

The Inland Koi Connection

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IKS • ISSUE 283 • MARCH 2022



Sunday, March 27 Potluck Meeting Hosted by Larry & Debby Leverett ~ 2-5pm 5349 Jasper Lane, Riverside 92506 ~ 951.781.3887

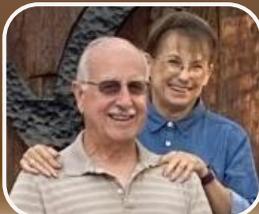


The 4000-gallon pond, in full view of the breakfast room and office, was built partially above ground to allow up close viewing.



organizing the first pond tour — showing off his then 375-gallon pond stocked with the biggest koi in the club. Debby developed our colorful newsletter, taking it from a single B&W page to a full-color 12-page format — and published it until 2012. In 2007, the Leveretts traded their little pond for the current 4,000-gallon concrete pond, built according to the *AKCA Guide to Pond Construction*, which Larry kept in his back pocket throughout the entire process. They also have a 400-gallon QT built into a rockscape corner by his orchid house.

Larry has been preparing for our visit, remodeling his garage and building raised beds for his vegetables. All should be finished, spotless and green by the 27th.



Bring something for the buffet, and if you haven't already returned it, bring your Membership Renewal Form. And please — check that you have completed the form. Don't just assume that what is currently recorded will be carried over if it's missing on your renewal. Many forms have been returned without an email address....

See you Sunday, the 27th! Should be a nice warm Spring day.

We have two traditions in IKS: meeting in November at the Malls' in Temecula, and meeting in January at **Larry & Debby Leverett's** in Riverside, where we can invade the garage and be warm and dry whatever the weather. It's nice, too, that we can view the pond from inside the house if weather prevents us from going outside at all.

The January meeting, of course, was cancelled this year, so we have been invited for this month, the new beginning of our koi year.

The Leveretts are 26-year veterans of IKS and have represented and promoted koi at every level. Larry has served as club president and also as AKCA Chairman; he got us involved with the Riverside Flower Show, and he was instrumental in

NOTES FROM MARCH 6 IKS BOARD MEETING

- **The IKS Board** met and agreed to hold a general meeting in March, asking the Leveretts to host as had been planned in January. This will be a Potluck meeting as usual and Larry will speak on Pond Construction. Bring your chairs....
- **Meetings:** Hosts are still needed for meetings for the rest of the year. Please note your willingness to host on your renewal form, or contact Brenda Aker to offer your pond for a visit.
- **Treasury:** Koi sales have kept the balance up. Continuing the search for a less expensive storage location; currently it costs \$370 every two months for a ground-floor 10’x20’ unit. Larry and Scott provided a written inventory of club properties and the contents of the storage unit, and proposed a set of guidelines for borrowing some of the items, including a refundable \$50 deposit
- **Koi Auction:** Praying we’ll be able to host an auction in 2022, but COVID is the determining factor. Looking now at October.
- **AKCA:** A disturbing report about our ‘parent’ organization....
- **Rescue:** Ed has been able to sell a lot of the koi, leaving about a dozen at present and not enough to support an Auction. No recent calls ; a potential rescue in Palm Springs cancelled when the home buyers chose to keep the pond. **All koi in QT are available for purchase, \$50-\$200 depending on size and quality...less than retail! Contact Ed Kushner.**
- **Field Trip:** It’s been years since we planned a field trip; Inland Koi or Barstow Koi Farm and carpooling vs. renting a bus were discussed; with current gas prices, we would ask members to share the cost if carpooling. Decided to poll the members at this meeting. 🐸

3/6	IKS BOARD MTG ~ 5:30 pm / Host: Milfeld
3/19	ZNA SoCal Koi Show, Gardena Civic Center
3/27	POTLUCK MEETING ~ 2-5pm / Larry & Debby Leverett 5349 Jasper Lane, Riverside 92506 ~ 951.781.3887 /
4/3	IKS BOARD MTG ~ 5:30 pm / Host: Fales
4/9-10	San Diego Koi Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds https://koiclubofsandiego.org/resources/January%
4/23-24	Riverside Garden Tour ~ Free ~ No Flower Show
4/24	POTLUCK Meeting ~ 2-5pm / Location TBA
5/1	IKS BOARD MTG ~ 5:30 pm / Host: Leverett
5/22	POTLUCK Meeting ~ 2-5pm / Location TBA

Welcome to our Newest Members ~ look for unfamiliar faces and greet them!

Raymond Aguilar (9/21)
1384 Detroit Str., Norco 92860
951.275.2446 ~ xrayra@gmail.com

David & Belinda San Jose (9/21)
Rowland Heights CA 91748

Jason & Kristine Zara (9/21)
9739 Palmetto Ave., Fontana 92335
760.970.9338 ~ jasonazara@gmail.com
Kris ~ 760.970.9334

Richard & Janna Grushen (10/21)
22775 Gierson Ave, Wildomar 92595
951.775.7755 ~ koikeeper@ca.rr.com

Howard & Kimberly Newton (12/21)
43200 Vista Bonita, Temecula 92590
949.285.9902 ~ 949.285.1679
NewtonAvocadoManor@gmail.com

Paul & Angel Palacios (2/22)
42299 Oregon Trail, Murrieta 92562
951.712.2631 ~ dr.breeze@hotmail.com

Look for these members & welcome them back
John & Cricket Mouw ~ Riverside
Chuck & Ping Hille ~ Riverside

2021 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Officers

Ed Kushner, President 951.520.0092

Koi Re-Homing ~ Web Liaison

Brenda Aker, V.P. 951.316.0263

Meeting Sites & Speakers

Monica Dirac, Secretary 909.887.7497

Nick Milfeld, Treasurer 951.780.7395

Membership

Peggy Milfeld, Editor 951.780.7395

Directors

Rob & Deanna Fales 951.279.0181

Raffles ~ Koi Re-Homing

Larry Leverett 951.781.3887

Properties Manager

Linda Kushner 951.520.0092

Alvin Watson 951.764.6387

Scott Zehm 951.237.2508

Theo Zoetemelk 951.735.9896

Buffet & Banquet Supplies

KOI CARE IN SPRING

Spring is probably one of the most difficult times for koi keepers, because most losses occur during this time.

The variation in Winter temperatures is such that it is hard to give generic advice that will be applicable to all. The fact remains that, whatever the Winter temperature, the problems experienced by koi keepers in Spring remain the same. The temperature-sensitive bodies of the koi are going through the same cycle per season and per year, regardless whether the temperature ranges are extreme or mild. It is almost as if koi are genetically programmed to go through a resting period.

A friend of mine, while still residing in the North Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, was very keen on showing koi. His modus operandi was to buy batches of the best tosa that he could find and then grow the lot of them on in a special pond that was built specifically for this purpose. This growing-on pond also served as a long term quarantine pond for the young fish to guard against any possible disease. He would then release the best fish for showing purposes in his main pond and pass the rest on to hobbyists. The pond was equipped with a heater, protein skimmer, sand filter and an over-

*The result was the same every year.
Like clockwork, parasites and the resulting
ulcers would appear...*

designed biological filter. A waterfall and air pump provided the oxygen. The temperature was maintained at 24 degrees Celsius (75 degrees Fahrenheit) to ensure optimal growth of his koi. The result was the same every year. Like clockwork, parasites and the resulting ulcers would appear in the middle of November (early Summer, late Spring). Needless to say my friend was utterly dismayed because some of his future hopefuls were ruined and not suitable for showing in future.

Every year was the same old story. I would do the

*...clean filters, impeccable water conditions,
but a cocktail of parasites...*

water tests, scrapes for parasites, inspecting the filters etc. Every year we found the same results. The check-

list confirmed clean filters, impeccable water conditions, fresh food etc., but there was a cocktail of parasites present.

In my experience with koi and disease treatments, over many years and in many ponds, I have never seen an uneventful Spring/early Summer if koi collections have been subjected to stress during the winter. Stresses include overstocking where new additions have been added to a pond, or where a new environment has been created by moving collections to new ponds, or doing major alterations to ponds during Winter time.

Although not all the problems mentioned below will be manifest in every pond, the following are the most common problems experienced during Spring:

GREEN WATER

Green water may actually appear any time of the year but it is most prevalent during springtime. Mostly the appearance of green water is only harmful to the ego of the hobbyist. The koi enjoy it!

*Mostly... green water is only harmful
to the ego of the hobbyist.*

Some of the reasons for this bloom by suspended algae are the following:

- The rotifers that feed on suspended algae have died off because their food supply has dwindled during the relative algae-free Winter months. These plant-eating organisms will only multiply to sufficient numbers to control algae once the food source (algae) has established itself.
- The tube of the UV sterilizer needs replacement.
- Accumulation of Nitrates over the winter months, and a rise in temperature may act as a trigger for the algae to multiply.

HIGH AMMONIA / NITRITES

At very low temperatures, the biological activity in the filter system has slowed down considerably and the water parameters will fluctuate until the required balance is restored. Contrary to what is believed, Nitrifying bacteria do not die off during cold water conditions, but like the other pond inhabitants go into a state of inactivity. The nitrifying bacteria responsible for converting ammonia to nitrite are the first to respond. The

Continued page 5...

INLAND KOI SOCIETY CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's not too late to return the Membership Renewal Form that came with your November newsletter. Remember, the one that you set aside with the regular bills so it wouldn't get lost in the holiday hassles? Right!

That's it! Fill it out carefully please — and bring it to the March meeting, or send it off to the club address:

**5198 Arlington Ave., #146
Riverside CA 92504-2603**

Thanks! And as soon as we receive it, we'll add your name to the growing list of Members who have already renewed. And then we can finish a new Membership Directory!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS TO DATE

Members listed below have turned in their dues and renewal forms for 2022. The list will be culled the end of March, and there are so many names I don't want to miss this year!

If there's an asterisk at your name, please let me know if you want an email address listed, and which one. ~ Thanks, Peggy

Aguilar (new)	Hoffman	Palacios (new)
Alexander	Houston ~ honorary	Pierce ~ honorary
Atkiss	Howo	Pollock
Broomfield *	Hunter	Poyle
Chandler	Hurley	Rowland
Coby	Lei	San Jose (new)
Dirac *	Leverett	Svelan ~ honorary
Elkind	MacLaren	Walters
Fales	Mall	Watson *
Fraday *	Marrin	Wright *
Grushen (new)	McClain	Zara (new)
Hamilton *	McHan	Zehm+
Henry (Bob)	Milfeld	Zoetemelk
Henry (Richard)	Mouw	Are YOU here?
Hille	Newton (new)	

2022 Annual Riverside Community



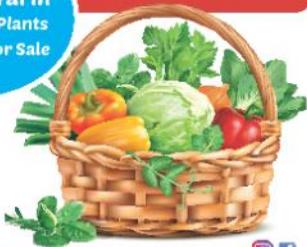
Garden Tour "Homegrown Harvest"

6 Local
Gardens
FREE
Admission

Saturday, Apr 23
and
Sunday, Apr 24
2022

10 am - 4 pm

Craft Fair
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See our website for the 2022 Tour Details:
www.RiversideFlowerShow.com
Facebook/RiversideFlowerShow • 951-850-8277



Members, I need more help! As your VP, it's my job to find speakers for our monthly meetings, but more importantly, to convince you, the members, to become willing hosts, sharing your ponds with us. We don't really need a huge yard — just enough space to line up chairs — plus room indoors or out for the buffet table. And yes, a bathroom! Please help me be prepared with sites in advance of need. Thank you! ~Brenda Aker 951.316.0263



Members, we could still use your help too. As Directors in charge of Raffles, we're always searching for fun or practical things for the table, maybe or preferably koi-related, in addition to sponsor-donated koi food. For every item you donate, you'll get a free ticket for the drawing. Spring cleaning? Keep an eye open for interesting things to put on the table. Thanks! ~Rob & Deanna Fales 951.279.0181

Riverside Garden Tour ~ There will not be a Flower Show this year but there will be a Garden Tour, which will be FREE for all attendees. Garden details with addresses will be posted on their website before the show in April.* The Vendors' Garden Fair will be located at Sim's Tree Learning Center, 6111 Appaloosa Ave., Jurupa Valley 92509, and local gardening groups will have information booths at the various gardens.

*www.riversideflowershow.com

bacteria that convert nitrite to the more harmless nitrate, always lags behind and a window period for a nitrite spike will then occur. The increased feeding rate that automatically follow the arrival of spring, also contribute a sudden increase of ammonia. In subtropical and tropical climates however, the threat of high ammonia/nitrites are not so high.

*Golden Rule:
Koi cannot be made parasite free!*

PARASITES

One of the golden rules in keeping koi is to remember that you cannot get a koi to be parasite free. Medication that will kill all parasites will inevitably also kill the fish. Most parasites flourish and multiply in warmer water conditions. In cold water, these organisms do not just cease to exist: they are always present on fish and waiting for conditions to improve. The “improved conditions” can include an increase in temperature and or anything that may stress the koi, like temperature swings, dirty filters, and bad water conditions. The exception is the dreaded *Costia* which remains active even in the coldest conditions and must be guarded against!

Costia remains active even in the coldest conditions and must be guarded against!

BACTERIAL PROBLEMS

During Spring the water starts to heat up and the first activity will be at micro level as bacteria have simple structures and can respond quickly to the changes in environment. Although experts differ on the exact temperatures, most agree that koi are most susceptible to disease between the temperatures of 8.3 - 16.8°C, or about 45 - 60°F. Below 8.3°C, one can say there is a ceasefire in the pond: the koi’s immune systems are not functioning, but the pathogens are also not very active. Below 16.8°C, the immune system of koi is not fully functional, but the pathogens are relatively active. Above 16.8°C, the immune system is again functional and can normally reduce the pathogens, provided the koi is not already in a weakened state. The critical range, described by many authors on immune systems as “Aeromonas alley,” is the temperature range over which the pathogens are active but the koi’s immune

system is compromised. Koi with compromised immune systems, regardless of the cause, will be less able to adequately fight disease. Combined with a cocktail of parasites as described earlier, it may prove fatal to koi.

DROPSY

Although also a bacterial problem, dropsy is mentioned separately because, regardless of the pond and water condition, it is very common to lose one or two koi in spring due to dropsy.



SUMMARY

To summarize the above, one can say that although the koi may have seemed healthy going into Winter, there is a definite chance that they were carrying a low number of parasites. Many koi change hands during all seasons and, even if a koi has been quarantined, pathogens may come into ponds and only wreak havoc during Spring. When in low temperatures, the immune system of a koi is at its lowest, as is the parasite activity. But, as the water warms, bacteria and parasites become active quicker than the immune system of the koi. This is a critical time for the koi.

PREVENT PROBLEMS WITH A CLEAN POND

With the above in mind, the best way to protect a koi collection is to prevent problems by cleaning every component of the pond as early in Spring as possible:

- Take apart the filters and clean each piece.
- Assure the bottom of the pond is ‘squeaky’ clean and bottom drains are functioning well.
- Clean any settling tanks, and replace the UV bulbs.
- Clean the waterfall or stream basins of any Winter detritus.
- If the koi must be moved or disturbed, use a gallon of *Ultimate* in the pond to help prevent pathogens from penetrating any areas where slime coat may have been scraped or removed.
- Meanwhile, it is always crucial to keep a close eye on the koi’s behavior [and] to diagnose any problem as early as possible.

Thank you to the experts at Koi Organisation International for sharing such timely articles.

Be praying for our members who are going through some medical challenges:

'Big Ol' Bob' Henry ~ In January it was reported that Bob was at the Redlands Community Hospital with a heart function rate of 25%. He was moved to Loma Linda and by March 11 he was moved to the top of the transplant list, but too late.

"Bob passed away Wednesday evening 3/16 while waiting for a heart transplant.

Please keep Bonnie, Erica and family in your prayers. May God bless my buddy, the gentle giant."
~ Tom Wright



Bonnie & Bob Henry

Ed Kushner, IKS President ~ Ed is doing well; he's lost 50 pounds, is skinny and pale, but looks good considering. He has one more treatment to go, and then will be reevaluated for further treatment.



Linda & Ed Kushner



Spike Cover ~ Spike is in remission and doing well as long as he maintains his treatment schedule.



Koi Organisation International
Current Accurate Useful

March 2022



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Pondside - March 26 - "Buying Young Koi" by Taro Kodama

Renewal PERKS for 2022

- Supplement #8 will be: **Locating Tabs for your Guide**
- **PONDSIDE Meeting/Presentations Members ONLY!**
- Always current info on the web site: <https://koiorganisationinternational.org/new-renewal-perks-2022>

RENEW NOW!



Coming This Month

New Course!

K.O.I. #314 - Advanced Nutrition

- Taught by Syd Mitchell
- Common Feeding Myths Exposed!
- Why Koi Nutrition is Different from other pets
- Specifics about Ration Components
- How to Select a Diet



TIP OF THE MONTH

What you need to know about Koi Skin and Scales
According to author William Wildgoose:
The Cuticle:

- Is the Slime Coat, which is only 1/100th the thickness of a human hair
- Allows the fish to swim smoothly
- Contains defensive antibodies
- This is what is examined in a 'scrape'

The Epidermis:

- Maintains osmoregulation
- Made up of living cells
- Goblet cells secrete an alarm substance which Koi detect by smell

The Dermis:

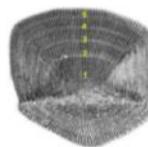
- Is a Protein supportive network to provide structural strength of skin
- Is where Koi color "chromatophores" are located

The Hypodermis:

- Deepest Skin layer composed of fat

Scales:

- The front end is buried in the Dermis
- Scales grow along with rest of body
- Growth Rings form on surface just like annual rings on a tree, and can be used to estimate age of Koi
- Large space between growth rings indicated rapid growth cycle



5 Year Old Fish Scale

GREAT NEWS! BADGES ARE AVAILABLE AGAIN!

Scott Zehm has connected with a new badge making company that will be able to reproduce our IKS badges. They will use the same plastic material and a magnetic "pin" on a same-sized badge, but without the 3-D hand-painted cutouts. Rather, everything is printed on the badges, resulting in a clean, modern and professional look.

There will be a sign-up list for ordering badges at the meeting. The cost will be \$12 each.





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Thank you to Chien Lee of **NIJIKAWA USA** and to Sandy Caldwell of **ULTRA BALANCE** for so graciously supplying IKS with a supply of nutritional koi food for its **KOI REHOMING PROGRAM**



Pandasia Koi and Garden

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