



# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 2

February, 2007

## GOROMO / KOROMO KOI

This koi was a Grand Champion Koromo at the 20th All-Japan show held in Tokyo



*Budogoromo*



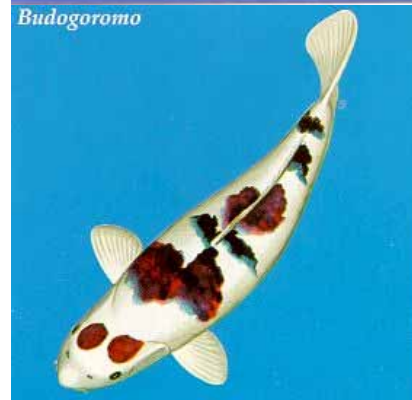
*Aigoromo*

Aigoromo (a white Koi with red pattern and the edge of each red scale tinged with black)



*Sumigoromo*

Sumigoromo (a white Koi with a black-ish pattern, the edge of each black-ish scale tinged with red)



Budogoromo (a white Koi with Sumigoromo appearance, the edge of the pattern resembles a bunch of grapes in effect)

There are five forms of the Koromo in the classification. Above are the three main forms. Note that Koromo and Goromo are synonymous. For more information check out page 4.

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

### Last Month

It seems to have been a very long time since we last met due to the lack of a January meeting. The time interval was probably exaggerated by the unusually warm weather that we had until this past week. That, plus seeing the pond ice free and the fish swimming around, although rather slowly, on a daily basis has been a real treat. It makes one feel like doing the spring chores and getting back to enjoying the entire garden scene again.

Even the plants are getting in on this unusual action. Many of the spring bulbs and shrubs are also showing signs of re-starting their growth cycle. Some of the snow drops, forsythia and prime roses have already opened. My azaleas and lilacs have significant bud swelling and growth. Hopefully, the cold spell arrived in time to put them back to sleep, so that we can enjoy them at the proper spring time, rather than lose this years blossoms.

We hope that you all had a great holiday season and are enjoying good health and happiness into the new year. I am happy to report that this is true for the Board members who met on January 16. They offered and discussed the various topics and ideas that we could retain and add to this years tentative schedule to keep the programs of interest to all of you. We hope that with the calendar listing you will find things that you will look forward to enjoying with us and that you will remain as active members of this very social group.

The following topics were se-

lected and the tentative schedule has been proposed. We are still in the process of contacting the various speakers and presenters and we will supply additional information as the speakers and their dates are confirmed. We will review this calendar as part of the February 2nd meeting and look forward to your comments and possible input and suggestions on expanding or improving the topics.

- February 2- David Griffin of the Central and Western Region of the Nature Conservancy will take us on a tour of the bog area of Moss Lake. If time permits, we hope to have a video about Longwood Gardens. This could be an interesting introduction to this garden for those who have never been there.
- March 2- Larry Nau will have a power-point presentation on the IWGS 2006 Symposium and an introduction of the 2007 Symposium in Thailand to celebrate the King's eightieth birthday. The IWGS has created a special collection of waterlilies and lotus to be installed in the newly created King Rama IX Public Park.
- Knowing Larry, I'm sure that we will see many beautiful pictures of the water gardens, ponds, parks and plants from both areas. Perhaps, he may even have photos of some of the 2006 lilies of the year. The color card of these supplied with the IWGS *Water Garden Journal* were very interesting.
- April 13- Note the date change to avoid a conflict with Good Friday and any Easter holiday vacation plans.

For this meeting, we will offer a more do-it-yourself pond and garden lighting presentation. With the improvements in lighting materials and their ready availability, there are many things that you can convert to garden lighting fixtures and thus create the custom and

unique lighting effects you might want, without the expense of the commercial offerings. Jim Stalker will show and describe some of these possibilities, as well as offer suggestions on selecting the proper wiring and power equipment ratings that are so important to the success of your lighting plan.

While you should plan for some flexibility within the system, he will stress the need to decide in the early stages what type of lighting effects you want. It can be subtle to extend the viewing into the early evening or a bolder approach to full night time viewing or somewhere in between.

- May 4- We are trying to obtain Helen Roberts, a veterinarian in the Buffalo area, with a specialty for handling fish health problems in the western New York area, as our guest speaker for a presentation on fish health. This could be a very timely presentation, since the incidence of fish health problems seem to be more prevalent at this time. The fish are already weakened from their long winter survival. Their immune system is less active, but the parasites and disease are ready to start their regeneration as soon as the water starts to warm.

With her experience, guidance and suggestions, hopefully we will be able to recognize any problems at the earliest possible time and start the necessary treatment programs and thus avoid any major issues.

- June 1- 3 This will be the weekend for our fund raiser via the plant and product auction and June 2-3 will be LilyFest weekend at Bergen Water Gardens. Larry Nau has again agreed to allow us to use space at LilyFest, to have a club informational space, as well as space for Ray Lucas and his Kingfish Services, to set up displays of

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pond and aquarium products. Ray Lucas has experienced the effects of some of the down sizing and expense cutting within the industry. Several of his sponsors have cut back or stopped their support of the independent service agents. He is trying to recruit additional sponsors to help continue his efforts to support us and the other clubs and aquarium groups in the area. Since this has been a huge source of our funding in the past, we were greatly relieved to hear that he was willing to do his display and product contributions to our auction, although at a slightly reduced level, for us again this year. I would encourage all of you to support this special event, not only for the good deals that are possible, but to show the industry that these shows and the clubs are the best way to get their information out to the people.

- July 13 will be the date for our monthly meeting. The topic or speaker have not yet been determined. We are looking for possible suggestions from all of you. However, we did agree that Saturday, July 28 will be the date for this year's Pond Tour and picnic. Please save the date so that you will be able to join us for this exciting and fun filled event.

- August 3- We have not selected a topic or presenter for this meeting. Since it is the week after our pond tour, we would appreciate your comments regarding ideas as a follow-up to the tour or mid summer pond concerns.

- September 7- Bob Wheeler will be presenting a surprise program for this meeting. He has several ideas but will keep them secret until he has made the necessary contacts and arrangements.

- October 5- This is the last month for which we did not schedule a topic. We hope that by leaving these openings for extra topics

later in the schedule, you will be able to submit your ideas and still leave us time to recruit or prepare the necessary programs. Your input would help us to keep the meetings geared more toward your specific needs and interests.

- November 2- This month we will feature our round table discussions. This has been well received the past two years and was deemed well worth repeating. It gives everyone an opportunity to become involved in discussing all aspects of ponds, water gardens, fish etc. These past programs have been very enjoyable and educational because we all share in revealing our successes, problems and even failures. This is also a fun program because you never know what new and interesting topics might be opened for discussion.

- December 7- This popular year end celebration will feature our Pot Luck Christmas party and a review of some of this year's information from the newsletters and the meeting material through our Pond Jeopardy game.

## Dues

It is that time of year again and we have to start to collect the annual membership dues. The dues are still only \$25.00 and include the monthly newsletters and free pond tour, picnic and Christmas Party. Approximately 1/2 of our members have already renewed. Time is getting short, so if you haven't sent in your renewal yet, please consider doing it now while it is fresh in your mind. To make it easier for you, if we haven't received your renewal by the time of this mailing, a short form renewal blank has been included with this newsletter for your convenience. You will have until the end of February to complete the renewal process and maintain your

active status.

## Member to Member

Bob and June Amies are still in the process of down-sizing and preparing to move to a more care-free apartment life-style. They currently are asking if anyone might be interested in some of the cut-down (1/2 size) 55 gallon plastic drums. These can be very useful as quarantine or treatment tanks, water aging/storage tubs, planting containers for special need plants or they could become part of your filter or waterfall system.

They also have a couple of footed bowls that are sold to be used as container water gardens.

If you are interested, you can contact them at 334-5088. They live at 39 Blue Avocado Lane.

They may have additional items or their fish to offer at a future time. The extent of these items will depend on the interest of the new owners in maintaining the existing ponds and water gardens. Please help them with these and their concerns for the future.

## Coming Events

In addition to our events listed above, there are a couple of additional ones in the near future that should be quite interesting.

The first is the Rochester Civic Garden Center Spring Symposium on Saturday, March 3rd. The featured speakers are Rosemary Alexander and Tim Boebel. Rosemary has two presentations one is Garden Design Today and the other is on the principles of planting, A professional Approach to Planting a Garden.

Tim is the nursery manager at Wayside Garden Center in Macedon. His presentation is: Hydrangeas, Hydrangeas - How to Get Consistent Blooms from These Unreliable Favorites.

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The other notable event will be GardenScape which is scheduled for March 15-18. This year's theme will be "Drama in the Garden". I've heard rumors that there might be some interesting interpretations of this based on movies and other stories. The featured speakers will be: Donald Leopold a professor at the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at SUNY, Syracuse who will address native plants; Rita Randolph from Randolph Green- houses in Tennessee on garden design ideas; and Ellen Hornig of Seneca Hills Nursery.

## Something Different

A slightly different type of Koi that is possibly under-appreciated and under-valued is the Koromo. The word, itself, means "robed" or "veiled" and is based on the fact that its common feature is a blue or black scale reticulation over the colored patterns. They are multi-patterned, non-metallic Koi that are mainly in the Kohaku, Sanke and Showa styles.

The outer one third of each scale tends to carry the darker color. It, however, starts as an indistinct blending of the colors from the true base color (red or white etc) of each scale and gradually darkening as it progresses toward the scale edge. The finishing edge is usually a distinct and neat dark blue or black line around the edge of the affected scales. It is important that the base color shows cleanly and is not completely covered or muddied by the darker color.

Sometimes younger fish are indistinguishable from the regular Kohaku etc, because the blue scale reticulation does not develop until the Koi are several years old. If you have the opportunity to select a young Koromo, the "robing" should not be too well established

or developed. The reason for this is that the "robing" will often become even darker and in some cases it may darken to the point where the effect of the scalation is completely lost. If possible, it is also better to see them and select them from warmer water, since that is when their ground color is best revealed.

Since these features are rather unique, it might be more difficult to find samples. If one did become available, it would make a very interesting and nice Koi to add to your pond to increase the color and contrast within your pond and add more excitement and interest in your fish.

## Planning Ahead

Now is a good time to think ahead to spring and even summer and plan your landscape changes around your pond or water garden. Okay, maybe you don't think that you have enough room to do any landscaping. However, a recent editorial that I read was written in praise of working with small spaces.

According to the editor, while small gardens can serve as models or samples for larger places, their beauty rests in their efficient use of space and by making every inch do meaningful work. These are some of his suggestions and tips for improving those small and sometimes troublesome spaces.

- Emphasize plant form and structure. The form can simulate other effects by adding height, while other shapes or cascading materials can be used to smooth transition spaces.
- Make things do double duty. A necessary retaining wall may become a seating wall by adding a decorative tile or other covering. This will give you an additional viewing position as well as a resting area.

- Space is too precious so plants and objects that aren't working or growing within the desired design must be replaced. They may be relocated but there should be no second chance in that spot.

- Make every plant or accessory count. Grow or place them where you will really be able to appreciate them regularly either by their image, color or fragrance.

- Learn to get along with those annoying plants that you might need to fill a specific function. It may be screening a distracting item, view or structure that would take away from your enjoyment of the view that they do provide. Furthermore, it may only be necessary in certain seasons and then can be replaced or trimmed to allow other materials to take over that function.

- It normally doesn't take much. The right plant, object or special touch can evoke memories of other times and places, thus making those special places now a part of this small space. The space may seem to magically expand to include as much of the world as your mind will allow.

- His final suggestion is a rather tongue-in-cheek revelation that if you must have a dog it should be a small one that doesn't dig or shed. After checking with the American Kennel Club, he realized that there was no such dog. So without this minor miracle dog his selection is a chia pet.

Obviously, you now have plenty of space and a few ideas to get you started. sit down , relax and start those upgrades.



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## Board Members 2007

President: Larry Hursh  
Vice President: Bob Wheeler  
Secretary: Kathy Hursh  
Treasurer: John Roguski/Les Saiers  
Pond Tour Chairperson: Norm James/Les Saiers  
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 Water Gardening.
- To socialize and have fun.

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](http://www.ggw.org/gvpakc)

## Calendar of Events

**February 2, 2007:** First meeting of the year. We will discuss the plans and calendar proposed by the Board. We hope to have a presentation by David Griffin of the Central and Western Region of the nature conservancy on the bogs in the Moss Lake area and a video on Longwood Gardens. Please remember that membership renewals are due by the end of this month.

**March 2, 2007:** Larry Nau will be providing us with an overview of some of the happenings at the IWGS 2006 symposium and a preview of the IWGS 2007 celebration in Thailand. We hope that he will also have photos of the 2006 water lily selections. The preliminary photos were great'

**April 13, 2007:** Please note the date change. We have opted not to meet on the Good Friday holiday so as not to conflict with some family travel plans. Our topic will be Do-It-Yourself garden lighting. Jim Stalker will describe some home-made approaches to fixtures and show us what is necessary for sizing the wire and transformer components.

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