



# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 07

July 2009

## Dragonflies and Damselflies



**Twelve-spotted Skimmer Dragonfly**



**Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly**



**Eastern Ringtail Dragonfly**



**Blue-fronted Dancer Damselfly**



**Cherokee Clubtail Dragonfly**



**Blackwater Clubtail Dragonfly**

## “News From Norm”

### GVPAKC Pond Auction (Bob Wheeler)

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the club with donations and/or purchases at our annual plant auction at Bergen Water Gardens on June 7th. Your support allows GVPAKC to continue to provide information of interest to our members through this newsletter and at our monthly meetings. Funds from last years auction went towards the purchase of the LCD projector which has been invaluable in the presents at our meetings.

Thanks to Larry Nau for hosting the auction during Lilyfest at Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery. Having the auction there gave everyone the change to browse in the nursery and maybe pick up a needed item or two for their water garden. Thanks Larry for your continued support of GVPAKC.

Thanks also to the members of the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club who came to the auction and supported our club with their own donations and auction purchases. We certainly appreciate your efforts to make the drive and support GVPAKC's auction.

A special thank you to GVPAKC club member Audrey Behlau. In addition to again being the auctioneer for our plant material, from her wheelchair no less, she was instrumental in coordinating the donation of a good portion of the plant and other member donated material that made up the auction.

Of course the other big thank you goes out to Ray "Kingfish" Lucas and the pet industry sponsors he represented at the auction. His auctioning services and the sponsors donations are a big part of the success of our annual fund raiser. This year Ray's sponsors were:

- Aquarium Technology Inc.
- Easter Aquatics  
Blackworms
- The Fish Factory
- Cichlid News Magazine
- Diskus Brief Magazine
- Swiss Tropicals Inc.
- BlueZooRadio.com
- PlecoCaves.com
- Mars Fishcare North  
America, Inc.
- Aquarium Flake Foods
- Aquarium Pharmaceuticals  
Inc.
- Rena
- Pond Care Products
- Python Product Inc
- Cichlid Press Books
- Finley Aquatic Books
- Discus Hans USA
- Ken's Fish

Thanks again to everyone for their participation and support.  
Bob Wheeler, President GVPAKC

### PONDS NEEDED!

**We need ponds for this year's Pond Tour.** We would like to feature your pond on this year's pond tour! It's fun and is a rewarding way to share your unique experience with pond keeping. The date of the Pond Tour is Saturday, August 1st, and there are still openings available. If you think you might be interested in having your pond included on the Tour, please contact Bob Wheeler at (585) 461-5315 or Norm James

at (585) 334-3536. Also, if you know of someone else, not necessarily a member of the club, who would like to have their pond included, please let us know. □



### DRAGONS AND DAMSELS – FRIENDLY FLIES

With the summer just beginning, some welcome pond visitors will be showing up - dragonflies and damselflies. Their aerial antics above your pond are always fun to observe, and you may even see them dripping into the pond to lay their eggs. I hope you welcome them as friends.

You can watch for their characteristic darting flight over or near your pond and follow their flight until they land. They often use a favorite twig to rest and watch for prey. Once you find a dragonfly at rest, use your binoculars to get a close look at the wonderful colors and characteristics of these amazing animals.

Both damselflies and dragonflies belong to the order *Odonata*. Several characteristics can be used to distinguish between dragonflies and damselflies. A dragonfly is typically larger than a slender damselfly. In addition, a dragonfly's wings lie flat out from their body rather than closed together over the abdomen as in damselflies. Dragonflies have larger eyes that are close together. Damselflies have eyes that are smaller and widely separated. In larval form the two are quite easy to tell apart. Damselflies have three broad leaf-like gills that resemble tails. Dragonflies lack these "tails" and are quite stout in shape.

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Dragonflies specialize in different kinds of hunting techniques. The larva stage is characterized by a couple basic strategies. Some stalk their prey in vegetation. Others lie in the mud and debris at the bottom of a pond and wait for prey. While the prey of the larvae is mostly other aquatic insects, some of the larger nymphs attack tadpoles and small fish.

The adult dragonfly is a formidable hunting insect. Incredibly agile, it uses its legs to catch insects on the fly. It eats mainly mosquitoes, midges, and other small flying insects.

You can often view dragonflies and damselflies flying in the wheel position or in tandem. Dragonflies and damselflies lay their eggs in fresh water where the larvae grow. Larvae need fairly precise habitat and are sensitive to water pollution. Larvae may spend one to three years in water, depend on the species, while adults live only a few weeks.

## Dragonfly Myths

- Dragonflies were known as the "devil's darned needles" because it was believed that they would sew the lips of wicked children together while they were sleeping.
- It was once thought that dragonflies could bring snakes back to life. As a result, they were also known as "snake doctors."

## Fun Facts

- Despite their appearance, rapid speed, and "rattling" approach, dragonflies are harmless to humans. Adult dragonflies do not bite or sting humans, though nymphs are capable of

delivering a painful but harmless bite.

- Dragonflies are valued as predators, since they help control populations of harmful insects. They have earned the name, "mosquito hawk," because they typically eat mosquitos and other small insects.
- Dragonflies have a top flight speed of up to 100 km/h.
- Each dragonfly eye contains up to 30,000 lenses.
- The position of the dragonfly's eyes gives the insect a 360 degree field of vision.
- The oldest fossilized record of a dragonfly is from the Carboniferous Period, over 300 million years ago. □



## JAPANESE KOI TERMS

One of the challenges of keeping koi can be understanding and even pronouncing their Japanese names. Each of the different varieties of koi has their own name, which is used to describe their coloration and pattern. By learning and understanding a few Japanese words and by appreciating how 'koi lingo' works, you will be able to communicate more effectively with other koi keepers.

The 3 basic groups of Japanese words and terms are used to:

- Describe specific koi varieties.
- Add description to particular varieties.
- Describe features that may not be desirable or may not even be visible (such as age).

Below are some common koi terms:

**Ai** = Blue

**Aka** = Red

**Beni** = Red

**Danmoyo** = Stepped pattern

**Doitsu** = Refers to the German scaleless or armor scaled koi.

**Gin** = Metallic/Silver

**Gin rin** = Glittering diamond scales

**Godan** = Five-step pattern

**Hanatsuki** = Red that extends to the nose

**Hi** = Red

**Inazuma** = Lighting bolt or zig zag pattern

**Kamisori kiwa** = razor edge of the pattern

**Ki** = Yellow

**Kin** = Gold

**Kiwa** = Edges of the pattern

**Komovo** = Small pattern

**Kuchibent** = Red color on the lips, like lipstick

**Maruten** = Literally "round spot," refers to a tancho-like pattern on the head

**Maruzome Kiwa** = Kiwa that consists of red scales that are entirely red, creating a red scalloped kiwa on a white background

**Menware pattern** = A bold slash of black between the eyes

**Motoaka** = Red at the base of the pectoral fins

**Motoguro** = Black marking on the base of the pectoral fins on a Showa or Utsuri

**Nidan** = Two-step pattern

**Nimai zashi** = two scaled sashi

**Odome** = Tail stop

**Orenji** = Orange

**Sandan** = Blurred line caused by white scales overlapping red ones on leading edge of red

**Shiro** = White

**Shiroji** = White background

**Sumi** = Black

**Tategoi** = A koi with potential for further development

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**Tobi hi** = Splattered red

**Tosai** = Young koi, less than one-year old (Literally – fish born this year.)

**Tsubo sumi** = Black markings on a white background.

**Yodan** = Four-step pattern

Learning the 5 vowels in the Japanese language can help with pronunciation.

They are identical to the English language but they are pronounced differently.

- A - Pronounced AH
- I - Pronounced EE
- U - Pronounced OO
- E - Pronounced Eh
- O - Pronounced Oh

□



## “POND BUGS”

Is something bugging you?

Get an answer to your problem!

[Q] *We've just bought 3 koi fingerlings. We've been trying to find out how long it will take for our koi to grow to 7 to 8 inches. Can someone help?*

[A] You would probably like an easy answer, but there isn't one, because it depends on several factors. When fish are first put in water, they emit a hormone called a pheromone, which stunts growth. This is handy when they are in a goldfish bowl, because they could outgrow their home. I won't matter how much food they consume if their growth is stunted. The more the pheromones are diluted with water changes, the bigger the fish will grow. The more fish you have in the pond, the more they all stunt one another. The evidence is that the biggest

fish, 99% of the time, grow from the biggest least stocked lake. If you bought your fingerlings in the spring, you could potentially get 8" of growth over the summer. Koi are grazers so they want to eat all the time. You do have to be careful about overfeeding. If koi grow too fast, and the color patterns cannot keep up with the growth, without the right conditions, the color may fade out.

[Q] I did a salt treatment in my pond because I was trying to heal some fish. Now my water is cloudy and brown. I have done water changes, but can't seem to clear up the water.

[A] There is a good chance that the salt killed the algae coat on the pond. If the nice green velvety algae turned brown, then that is most likely what happened. When the algae coat dies off, the little pieces start floating in the water. Although your filter will eventually take care of it, there are ways to speed up the process. You can add a flocculent (which is a water clarifier). Some brands also encourage plant growth. Flocculent actually helps the particulates to clump together. This will aid the fine pieces to get caught in the filter. After the water has cleared up, you will need to clean your filters. In a few weeks you should start to see that velvety carpet of algae is growing back.

If something has been bugging you, we'll try to get an answer. Please send your questions to Norm at

gvpakc@rochester.rr.com. Then check out future issues of the newsletter to read what “experts” have to say. □



## NOTEWORTHY EVENT

The Garden Path Tour - Orleans County Master Gardeners  
July 11, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Come to The Garden Path Tour and view Orleans County's finest gardens. Tour is self-guided, featuring all types of gardens with educational handouts and Master Gardeners at each site to answer questions. Some gardens will feature wreath making, flavored vinegar preparation and more. Many custom door prizes. Tour ticket \$10 from Extension Office, Rt. 31 Medina or call 585-798-4265. Rain or shine event. □



If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or have an idea you would like to have researched, please send your article or your ideas to Norm James at  
gvpakc@rochester.rr.com

**Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club**  
140 Winslow Ave,  
Rochester NY 14620

### **Board Members 2009**

President: Bob Wheeler  
Vice President: Larry Hursh  
Secretary: Jo Anne James  
Treasurer: Les Saiers  
Pond Tour Chairperson: Les Saiers?Norm James  
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler  
Newsletter Editors: N James, B Wheeler and L Hursh,  
Webmaster: Norm James - [gvpakc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gvpakc@rochester.rr.com)

### **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 Bob Wheeler. (585) 461-5315 or e-mail [BobWheeler58@gmail.com](mailto:BobWheeler58@gmail.com) or visit the club website at <http://www.gvpakc.org>

### **Calendar of Events**

**July** is National WaterGarden Month

**July 3:** Fri, No regular meeting due to 4th of July weekend

**July 10:** Fri 7PM, rescheduled GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle

**August 1:** Sat, Annual GVPAKC Pond Tour and picnic

**August 7:** Fri 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle

**September 4:** Fri 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle

**October 2:** Fri 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle

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