



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Celebrating
Our
Tenth Year!

Volume 10 Issue 12

December, 2006

GVPKAC 2006
Pond Tour

Jack and Cheryl
Zelenz' Pond

Happy Holidays



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

"Wet -n- Dry" "News -n- Views"

Last Month

The request for new and additional candidates was moderately successful. Although there were no new candidates or volunteers for individual positions, we were successful in recruiting additional members to share the duties with current Board members. Les Saiers agreed to run as a co-treasurer with John Roguski. Norm James and Les Saiers were proposed and agreed to be co-chairs for the Pond Tour. Since there were no additional nominations or volunteers from the floor, the proposed slate of Officers and Board members were voted and approved for the coming 2007 year.

We hope that the addition of co-officers and co-chairs will help us to obtain additional input for planning yearly activities as well as provide us with trained personnel who may be willing to assume the solo responsibilities after they have gained some experience.

The elected Officers and Board members are:

Pres: Larry Hursh

Vice Pres: Bob Wheeler

Sec'y: Kathy Hursh

Treas: John Roguski/Les Saiers

Pond Tour: Norm James/Les Saiers.

The discussions during the October Round Table presentation indicated that there was an interest in learning more about air and water pumps as well as some of the piping and flow parameters. We had handouts and transparencies on some of the materials for this presentation and had some samples of fittings, air pumps and other components and side demonstrations.

I would like to thank my friend,

Don Pohler, for assisting me on this presentation and with interpreting some of the handout charts and providing additional insights into the piping and alternate component supplies and their uses.

I must also acknowledge Keystone Hatcheries and Mike Robinson in Richmond, Il.. Their website was the source for the handout charts. Since a portion of the information on flow loss (equivalent feet of pipe) for fittings was not available on the website presentation, I sent an inquiry to them and Mike quickly responded with the information that I thought would be helpful. Mike did invite us to visit their hatchery but acknowledged that it was a bit of a trip. (He did offer to supply us with a 10% discount coupon for on line purchase of supplies (not fish). If anyone is interested in these coupons please contact Larry Hursh so that he can make the arrangement with Mike to obtain the coupons.)

The pump and piping charts, although presenting some interpretation problems, added to the presentation by stimulating more discussion and interest. By analyzing the various component impacts, it seemed that everyone had a better understanding of why the water flow isn't quite what we were promised or expected.

The second portion of the program was on the affect of water depth on the output of an airstone. We were able to use a clear plastic tube filled with water to approximately 45 inches deep. As the air stone was lowered deeper into the water, you could hear the pump working harder and see the stream of air bubbles decrease. One pump actually stopped emitting air when about 30 inches deep. The second pump continued to supply air through the entire depth. This showed the importance of both flow pressure and volume when

trying to select the proper air pump and airstone combination to maintain an opening in the ice for the winter.

The club also received a number of free sample copies of the premier issue of a new magazine called "The Water Gardener" to distribute to our members at our meetings. We did this in November and still have some copies left. If you are interested in getting a copy, come to the Christmas party to pick one up.

Coming Events

Our Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 1st at 7:00 PM in the Castle. We will open the Castle around 6:30 to allow more time for socializing and to provide ample time to set up the various food dishes.

This will be a pot luck type party, similar to the picnic, with the club providing the meat dishes and beverages. The members attending are requested to bring side dishes to round out the menu. The following is the suggested schedule for side dishes based on the first letter of your family name:

A-H bring a dessert

I-P provide salad/vegetable type dishes

Q-Z responsible for appetizers.

You will be advised when you make your reservation if it might be necessary to adjust or make changes in the schedule to maintain a balance between the food groups.

The entertainment for the evening will be our new format of Pond Jeopardy provided by Bob Wheeler. For the new members, the jeopardy material is based on the information and trivia that was presented in this year's newsletters and meetings. It serves as a review of this year's progress in helping

(Continued on page 3)

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

everyone to better understand our hobby.

We hope that most of you will be able to join us for this party and to help us celebrate this the final event of our tenth year celebration.

To make your reservations and list the dish that you will be bringing, please call Yvonne Wheeler at 461-5315 or Kathy Hursh at 473-6276 by Monday, November 27th. Slight changes regarding the letter guidelines may be necessary to keep the menu in balance.

There will be no general meeting in January 2007. The Officers and Board members, however, will meet in early January to prepare a possible list of topics and events for the year. If there is a particular topic, problem or event that you would like to have included in these plans, please let us know at the December meeting or call Larry at 473-6276 or Bob at 461-5315 before January 5, 2007.

Our first meeting of the year will be on February 2, 2007. At that time we will discuss the proposed schedule, topics and calendar events selected by the Board of directors. We would again welcome your suggestions and input to assure that we are selecting things that would be of interest to you, our members. You can share your ideas with us at the Christmas Party or by calling Larry Hursh at 473-6276 or Bob Wheeler at 461-5315 before January 8, 2007

Worth noting.

For those American Koi keepers who are interested in or appreciate the uniqueness of the long fin or butterfly Koi, there is a hint of good news. The AKCA has proposed judging criteria and standards for these Koi. Although many Koi shows allowed butterfly

types to compete, they had to be entered into a separate competition because their various body shapes and unique finnage could not be judged using the same standards as regular Koi. Without standard criteria, this made judging extremely difficult and highly variable.

However, with the increasing popularity of the butterfly types, it was felt that they deserved to be appreciated on their own merits. It was decided that the time had come to establish specific criteria and standards to develop the necessary comparisons for uniformity in judging long fins.

These newly listed standards are presented here in their order of relative importance.

* Long fin Koi should be a clearly different animal than a regular Koi and should have significantly longer, beautiful and elegantly flowing fins. The body size, shape, body to fin proportion as well as deportment and swimming impression are most important. A strong body conformation should allow them to swim effortlessly while displaying their extended fins in a graceful way. Fins should be balanced in size and shape with each other and should be in proportion to the rest of the body.

* Color should appear thick and uniform with a consistent hue. The pattern edges should be sharp and should not bleed into each other. Speckling within the patterns is undesirable.

* Patterns should be consistent with the desirable characteristics that are already standardized for regular Koi. Patterned butterfly Koi are more refined than single colored ones and should be higher in ratings than the single color ones. Patterns which wrap around the body and are evenly distributed seem to accentuate the many

positive aspects of the fish.

* Elegance is the criteria where long fins stand out from the competition. Their youthful looking skin displays a luster or sheen that makes the various colors pop and show very well. This, coupled with their graceful swimming and flowing extended fins, give them an overall great impression.

As time goes by and the characteristics of long fin breeding and refinement progresses, it may become necessary to revise or expand upon these early judging standards. At least for now there is a working standard to make the judging uniform and fair for all the shows and competitions.

Still More Winter Information

The following information is based on an article in *KOI USA* by James P. Riley on "Winter Behavior".

He starts with "---we all know that Koi do not hibernate. They go into a form of stasis where they are unable to operate muscles, digest or operate normal blood circulation." During this time, they must maintain themselves on their internal reserves until conditions warm up sufficiently so that new energy sources may be ingested. This places them in a very vulnerable position if these winter conditions last very long.

This is a summary of their physiology in this situation:

* At 39.2 F Koi are in total stasis and cannot move.

* At 41 F Koi are still motionless, but transition in and out of complete stasis and show basal metabolism only

* At 46.4 F Koi try to remain motionless, but may sometimes move periodically or routinely.

(These are some of the reasons why we have to be careful in judging or evaluating the health of our

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Koi at low temperatures. Some may even be rolled over on their sides but still be alive and capable of reviving if and when conditions improve in a timely manner-- Larry)

Light too is part of the trigger mechanism for movement and the feeding/digestion response. This can be a problem because the optic nerve can still communicate and stimulate the Koi to move. This results in the expending of a portion of the stored energy which can lead to exhaustion part way through a long winter. In northern climates like ours, ice cover provides the needed darkness. In more mild winters, some type of shading may be helpful in creating darker conditions to help the stressed fish survive.

You may notice filmy patches on your Koi in the winter. They are most likely a build up of excess dead mucous coat. This would normally be worked backwards and removed from the skin along with some of the would be foreign invaders as the fish move through the water. This normal mechanism of slime removal is greatly retarded or stopped when the fish is in stasis. It will usually resolve itself with the return to warmer water and more vigorous aeration as more favorable conditions return to the pond in spring. You can further improve this process by adding some salt or other slime stimulating material to increase slime production to encourage the sloughing-off of the old dead patches.

Plant Ideas

Although the last few weeks have been dark and dreary, thoughts of the dark, almost black, plants seemed to re-enforce the importance of the contrast and

brightness that they can bring to a summer garden. Their dark colored foliage adds depth, space, mystery and excitement especially in smaller areas. It's like adding shadows to a two dimensional drawing to create a similar effect. They allow the bright colored flowers to really stand out, but they can soften the appearance of darker colored flowers and foliage.

While these plants may have leaves that range in color from deep purple to maroon red or the darkest of shades of green, they seem to shine against a light colored stone or other light background. They help to draw your eye to the water because they somewhat echo the dark quality and mystery of the deeper waters. These dark plants also seem to hold their good looks throughout the growing seasons and some may even become darker or more striking in the fall.

In the landscape, they can stand alone as specimen plants creating a new focal point near your pond or water feature. They can also be used to create a focal point especially when planted among variegated or light green plants. They can be used in mass plantings to set off and highlight other colors. Finally they can be repeated around the pond or along the streams and waterfalls to bring continuity by tying the various elements and gardens together.

For the best show and effect, they do need some contrasting colors around them. This means that they require a little more thought and care in selecting their planting site. You must be aware too that if surrounded by other dark plants or planted in a really dark mulch, some of the leaves may visually tend to disappear.

These are some of the ideas of how we can use these darker mate-

rials to enhance our ponds and gardens. If you are interested in pursuing this with further readings, the book *Black Magic and Purple Passion* by Karen Platt was recommended in the source article used for much of this information.

Some suggested dark plants are: Black Mondo Grass, Taro 'Black Magic', Iris 'Black Gamecock', Ajuga (darker leaved varieties like 'Chocolate Chip', 'Mahogany' and 'Black Scallop' are better behaved), Leptinella 'Platts Black', sweet potato vine 'Blackie', the deep maroon shamrock 'Charmed Wine', Japanese blood grass 'Rubra', New Zealand flax 'Maori Cheif', 'Bronze Baby', 'Sundowner' and fountain grasses 'Burgundy Giant' or 'Rubrum', Huechera 'Dolce Licorice', Dahalias 'Bishop of Llandaff', 'Sunshine', Cannas 'Purpurea', 'Roi Humbert', and Lobelia 'Queen Victoria'.

I hope that you will find a dark plant or two of interest and that you will bring their special attributes to your ponds and gardens.

Dues

Unfortunately, it is that time of year again and we have to start collecting the annual membership dues. The dues are still only \$25.00 and include the monthly newsletters and free pond tour, picnic and Christmas Party. We will actually start mailing the renewal forms with next month's newsletter.

For your convenience, a short form renewal blank has been included with this newsletter. Since there is no January meeting, you will have until the end of February to complete the renewal process. However, we would appreciate your early renewal so that we can provide information regarding our club status to our affiliated organi-

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

zations as early as possible in the new year.



Board Members 2006

President: Larry Hursh
Vice President: Bob Wheeler
Secretary: Kathy Hursh
Treasurer: John Roguski
Pond Tour Chairperson: Brian Nagel
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler and Kathy Hursh
Newsletter Editors: Hursh, James, and Nau families
Webmaster: Norm James - gvpakc@attglobal.net

Purpose of the Club

- To promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting Koi and goldfish.
- To promote and appreciate the hobby of Water Gardening.
- To disseminate information about Koi, goldfish and

We meet in a very friendly atmosphere at 7:00 pm, the first Friday of every month, at the Rochester Civic Garden Center (the Castle), 5 Castle Park, off Reservoir Ave., in Highland Park. Parking is free. Anyone interested in water gardening and/or Koi is welcome to join us. We ask that you consider joining the club after your third visit. For more information call Larry H. (585) 473-6276 or e-mail lkhursh@aol.com or visit the club website at www.ggw.org/gvpakc

Calendar of Events

December 1, 2006: Pot Luck Christmas Party and year end celebration with an information review in our Pond Jeopardy game. This celebration will be the closing event for this our tenth anniversary year. Please come and join us to assure that we close out the year with another successful event.

December 8, 2006: NFKPC monthly meeting and Christmas Party.

January 5, 2007: There will be **no meeting** tonight or in the month of January. The Board will meet during the month to develop a tentative calendar of events and topics for the year. We welcome your suggestions to assist and guide us in selecting the proper topics and events. You can share your input with us at the Christmas Party or by calling Larry Hursh at 473-6276 or Bob Wheeler at 461-5315 before January 8, 2007

February 2, 2007: First meeting of the year. We will discuss the plans and calendar proposed by the Board. The topic for the meeting will be announced in the monthly newsletter.

“Naturally Green” - A live gardening show every Saturday from **9-10 am** on **WYSL 1040 AM**.