The Inland Koi Connection

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IKS
ISSUE 330
OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY 10/25/26

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG





IKS POTLUCK MEETING

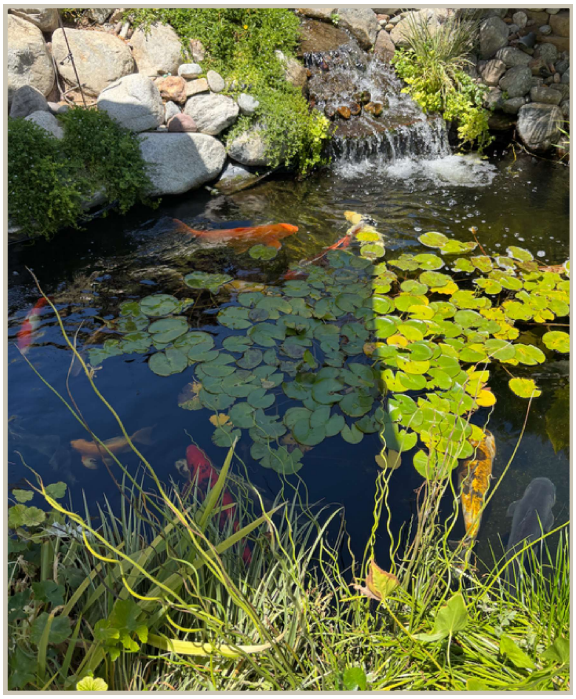
2:00 PM

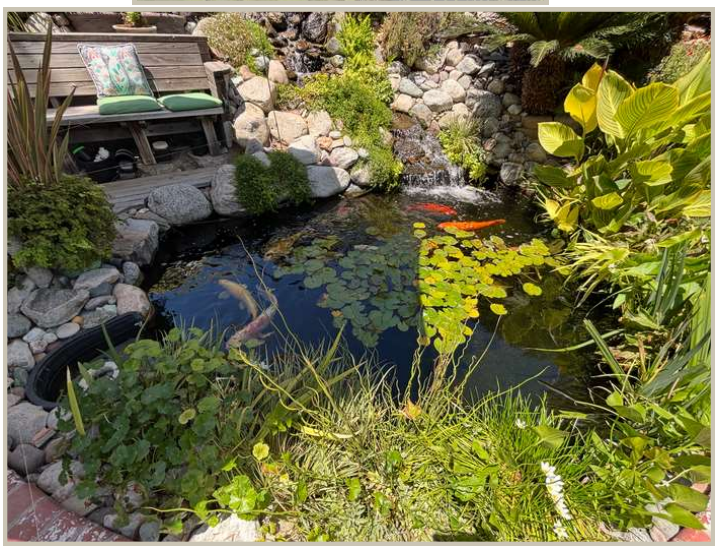
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

HOST: ROB & DEANNA FALES

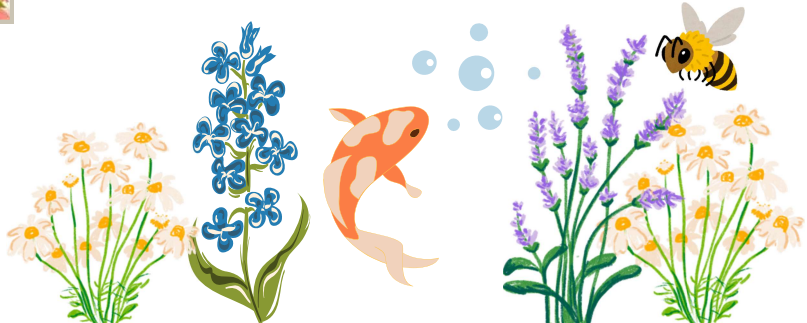
760 LA CUMBRE ST, CORONA 92879

REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD AND CHAIRS!



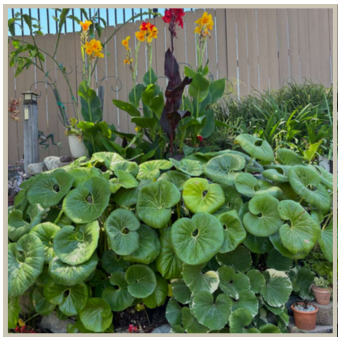


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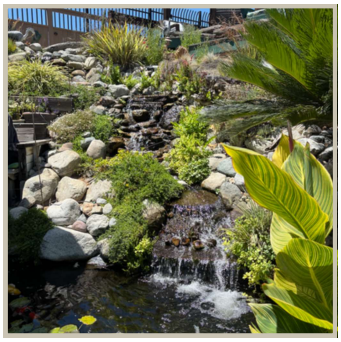


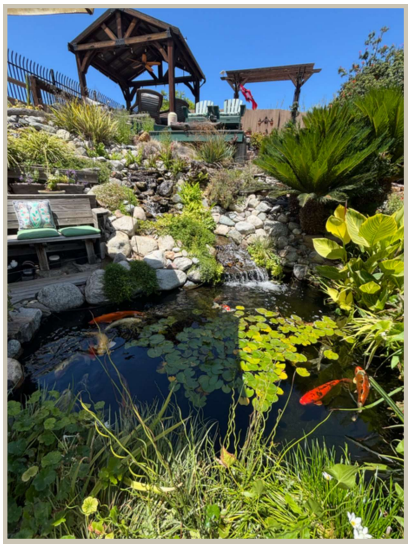
Rob and Deanna are the original homeowners, they purchased their home and lot in 1988 when the property was little more than desert shrubs, brush, and a couple of trees provided by the developer. Nearly 38 years later, everything you see today is truly a labor of love! **Their 2,000-gallon pond is home to 17 koi,** including four that they inherited from Deanna's father, and features a dramatic waterfall cascading down the hillside to **keep their fish happy** and well-aerated.













Their yard is also home to tortoises and a variety of wild birds. In the backyard, they have created a beautiful cactus and succulent garden featuring more than 110 different plants, giving them a little extra "elbow room" while adding to the character of their landscape. **With plenty of shady spots to relax and enjoy the yard, Rob and Deanna will also be firing up the grill to serve hot dogs and burgers.** Please bring your comfortable yard chairs and a side dish, main dish, salad, or dessert to share and enjoy!



Find us on Facebook!

Simply search **inland.koi.society** and our page should be the first result that appears. Follow us to stay updated on meetings, events, and the latest news from the club.





Officers

- President — N/A
- Vice President — N/A
- Secretary — N/A
- Treasurer —

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

- Newsletter Editor —

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- **Barbara Mathews** ~ 951.961.9008
  reedbenderbarbara@msn.com
- **Theo Zoetemelk ~ 951.735.9896**
  braellama@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

10 — **25** ~ IKS Board Meeting
12:30 PM
Rob and Deanna Fales
760 La Cumbre St, Corona 92879
Interested members are welcome to attend, but please call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.279.0181

10 — 25~ IKS General / Potluck meeting
2 - 5 PM
Rob and Deanna Fales
760 La Cumbre St, Corona 92879

11 — 22~ IKS General / Potluck meeting
2 - 5 PM
Jerry & Pat Mall
43024 Via Las Rocas, Temecula 92590

We're looking for meeting hosts!

We're always looking for members who would be willing to host our upcoming meetings at their home! If you've ever thought about hosting but weren't sure what was involved, we promise we make **the process very simple!** All you have to do is open your home and enjoy the afternoon with your fellow koi enthusiasts and we'll take care of the rest! It's a great way to show off your pond, share your koi, and get to know other members. **If you're interested in hosting a future meeting, please contact Rob and Deanna Fales (951.279.0181)** We'd love to hear from you!



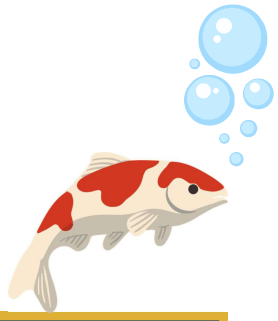
September Meeting Recap!



If you did not attend the September meeting at the Leverett's home, here's what you missed!







We hope to see you all at the next meeting!





Our September meeting was held on the 27th at the **beautiful home of Larry and Debby Leverett in Riverside.** It was a warm day, but thankfully the house and garage were delightfully cool! Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch before settling in to watch the afternoon's program, a **video from an AKCA** koi training seminar held several years ago. For our newer members, the AKCA (Associated Koi Clubs of America) was our parent organization until it disbanded a few years ago. They held koi seminars around the country, giving hobbyists the opportunity to visit ponds, share knowledge, and learn about the latest in koi and fish health. **It was especially fun to see our very own hosts, Larry and Debby Leverett, along with Theo and Jeanne Zoetemelk, featured in the video from nearly 20 years ago!**

A big thank-you to Larry and Debby for opening their home to the club and to everyone who came out and made it such an enjoyable afternoon. We hope to see even more of you at our upcoming meetings—there's always good food, great conversation, and plenty of koi talk to enjoy!

Find us on Facebook and Instagram! **inland.koi.society**





You may be featured on our Facebook page! If you prefer not to have your photo or information shared online, please fill out an opt-out form and let us know.

Got lost trying to find our page? Allow me to help!

How to Find Someone on Facebook:

1. Open Facebook.
2. At the top right of the screen, tap the magnifying glass.
3. Type **inland.koi.society**
4. Tap search.
5. The IKS account is the first one that pops up!
6. Tap the IKS logo to open up our profile!
7. Tap "Follow" to follow us.

How to Find Someone on Instagram:

1. Open Instagram.
2. At the bottom right of the screen, tap the magnifying glass.
3. At the top of the screen, tap the box that says "Search with Meta AI".
4. Type **inland.koi.society**
5. The IKS account is the first one that pops up!
6. Tap the IKS logo to open up our profile!
7. Tap "Follow" to follow us.

Dropsy

By Chris Neaves

I am convinced that most koi hobbyist has seen dropsy symptoms in fish. I am further convinced that a large percentage of hobbyists that have noticed these symptoms initially thought the fish is overweight, laden with eggs etc. I am also sure that the initial humorous reference to “our pregnant fish” turned to alarm with the rapid expansion of the abdomen and severely bloated appearance. Most owners realize that something is seriously wrong when pop-eye develop. A few days later when the internal pressure causes the scales to protrude from the body, the alarm turns to dread. Dropsy is arguably the most feared and common "disease" of the pond. The reason is that unless dropsy is caught in the very early stages, a cure is almost impossible. The above statements are based on the numerous calls that I have received over the years, only to arrive at a pond and having the difficult task of convincing the owners that treatment will serve no purpose. I have also attempted to treat such fish when the owners insisted. Unfortunately the treatments were without any success because in advanced stages, after the body has swelled, the eyes have bulged and/or scales are sticking out (like a pinecone) this disease is usually always fatal.

Dropsy is not a disease, it is a sign of a disease. The word “dropsy”, as generally used by hobbyists is areference to the accumulation of fluids in the visceral cavity of a fish. This fluid buildup causes the abdomen to swell. In severe cases the distention is so great that the scales stand out from the body. When viewed from above, the fish takes on a pine cone-like appearance. Hence the Japanese name for the problem — "matsukasa disease" or "pinecone disease”. Several reasons exist for the pine- cone appearance in fish and to diagnose every occurrence accurately, the fish must be sacrificed and the organs submitted for various laboratory tests. It is far easier to describe the symptoms of dropsy than to identify the specific cause of it. There is no apparent single cause of dropsy and it usually only affects individual fish.

Several bacterial diseases — including aeromonad disease (Aeromonas hydrophila), pseudomonad septicemia (Pseudomonas fluorescens) and vibriosis (Vibrio anguillarum) — can result in dropsy. All these bacteria are common in fish ponds and may be present amongst the healthiest populations of koi. The question really is why and how do these bacteria suddenly go out of control and produce this deadly malady? The answer is fish stress. The appearance of this disease is especially likely in low water temperatures, but it can occur at any time during the year.

Most scientists agree however that some stressor, whether it is overcrowding, bad water quality, parasites, extensive handling, poor nutrition, unstable temperatures etc. may trigger the invasion by viral or bacterial pathogens into the blood. These pathogens find their way into internal organs, destroying it. Unfortunately, by the time an infected fish has blown up like a football, there is little that can be done to save it. Extensive damage has already occurred to internal organs, and infection is rampant throughout. If caught in the early stages, these diseases can be treated successfully with a combination of improved water quality management and the use of antibiotics. If a fish seem to be diseased, it should be isolated in a hospital tank. Although it is agreed that dropsy is generally not contagious, a sick fish in the pond does stress other fish and it also serves as a virulent breeding ground for the bacterial pathogens, making it harder for the other fish to fight off the disease.

Dropsy-like symptoms may be caused by a number of other problems, including tumors, tapeworms, impacted egg masses and blocked intestinal passages. Each of these can be remedied by the proper treatment like surgery, de-worming and so on.

As stated above, the difficult parts are early detection of the problem and early accurate diagnosis. Frequently, secondary internal bacterial infections follow these problems if they are not dealt with quickly. Frankly, it is nearly impossible for the hobbyist to determine with any precision the underlying cause of a dropsical condition. This is why the use of drugs to "cure" the problem meets with limited and unpredictable success. As often as not, the fish will live or die irrespective of drug treatment. Most often a dropsical fish dies. Perhaps it will not die immediately, but it will die within several days, weeks or months. Indeed, in instances where dropsy is caused by internal infections, the bloating may disappear for a time, only to return a bit later with a vengeance. Thus, many reports of dropsy "cures" are just misinterpretations of the temporary regression of the disease. What is really peculiar about dropsy is that sometimes an affected fish may eat right up to a few minutes before it expired. Because dropsy results in a significant change in the fish's volume and density, it is often accompanied by buoyancy and swimming problems. Either the animal sinks to the bottom or it floats at the surface.

While the dropsy symptoms are not contagious and will generally not infect other fish in the pond, the conditions that caused the symptoms are contagious and needs to be investigated. The most common cause is a breach of the outer defenses of the fish such as the cuticle by parasites or injury, followed by internal bacterial infection. Untreated ulcers or injuries may cause the infection to become systemic and attack the internal organs.

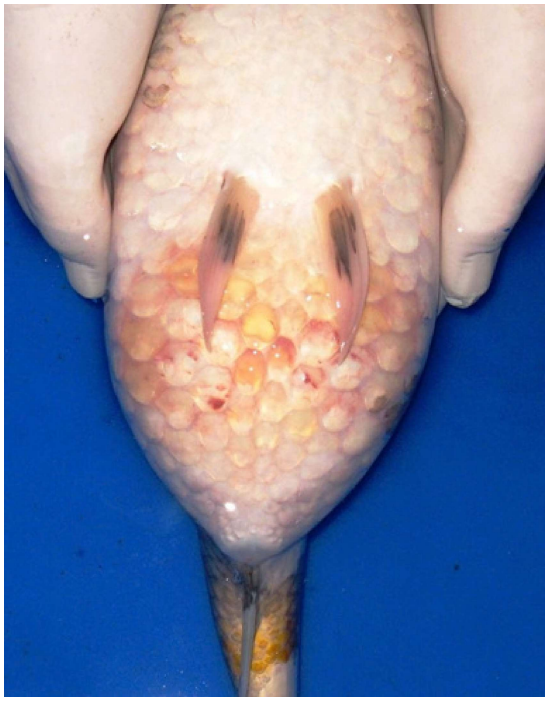
Recently I again had the unfortunate task of visiting a client's pond where the unmistakable symptoms were prevalent in a very nice Shiro Utsuri. First one must determine if it is impacted roe or atumour that is causing the symptoms. Impacted eggs or roe will feel like very soft "putty" when gently squeezed, while a tumour may cause a solid lump that can be detected amongst the swelling. Inthis case the fish was a consistent watery bloating that felt firm to the touch.



As can be seen from the photos, it was not full-blown dropsy yet, although the eyes were beginning to bulge.



There are several experts on koi disease that will argue that a koi don't have full blown dropsy unless the scales and eyes are protruding, therefore the koi was put into a heated quarantine pond. The water was treated with salt to 0.5% and antibiotics were injected on three consecutive days, to no avail. I must admit that salt did purge the intestines but the osmotic imbalance could not be rectified. The fluid in the body cavity remained until the fish perished. This specific fish did not display the normal protruding scales and eyes, but the redness on the belly was a testimony to systemic infection.



Notice the how the distention of the belly actually "dwarfes" the tail segment! The fish did not lie on the bottom or float to the surface in the quarantine tank. Remarkably it stayed in mid-water. The redness on the belly was therefore not caused by the fish remaining on the bottom of the pond. (So called pressure sores). The question will remain: What caused the symptoms? Was it a viral or a bacterial infection or was it both. Was it a tumour that has grown so big that it actually inhibited some organs from functioning properly? One will unfortunately never know!



Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, the fish did not survive. Frustrating!

IKS NEEDS YOU!

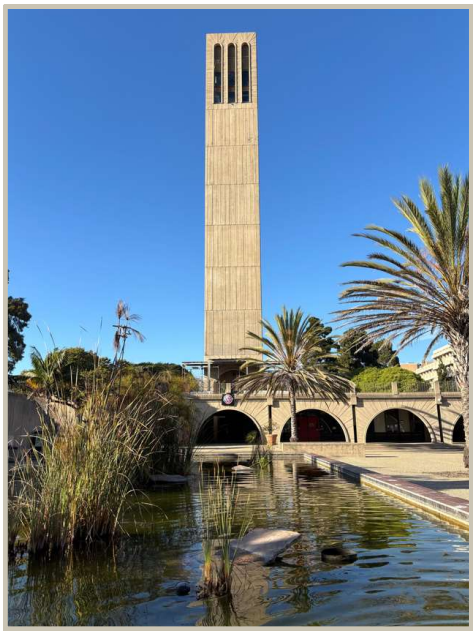
ELECTIONS 2025 ~ IS IT YOUR TURN??

Elections should take place at the November meeting to fill the 2026 term. Consider carefully what you want out of IKS and whether you can give a few extra hours a month to help keep us moving forward with success.

We are looking for more volunteers to be on the IKS board!

Directors (help make decisions for the club) are elected for two-year terms. A couple can do it together and make it a monthly night out with good koi friends!

More participation is needed within the club or it will end up coming to an end.



The pond with Storke Tower in the background

What has Braelynn (the newsletter editor) been up to at college?

I'm having a BLAST here at UCSB! I've been keeping busy with academics and have had so much fun getting involved on campus and joining several clubs. One of those clubs is the UCSB Koi Club, which I was especially excited to join because I thought it would be a fun little slice of home! We recently had our first meeting, where we replanted water plants in the pond near Storke Tower. The pond is home to lots of turtles and five beautiful koi, so it was definitely fun to see some familiar faces (or fins!) here at UCSB. I'm already looking forward to the next meeting!



Sign up for Our Thanksgiving Feast
Sunday, 22 November ~ 2 - 5 PM



It has become a **tradition to celebrate the end of the year** together with a **Thanksgiving Feast** with all the trimmings! **IKS** provides the turkey, the **Malls** provide a beautiful place to gather, and **we potluck** the rest of the menu, sharing old family favorites or trying out new recipes before we serve them to our families. And we take **reservations** so we'll know how much meat to buy and how many tables to set.



There will be a **sign-up list** on the registration table at this month's meeting, or you can **call the Milfelds** at **951.780.7395** to leave a message of **name, number of mouths, and your menu choice**; Or text to **PeggyMilfeld@inlandkoisociety.org.**

K.O.I.™ News!
Koi Organisation International
Current Accurate Useful
October 2026



Dec 5 – Clubs Meeting

Hosted byBill Layman !

- **Invites sent to K.O.I. MemberClub Reps**

Discuss the challenges of getting members and keeping the engaged
Learn from other club's successes
Members of all K.O.I. Clubs welcome!
https://koiorganisationinternational.org/pondside-membership-perk

Quiz for FUN!



Send in Your Answer
Win an Insulated Koi Mug!

Everytime a Koi doubles inlength,it increases 8 times in body mass!
Assume that young Koi double in size every 2 years.

If you start with 10 baby Koi, and it's now 4 years later, the body mass in the pond is as if you had started with HOW MANY BABY KOI?

Send your answer to pattist@snet.net

Winner drawn from correct answers. We will announce the winner and provide the answer in the Dec K.O.I. News.

Looking for entries!



2026 Pond of the Year

One per club (club affiliation not required):

- **4-6 photos, 10-30 sec video if desired**
- **Description – location, size, design, filtration, inhabitants**
- **Email to: pattist@snet.net**



2026 Koi/Goldfish of the Year

One per club (club affiliation notrequired):

- **Photos (or 10-30 sec video)**
- **Description – breeder, age,when purchased**
- **Email to: pattist@snet.net**



2026 Champion of Champions

Champion of your Koi Show:

- **Photos (or 10-30 sec video)**
- **Description – breeder, age, how long you've owned**
- **Email to: pattist@snet.net**
- **Entries Due Dec 31, 2026!**



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!!!







HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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

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