

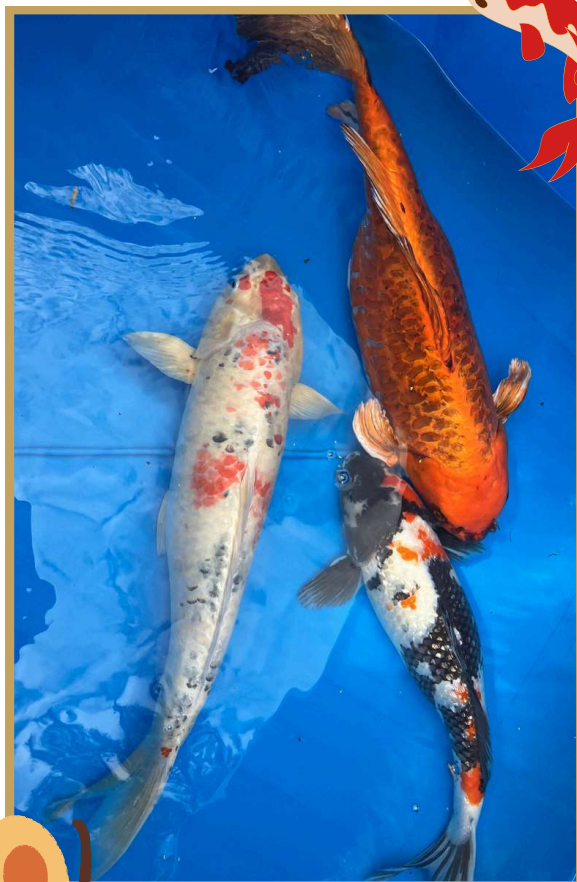
The Inland *Koi Connection*



THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF **IKS**
ISSUE 313
MARCH 2025

SUNDAY 3/23/25

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



IKS POTLUCK MEETING

2:00 PM

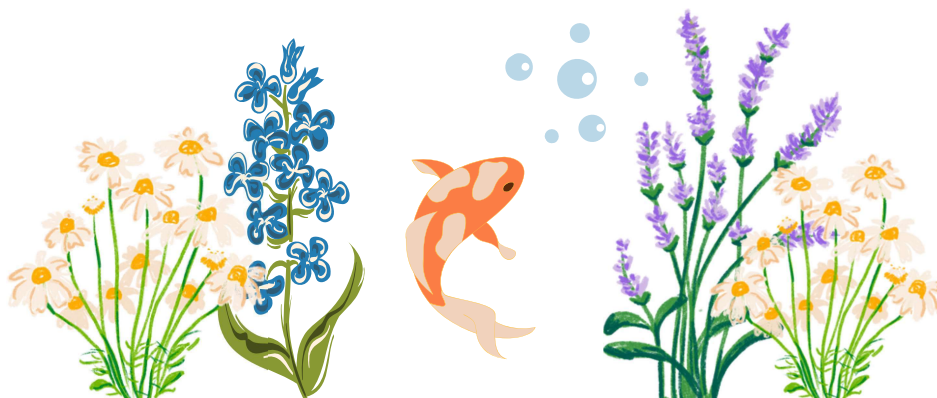
SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD

HOST: BARBARA MATHEWS

**17700 CONESTOGA ROAD,
LAKE MATHEWS, 92570**

951. 961. 9008

BRING FOOD AND CHAIRS!!!



For our **March meeting**, we are going to take a trip over to **Lake Mathews** where we will be visiting a lovely member of **IKS**, **Barbara Mathews**. Barbara is excited to be hosting a meeting for the first time at **her beautiful home!** She claims that her pond could be considered ordinary compared to so many other members' ponds, but it gives her great joy, nevertheless!



The pond was already in place when they bought the house in 1995 - and it was definitely a selling point. It even came stocked with several very friendly koi! Although they had no idea what they were doing, they kept running the pond mostly through trial and error, which resulted in a beautiful outcome! The previous original owner built it himself not long after the house was built in 1978. Between the main pond and the lower pond, they hold approximately 2,970 gal. There is no external filtration system, but what Barbara has come to learn is that it's a bog system, but it has worked pretty well over the years with a few hiccups here and there. Barbara currently has 6 koi with 2 recently acquired red-eared slider turtles and quite a few mosquito fish.



Conestoga Road is a cul de sac, and we invite club members to park in the driveway or perpendicular to the road edge so we can fit more cars. Please note that on Google maps the street is incorrectly listed as Wyler Road. You want to come in on Cowan Road off Cajalco, turn right on Green Acres and follow the curve to Conestoga/Wyler and turn right, the home is 100 yards in at the end of the street.



Her home is on a 1.25 acre lot in a semi rural area. There is a barn on the property where they used to have horses and she still has a chicken pen with 8 chickens that provide fresh eggs; when they feel properly motivated. She also has one elderly dog and 3 cats to keep her company!



Koi care in spring is probably one of the most difficult times for Koi keepers, because most losses occur during this time.

The variations in winter temperature 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 Tosai 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-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 this Koi. The result was the same every year. Like clockwork, parasites and the resulting ulcers will 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 will do the water tests, scrapes for parasites, inspecting the filters etc. Every year we found the same results. The checklist confirmed clean filters, impeccable water conditions, fresh food etc, but there were 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 such as 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 under mentioned will manifest itself 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!

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 ultra violet 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 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.

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 wait for conditions to improve. The improved conditions can include an increase in temperature and anything that may stress the Koi like temperature swings, dirty filters and bad water conditions. The exception is the dreaded Costia. 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 change in environment. Although experts differ on the exact temperatures, most agree that Koi are most susceptible to disease between the temperatures of 8.3 and 16.8 degrees Celsius (about 45 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit). Below 8.3 degrees Celsius, 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 degrees C, the immune system of Koi is not fully functional but the pathogens are relatively active.

Above 16.8 degrees Celsius, 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 range over which the pathogens are active but the Koi’s immune system is compromised. Koi with a compromised immune system, 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 it is also a bacterial problem, dropsy is mentioned separately because regardless of the pond and water condition, it is a 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 seem 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 well is the parasite activity. But, as the water warms, bacteria and parasites become active quicker than the Koi’s immune system. 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 the 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 behaviour and to diagnose any problem early.





2025 Board of Directors

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@inlandkoi society.org
- **Theo Zoetemelk** ~ 951.735.9896
@inlandkoi society.org

Upcoming Events

03 23 ~ IKS Board Meeting

12:30 PM

Barbara Mathews

17700 Conestoga Road, Lake Mathews
92570

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

03 23~ IKS General/Potluck meeting

2-5 PM

Barbara Mathews

17700 Conestoga Road, Lake
Mathews 92570

04 26-27 ~ Flower Show & Garden Tour

Garden tour: 10 am - 5 pm

Flower Show: 9 am - 5 pm

Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside



WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



ANNOUNCING!

March 2025

Master Koi Keeper Certification (MKK)

Learn Advanced Koi Keeping!

MKK Requirements

- 303 Advanced Filtration
- 307 Advanced Diagnosis & Treatment
- 310 Transporting Koi
- 311 Anoxic Filtration
- 314 Advanced Nutrition
- 315 Bacteriology (New!)
- 316 How WQ Affects Koi Physiology***
- 503 Show WQ & Koi Safety
- 563 Pond Mods
- PRACTICAL PROJECT

The Practical Project can be:

- Presentation
- EBook
- Articles
- Other - by Permission

Students Have 3 Years to Complete

- Those that have taken any of the courses in the past 5 years get credit during 2025

*** How WQ Affects Koi Physiology – COMING!

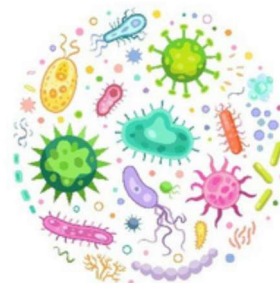
- You may Buy and Start the Certification now, and the #316 course will be sent to you when available.

Read All About the MKK!

<https://koiorganisationinternational.org/master-koi-keeper-mkk-certification>

NEW COURSE!

#315 Bacteriology



The course includes:

- ☒ An overview of bacterial infections
- ☒ Using a microscope and staining slides to see bacteria
- ☒ Working with bacteria
- ☒ Common bacterial diseases of Koi
- ☒ Making a preliminary diagnosis
- Control, prevention and treatment of bacterial disease

You may Buy now, and the course text will be sent to you very soon!



TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you Know?

More than 50! Articles are available to all K.O.I. Members and Member Clubs!

Download and read what you want at:

<https://koiorganisationinternational.org/articles-koi-member-clubs>



2025 Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tour

Celebrating our Citrus Heritage with Zest!

**Saturday & Sunday,
April 26 & April 27**



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 Local Gardens

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 25 only • 4 to 8 pm

Flower Show Seminars Include:

Saturday, April 26

9:30 am

**Backyard
Citrus Care**

Lucy Heyming
UCCE Master Gardener

10:30 am

**Craft Demonstration:
Dehydrated Citrus Peel
Mushroom Garland**

Debbra Corbin-Euston, Patty
Walker, and Susan Wright
UCCE Master Gardeners

Sunday, April 27

9:30 am

**The Forever
Wildfire Season**

Rebecca Levers
UCCE Master Gardener

10:30 am

**Herbs: How to Select,
Grow and Enjoy!**

Jean Weiss
UCCE Master Gardener





Membership Renewals to Date

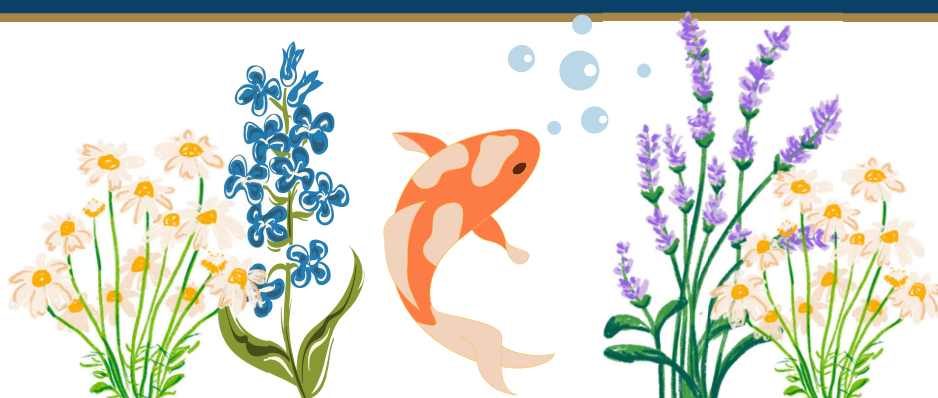
Members listed have turned in their dues and Renewal Forms for 2025. The list will be culled in March and members removed from the list will no longer receive newsletters. There are so many names still missing, please renew now. We want to keep all our Koi Friends!

Renewed Members:

Aker	Hoffman	Nyirady
Alexander	Houston (h)	Palacios
Atkiss	Krause	Pierce (h)
Coby	Kushner	Pollock
Cover (h)	Lei	Schoo
Dirac	Leverett	Svelan (h)
Elkind	MacLaren	Triplett
Fales	Mall	Walters
Grushen	Marrin	Watson
Halterman	Mathews	Wolf
Hamilton	McClain	Zara
Henry (Bonnie)	McHan	Zehm
Henry (Richard)	Milfeld	Zoetemelk
Hille	Mouw	

Are you listed?

Pre-printed Forms were available at the November meeting, and those not taken were mailed out in December. If you cannot find your pre-printed copy, you may pick up a blank one at the sign-in desk at this month's meeting to renew there, or to take home and mail it in. Remember that we can take cash or checks only, and we cannot break large bills. Thank you.



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Importers of high quality Japanese koi. Complete line of koi & pond supplies.

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Shop our Featured Products
Research all of your Koi Questions

18122 Mt. Washington St.
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Winter Hours:
Daily 10:30am-5:00pm
Monday - Saturday.



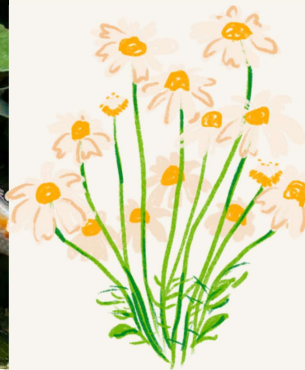
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Website: www.inlandkoi.com
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Japanese Koi
AT A REASONABLE PRICE!

Closed on Sundays



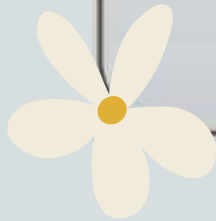
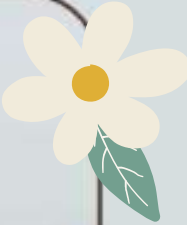
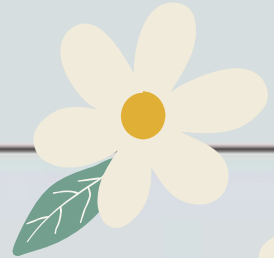
Thank you to **Chien Lee of Nijikawa USA** and to **Iva Gaglione of Ultra Balance** for supplying the Inland Koi Society with a supply of nutritional koi food for its rehoming program!!!





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

Return Service Requested



Visit Our Website: www.inlandkoisociety.org

