



**KOI CLUB OF SAN DIEGO
NEWSLETTER©**

May 2020

Volume: 20 Issue 5

Po Box 22833

San Diego, CA 92192

www.koiclubofsandiego.org



Photo by Jerry Myers

FEED ME SEYMORE!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Committee Meetings

Steering Committee
May 6th, 2020
Meeting to be held virtually
Become more involved.
Attend a meeting !
MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL
ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Steering Committee
June 3rd 2020
TBD
Become more involved.
Attend a meeting !
MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL
ACTIVE MEMBERS.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Abel & Marisol Jacobo

WELCOME RENEWING MEMBERS

Thom & Lynne Fuller
Janice List & Bob Adler
Ansari Nurullah
Colin & Lynda Patterson
John Will & Tom Wilson
John Svelan

General Meetings

Please Note:
ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Steering Committee Meetings will be held virtually when possible. Contact Tamsie Pierce for more info tamsie@cox.net

The Japanese Friendship Garden filter maintenance will continue on Monday mornings. For more info contact Linda Pluth the clubs JFG liaison. lpluth@cox.net



NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND

Upcoming Events 2020

Thank You to ALL The Amazing People Who Are Keeping Things Going



Find us on:
facebook

The Original KCS D Koi Club Facebook page is up and running. Just enter Koi Club of San Diego in the friend search at the top of your Facebook page to friend it.

Inquiries concerning our Treasurer's report should be directed to: treasurer@koicsd.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Al Pierce	(619) 427-9008	president@koicsd.org
First VP-PROGRAM: Linda Pluth	(619) 200-4146	program@koicsd.org
Second VP-VENUE: Matt Rhoades	(619)517-8270	venue@koicsd.org
SECRETARY: Phyllis Spoor	(858) 292-4857	secretary@koicsd.org
TREASURER: Dr. Jessica Lynch	(619) 3 70-8045	treasurer@koicsd.org

PHONE

EMAIL

Koi Person of The Year 2020 Scotty Yee

APPOINTED OFFICERS

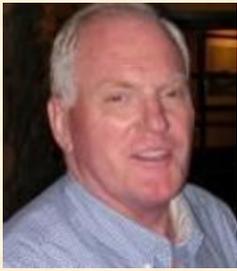
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JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN LIAISON: Linda Pluth	(619) 200-4146	jfg@koicsd.org
ASSISTANT WEBMASTERS: John Svelan & Greg Ruth		

MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Svelan Tamsie Pierce

HELPING HANDS

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KOI HEALTH ADVISOR: Jack Chapman	(619) 669-0490	health@koicsd.org
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: : Linda Pluth	(619) 200-4146	program@koicsd.org
TO HOST A MEETING: Matt Rhoades	(619)517-8270	venue@koicsd.org
TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE: Linda Pluth	(619) 200-4146	input@koicsd.org



The President's Corner

MAY 2020

There is a very old, very cliched Chinese saying “May you live in interesting times.” I’ve generally taken that to mean something more —conventional —normal —expected.

But we certainly are now living in interesting times.

And of all the ways I could have imagined to recover from the great (unique?) March Koi show, it certainly would not have turned out to be 8 or more weeks of shelter-in-place vacation.

I certainly hope that you and your loved ones are doing well. Enough of the essentials- TP, food, TV bingeing or reading or just plain sleeping off the stress. And suddenly finding you have time to do some of those little— and not so little— jobs you’d been putting off. Spring House Cleaning. Pond Filter cleaning. Gardening. Keeping up with the household (and pond) honeydos.

I am sure I don’t need to remind you to take your usual time despite the rain and visit your pond long enough to watch your fish have breakfast (or lunch, whichever is in your routine). Especially with the rain we’ve had at the beginning of the month, you are continuing to do your water quality tests. I remember clearly the member we had who laid his pond out by his house. A convenient place to see his fish, and for 90% of San Diego weather a good location. But when it rained, and we did have rain, didn’t we?, the pond was the recipient of the runoff from his roof. Leaf debris, smog and chemical deposits. The last I’d heard he had created some water diversion. I’m sure his fish thanked him.

As we put this newsletter out to you we have only guesses as to what the month of May — and June, for that matter— will bring. There is a better than average chance at this moment that the May meeting will be cancelled as we did with April. People health, not fish health. Sort of a reverse Koi Show where we focused on the health of the fish brought to the show. Now we must focus on the health of the fish keepers who will come to the meeting. If you signed up to host a meeting this spring and wish to reschedule, let Matt Rhoades know. As of the show the remainder of the year after June was pretty open for hosts. At least the summer and fall are less likely to be rainy days on meeting days.

Be thinking, however, of just how you can help the Koi Club out in the upcoming months. Our by-laws would have us hold elections at the June Meeting — preceded by a nomination committee in April and presentation of the proposed slate of officers in May. A good time to talk to anyone on the Steering Committee and step forward to offer help.

Also the Annual Auction is up in the air. May 31st has been floating about as a date, but the background work (getting fish bags out to everyone, finding volunteers to help at the auction itself, even setting the date is up in the air). Last year our auction was in the late summer, early fall. Until the Stay-At-Home is lifted entirely any date set will be nebulous.

The hardest part, however may turn out to be the effort needed to re-establish the social routines we have had to set aside during this time — attending Koi meetings in particular.

By the calendar, the next Steering Committee meeting will be May 6. And just how that turns out will depend on whether restaurants are open or whether we turn to a virtual meeting.

On the upside, though we’ve been granted a great chunk of time to appreciate our ponds and fish. Rain notwithstanding.

Al Pierce
President

Notes from the Board

April 2020
Phyllis Spoor
Fun Filled Koiing



A photo tribute to some longtime members.

Kay & Clark Corbin by Phyllis Spoor aka Sparkly Hat

Kay and Clark Corbins' Visit to the KCSD 2020 KOI SHOW

Submitted by Phyllis Spoor

We were honored to have Kay and Clark, early members of our KOI Club, in attendance at our show. Kay has an excellent eye for KOI and skill in KOI raising. She has won many KOI trophies over the years including one at this year's show





**Photos by Sparkly Hat
aka Phyllis Spoor.
Check her Smugmug
here**



KAY & CLARK CORBIN
KCSD 33rd Annual Koi Show 2020



From Vagabond Koi Rescue (Jerry)

It was great seeing you at the show and I am so happy your koi picked up a number of 1, 2 and 3rd place awards. I hope your remaining koi are doing well and the pond is a little easier to maintain with a lighter load.



KHA KORNER

by

“KOI” Jack Chapman

Potentia Hydrogenii or Power of Hydrogen or pH

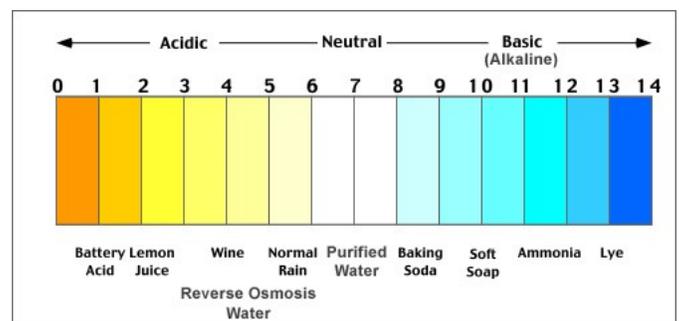
So as I reviewed my past KHA articles and noticed that it's been sometime (1.5 years) since I wrote about pH and I've had a couple pH discussions during this heavy rainy past month – so with some minor changes/updates to my last article on pH - off we go. I will set out to keep it simple and not go too deeply into the chemistry side but some basic concepts are needed to better understand what's going on in your pond water and how it affects your koi. Before I start to lose readers, I want to start with an important recommendation that you not get caught up in any effort to be constantly buffering your pond water to achieve and maintain the established ideal pH range for koi of 7 to 7.5. And that's so true for those of us in southern California with the average pH for local water districts having a pH of 7.8 to 8.2. It's just less stress on your koi to simply adjust to local water pH than to be dealing with daily larger swings in pH due to buffering chemicals to reduce local pH levels.

Now to the science stuff – I'll skip the chemistry jargon and go with simply that a pH reading is a ratio of the base or alkalinity component to the acid component and when they are equal in amounts the pH will be neutral and measured at a value of 7. pH values greater than 7 are base/alkaline positive and values less than 7 are acid positive. Sorry I just can't help myself – Why? – If you have more free hydrogen ions (H+) in your water it will be acidic and if you have more hydroxyl ions (OH-) your water is more basic/alkaline. Finally, the pH reading is logarithmic so a change in reading of just **0.3** comes close to doubling the (H+) or (OH-) activity and a change in value of **1** is a 10 fold change in (H+) or (OH-). That's the simple reason why pH changes need to be made slowly! Done with the science – not too bad.

So let's move on to pH and your koi. Generally speaking koi can live and survive a pH range of 5.5 to 6 to 9.5 to 10 depending which author you read but all generally agree that 7 to 7.5 is optimum for koi physiology, and they can readily handle pH changes when done slowly. Again depending on which author you are reading the daily swing in pH reading should not exceed 0.3 to 0.5 or your koi will experience pH change stress to include some late afternoon flashing. How so? (back to the science) – First just know that the blood within your koi has a pH value and the pond pH affects koi blood pH chemistry. When pond pH is and remains high the pH of your koi's blood starts to suffer from alkalosis and koi losses are not uncommon or reduced life span due to continuous pH stress. You will feel an excess slime coat, staying at the surface and gulping/piping for air at the surface. For the reverse, an extended period of low pH leads to a condition called acidosis within your koi's blood system -- low pH values will again demonstrate excess slime but koi become anorexic and will rest on the bottom of your pond and get red streaking lines in the fins which can lead to koi losses and/or reduce life span. Why - Our koi are NOT water tight as water is constantly entering the fish and if this water is low in pH then the koi has to use its own natural internal buffers to raise the blood pH and they are quickly consumed leading to low blood pH or acidosis.

Special Note: As our pond is a system, when I'm called about a high or most often a low pH reading in a pond – My first questions are almost always “What is the ammonia reading and the KH or alkalinity reading.” For a low pH reading a condition called pH crash is well documented in articles concerning this subject and to just raise the pH by adding baking soda (calcium carbonate) you can inadvertently have higher fish loss due to ammonia poisoning as pH contributes to the toxicity of ammonia. Just a little science – at a pH of 7.2 or lower the ammonia is mostly ionized (NH4) and much less toxic to the koi, but as the pH rises the NH4 converts back to NH3 unionized and is more toxic to the koi as it now can pass back into the koi through the gills and other exposed tissue. And in warmer water the conversion rate is increased – it's a system. Got your thinking cap on - the conversion from NH4 to NH3 frees up a hydrogen ion and yes they will have a further reducing effect on pond pH.

Editor Note:
Just to give
you an idea,



(Continued next page)

So what about rain water and your pond pH?? Got some general thoughts and not in any order of importance.

You do not want rain water to run into your pond in any way--off a roof or from a hill side especially for what it may pick up on the way to your pond. Good way to have a toxin introduced to your pond and can affect water clarity. Change to water clarity may be first sign that you got something other than just the rain water.

Remember the smaller the volume of pond water the larger the possible negative effects of copious amounts of rain water could be to your water quality to include pH.

You should have a pond journal with your past water quality parameters recorded.

Rain water normally has a pH of 5 to 6 so it's soft water (acidic) depending on where you live in the good old USA. SO – at 2PM on 4/10/20 in El Cajon CA with a heavy rain falling collected in a big clean koi tub the pH was 6.21. I also checked the GH or hardness of the rain water and got little green at 2 drops or 35.8 – can you say very soft water. So one could expect a drop in pH depending on the volume of rain water.

Now don't forget rain water is devoid of calcium carbonate as the KH was zero at one drop and this will affect your water chemistry and further lower your pH to a point it could affect your biofilter bacteria – stops working around 40ppm KH and you want your pond to not be less than say 80ppm KH. Oh, guess I should remind you your KH reading is the pond alkalinity measurement but you knew that. KH is the buffering capacity that keeps the pH stable.

Rainwater with zero KH dilutes the KH that is in your pond. Adding baking soda at 1 pound per thousand gallons will increase your KH around 70 ppm. Plaster of Paris or crushed oyster shells works as well.

As one might expect ammonia NH₃, Nitrite NO₂, and Nitrate NO₃ were all zero.

The oxygen levels were a nice 11.9 to 12.1ppm, which brings me to the unknown, as rain water forms and falls through the air it picks up the STUFF present in the air which it is falling through – so the existing air pollution becomes part and parcel to the rain falling into your pond. The pH is a direct result of this not to mention any nearby industry air pollution or agriculture spraying that can be found in rain water. A club member who will remain nameless lives a little uphill and directly across the street from a large cement plant – the normal air currents passed directly over his home –you could on occasion taste and smell the cement components in the air and his KH and GH were CRAZY high. SO solid roof cover (no run off issues) over pond as shade cloth would have worked until the first rain (I'll let you figure that out LOL) and increased water changes and chose not to do continuous water changes.

After a hard rain or over an inch do some water quality testing and remember the solution to pollution is dilution – love it!

You should have a way to measure your pond pH – dip sticks with a color chart or electronic pH meters. For dip sticks quickly reseal lid after removal and buy new ones if older than a year. For pH meters – store upright with probe always in storage solution and don't let it dry out!!! Follow manufacturer directions closely for probe calibration and cleaning and change probe every couple years. Store both in cool dry area!!! Your pH will be lowest in early AM and can be expected to rise through the day, so early AM and just before dark is suggested to get a reading of your pond's daily pH swings. For established ponds you could go to weekly readings, and I like the day before and after my weekly big water changes to record effects of water changes. **Yes, this info needs to go in your pond journal!!!**

So what affects your daily pH changes? First, hard water (southern California) is more basic/alkaline and resists changes to pH and soft water is more acidic and changes quicker. Little science – pH is reduced by oxygen consumption, production of carbon dioxide (big time), filter activity (nitrogen cycle), and decomposing waste in the pond. Why's – 1. Hard water has more buffering capabilities as it has a higher alkalinity (more dissolved mineral anions as in carbonates CO₃, bicarbonate NaHCO₃ and hydroxide OH⁻) 2. Carbon dioxide converts to carbonic acid (pH down). 3. Nitrogen cycle produces or frees up hydrogen ions (pH down). The filter bacteria requires and uses the available alkalinity, as in calcium carbonate, which further reduces the pH. Note: If you have a lot of plants in your pond then the carbon dioxide produced after dark will further reduce your pH during the night. Of course the reverse is true after daybreak as all the green stuff in your pond is now consuming the carbon dioxide and producing oxygen – thus the subsequent rise in pH.

When treating pH issues, high pH is usually treated by dilution in the form of water changes with water of a lower pH value. Lower pH is usually treated the same way but with water with higher pH and baking soda (calcium carbonate) is used to keep your alkalinity to between 80 and 120 parts per million (remember the filter uses it up during the nitrogen cycle). Repeat: Use caution when raising pH and always deal with any existing ammonia by first using an ammonia binder such as ClorAm-X, Prime, Ultimate, etc.

I'll end with a repeat of my first recommendation – Please do not chase or try to maintain a pH of 7 to 7.5 with daily chemical additions to pond water causing large pH fluctuations and unwanted stress for your koi. Koi will and do adapt to say a pH of 8.2 – especially when the daily fluctuation is kept at 0.3 to 0.5. Disclaimer – There are water quality monitoring systems that work 24/7 to maintain certain water parameters of which pH is one and if you've got the \$\$\$ -they work, and at a lesser cost but still pricey a tank with one cubic foot of catalytic carbon in front of a water softener system followed by but not required a reverse osmosis system which keeps my pH at 7.3 to 7.5 – the R/O system has a 50 percent water waste down the drain and the other half (virtually laboratory grade water) to the pond. I only add the R/O unit to the daily water flow system for 5 months of the year during heavy feeding time. During this period my water bill is \$475 to \$550 per month. Note: there is also a 1 micron Big Blue filter placed just before the source water goes to the R/O – which extends the life of the R/O filter. My daily 24/7 water exchange system is set at 1/2 or 0.5 gallons per minute or 30gal per hour for a daily total of 720gal. That's a 5.8% daily water change and yes I'm anal and overdue it and my koi love it or so I think. Yes, I still do weekly cleaning of prefilter with a 2k gallon water change for a 16% water change. So the next time someone asks you just how anal is Koi Jack about water quality in his koi pond - you can answer – well his weekly water changes total about 7,000 gallons in a 12,300 gallon system. And yes I do understand that doing a 24/7 for 720 gallons daily does not account for a true 5.8% daily exchange of unwanted water contaminates due to the simple dilution factor – for the science nerds. Yes, when it comes to water quality – I agree I'm out in left field and enjoy being there.

My goal here was to introduce the basic important issues concerning the subject of koi pond pH, and this article only scratches the surface of the subject. I encourage you to refer to a web search on the subject or as usual read the articles/books written by D.V.M.'s Erik Johnson and Nicholas Saint-Erne. Koi Organization International (K.O.I.) offers some great online Water Quality courses. And of course my copy of Norm Meck's water quality booklet is available upon request.

r/koi jack

Note from the Editor: I thought some of you might find this interesting.

These are links to a number of pages dealing with Ph. I have copied the links to a web search on the below subjects. I feel that if you read a number of these articles you may obtain a better understanding of Ph. I am not recommending any of these articles as the gospel to Ph or your pond.

I still recommend you take either the AKCA or the K.O.I course or both to enable you to make a better informed decisions toward your pond and fish.

Ph Articles

Pond Water Ph

What causes low PH in PONDS

Raising Ph in a Pond

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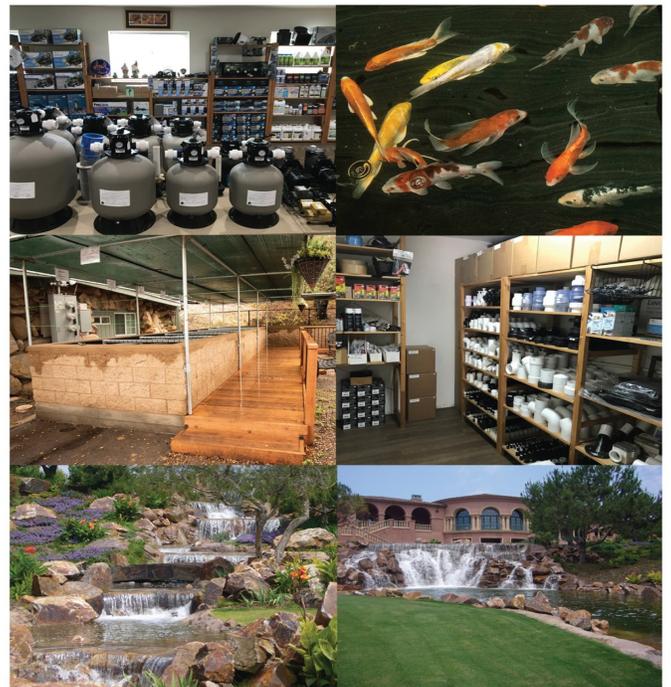
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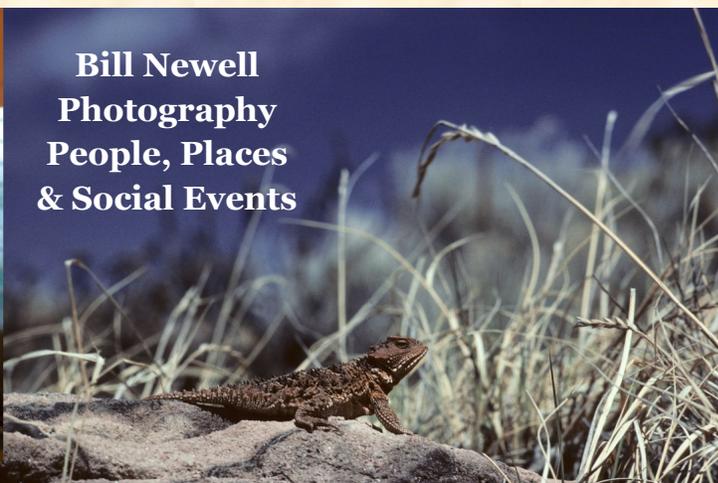


I have decided to link both the SmugMug accounts of Bill Newell & Phyllis Spoor to the newsletter and the website. Both of our club members take fantastic pictures of everything you can think of all over the world. For Bill's SmugMug click his picture. For Phyllis click her picture.



Phyllis Spoor
Sparkley Hat Photography
Nature, Landscape &
Club Special Events

On behalf of the Koi Club of San Diego I want to thank both of **these** extraordinary photographers for their continued effort to capture the spirit of club members during our gatherings. From the Ponder Profiles, to monthly meetings, **Koi Rescues** and special events, **Phyllis Spoor and Bill Newell are always ready at a moments notice and we thank you!**



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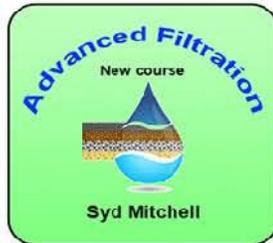
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"Nijikawa was used for yonsai Chia koi and Karashi koi, "boom-boom" growth! Will use for core variety next year."

Koda:

"Nijikawa are used at Nisai and older ponds. "I think, Nijikawa is Super Koi Food"



Sekiguchi:

Nijikawa was mixed at all ponds. Great Growth. Need more Research on how to handle. "I believe Nijikawa has Tremendous Potential"

Isa:

Nijikawa was used with 50% ratio, but finished in two weeks. Result is inconclusive. But "I think that Nijikawa maybe the ONLY Good Koi Food Made Outside of Japan"

Hasegawa:

Nijikawa reminds me the great quality koi feed made in Japan 30 years ago! Only 15% used in Sansai pond, it completely changed the koi this year!

Marusaka:

Nijikawa was used at all ponds with different mixing ratio. Great Growth and Great Conditions!

Ozumi Ikarashi:

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Click the image to view their website.

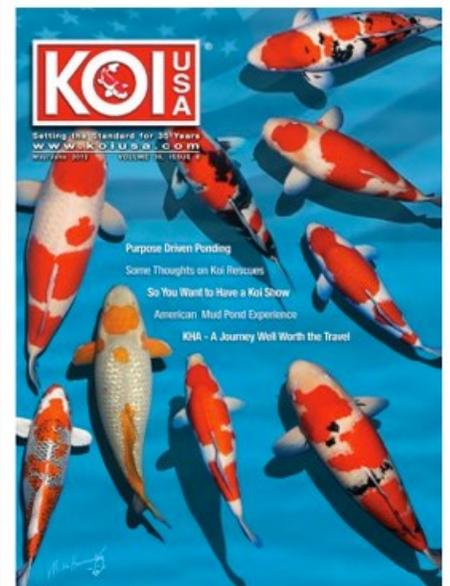
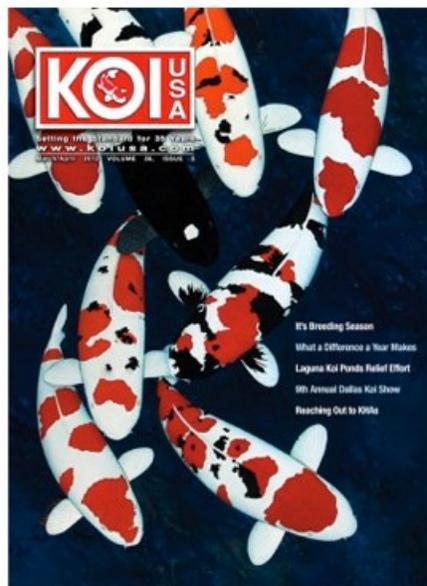
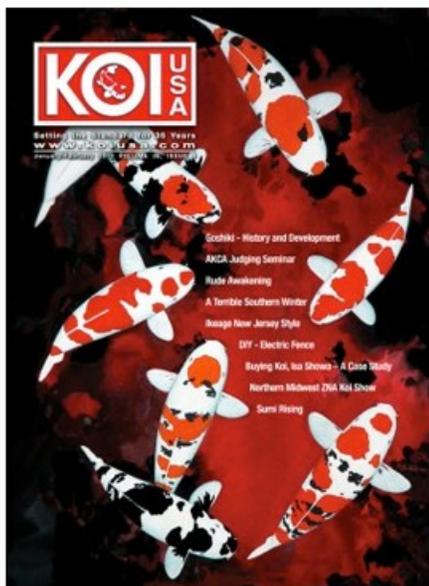


Click the image to view their website.



THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL KOI KEEPERS

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Editor Note: I have included the links below so that many of you can have a better understanding of Potassium Permanganate . It is NOT the clubs endorsement of your use of it nor will the club be responsible for any outcome of its use or misuse. It is however part of the learning process and if used properly can be beneficial to your pond. **Potassium Permanganate is extremely dangerous to both your koi and yourself. Please read all the cautionary material on handling and use. I have posted this because a number of people have asked me about Potassium Permanganate Tx**

I had included the Roark article on PP TX but was informed it was outdated and newer information exist that is more precise. Therefore I have added the link to the Roark method in case anyone wants to see what he was doing. I would recommend that if you have never used Potassium Permanganate that you do a bit of research first as it can kill all your koi if not used properly. On the other hand it can be pretty useful if used correctly.

We are all adults and quite capable of making our own decisions, AFTER doing some research and understanding the issues.

I am leaving the links in as a source of information only .

The KCSD is not responsible for your usage of any product and will not be held responsible any results from your using any of the linked information.

At the rescue sanctuary I use PP as needed and have never had an issue with it. Most of the times I use it between fish

New Links 3/2020

IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LINK OR KNOW OF A LINK THAT IS INTERESTING AND RELATED TO THE HOBBY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL IT TO ME.

JERRY

Taro Kodama Koi Farm Article on Salt Use

Koi Vet in San Diego Area

AKCA (ASSOCIATED KOI CLUBS OF AMERICA)

K.O.I. (Koi Organization International)

<http://koivet.com/>

[Roark article on PP Tx](#)

Once again the Koi Club of San Diego is not responsible for any outcome when using any of the products mentioned in the links

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