



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Celebrating
Our
Tenth Year!

Volume 10 Issue 10

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2006 Pond Tour: Webster Arboretum



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

Thank you from the President

Since I was unable to attend last month's meeting, I owe thanks to many people for stepping in and making the meeting so successful and informative. Attendance was a little higher than normal and we always appreciate being able to show that we are a small but an enthusiastic group. I'm confident that this was due to the topic, "Adding Fall And Winter Interest Around Our Ponds And Gardens" and the background of our presenters from Sara's Farm Market.

The first big thank you goes out to Kathy Kepler, Brian Mosher and Barb Hartman who made up the team that, from the feedback that I have received, did a great job in covering all the aspects from the choices of plant materials, hard scaping and even ornamentation. Their presentation was highlighted not only in the power point materials and photos that they showed but, they brought in various plant materials to add depth and scale to the concepts that they presented.

A few members inquired about and were successful in purchasing a few of the plants. Many of the remaining plants were donated to the club to be part of our meeting raffle. For these donations and for the support that they have given to us and all water gardeners through the years, I would like to thank Sara's and their team of workers.

Finally, I want to thank Bob Wheeler and the other Board members for filling in and providing the assistance and background operations that were necessary to make everything work.

Coming Events

The October meeting may be a

fairly busy one. We will be holding a round table type discussion about ponds, fish and water gardens in general. According to the results of a similar program last year, it worked out to be a very informative meeting. Eventually, everyone became involved in the discussions and were willing to share the tricks and practices that have worked best for them. There were also discussions of failures and things that didn't go quite according to plan. Some of these led to suggestions of other experiments and alternatives that may help turn some of these problems around and make them a possible success.

We must recruit volunteers and nominees for several Officer and Board positions for our elections in November. As explained at last month's meeting, we definitely need help in the Treasurer and Pond Tour Chairman positions. A couple of members did express an interest in helping as an assistant in those positions and we will verify their interest again at this meeting. However, that would require an additional vote to modify the by-laws. It would be helpful to have sufficient candidates for some of the other positions as well. This would make it possible to have a real election among the various nominees.

We usually discuss pond closing and winter operation procedures around this time. Time permitting, we will review this material and hopefully have some additional material to add to the list that was distributed last year. As you know, the hobby, materials and information are constantly being improved and modified, so please be prepared to add any new information that you may have to make our suggestions as current and complete as possible.

At the present time, we do not have a topic or plans for the No-

vember meeting. We would welcome any suggestions for topics or off-site ideas, not only for this meeting but also to look ahead to 2007. This would be a big help to the Board when we get together in January to set a tentative schedule and topics for the year. It is really your club, so help us to plan the activities according to what will be of interest to you, our members.

We do, however, have our plans for the Christmas Party and our year end celebration on December 1. We realize that this is quite early, but we wanted to be sure that you could get us on the calendar before it filled up with all the holiday rush and other parties. It will be a potluck dinner with the members bringing a dish to pass according to the following schedule based on family names: A-H bring a dessert, I-P will share salad type dishes and Q-Z will be responsible for the appetizers. As usual, the club will provide the meat dish and the liquid refreshments.

The plans for a possible Pond Jeopardy game have not been confirmed. With the difficulties that we experienced in soliciting the proper questions to match our answers the last several years, we may opt for a modified format. If the answer appears to be too difficult or vague, we may offer a clue statement to help stimulate a response. Another plan might be to devise a trivia type question with multiple choice answers. This might be easier for the players, but more difficult to set up. It is something that could be discussed at the November meeting.

Thoughts For Garden Interest

Since winter is the most difficult time of year for us to enjoy our gardens, Margaret de Haas van Dorsser offers the following suggestions.

Start your garden planning with

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winter. Winter structures may be the bones of any garden since 25-30% of a garden design should offer some type winter interest. As mentioned at the meeting, focus first on the plant materials and then the structures and other materials that will be attractive in the winter. Then consider adding evergreens and other trees with good structure and/or interesting bark. Next consider shrubs with winter berries and flowers. Finally select perennials and grasses that are capable of holding their shape through the winter.

Look beyond the blooms and focus on the plants structure, foliage and texture. These factors in general will last longer and provide more interest than the blooms.

Choose seasonal showstoppers. This may require repeat trips to parks, garden centers and neighbors gardens to see what you find most interesting. While you may copy these for your garden, you may find it more interesting to find comparable materials to create a variation of that theme and thereby make your garden more personal and unique.

Add plants with spring interest as well. These can fill the gaps created by the ravages of winter. Many of these spring plants will then be concealed as they die back by the emerging foliage of your structure plants as they experience their spring growth spurt.

Doing this can help you create an interesting garden for all seasons, not just the usual one or two seasons.

Items of Interest

In reading my various magazines, I came upon these notes that I hope you too will find interesting.

The first note is from *Gardening How-to* and is a humorous turn of

events and possibly brings thoughts of sweet revenge to those of us who have been bothered occasionally by raccoons. The entry was by Moira Miller from Evansville, IN.

“We have a garden pond that attracts all kinds of wildlife. One evening, I noticed a raccoon leaning down to have a leisurely drink. All of a sudden one of our large koi popped its head out of the pond and nipped the raccoon on the foot. The fish probably saw the shadow and thought that it was feeding time. The raccoon jumped into the air and ran into the woods.”

If you have similar large and eager feeding Koi, you may want to post a “**Beware of the Koi**” warning signs. They could be a point of interest and would surely become a starting point for a number of discussions and conversations.

This year there were some interesting results at the All Japan Koi Show. For the first time, the grand champion of the show was foreign owned. The owners are Koi hobbyists Mark Crampton and Martin Plows of England. They were the first westerners to receive the Grand Champion prize.

An American owned Kohaku was also a winner in its class at the All Japan Combined Koi Show. This fish appears to have great potential and is expected to grow and show up in the future in a larger size and thus a less competitive category.

Both of these fish will continue to live in the ponds in Japan. While this may seem strange to us, it greatly reduces the stress on the fish from having to transport them such great distances for these shows. The growing conditions in the mud ponds also help to keep their colors in optimum condition.

There is a new development in the quarantine protocol to minimize the potential for introducing KHV into our ponds. This information is based on an article by Linda Montgomery in KOI USA. The new option calls for stressing the fish since recent studies have indicated that stress as well as temperature are influential in outbreaks of latent KHV.

This will be a difficult concept for most of us to implement since we are usually trying our best not to stress our fish. It may be necessary for us to adopt this technique, however, for their safety.

The fish may have been stressed by their transport but it is further recommended that they be placed under more extreme stress through a temperature regimen.

A proposed but experimental option to determine if KHV is present is as follows:

1. Keep the quarantine tank at 78 degrees for 3-4 weeks.
2. If there is no sign of KHV, lower the temperature quickly by 10 degrees with water changes using preconditioned water.
3. Maintain at 68 degrees for 2 days. This stress will help to activate the virus. (This temperature cycle should be repeated a couple of times.)
4. Raise the temperature quickly to 78 degrees and maintain it for 2 days.
5. Drop the temperature down to 68 degrees again as above and maintain for 2 days. At this point you have done all that you could to activate the virus. If it was present it should have become active.
6. Raise the temperature back to the optimum range 72-78 degrees. Finish the quarantine procedure at this level for a minimum of 3 months.

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Please note that this procedure does not use the older protocol of raising the temperature to 86 degrees to arrest the development of the virus as in the past. There is some concern that this older treatment put the virus into a latent state that could infect others or become active under stress. This higher temperature approach should only be used to save the fish once the presence of the disease has been confirmed.

We are continually learning more about KHV and coming up with new and experimental procedures to detect and control this virus. However, as you know from the many viruses that infect humans, they too constantly change, mutate and develop immunities to our treatments. This is somewhat discouraging but should heighten our awareness to how important it is to stay abreast of the newest developments.

Q & A

Q: What size Koi is best to buy?

Brian Drake supplied the following information in his response in Koi- USA.

A: First consider your budget and the size of the pond. If these are not too much of an issue and you have a well built pond and filter system, then larger Koi would be a good choice.

Based on his experience as a breeder and importer, a 5-6 inch choice is the smallest reasonable size to consider. Koi of this size are a little more developed and have stronger immune systems than those in the 2-5 inch range. If you have the option of going bigger like 8-10 inch size, this is even better. Koi of this size can handle the stresses of being caught and transported even better.

The most important decision is yours. If you like the fish, buy it. The beauty of buying these

smaller and younger fish is that you get to watch them grow and you can enjoy watching the color changes and enhancements as they develop.

Hirenagagoi

This is a compound word made up from three Japanese characters:

Hire meaning "fin or fins"

Nagai meaning "long"

Goi meaning "Carp or Koi"

The translation, therefore, is Long Fin Koi. In English, they have also been referred to as Butterfly Koi, Dragon Koi or High Fin Koi.

Initially they made quite an impact in Japan when they were first appeared in the early eighties. However, they disappeared just as quickly when their style was decreed ineligible for show in Japanese Koi shows. Because there was virtually no market for them in Japan, there was no incentive for the breeders to invest time, money or effort into developing varieties in this style.

Fortunately, there was at least one breeder, Atsushi Suda, who was available to discuss this variety. These Long Fin Koi enjoyed a warm and steadily increasing popularity in the United States. This has been a driving force in creating a significant demand that has sparked a rebirth of Hirenagagoi in Japan.

As this demand has increased, the pressure to increase supply has encouraged more breeders to test the market. This provided the impetus to improve overall quality of them, but also encouraged them to breed this quality in various other varieties. Today, you may find over 50 varieties of Long Fin Koi.

Japanese breeders recognizing the value of hybrid vigor have started incorporating Long Fin bloodlines into their standard Koi bloodlines as well. This has resulted in healthier, faster growing

Koi that are capable of maintaining good body qualities even as they reach sizes in excess of 30 inches.

While Long Fin Koi are still not eligible for traditional Japanese Koi shows, almost every Koi show in the United States will have a category for this class.

Some additional information on this increasingly popular variation of Koi.

- ◆ Long Fin Koi tend to grow in spurts. The body usually grows in length and girth from April to October. From November to March, body growth almost stops, but their fins get longer.
- ◆ One and two year old fish that were aggressively grown may appear to have almost normal fins. As the growth rate slows down, the fins will grow longer.
- ◆ Breeders may crowd their growing facility and reduce the amount of feed to stimulate the growth of long flowing fins. This technique while successful in producing these desirable fins, it may eventually rob them of their full growth potential later in their life.
- ◆ In mature Long Fin Koi, the males tend to have longer, fuller tails than the females.

While standard Koi are bred to be viewed and enjoyed specifically from above, the Long Fin Koi are often equally as enjoyable when viewed from the side. This brings the third dimension into play in this hobby. It also exposes all aspects of the fish's anatomy to the viewers scrutiny.



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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

October 6, 2006: Round table discussions on pond problems, solutions, successes and failures and other garden transitions. This should be a group participation event again this year. Seek volunteers and nominations of candidates for November elections.

October 13, 2006: NFKPC monthly meeting.

November 3, 2006: Election of Officers and Board members. Topic/presentation still to be determined.

November 10, 2006: NFKPC monthly meeting

December 1, 2006: Pot Luck Christmas Party and year end celebration and information review in 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.

January 5, 2007: There will be no meeting tonight or in the month of January. Hopefully, the Board will meet during the month to propose a tentative calendar of events and topics.

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