iko is a native Californian whose grandparents emigrated from Japan to the USA around 1900; her parents settled in Monrovia in the 1930's and became strawberry farmers. When WW II began, the family — and all other Japanese Americans this side of Arizona — were ordered into internment camps. They spent the war years in Wyoming, returned to Los Angeles, and eventually saved enough to buy a home. A gardener by trade, her father created a beautiful yard with a bonsai tree and a Japanese garden.

**R**etired after 30 years as a school nurse, Aiko earned her BS in Nursing from San Diego State, her Masters in Education from Azusa Pacific, and her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner certification from USC. Her husband retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years in the Air Force. They have three accomplished children: Midori is a Chief Deputy District Attorney in Fresno, Michael is CFO of a local microchip company, and Mitchell is a family practice physician for Kaiser. Life after military bases meant settling in Redlands on a "hilly lot filled with weeds interspersed with grass" and spending the weekends battling said weeds.

**A**fter 25 years in the house, Aiko figured they were going to stay there, so about 10 years ago she began reshaping the property so she could create a Japanese garden. They flattened the yard and removed most of the lawn, leaving a small patch of grass for her dog, Sugar. I would have thought a koi pond to be a natural inclusion in the garden, but Aiko's interest was roused by a local pond tour: the peaceful and quiet spaces reminded her of her father's garden. The tour's pond builder willingly built her a pond but, like many novice pond owners, she learned too late that her beautiful pond was too shallow. After but a few months, most of her 10 koi had disappeared, presumably to the pudgy but majestic hawk living in the trees above her house.

**A**iko joined Inland Koi Society in June 2012, after the Redlands Pond Tour. She has learned more about ponds since then and had a second pond — deeper and with better filtration —

built by someone else. It's 11' x 16' x 3½' and there's a 4-inch bottom drain in the 45mil EPDM liner. A 6500gph submersible pump returns filtered water to a 6' stream flowing into the pond.

**T**he original pond is home to four rescued red-eared sliders (semiaquatic turtles), while the new pond houses 15 koi of assorted sizes and one turtle. Although single, the turtle has already laid two sets of eggs and the hatchlings are showing up in the koi pond filter. Clandestine late night trysts?\*

**C**urrently the koi pond has no fancy fishes, and most are rescued koi. Aiko initially purchased a few prized koi from Barstow Koi Farm on one of our club's field trips, but they were among those lost from the first pond. Most of her koi came directly from the generous Audrey Rowland, and a few are from the club's previous auctions.

**A**iko's closing comments made me laugh: "I hope my club membership is not revoked because I am embarrassed to confess that I get help maintaining my ponds. After spending hours fighting string algae (another battle lost), I gave in to a monthly pond service." Well, at least most of the women won't fault you; if it were up to us to do it, we'd hire someone, too!

**W**e will again hope for a beautiful clear day on the 22nd. Rob has been struggling to find a willing speaker, perhaps partly because we are meeting the same weekend as the Gardena Koi Show. We know we'll be missing the few members who work the Show, so the rest of us will enjoy the exploration of Aiko's home without them! So, let's see a great turnout! Come with chairs, something yummy for the table, and you know we'll have a good time; we always do!

See you there! ~Peggy

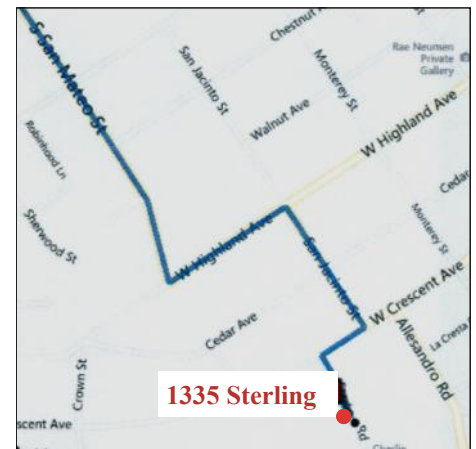
*\*Gotta wonder about those turtles! At least it's not the red-eared sliders that are secretly multiplying. I understand they have become the most commonly traded and released pet, becoming an invasive species in many areas, where they outcompetes native species. It is included in the list of the world's 100 most invasive species published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature!*

*It's Spring and beautiful! If you're coming from the South, you may know and enjoy the scenic routes around Lake Perris and thru the hills via San Timoteo Canyon Rd; you can reach Crescent Ave by way of Alessandro Rd. Leave home early!*

### **Directions to Aiko's:**

*Obviously, you should find your own best route to Redlands; these instructions take you to Aiko's from the north on the I-10.*

- **From the West**, take **I-10 east toward Redlands**; exit to **Tennessee St** south.
- Tennessee becomes **San Mateo St** and angles SE, then ends at Highland Ave.
- Turn **left on Highland**, make the **1<sup>st</sup> right on San Jacinto St**; go two blocks.
- Turn **right on Crescent Ave**, immediately turn **left on Sterling Rd**.
- **1335 Sterling** is the 4<sup>th</sup> house on your left with the Japanese garden.
- **From the East**, take the **I-10 west toward Redlands**; exit to Ford St / Redlands Blvd; stay on Redlands Blvd until you turn **left on Highland Ave**.
- Turn **left on San Jacinto**, then **right on Crescent**, and immediately turn **left on Sterling Rd**. Aiko's is the 4<sup>th</sup> house on your left.





The **San Diego Koi Show** had quite a gathering of IKS members, participating in it, working it, or just drooling over the gorgeous koi on display. Paul Atkiss, Spike & Ginger Cover, and Tom Wright, all both IKS and KCSD members, were busy behind the scenes. Mariano & Cathy Palpalatoc had an impressive tankful of koi entered, four of which are shown below.

A group of IKS members gathered on Saturday morning of the Show to select our annual Friendship Award recipient, including Spike & Ginger Cover, Rob & Deanna Fales, Larry & Debby Lev-erett, Nick & Peggy Milfeld, Tom & Zuma Ross, Steve & Lily Rhodes, and Tom Wright. While a few favored a more traditional choice of a Kohaku, Showa or a Sanke, most were arrested by a striking Matsuba in Tank #42. It had a solid metallic base that looked like burnished brass, with a fine black outlining on all fins and the reticulated "pine cone" pattern that marks the variety.

We were pleased to have KCSD Treasurer, Paul Atkiss, present our 2015 **Friendship Award** to this winning koi owned by KCSD VP of Programs, **Scott Yee**.

~Thank you to Tom Ross for the photos.



### **Koi and Koi Person of the Year**

At the April meeting we will be selecting the Koi and Koi Person of the Year, to be submitted to AKCA by the first of May.

So, now is the time to try your hand again at photographing your koi. AKCA stipulates that a "digital photo with a resolution of 300dpi or higher" must be submitted. Bring a printed photo, or as many as you wish to enter, to the April meeting, with no name on it to identify yourself. Koi need not be "blue tubbed" for photos, even though that does offer the best background and contrast. Print with the highest resolution possible. Photos will be assigned numbers for voting purposes.

And, start thinking about people who have made a difference in the club over the last year: this award is to honor an outstanding member, couple or family for their contributions during the year.



See the ear-to-ear grins on **Theo & Jeanne Zoetemelk's** faces? They celebrated their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** February 27. They were married twice fifty years ago — once for the civil authorities, and again for the Church.

On their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Theo bought Jeanne a new set of wedding rings, and this time he did the same. Guess he really wants to keep her around a while longer! Do ask to see her new rings — she'll gladly flash them — and give Theo a "thumbs up" for the romantic he is. And instead of celebrating in a big way, they brought Jeanne's sister from Holland for a visit.

### **Congratulations, and God Bless You Both!**

One of these months, we'll get to meet at the Zoetemelks' home in Norco again. We need to see if that windmill is finished yet. Last time I looked, Theo had the second story going up...

### **Virtual Visits to Members' Ponds**

A few years ago, we proposed a virtual pond tour to homes of members who couldn't host a meeting or lived in an area awkward to be included in a group of ponds for a public tour. We asked members to send a series of photos to us to be made into a Power-Point presentation so the club could "visit" without invading the property. At the time, no one accepted the challenge.

Today it seems it might be easier to do, as the technology and camera quality of cell phones has eliminated the need to download pictures from a camera. Our phones can do it all now: you can take your photos and just send them along from wherever you are!

And that's the idea — keep it simple! Take photos at several angles of your pond, your koi, the equipment, and any shots you would like to share of the landscape or house. We don't have to see anything you don't want us to see, and we won't leave a single footprint or fingerprint anywhere! Then send those photos from your phone to the Fales at [Rob\\_fales@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Rob_fales@sbcglobal.net). Their son, Eric, will put them together for a future meeting presentation, and hopefully, we will be able to tour a few ponds at the same time. If you can attend the meeting, you can talk about your pond as we share the photos, but it would be really helpful if you would also send some notes about your pond's construction and filtration — information you see in the pond tour booklets every year.

We would really like to visit every member's pond, but that isn't always feasible. Help us make it a virtual possibility!

I was afraid of the big expense, but knew it was imminent. My pump had gone through the wringer and any brief power outage was enough to stop the entire filtration due to the pump. Pieces of "liquid rubber" sloughing off the sides of the pond continued for months, until the pump was ready to die. It was then I read about Pentair introducing its new *Sparus* pump. I didn't look at the price. I knew it was more than I could afford. But my fish are important to me. I simply knew I had to have that... And voila! I had it.

The first five or six weeks, it just sat in my pump house waiting for the pool guy to be well enough to install it. He has cancer and was undergoing chemo and radiation treatments. Nobody knew if he was even going to make it through. I told myself, a friend is more important than a fish.... Slowly, ever so slowly, my friend rallied and he gained his strength. Around the sixth week, he was able to take a look at it, but it didn't run on regular house current; I had to have an electrician run 220V to the pump house. By the seventh week, the pump was installed.

Out with the old, in with the new! Luckily my old pump held on until everything fell into place. Boy, did it pump water! My fish were practically ecstatic. He had set it on 75gph, and I thought, "Wow, what is this going to cost me?" The water had never been cleaner. I called Pentair AES. They said they'd love to take credit for it, but it's probably because the weather is cooling off. Okay, makes sense to me, I guess. Whatever it is, I like it and my fish like it. But there was a lot of water movement and lots of filtration going on.

Soon I got cold-feet and asked him to turn the pump down a bit. I thought it must be running up the electric at that rate and since my pond is enclosed (in the screened lanai) it shouldn't need such heavy filtration. He put it down to 45gph. That was toward the end of November.

Then, mid-December, I decided to find out how my electric compared to last year. Considering in Florida the A/C is the primary cost throughout summer, I went all the way back to this time last year. I called LCEC. I found that on the last bill, November 7 through December 6, 2014 (a 30-day cycle), my usage was 1,487 kW, costing me \$185.62. Last year at that time, from November 5 through December 6, 2013 (a 31-day cycle), my usage was 1,704 kW and I paid \$214.00. That is a BIG difference! It will be difficult to estimate the cost differential in the next billing cycle due to added spotlights on Christmas displays added this year, which I'm sure will offset the saving of lowering GPH on the pump from 75 to 45, but I've already got my answers.

I've been able to backwash the filter without losing prime. That's something that bedeviled me all last year with the old pump. I am so happy I could cry. The new pump is doing a great job. What a blessing!

*Carolyn Weise*

Pond Consumer Relations Manager, Ecological Laboratories  
Email: [carolyn.weise@ecologicalabs.com](mailto:carolyn.weise@ecologicalabs.com)

*Thanks to Larry Leverett for this interesting article from the Mid Atlantic Koi Club's magazine editor.*


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	21-22	<b>ZNA KOI SHOW</b> ~ Sat 9-5; Sun 9-3. Free. Gardena Civic Center. Koi Auction Sunday at 11am. Info: znasocal.org
	21-22	<b>R&amp;F Railroad Open House</b> ~ Love model trains? Don't miss these! Just up the road from the Milfelds. See dates, hours below.
	22	<b>IKS POTLUCK MEETING</b> ~ 2-5 pm, at Aiko Howo's home in Redlands. 909.798.1436 for more info.
	25	<b>IKS BUSINESS MEETING</b> ~ 7pm / All IKS members welcome! ~ 6531 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside 92507
<b>APRIL</b>	28-29	UCR Botanic Garden <b>SPRING PLANT SALE</b> ~ Saturday 11am-4pm; Sunday 9am-3pm. Classes, demonstrations. Info: ucrbg@ucr.edu
	8	<b>IKS AUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING</b> ~ 7pm at Nick Milfelds'.
	11	<b>IE Multicultural Day</b> Parade, band competitions ~ Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona. Info: www.continuingthedream.com
	19	<b>IKS POTLUCK MEETING</b> ~ 2-5 pm, at the Kushners' home in Corona. 951.520.0092 for more info.
	22	<b>IKS BUSINESS MEETING</b> ~ 7pm / All IKS members welcome!
	22-26	<b>100th NATIONAL ORANGE SHOW</b> ~ 689 S. E St., San Bernardino. Info: 909.888.6788, www.nosevents.com
	25-26	<b>RIVERSIDE FLOWER SHOW/Garden Tours</b> ~ Elks Lodge, 6166

**AKCA Business Meeting, Wet Lab & Banquet**  
 hosted by the Camellia Koi Club

**JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>-21<sup>ST</sup>**

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Sunday 22 March  
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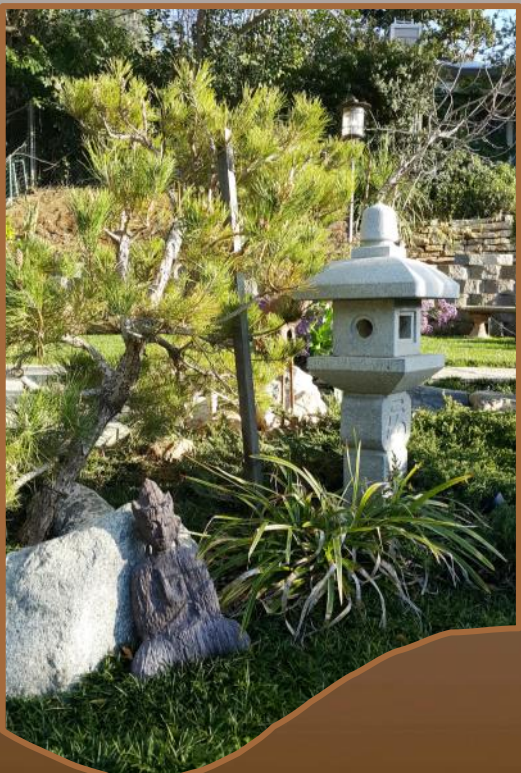
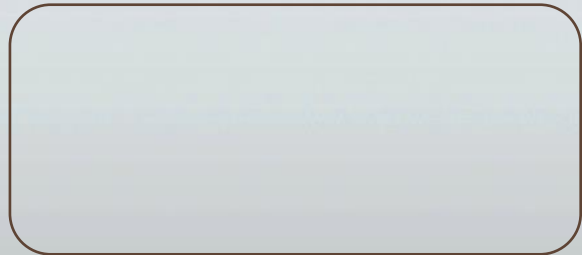
Saturday 18 April  
 1 — 4pm

Sunday 19 April  
 10am — 1pm





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*Art by Anna Kosenko  
"Three Kai in the Pond"*



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