

The Inland Koi Connection



THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF IKS
ISSUE 214
JULY
2014

General Meeting & Potluck
at the home of
Armand and Eve Blais
26723 Manchester
Menifee Ca 92586
(714) 717 -2470



Sunday
July 27
2-5 pm





Greetings,

To our delight, the June meeting was held at Mystic Koi & Water Gardens in Upland, California. The owners, Bill and Sandy DeBrosky and Shawn McHenry, as usual, were great hosts.

Mystic Koi has been around since 1996 and has koi with prices that will fit every pocket book. I think everyone including myself was motivated to attend the meeting to see the \$60,000 Nogami Tancho Sanke, that was featured in our June newsletter. But my dreams were shattered when upon our arrival I was told the fish had been shipped off to another location. I just wanted to be able to say I had seen an actual \$60,000 fish live, and in person.

In addition to the beautiful variety of koi, Mystic Koi also has an excellent selection of equipment and koi food. Bill gave an excellent talk on his koi and the history of Mystic Koi. In addition to being a great host, Bill also gave our membership 15% off on any koi or equipment you purchased.

Our pond tour coordinator extraordinaire, Larry Leverett, gave a concise report on the overall outcome of the pond tour. Again thanks to all the volunteers and the home owners who made the pond tour not only possible, but successful.

Presenting two \$500.00 scholarships to two of our student members, Erika Henry and Carrie Fales was a real honor for me. As a member of the board that selects the scholarship recipients, it was hard to choose just one of these remarkable young ladies. Consequently, as opposed to what we do normally, and choose one person, we decided to choose two this year. I would also like to take this time to thank the San Diego Koi Club for their donation of \$250.00 toward our scholarship fund. Thanks to their generous donation, it made giving out two scholarships a little more palatable.

The Inland Koi Society (IKS) Board of Directors are looking for two members who are interested in becoming certified KHA (Koi Health Advisers). The KHA will be trained in koi health, and become advisers to members who may have fish with health problems. The IKS will pay for the cost of the training including the wet lab. The members selected will be responsible for the cost of the book needed for the course, and the purchase of the microscope and tests kits that might be needed.

At our July meeting in Menifee, Toba Fountains will be putting on a display of a lighted fountain that can be used in either your pond or pool. Hopefully, I will see you at our July meeting.

Enoch "Mac" McClain, IKS President

Thought of the month: "Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people." - Barbara Bush

KOIRESCUE: The IKS does koi rescue for people who no longer want or can keep their koi. If you are interested in helping with the koi rescue please contact our koi rescue coordinator, Ed Kushner at 951-520-0092 edkushner@inlandkoi.org



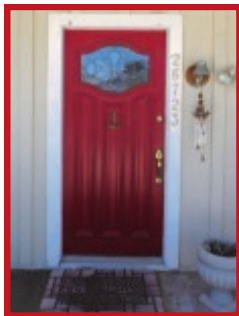
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~HELP LINE~

REFERENCES

• INFORMATION:	JACK MARRIN (909) 792-3603
• KOI HEALTH:	TOM WRIGHT (951) 990-5479
• LIBRARIAN: Books, Videos	AUDREY ROWLAND (951) 233-3671
• MEETING SITES:	PETE MILES (760) 705-5800
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• NEWSLETTER ADS:	PETE MILES (760) 705-5800
• AKCA REPRESENTATIVE:	MAC MCCLAIN (909) 225-2346

Armand and Eve Blais are among the newest members of the Inland Koi Society but have already stepped up and offered their home for our July meeting. As you drive up to their home you can easily identify it by the nautical touch in front landscaping and by their red door (in Feng Shui the color red is associated with success and prosperity. The door is the "mouth of chi".)



The house is right off corner in what was originally part of a Dell Webb 55 years and over development. Upon entering their yard through the gate, you notice that their yard extends on, and on, and on thanks to golf course adjoining their property. What a view!

But more about that later. As we sat down for some small talk, I noticed Armand had an illustration that he had drawn up a koi pond. He explained that this was his next koi pond, the fourth in the string of koi ponds. Sound familiar?

Shown in the drawing were six rigid plastic ponds at the moment, that once probably held koi but in the future will be holding water plants-lilies, water lettuce, Hyacinth and papyrus. The new pond will be 4 feet below the surface and bermed another 2 feet above ground using dirt from the dig and rocks and boulders. It will be roughly 10' x 20' in size and contain about 6000 gallons.



Armand's a big fan of Craigslist and quite a scavenger as evidenced by the large planters in his yard, and many other items of yard décor. He's able to find the best price of "Free" on many of the items he has acquire. More important than that, he's quite a handyman having built a sizable patio cover/deck that provides both shade for all the meeting attendees and quite a view of the golf course when you go up on top and check out. The day before I visited him he just taken out his latest project, a fiberglass boat he refurbished to include an inboard engine, and had taken it down to Oceanside for its maiden voyage.

Successful as evidenced by the returning of both he and the boat intact. Armand had a career in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and had served as dock master and one of the more exclusive yacht clubs in Southern California. In fact he and Eve are the only two people I've ever met who were arrived for their wedding on a

60 foot yacht and were married at the Huntington Harbor Yacht Club. Armand actually lived on one for number of years and that's another story he can tell you about.

His present koi pond, as it exists, is home to the few remaining good sized Koi, that the two legged predators did not take as they cleaned out over 30 six to eight inch babies. They're plenty of water lilies inside the pond for remaining koi to hide under, and the koi are quite friendly.

Both Armand his wife Eve, our gracious hosts are very friendly and they love to converse. Disneyland played a big part in their courtship as did yachting. See their wedding photo inset. Eve is a med tech at an elder care center and comes from a large family as does Armand. Armand's day job is a pre-need funeral arranger for the Evans-Brown Mortuary.

Did I mention that he also owns, arranges and conducts the Armand Blais orchestra and its five other counterparts. But be surprised if you hear some music going in the background as you arrive at his home is probably one of his music CDs that he created (a recording of his band's songs.)

There will be plenty of shade because his patio cover/deck is about 12' wide x 40' long. His yard and pond environment right now is a work in progress, so use a little of your imagination as you observe things. You'll see a couple of projects he built for his grandchildren (light-up Ferris wheel and jetty) as well as some for Eve and himself, like trees for future shade, and a ground level deck.

He's also open to some ideas regarding the new pond, and willing to make some revisions to make it better. I don't think he wants to build a fifth pond?

Remember to bring your chairs and potluck items, and maybe even a tiny little hand fan keep yourself cool. Please remember to bring your chairs and potluck items. See you there.

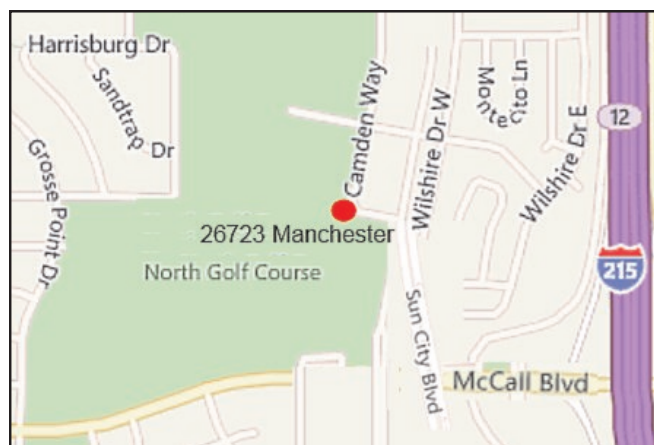
- Pete Miles, Newsletter editor

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Check your water temperature at different times of the day – water temperature in your pond ideally will vary less than +/- 5 degrees each day. Get a good pond [thermometer](#) and use it regularly to monitor conditions. Locate the thermometer out of direct sunlight for the most accurate reading. Harbor Freight sells a laser thermometer for under \$30 that does not need to touch the water at all. Just point and press the button to get an accurate reading.

Avoid overfeeding your fish – Overfeeding your fish in the summer months can cause poor water quality in your backyard pond or water garden. During summer your fish become more active and can even go into "overdrive." They grow faster and eat more, which increases the amount of waste production. Monitor how much you feed your pond fish to avoid impacting your water quality and pond filter negatively.

Add more oxygen – By using an air pump you can help increase oxygen production in your pond, which is essential in the summer months. As your pond warms up, it can lose its ability to hold oxygen. Using air stones and an air pump can add aeration to your water garden and reduce build-up of harmful gases.

Control mosquitoes – When the surface of your pond is constantly moving, it's much more difficult for mosquitoes to start breeding. Use a waterfall, fountain or other pond decoration to keep the water in your pond from settling.

Protect your fish from predators – If you live in an area where your koi could be in danger, consider investing in pond covers or nets to cover shallow areas in your pond. Protecting your fish is vital to enjoying your backyard pond.

Shade your pond – Shade is the single most important factor to cooling your pond. Even on a 100-degree day, with good shade, you can actually lower the water temperature by 20 or more degrees. To your fish, the difference between 70 degree and 90 degree water can be a matter of life or death. You can create shade with permanent or portable structures, or with the help of nature.

Structures - The right structure can cool and enhance the beauty of your pond. Lattice and arbors are easy to erect and can provide attractive filtered light. Tarps or awnings can shield the pond from sun and falling leaves. Roll-up awnings enable you to control the amount of sun and make adjustments based on the daily weather. Use shade sails available online or from Costco to provide shade cover for the pond area.

Natural Cover - Trees and bushes can provide excellent shade. Be careful to plan ahead for their mature size, and don't place them too close so that their debris becomes a problem. Water plants are an attractive and easy seasonal option, and can make an immediate difference in your pond. If they will be the primary source of shade, select sun-loving plants such as lilies, water lettuce, and water hyacinth. If the water plants will be in full or partial shade, select shade-tolerant plants such as the umbrella palm or the dwarf papyrus.

Short on resources? Even a small summer umbrella will do the trick to shade your koi.

My DIY Solution: Built this with 2 X 2s and shade cloth both bought from Lowes. Small one (7 X 6) cost \$20 to make, larger one (7 X 10) cost \$40. Lightweight and easy to remove in evening. Cuts water temp by 15 degrees.



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As we were finishing our meal, another pot luck wonder, Mac welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He introduced himself as the Inland Koi Society president, and read his list of everyone whose birthday was in May and

also in June. He asked if everybody had their birthday voices ready and at that point broke into a pretty good rendition of happy birthday to you... All Koi club members... Happy Birthday to you.

Mac invited club members Erika Henry and Carrie Fales to come up front and join him at the microphone. It's important to note here that since Mystic Koi's property covers almost an acre, meeting attendees were spread out all over; near one of the six ponds or under the shade cover where they keep their beautiful selection of koi.

It took just a minute for the young ladies to step up front. They sheepishly approached and as they stood there waiting for what would come next Mac cracked "they look scared like they were just called to the principal's office!"

He explained that the IKS awards a yearly scholarship to members or children or grandchildren of members who not only have participated in club activities like helping setup club meetings and assist at our fundraising events, but are actively involved with animals and animal husbandry. "It is our club's way of showing we appreciate their concern and what they do working with these animals." Qualified candidates and their parents complete an application in which they describe the student's school experience, grade point average, and include a couple of reference letters. Working with animals is not just necessarily restricted to the koi hobby, but includes any type of animals and can be volunteering in animal rescue, working at animal shelter, assisting a veterinarian, etc.

Normally only one candidate is chosen to receive the \$500 scholarship, but in this case, as Mac describes looking at the applications, both Carrie and Erika were equally qualified and the one winner rule had to be broken. Mac said he was absolutely "thrown" by the amount of volunteer work these young ladies had done regarding animals and care of them, in addition to all the work they do and time they put in helping our club be successful.

Outstanding was the word that kept coming up in the recommendation letters Mac referred to which were a big part of the scholarship award process. With that in mind, the committee named both Carrie Fales and Erika Henry as individual winners of a \$500 scholarship. We thank our sister koi club KCSD in San Diego who presented us with a gift of \$250 at our joint meeting in February in support of our Inland Koi Society scholarship fund. This helped make a dual award possible so that Carrie Fales re-

ceived \$500, Erika Henry \$500 and as Mac said, Mac McClain \$0. One of our hecklers in the audience reassured Mac that his salary as club president would be doubled (according to my math that's zero dollars times zero dollars which equals zero dollars—sorry Mac, yours is a volunteer position).

Mac reminded everybody that our gracious host, Mystic Koi owner Bill, was offering all club members and meeting attendees 15% off of any purchase they made in the store including fish, plants, koi supplies, medicines, food, and even equipment all the way up through filters and UV lights. Many people took advantage of this. I did and bought a new Sequence pump and Aqua UV sterilizer, saving me over a \$100 in the process!

Next up was Bill, who thanked everyone for coming and announced he was a terrible speaker but would be honest in describing what it is like to be the owner of a koi business. In November they will have been at this location and in the Koi business for 18 years, which is quite a feat considering the present economy and what it's been like the past few years.

Bill gave us a virtual tour of the almost 1 acre which used to be a Nursery. His outside store area contains not only the ponds and the fish within them and holding tanks of koi but a warehouse and back yard that stores the rolls of rubber EDPM liner, Matala filter material, plumbing pipe and fittings, filters and more. Bill buys a lot of items from England where the koi industry is a much bigger operation and their pond care technology is more advanced than in the U.S. (still considered a cottage industry filled with mom & pop koi shops.)

Thinking about it, we're lucky to have somebody like Bill who stays on the cutting edge, importing the equipment and storing it in his warehouse to deliver to his local customers who do not have to pay for the shipping from England like we would do if we ordered it on our own. He also emphasized that they are now a factory authorized service and repair center for Sequence and Performance Pro pumps under warranty as well as other brands (these other brands must be out of warranty, however).

When asked what type of filtration they use on their show tanks and how often they maintain them, Bill explained each of the tanks or ponds is a separate system and with its own separation tank to minimize the strain on the Bio systems. I think he surprised everyone in the audience when he told us that they can do the routine maintenance on every one of their systems together within just one day. I guess



some of us take almost that long to do just one system, right?

Unable to control his curiosity, Mac asked Bill where the \$60,000 koi was that we showed in the newsletter where Shawn was handling her. Bill disappointed Mac by telling him it was a special Koi for a special customer, who by the way, won grand champion in a show competition. Sorry Mac, better luck next time.



Bill explained that you can buy the best one-year-old *quality fish* in the springtime, and then late in the fall you find a better selection of larger Koi (which are the more expensive fish).

Koi sales comprise 50% of his business, equipment another 40% and plant sales the rest. Bill said they always treat for parasites when the new fish come in as well as quarantine them as a precaution and because each of his tanks is individually filtered the water is not shared between the Koi ensuring their health.

They have a separate business in which they wholesale to other dealers, mainly equipment they bring in from England like filters, sieves and UV lights, and this represents a fair portion of their yearly business. They are a distributor for Sequence and Performance Pro pumps and supply many of the local dealers throughout California.



Larry Leverett our pond tour chairman expressed what a great time not only the visitors had as they visited the ponds and gardens, but what a great time the pond owners themselves had and how they got involved, interacting with their guests, answering questions about their pond or the gardens. A treat for any koi hobbyist on such a beautiful day.

He described the gallant efforts to make sure all the ponds looked their best for the tour; how Orville Hanson and Bob Walters both made sure filtration in the ponds were operating at peak efficiency, Orville drawing the schematics of the filtration systems and gardens and Nick Milfeld taking all the pictures, all

of which that went into the guide books, Tom Wright getting ads from our koi dealers and those who contacted the various media like newspapers to get the word out. Peggy and her helpers put together those fantastic guide booklets that are great take away piece and a mini reference to keep and refer to later. Ed and Linda Kushner played photo story tellers visiting each site, capturing those famous "Kodak moments". Larry thanked all the volunteers, many of whom were together right from the start in January during the planning sessions, all the way through the day of the tour where they stayed at their assigned location to explain the systems and answer all the questions throughout the entire day.

A few new members were acknowledged by Mac as he introduced **Sandy Raulston & Ted Birbilis**. They have moved several times, but live in South Pasadena right now. They've had a pond for 15 years and are hungry for information. **Jim Layes** lives in San Bernardino and has a 3,200 gallon pond which is over stocked and under filtered. **Daton Silver** has been on two pond tours and plans to join as soon as he



can. He is looking for more information and design for his planned future pond. Welcome all, if you see them at the next meeting, because IKS is a friendly group!

Our last event of the day was the drawing for our usual unique and not so unique, yet needed prizes like koi food and supplies.

Respectfully submitted, Pete Miles



~IKS Library & Video Tapes online~

Just go to our web-site <http://www.inlandkoiociety.org> and check on Resources. A menu will come down with two choices; "IKS Library" is the link you want to choose. IKS has a variety of books and videos that are available to our members, and you can reserve any book or video from the on-line Library just by contacting **Audrey Rowland at (951) 233-3671** and she'll bring your selection to the next general meeting.



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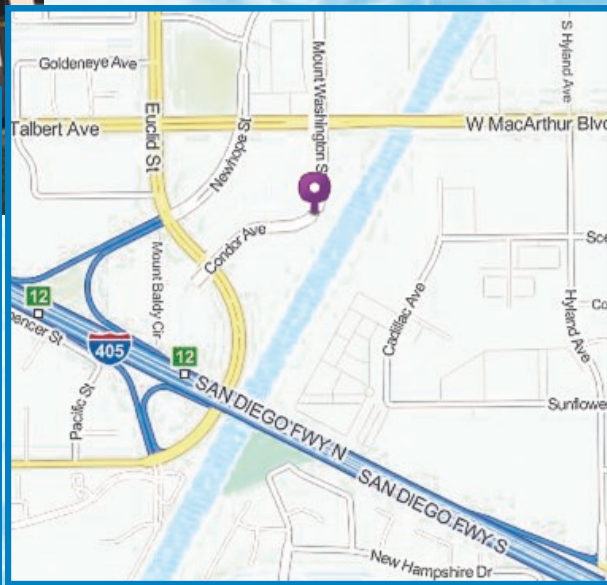
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Using Plants for Filtration

For all the variations in the methods of filtration, there is one that doesn't come in a box or sit on the shelf: water plants. Plants can be extremely important to filtration, taking fish wastes and using them as fertilizer for their own benefit and growth. Aquatic plants remove ammonia, phosphates and nitrates from the water, and feed on the same nutrients that the algae do; by limiting the supply to algae they can help prevent green water.

While plants may be a sufficient filtrate for a small pond with only a few fish, with a larger pond and fish load, some mechanical filtration is recommended. A more involved bog-based plant filtration system can handle more fish.

Regardless of the purist mantra of *No Plants in the Koi Pond!*, there are advantages to using them.

- They are chemical-free.
- They can provide shade and a place for the koi to hide, which in turn helps keep the fish less stressed, which is a benefit to their health.
- They are more economical compared to mechanical filters.
- They add a decided aesthetic interest to the pond, providing texture and color when flowering.

Of course, there are drawbacks to adding plants to your pond.

- Many are edible and will certainly be eaten by the fish. Special care must be taken in the planting to protect the roots from nibblers.
- During spawning, plants *not* in a bog system will be thrashed by attacking males and fleeing females, and your thing of beauty can become a shredded mess. [Of course, you can rescue some of the torn leaves and put them in your quarantine tank to give any eggs on them a chance to hatch.]

Water lettuce, water hyacinths, and water lilies are generally the most popular aquatic plants among enthusiasts, but they are the common few among many wonderful varieties. Do the homework before planting, learn the importance of the plants' roles in making a healthy pond, and get help selecting the right plants for your pond.

Aquatic plants are divided into four main categories: Lilies,



Marginal (bog) plants, Submerged plants, and Floating plants. In each category, there are *hardy varieties*, which can be likened to perennials on land because they come back year after year, and *tropical varieties*, which usually do not live through the winter.

Go for a combination: pick hardy plants that you like and then spice it up with the tropicals, which can be tried new each year.

Lilies: come in two main categories: *Hardy and Tropical*. Lilies bloom all summer and their floating leaves provide shade. A 60-70% coverage of the pond surface with lilies and other floating plants is recommended to help control sunlight, which helps control algae growth. Shade in the pond helps keep the water cooler for your fish and cool water creates more oxygen that your fish need to thrive.



Lotus

- **Hardy Lilies** have smooth edges on their leaves. They start growing mid-spring and bloom all summer; flower colors range from white to light pink, dark pink, and yellow. Flowers open when the sun is high in the sky in the morning and close during the mid afternoon.
- **Tropical Lilies** have serrated or ruffled edges on their leaves; they can also have distinct variegation in green and purple and can be quite large in some varieties. They start growing well when the water temperatures reach 70 degrees. The flowers are generally brighter in color than hardy lily flowers (white, pinks, blues, and purples), stand up out of the water, and bloom longer into the fall. Tropical lilies are either *day bloomers*, which bloom the same as the hardy lilies, or *night bloomers*, which bloom at dusk and stay open until around noon the next day. Some tropical lily flowers are fragrant.

Marginal or Bog Plants are the ones that naturally grow in the shallow areas of ponds and streams. They come in many well-known varieties such as Cattails and Rushes as well as lesser known varieties and native plants. Some flower and some are foliage only. A combination of textures and heights is recommended for a balanced water garden.

Submerged Plants are aquatic plants that grow under the water. The most common submerged plants are *Anacharis* and *Cabomba*. Submerged plants help provide oxygen in the water, consume fish waste nutrients to help control algae, and provide a food source for fish.



Parrot Feather

Floating Plants, like lilies, cover the surface area of the pond and provide shade and hiding places for the fish. Hyacinth and Water Lettuce are the most common: these are tropical and will not survive cold winters, but both multiply very quickly in warm water. These plants are among the hardest working pond cleaners, collecting the nutrients that are dissolved in the water and reassembling them into neat removable, sharable extra plants.



Terrestrial Plants compliment the water garden. They include perennials, annuals, bamboos, ornamental grasses and native plants. Care should be taken that deciduous plants and those that widely broadcast seed are not too close to the pond. And bamboo roots and new growth tubers are extremely sharp and strong; they can puncture a liner pond and crack cement!



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MONTHLY PLANNING CALENDAR 2014

REGULAR MTG 4th Sunday	HOSTS & City	PROPOSED PROGRAM	BOARD Wed. after Mtg.
July 27	Armand and Eva Blais- Menifee	Helping your koi survive the summer	July 30
August 24 3-6 pm	Miguel, Kelly & Ricky Sierra- Murrieta	Water Quality issues- testing and treatment	August 27
September 28	Richard & Dee Henry- Norco	Best time to buy koi and how to pick them	October 1
October 26	Audrey Rowland- Riverside	Panel of IKS Experts will answer your questions	October 29
November 23	Jerry & Pat Mall- Temecula	Holiday Banquet- new officer recommendations	December 3
December	No Meeting	Merry Christmas and Happy New Year	See you in January
January 25	Edward Dean Museum - Cherry Valley	First Meeting of 2015 new board member induction and awards.	January 28

2014

Coming Events

J	Jul 4	
U	Jul 11- Aug 10	ORANGE COUNTY FAIR ~ Admission Charged / Orange County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa 92626 / Open Wed-Sun / (714) 708-1500 www.ocfair.com
L	19	23RD ANNUAL POND TOUR ~ Santa Clara Valley Koi & Water Garden Club / Covering ponds in the Bay area (Woodside, CA on the north end and San Jose, CA at the south end) www.sckoi.com/
Y	27	INLAND KOI SOCIETY MEETING & POTLUCK ~ 2:00-5:00 pm. Host - Armand and Eve Blais in Menifee For more info (714) 717-2470
	30	IKS BUSINESS MEETING ~ 7pm / All members of IKS welcome! — 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside / Mac McClain (909) 225-2346
A	7	EVENING ON THE BEACH- SANTA MONICA Featuring some of LA's hottest chefs, relax with tempting morsels off the grill, vintner tastings, http://www.eveningonthebeach.com Benefits St. Vincent's Meals On Wheels
U	24	INLAND KOI SOCIETY MEETING & POTLUCK ~ 3:00-6:00 pm. Miguel and Kelly Sierra - Murietta 909-720-5311
G	27	IKS BUSINESS MEETING ~ 7pm / All members of IKS welcome! — 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside / Mac McClain (909) 225-2346
S	Thru Aug 31	LAGUNA SAWDUST FESTIVAL ~ Open 10 am - 10 pm daily / 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (949) 494-3030 www.sawdustfestival.org



Central California Koi Society

36th Annual Koi Show



Grand Champion
2013

FIG GARDEN VILLAGE 5082 Palm Ave, Fresno CA




SAATURDAY AND SUNDAY Sept. 27 th. & 28th, 2014

KOI SHOW CHAIRPERSON:
Rosimeri Tran Ph# 559-970-8508
Email: cencalkoi@gmail.com

Saturday, Sept 27: 9am-3p.m (Judging starts at 9am)
Sunday, Sept 28: 9am-3p.m



Helpful Links You Can Use

- **AKCA Website**
<http://www.akca.org/>
- **KoiClub of San Diego**
<https://www.koiclubofsandiego.org>
- **Nishiki KoiClub**
<http://www.nishikikoiclub.com/>
- **So Cal KoiClub**
<http://www.akca.org/akca-koi-clubs/california/so-cal-koi-club/>
- **Bakersfield Koi & Watergarden Society**
<http://www.bkwgs.com/index.html>
- **Inland KoiStore**
<http://www.inlandkoi.com/info.html>
- **Harrison's KoiFarm**
951-369-9998
- **Mystic Koiand Water Gardens**
<http://www.mystickoi.com/>



INLAND KOI SOCIETY
5198 ARLINGTON AVE., #146
RIVERSIDE, CA 92504
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Visit our website:
www.inlandkoiociety.org

Armand has a plan for his new pond



Nighttime view of Miniature Ferris Wheel

