



Lone Star Koi Club

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Koi Chatter

The January 2012 publication of the Lone Star Koi Club – Houston Texas

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Do you subscribe to any Koi related magazines? KOIUSA and KOI Nations are both very good reading. If you are going to stay in the koi keeping hobby, at least one of these is a must have. We get a discount with KOIUSA, twenty dollars for one

year or thirty six for two years. KOIUSA supports the AKCA.

From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Koi Keepers

Officers for 2012 are as follows:

- President – Scott Sartorius
- Secretary – Linda Sartorius
- Vice President - Randy Martin (1st)
Don Bayer (2nd)
- Treasurer – Buddy Bush
- Membership Director – Pat Bush

Newsletter Editor:
Don Bayer
(dgbayer@up.com)
713-542-3345

See letter from editor on last page.

Donnie Bayer

NEXT MEETING
January 15, 2012
Sunday 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Judy Christian
139 Sandpebble Dr.
The Woodlands, Texas
(281) 367-2025

DIRECTIONS: See at end of Newsletter

Lone Star Koi Club Directory

Scott Sartorius: President

281.250.3696

ssartorius@comcast.net

Randy Martin: 1st Vice President

281.692.1807

xtremeflyr@yahoo.com

Don Bayer 2nd Vice President

713-542-3345

dgbayer@up.com

Buddy Bush: Treasurer

281.257.8366

buddybush@sbcglobal.net

Linda Sartorius: Secretary & AKCA Rep

281.250.3696

ssartorius@comcast.net

Don Bayer: Newsletter Editor

713.542.3345

dgbayer@up.com

Joel Anderson: Webmaster

713.868.9133

janderson@tiburonsystem.com

JOIN THE LONE STAR KOI CLUB:

To subscribe and/or to pay your 2012 dues, make check payable to **Lone Star Koi Club (LSKC)** and Mail To:

Buddy Bush, LSKC Treasurer
13619 Keneva Dr
Cypress, TX 77429

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2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Month	Host	Date	Speaker/Topic
January	Christian	15 th	Planning Meeting
February		19 th	To be announced.
March	Grunden	18 th	To be announced.
April	Caulk	15 th	To be announced.
May	Pond Tour	5th & 6th	POND TOUR
June		17 th	To be announced.
July	Peragine	15 th	To be announced.
August	Cook	19 st	To be announced.
September		16 th	To be announced.
October	Fischer	21st	To be announced.
November			Combined w/Dec. mtg.
December		?	Christmas Party & Auction

Please stop by the Welcome Table at each meeting, check in and pick up a nametag if you don't have one so new members can get to know you.

LKSC Membership News

If you have anyone contact you about koi needing homes or homes needing koi, please contact Randy Martin, xtremeflyr@yahoo.com or Paul Moss, paulbkm@gmail.com.

Thanks to our rescue partners.



Invitations & News from Other Koi and Pond Clubs, Associations or Societies

AKCA News from Doug Dahl

AKCA Minutes of November 18, 2011

<u>Officers Present</u>	<u>Directors Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Chair: Kristine Peterson	Louie Hernandez	
Acting Vice Chair: Carole Elliott	Burt Ballou	
Acting Secretary: Don Chandler	Harlan Glenn	
CFO: Doug Dahl	Brenda Chandler	
	Joan Finnegan	
	Mike Frady	
	Ray Jordan	
	Jerry Kyle	
	Bob Finnegan	
	Charles Phelps	

Board Highlights:

- **Congratulations to our new Vice Chairperson Mike Frady** – he won the run-off election!
- **2012 AKCA Business Meeting/Banquet – KHA Wet Lab** to be held in Fresno June 30-July 1
- **Please let your AKCA rep/contact know of any concerns your club may have!**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kristine Peterson at 6:05 p.m.

The **counting of the ballots** took place with Joan Finnegan removing the inner envelope from the outer envelope. Carole removed the ballot from the inner envelope. When all were removed, counting of the ballots took place. 73 clubs submitted ballots with 2 invalid, 1 because there was no ballot inside the envelope and the other because both candidates were voted for. The results of the valid 71 ballots were 53 for Mike Frady and 18 for Don Chandler. Congratulations to Mike! Don suggested that Mike take over his position tonight rather than waiting for the January meeting. **Motion:** To relieve all acting officers of their position. Motion by Burt, 2nd by Louie. **Approved**

During the counting of the ballots, Burt stated that Barb Flowers, of the Rocky Mountain Koi Club, asked that all the **forms in our club kit and all other forms on our akca.org website** should be changed to ones that can be filled out on line and then hit a “submit” button and

they will be emailed to the appropriate person. **Motion:** To have all forms in our club kit as well as other forms on our akca.org website put online so that one can fill them out on line and then hit a “submit” button to be emailed to the appropriate person. Motion by Burt, 2nd by Louie. **Approved.** It was also suggested this be put in the new section of requests from clubs to give that club credit and also show that the board is responding to requests.

❖ **MINUTES: Motion:** To approve the minutes of October 14, 2011. Motion by Joan, 2nd by Harlan. **Approved.**

❖ **OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Doug stated that the investment account lost \$195 in Sept. and gained \$116 in Oct. The Project KHV account interest was \$10 in Oct. Michael emailed the rough draft of the AKCA tax forms to him on Oct./29. He approved them and asked him to finish the task. He used certified mail. The CPA charged us \$686.25. The Franchise Tax Board returned our voided \$20 check improperly sent to them. Now let’s see if the Secretary of State cashes the replacement check he sent with our SI-100 annual Statement of Information form. Connie sent him the 9/16/11 bookstore inventory on 11/4/11. He has requested recount of 8 items either due to the large percentage of the mismatch or the value of the item before he inputs the changes into Quickbooks. Doug reported that he received a phone call from Jim Nye from Pensacola, Fla. Jim joined the Atlanta club and is moderator for the Pond Forum, a private forum on the internet. He asked permission to start collecting donations for AKCA, presenting AKCA with a check at the next Atlanta Koi show (Sept.). In exchange, he would like a banner ad on our

Page 2

❖ internet site. Those present expressed concerns with linking to a commercial enterprise, possibly using our logo, some of his board members are also members for other boards, we don’t need any publicity that states that AKCA is in dire financial straits and that people couldn’t write off their donation as this is a for profit entity. We also wouldn’t be guaranteed to receive any or all of the funds. **Motion:** To have Doug Dahl communicate that the offer to raise donations for AKCA was appreciated. However, AKCA/KOI USA cannot permit our logos or website to be linked or utilized by any for profit 3rd party not under our direct control. Motion by Ray, 2nd by Jerry. **Approved.**

From the Houston Pond Society, Dan Cook

Houston Pond Society

Dcook1830@aol.com

218 Leyden Court

Katy, TX 77450

713-822-5515

January, 2012

Hello Houston Pond Society Members and Pond Enthusiasts:

If you have not already joined the Houston Pond Society and paid your 2012 dues, now is the time. Dues for the entire year 2012 are only \$50.00. Come join in the fun and friendship of fellow pond enthusiasts.

JANUARY MEETING

The January 2012 meeting will be Saturday, January 7th at 12:00 noon and will be hosted by Mike and Laura Wrenn at their home at 703 Briarpark in West Houston.

Mike and Laura will be serving traditional meat lasagna and vegetarian lasagna

If you don't feel like standing in the kitchen, bring something from the store. And if you don't want to do either, please come anyway. There will be plenty of good food and we want to see you at the meeting.

We always have a good time and guests are very welcome, so come and join in the fun.

From I-10 West, go south on Beltway 8, exit Briar Forest and turn left (east). Go to Seagler, turn left, then turn right on Sugar Hill and left on Briarpark.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February 2010 meeting will be Saturday February 4th at 12:00 noon at the Home of Dan and Andrea Cook at 218 Leyden Court in Katy.

See you at Mike and Laura's.

Dan Cook

From Texas Koi and Fancy Goldfish Society (TKFGS)

Purdin Koi Farm - January 14-15, 2012

We are excited about being able to return to Purdin koi farm to kick off our 2012 koi season. Scott Purdin. Bill & Maureen McGurk are producing some of the highest quality American bred koi. One of their American bred koi recent won Grand Champion at a koi show in England and several major awards at our club show. We have plans to visit **both** Purdin koi farm locations on different days. While the primary objectives of our trip are educational and to have a lot of fun, koi will be available for sale and they do accept Visa and MasterCard. Here are our general plans for the trip.

Saturday January 14:

Please plan to arrive by 2:00 pm. I would suggest that you allow yourself about 8 hours for the drive from San Antonio as you never know about delays in Houston. We will meet at the Purdin "Mud Pond" location which is in Port Allen, LA. The address is **6222 Flynn Rd, Port Allen, Louisiana 70767**. GPS or Yahoo Maps should take you there easily but be aware that there is **not** a sign for Purdin Koi Farm just a sign with the address near the driveway. If you have any problems please call my cell phone at 210-860-3379.

This is the breeding and growing location where their best and larger koi are kept for future development. We will have a tour of their impressive breeding facility and mud ponds. We will be shown koi at various ages and stages of development and provided with a visual explanation of how Purdin koi develop. We are planning to have a judging seminar to help train our eyes and better understand how to evaluate koi quality properly. You should dress very casual for the weekend but check the weather forecast and be prepared for anything from sunny warm temps to cold wet and muddy conditions. Last years trip had great sunny weather but who knows what it will be like this year. Think layers!! Bill suggested everyone bring rubber boots or shoes as several areas will likely be muddy from expected rain before our visit. Just in case also bring a raincoat or umbrella. South Louisiana has weather much the same as central and south Texas. Cold and wet one day and warm and dry the next. As of now the weather is predicted to be nice and sunny with highs about 60F. Depending on the weather and sunlight conditions we will wrap up our afternoon at the farm sometime between 4:30 – 5:00 pm on Saturday. We are planning an optional no host dinner at a local area restaurant on Saturday evening. Be sure the RSVP if you plan to join us for dinner on Saturday evening.

We have two recommendations about a place to stay on Saturday night. Morel's Inn www.morelsrestaurant.com/rooms.htm which is where we are staying. This a small modest motel

about 20 minutes from both locations which has an excellent restaurant also called Morel's. Cost is \$65 per night. Morel's address is 221 West Main Street (LA Hwy 1) New Roads, Louisiana 70760. This is where we are having the optional Saturday night dinner at Morel's restaurant where we have eaten before and had a fantastic meal.

If you want to challenge lady luck consider staying in Baton Rouge at the Belle of Baton Rouge Riverboat Casino www.belleofbatonrouge.com/ This is about a 30 minute drive from the farm. Their current Internet rate is \$129 night. Or just find your own hotel to better suit your needs.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15: On Sunday morning we will meet at the other Purdin Koi Farm location - which is their retail sales facility. The address is 7017 Cline Drive Glynn, LA 70736. We will meet about 9:30 am for a tour of this equally impressive koi facility modeled after one of the best designed koi houses in Japan. There will be more of a focus on selecting young koi and discussion about how they might develop according to tendencies seen in different koi lines. We will plan to finish our formal visit by about 11:30 am but everyone is welcome to stay and shop for koi to take home. It would be a good idea to bring a large cooler to take home any koi you might purchase safely. Even if you do not think you will be buying koi - bring a cooler anyway you just never know what might happen.

We need to provide a head count to our hosts at Purdin regarding the number of our group so if you want to join us please email Ray at rjordan8@swbell.net with the number of people planning to attend. Also please let me know if you want to join us for the optional no host dinner on Saturday evening. As of today we have 8 people that have confirmed their attendance.

If you have any questions about our trip feel free to email or call me at 210-494-2034. If you want to check with Bill McGurk in advance about buying a specific kind or price range koi his email is bill@purdinkoi.com or you can reach him at 625-627-6762. Hope to see you in Louisiana next weekend.

Articles

How Crowded is Your House?

By David Jones, KHA

In the US, many have the luxury of living in a home with enough space to survive and thrive. Going back to before the days, a family of four might have lived in a 1200 sq. ft. 2 bedroom / 1 bathhouse. It was small and snug – but offered the basics and even comforts of the shelter that we need. As long as everyone didn't need to use the bathroom at the same time, available resources were quite adequate. Using this scenario as a basis, let's increase that family to eight members - then relatives move in and the population goes to eighteen. So now the scenario goes from each person having 300 sq. ft. to each person having only 66 sq. ft! With that kind of population density, all the available resources are overwhelmed – sleeping space, ventilation/heating/cooling, food storage, hot water, and especially sanitation. Imagine the stress of so many people in such close proximity! While this may seem extreme, you often hear of twenty immigrants with their extended families sharing a small apartment or house. Being in close quarters encourages the spread of disease – it's like every child in Kindergarten catching the same cold, cough or ear infection.

Crowding in your environment is very stressful and very UNHEALTHY. So how does this relate to fish keepers?

One of my KHA Instructors is a Fisheries professor at the University of Tennessee. He did a research project to learn about overcrowding in aquaculture environment. He took two groups of healthy fish: Group A had plenty of room and plenty of water. Group B was crowded in a small shallow body of water for a few hours, and then returned to their regular tank, f At the end of this time, the fish in both groups were exposed to a known bacterial pathogen. The results were significant. After a few days, a small number of fish in Group A were sick, and 10% died. Group B had heavy morbidity with 80% of the fish dying. The conclusion was reached that severe stress from crowding led to a compromised immune system, which led to the high levels of illness and death. While our ponds are never likely to be as densely populated as in aquaculture, this experiment shows the implied physiological dangers of overcrowding.

The resources that come under stress in our overcrowded ponds are food, oxygen, and most important: water quality. A heavy fish load overwhelms the filter's capabilities - leaving ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates as toxins in the pond. Fish waste accumulates, further spoiling the water and setting up a breeding ground for bacteria and parasites. CO2 produced by so many fish creates acids in the water causing the pH to drop – creating a danger for the fish and the filter. Oxygen is another essential resource that is in short supply in a crowded

pond; on hot summer days the water doesn't hold much oxygen so the crowded pond will have fish competing for a minimal supply. Summer storms, which can cause a massive fish kill in an overcrowded pond: no circulation = no oxygen.

Another important factor is fish growth. Overcrowded fish will not grow to their potential size. Fish release pheromones into the water, which leave a "scent" of their presence. In an overstocked pond this tells a fish not to grow any more because there are too many fish already. In an overstocked pond, it's not uncommon to find koi that are several years old but have not grown beyond 12 inches.

You can get rid of many of the water quality symptoms to a certain extent by doing lots of water changes – which has the effect of making the pond seem larger, but the underlying problem still exists. Water volume, circulation and filtration are inadequate for the fish load, and will have a high probability for bacterial and parasitic illnesses, chronic water quality problems, and fish that will never grow to their potential size. So, what should we do?

Assuming you have a decent size pond with good filtration, Koi should be stocked with one per 300-500 gallons of water. This will allow them enough room to thrive and grow. If you are trying to maximize the growth of a show quality fish, then more gallons per fish is recommended. I have a friend with a 9000 gallon pond with 11 large show Koi and plenty of filtration. Each swims around in its own space, allowing for optimum development.

On the other end of the scale, each goldfish needs 30-50 gallons or so, and remember that they will grow over the years to a much larger size. I saw a lovely water garden with crystal clear water populated by six huge red on white Sarassa Comets with long flowing tails – they were a sight to behold. That same 1000-gallon pond with 30 or 40 little goldies would not have had the same impact or beauty, and over the years they will grow larger and need more resources. Think about the future of your pond when you buy a fish. Selective stocking is the key.

So how do you tell if you're overstocked? What are your water quality parameters? Ammonia, Nitrites, and Nitrates should be zero. pH in the 7.5 to 8.5 range. No foam around the waterfall. No gasping fish at the surface in the early morning. No outbreaks of parasite or bacterial problems. If you have a fish die – consider that nature might be lowering the density in your pond and don't go out and buy another one. If you have way too many fish, donate them to a new pond owner to stock their new pond.

If your pond is already well stocked, please resist the urge to "buy that cute one over there".

Best wishes to your fishes.

Taking Stock

By
David Jones, Master KHA

At the end of summer, we can look back on our ponding season and take stock of what great and not so great things have affected the enjoyment of our ponds. Using a focused approach, we can evaluate many aspects of the pond and fish, how much enjoyment or drudgery it has been, and what we might like to change to make it better for next year.

First, did you enjoy the pond? If so, then you're a "Happy Ponder" – Congratulations!

However, there's always room for improvement, so let's take stock of our pond in three different categories. Take a piece of paper and write these main topics at the head of each section, then divide each section into "Positives" and "Negatives".

- #1) Is your pond environment a wonderful place to be?
- #2) How easy is it to do routine maintenance?
- #3) What do you need to know about water quality and fish health?

Let's take these one at a time and I'll offer some suggestions.

#1) One of the great pleasures in ponding is sitting out next to the pond, watching and feeding your fish, and enjoying everything that's going on around you. Do you have a suitable sitting area next to the pond? If not, that could be a great winter project! With all the DIY materials available now for taking on this kind of improvement, you can build a gravel and pavers, stone, or wooden patio/deck yourself! Are you sitting in the sun? How about a patio cover to offer some shade when sitting outside in the heat, or a fan or water misting system to make pond side relaxing more comfortable? How about a table so you could eat your breakfast or dinner out by the pond? If you have plants in your pond, are they well kept and trimmed? Would you like some different varieties/colors next year? How's the landscaping around the pond?

Is your water as clear as possible so you can see your beautiful fish? Do you have a population overload? If so, maybe its time to give away some of your less desirable fish to someone starting a pond, and thereby provide more space for your favorites. Remember, they're getting bigger every year.

#2) Routine Maintenance: when I ask people what they like and dislike about their ponds, the number one dislike is cleaning the pond and filter. Many ponds and filters are not easy to

clean, and don't get cleaned as often as they should! Consider the kind of ponds with rocks on the bottom, they need to be disassembled and power washed each year to clean out all the crud that has accumulated between the rocks! It would be better to get rid of the rocks, put in a retro bottom drain to keep the pond floor clean, and never have to disassemble the pond again! Similarly, there are filters that must be taken apart to squeeze out the filter pads, there are better types of filters that are easy to clean. It's been my observation that if pond equipment is not easy to take care of, then it doesn't get cleaned. So take it upon yourself to learn about some better equipment, and lighten your maintenance load.

Part of routine maintenance is weekly water changes. Draining out 10% of your pond water and refilling with dechlorinated new water refreshes your pond and keeps your water looking great! Foam around the waterfall and tea colored water are signs of old tired water, which may contain toxins and be harmful to your fish. Establish a weekly regimen of water changes and your pond will benefit immensely.

#3) How's my knowledge of water quality and fish health? This is an area for improvement for "Newbies" and "Oldies" alike! Every pond owner should be able to run a complete water analysis to determine when things are going right, and when they're not. Similarly, observing your fish and recognizing normal behavior is as important as realizing when fish are acting abnormally. There are lots of resources on the Internet to learn new things about your pond and its inhabitants.

Taking stock of your ponding activities is a good thing to do each year. It moves you and your ponding experience forward, and makes each year more enjoyable. Best wishes to your fishes.

Lone Star Koi Club Advertising

Rates are posted below. If you are interested in placing an ad, please email the editor at texaskoiguy@comcast.net

Ad Size	Newsletter & Website (w/link) Combined	
	6 mo	Per Yr
Business Card	\$60	\$100
¼ page	\$80	\$150
½ page	\$100	\$185
Full Page	\$150	\$250
The Annual Pond Tour Booklet rate is \$200		

CLASSIFIED ADS

We welcome ads for Koi, equipment, and other items from members. Members are requested to keep the ad Koi related and please donate a portion, (10%), of your proceeds back to the club.

For Sale:

Need to list something?
Let me know.

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From the Editor

Well here we are in 2012. I remember as a young man many, many years ago, there was a movie called 2001 A Space Odyssey. We all know the movie in which man was exploring outer-space. Here we are in 2012 and space exploration, while having made many advances, is nowhere near the movie version of reality. I know you're probably wondering why I'm talking about a movie from the late 60's. Well, the truth is I have nothing better to talk about, and when a new year starts, you have a tendency to look back to years past. First let me say, we are all lucky to see the year 2012 begin and need to count our blessings, because they are many. Now that I have that off my chest let me get back to koi keeping, which has changed little over the past 20 so years I have been doing it. The basics are still the same. To be a good koi keeper, keep you water at the best you can and feed your fish the best food you can afford. I will say that if you have "less than expensive" fish, don't feed the most expensive food. Hope no one takes offense to that statement, but I certainly do not feed the "best" food available. Draw your own conclusions on the quality of my fish.

So as 2012 begins, promise yourself to make it a year in which you enjoy your koi hobby to the fullest. Participate in Club events, visit as many koi events as possible, and attempt to become a better koi keeper. Even after twenty plus years of koi keeping, I approach each year trying to improve on last year. In 2010, I started keeping a calendar associated to my pond. This continued in 2011 and it really helped me document my pond temperature, water changes, basic elements, and changes in my collection. During last summer's heat wave, I was able to keep track of the extreme temperatures we suffered and how that affected my pond and fish. For the first time, I used fans to cool my pond and know for a fact, it kept my pond temperature down. That is something I had never done in the past, even though I witnessed Diane Caulk doing it for years. This of course can be tricky if your pond is exposed to rain, but as you remember, there was little of that last summer. My point is this, don't think you know all the answers or that you are doing everything correctly. Experiment (within limits) and make adjustment to your pond. It's fun. Hope to see everyone at the January meeting.

The January meeting will be held on the 15th beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Christian - address listed above. Judy is preparing her famous meat chili so bring something to compliment the table.

Donnie Bayer
(713) 542-3345



DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

Driving directions from downtown Houston to 139 Sandpebble Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77381



Houston, Tx

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Take I-45 N to Dallas | 28.0 mi |
| 2. Take exit 76B to merge onto Woodlands Pkwy | 4.0 mi |
| 3. Turn left onto S Panther Creek Dr | 0.3 mi |
| 4. Turn right onto Flintridge Dr | 0.3 mi |
| 5. Take the 2nd right onto Rush Haven Dr | 0.5 mi |
| 6. Turn right onto Sandpebble Dr | 0.5 mi |
| Destination will be on the right | |



139 Sandpebble Dr
The Woodlands, TX 77381