The Inland Koi Connection

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IKS
ISSUE 331
NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY 11/22/26

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



IKS POTLUCK MEETING

2:00 PM

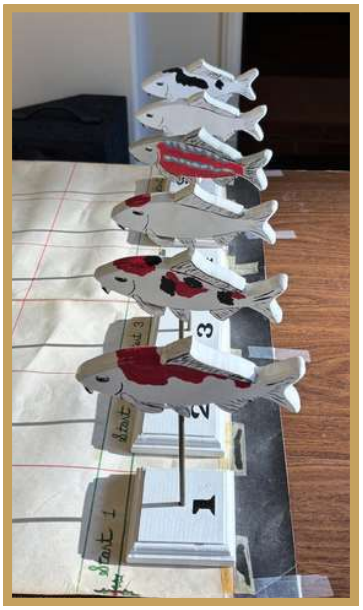
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

HOST: JERRY & PAT MALL

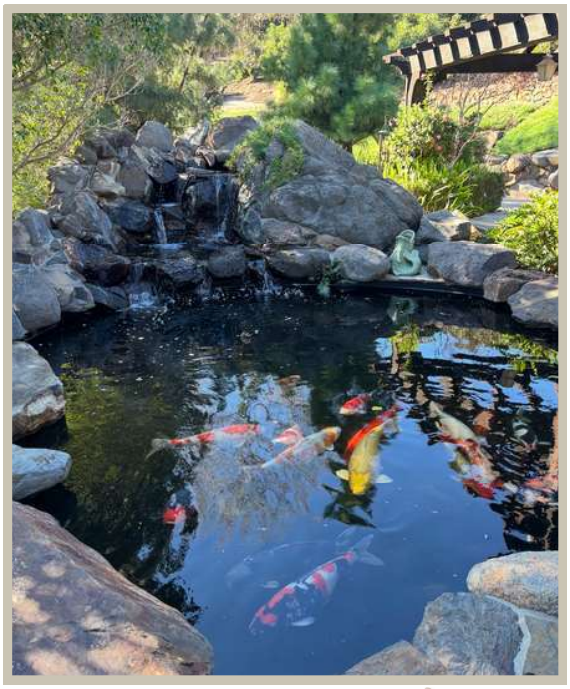
43024 VIA LAS ROCAS, TEMECULA, CA 92590

LAST GENERAL MEETING OF 2026!!





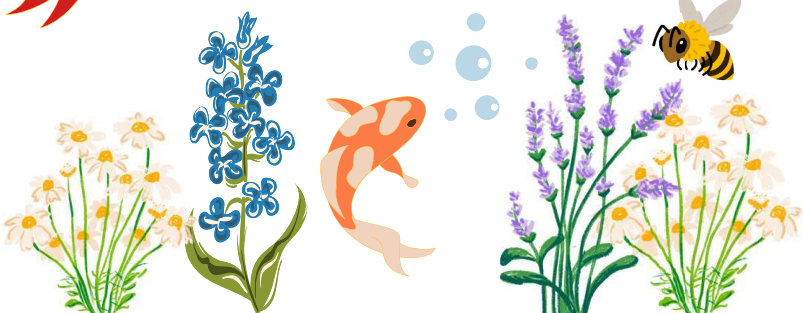








Find us on
Facebook and Instagram!
inland.koi.society



It's that time of year again—the time when you get to enjoy **two Thanksgiving feasts in the same week!** Our first celebration (you're on your own for the second!) will be hosted by our longtime friends, **Jerry and Pat Mall**, who have graciously invited the club to their **beautiful home in the hills above Temecula on Sunday, November 22, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.** This will be an indoor event, with tables and chairs provided. There are plenty of reasons to look forward to this meeting beyond the Mall's incredible koi collection and beautiful pond! **We'll have a free raffle featuring an air fryer and a $50 gift card for members who renew their membership, along with our always-popular Koi Races!** Bring along some $1 bills so you can place your bets on which koi you think will win each race. The excitement can last for a couple of hours; until you've won all the money or our racing koi decide they're tired! **We'll also be holding club elections to determine who will lead us over the next two years.**

If you've ever considered serving on the board, we would love to have your help and input!







RSVP's can be a message on the Milfeld's home phone (951) 780-7395, or a text to Peggy's cell (951) 892-4270, or an email to milfeld@msn.com! Don't forget to tell them who/how many are coming and what food item(s) you will be bringing!

Please don't miss this special meeting! We hope to see the entire club come together for an afternoon of good food, friendly competition, and great company! We cant wait to see you all there!

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 —

Braelynn Zoetemelk ~ c 951.529.3328
braellama@gmail.com

Directors

- **Gavin Alexander** ~ 951.922.5868
  gamial@aol.com
- **Tony Coby** ~ 951.486.1816
  Jazzman19@gmail.com
- **Deanna Fales** ~ 951.279.0181
  rob_fales@sbcglobal.net
- **Rob Fales** ~ 951.279.0181
  rob_fales@sbcglobal.net
- **Larry Leverett** ~ 951.500.2157
  ldlever@earthlink.net
- **Barbara Mathews** ~ 951.961.9008
  reedbenderbarbara@msn.com
- **Theo Zoetemelk ~ 951.735.9896**
  braellama@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

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

12 No Meeting!
Happy Holidays!

01 TBD~ IKS General / Potluck meeting
Larry & Debby Leverett
5349 Jasper Lane, Riveside 92506

02 TBD~ IKS General / Potluck meeting
Nick & Peggy Milfeld
1644 Northhampton Drive, Riverside 92506

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!



October Meeting Recap!

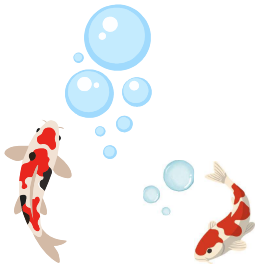


If you did not attend the October meeting hosted at the Fales home, here's what you missed!





We hope to see you all at the next meeting!





Last month's Inland Koi Society meeting was held at Rob and Deanna Fales' beautiful home and garden in Corona! Members enjoyed touring the garden, koi pond, and backyard cactus retreat before gathering for a potluck lunch, with their son, Eric, serving as grillmaster. The afternoon's program, "Filtration—What You Like or Could Improve," featured several board members sharing photos and details about their filtration systems, discussing what worked well and what could be improved. Nick Milfeld provided a very detailed presentation on his sand filters. We wrapped up the afternoon with our last "normal" raffle of the year, as next month's Thanksgiving meeting will feature a special one-of-a-kind raffle with no purchase necessary!

A big thank-you to the Fales 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

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



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.



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.

Ammonia Basics for Koi Keepers

By Shannon Barnes, CKK

What is Ammonia and Why Does it Matter?

Ammonia is a toxic waste produced mainly by Koi through their gills when they digest food. It also comes from fish waste and leftover food breaking down in the pond. In a healthy pond, ammonia should be undetectable on your test kit. People often call this “zero ammonia,” but it really means the level is just too low to measure. Even small amounts of ammonia can:

- Stress Koi
- Slow their growth
- Make them more likely to get sick
- High levels can be fatal.

Ammoniavs.Ammonium

When ammonia is in water, it exists in two forms:

- Ammonia (NH_3) – very toxic
- Ammonium (NH_4^+) – much less toxic

Which form you have depends on:

- pH (higher pH = more toxic ammonia)
- Temperature (warmer water = more toxic ammonia)

This is why ammonia is more dangerous in warm, high-pH ponds.

Why Must You Test for Ammonia?

Every Koi keeper should own an ammonia test kit. Below are reasons to test regularly:

- Ammonia can rise quickly without warning
- Early testing lets you fix problems before fish get sick
- Chronic low levels still harm koi over time

Types of Ammonia Test Kits

There are two common kinds:

- Nessler test kits
  - Colors range from clear to yellow
  - Fast and simple
  - If Ultimate or ClorAm-X are used, Nessler test will ignore chems and still show ammonia
- Salicylate test kits
  - Colors range from yellow to green/blue-green
  - Two-step process
  - If Ultimate or ClorAm-X are used, Salicylate test shows zero ammonia until chems used up

Both types measure total ammonia, not how toxic it is. Toxicity depends on pH and temperature.

Why Ammonia Levels Rise?

Ammonia can show up in your pond if:

- You add more fish or your fish grow bigger
- Your biofilter isn’t working well, due to:
  - Clogging
  - Dirty filter media
  - Medications or chemicals killing good bacteria
  - A pH crash
- Water flow is reduced from:
  - Pump failure
  - Clogged pipes
  - Valves partly closed

Cleaner ponds usually have lower ammonia.

How Ammonia Harms Koi

Ammoniadamage:

- Gills (reduces oxygen intake)
- Skin and slime coat
- Internal organs and nervous system

Possible signs of ammonia poisoning:

- Fish are sluggish or sitting on the bottom
- Heavy or rapid breathing
- Hanging near water returns or air stones
- Jumping or flashing
- Loss of appetite
- Milky or cloudy skin
- Red streaks in fins or body
- Ulcers or sores
- Black patches on the skin
- White or cloudy eyes

These signs can look like disease, so always test ammonia first.

How Ammonia is Controlled

Ammoniaismainlyremoved by beneficial bacteria in your biofilter. Some is also used by algae and plants. These bacteria:

- Convert ammonia into nitrite
- Other bacteria convert nitrite into nitrate (nitrate is less toxic)
- A new biofilter does not work right away. It takes time (up to 3 months!) for bacteria to grow.

What Happens When Starting a New Pond or Filter?

- Ammonia appears first
- After several weeks (usually 2-8), bacteria start reducing ammonia
- Nitrite appears next
- After another few weeks (usually 2-4), ammonia and nitrite drop to zero, nitrate appears, and the system stabilizes
- During this time:
  - Test ammonia, nitrite, pH, and alkalinity
  - Bacteria use up alkalinity, so pH can crash if alkalinity drops below 100ppm

Why Does Ammonia Suddenly Rise?

- Ammonia can spike when:
  - You add new fish
  - Water warms up in spring
  - Fish eat more before bacteria catch up
  - The biofilter becomes clogged or channeled
- The key is to keep bacteria balanced with fish waste.

What To Do if Ammonia is Detected

- Increaseaeration
- Stop feeding
- Check and clean the biofilter if needed
- Water changes:
  - Ammonia at 0.1 mg/L → change 10%
  - Ammonia at 1.0 mg/L → change 25%
  - Be careful if replacement water has high pH or chloramine
- Add ammonia binder, either Ultimate or ClorAm-X (also will dechlorinate)
- Move fish if ammonia reaches 2.5 mg/L
- If not using ammonia binder, turn off UV, ozone, and protein skimmers
- Retest in 12–24 hours

"FAMILY FEAST" MENU PLANS

We have 17-20 members signed up for our ***November 22*** meeting at ***Jerry & Pat Mall***'s home in Temecula. Check the list below if you're undecided what to bring, and yes, you may change your mind.

Please do let us know you're coming so we have room for everyone at the tables.

- ***Stuffing or Potatoes ~ mashed, yams, cheesy….***
  Hansons ~ Mash Potatoes Zaras ~ Potatoes
  Broomfield & Fales ~ Stuffing
- ***Vegetable Dishes ~ all the family favorites….***
  Krauses ~ Corn Dish Wolfs ~ Corn Casserole
- ***Salads, any kind ~ green, fruit, molded….***
  Mathews ~ Waldorf Salad
- ***Muffins, Rolls, Breads….***

- ***Desserts, any kind and all the favorites!***
  ?? ~ Pumpkin Pie (2) Zaras ~ Brownies
  Bayliss ~ Dessert
- ***Other Items, including Appetizers….***
  Malls ~ Turkey & Gravy
  Milfelds ~ Cranberry, Apple Sauces
- ***Others who signed up to attend….***
  Aiko Howo, the Watsons, Scott Zehm

If you're not on the list above, call ASAP to sign up! We need a count for seating and for ordering turkey; deadline is Monday, 11/15. Please leave a message for the Milfelds at 951.780.7395, or text Peggy at 951.892.4270, or call or email our hostess directly:
Pat Mall ~ 909.841.9971 or patriciamall7@icloud.com
Thank You!

IKS NEEDS YOU!

ELECTIONS 2025 ~ IS IT YOUR TURN??

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Membership renewal forms will be available at this month's meeting! Forms will be preprinted with the information currently on file, so please be sure to make any necessary updates or corrections. Annual membership is still $35 per family, and badges can also be ordered for $12 each. Please remember to bring cash or a check for your renewal. As an added bonus, anyone who turns in their renewal at this month's meeting will be entered into a special drawing for an air fryer and a gift card! Each renewal form receives one drawing entry, regardless of how many family members are renewing.



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
November 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

TIP OF THE MONTH

There are 4 important water quality parameters that you should be testing year round – YES, in WINTER too!

- **Ammonia: If other than ZERO, you should add ChlorAm-X, then find out why**
- **KH: Buffer that prevents pH crash**
- **Nitrite: In established pond, tells you if your filter has been compromised**
- **pH: check after rain (acid!). If ammonia is zero and pH less than 7, add baking soda until pH is 8.**

In an established pond, check weekly in summer, biweekly in winter!
Remember: KH is constantly being consumed and going down!
For the next 4 months, we will feature an article and quiz about each of the 4 WQ tests. Check with your club for a copy!

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!**



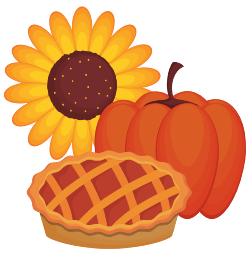
Closed on Sundays



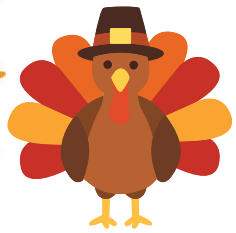
Thank you to **Chien Lee of Nijikawa USA** and to **Iva Gaglione of Ultra Balance** for supplying the Inland Koi Society with a supply of nutritional koi food for its rehoming program!!!











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

Return Service Requested

Visit Our Website: www.inlandkoisociety.org