



# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Celebrating  
Our  
Tenth Year!

Volume 10 Issue 7

July, 2006

## LilyFest 2006



Ray "Kingfish" Lucas of Kingfish Services did a great job of auctioning items at the Genesee Valley Pond and Koi Club plant auction held at LilyFest.



Sherry Nau succeeded in catching a lively koi for Jack Zelenz. Cheryl added her encouragement.



Visitors looking for artwork related to their interest in ponds were treated to an opportunity to watch local artists working at their crafts.



The weather was lovely, and the plants put on a colorful show, providing a beautiful background for the festivities at Bergen Water Gardens.

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

### Thank you from the President

This has been a very busy month for us as a club and for me as your president. There is no way that we could have accomplished so much without the support and dedication of the volunteers who helped us to complete our various projects.

I want to start by thanking Bob Wheeler for running last month's meeting in my absence. Bob did a wonderful job in not only covering the video material, but by adding his own personal notes on things that he learned from his readings in preparing to explain some of the fine points of the video and to answer any questions that may have come up. He has commented several times to me on how much he learned from it and the enjoyment and personal satisfaction that he received from doing it.

We are also thankful that LilyFest was a fund raising success for us and a good business opportunity for our hosts Bergen Water Gardens and the Nau family. In addition to providing free space for us and the various displays, they also provided lilies for the auction. Thanks to Ray "Kingfish" Lucas and the various companies for which he is a spokesperson and for the many items that they provided, not only for the auction, but for the additional items that we can use for our monthly raffles. I would also like to thank the artisans Stacey Reed of Stained glass by Stacey and Peggy Felt of Design Essence for their donation of their artwork to the auction. I appreciate and thank all of the members who donated some of their plants and those members, non-members and guests

who supported us by bidding and buying the various items. As always there were many exceptionally good deals with items selling for significantly less than retail and discount prices.

The final thank you for LilyFest go out to all who helped with the set-up and clean-up and answering questions about the club for the various visitors and especially to John Roguski and Jack Zelenz for transporting the chairs and tables for us.

The next round of thanks start with the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club for inviting us to be a part of their hosting of the 25th AKCA annual seminar. For me it was an opportunity to meet some of the people with whom I correspond on a regular basis on behalf of our club.

You all heard about the judging of show quality Koi that was to take place at Bergen Water Gardens as a part of the seminar. In support of that effort, we were asked if we would supply coffee and pastry as a welcoming gesture to the judges when they arrived after their ride in from Buffalo. The officers agreed and the visitors were most appreciative of this gesture and impressed by the spirit of cooperation between the two clubs.

John Roguski, Bob Wheeler and I helped to get everything ready for their visit and acted as their hosts. In return, we were allowed to observe the judging and review processes from the background. We learned more about how the process works and how the awards are determined. Since we were there, both before and after the judges, Bob was able to take photos of the fish as well as the judging action. We hope to share more of these experiences with you as part of this month's meeting.

The book sales at the seminar should also prove helpful to the club since we will receive a commission on the sales that we made at the seminar. We also purchased a copy of the AKCA Koi Identification Poster and the book Judging and Buying Koi which is a compilation of various articles on these topics that have been published in KOI USA for the club library and for use at our meetings.

My thanks and appreciation go out to these volunteers who made this possible. Joan and Rudy Aceto, Kathy Hursh, JoAnne and Norm James, Maureen Lynch, Larry and Sherry Nau, Elmer Potter, John Roguski and Bob Wheeler.

Our new club pins, denoting our tenth year anniversary, arrived in time and we were able to sell them as well as some of our original pins to various individuals and several of the pin collectors purchased multiple sets.

### Member to Member

Need more fish? Both Maureen Lynch and Savo and Bea Jevremovic would like to thin out their populations. Maureen still has goldfish available in various sizes and types. If you are interested, it is probably easier to contact her at her business- The Dog Washer 24 Hinchey Rd 436-3299. For those who are interested in Koi, Savo and Bea are offering a catch your own 3-5 inch Koi opportunity at their pond in Alfred Station, NY. You can call them at 587-8572 for additional information or to make the necessary arrangements. They do have a small boat that can be used on the pond. This is a good opportunity to obtain new blood lines for your pond and help a member too.

### Coming Events

First of all, we hope that all of

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you will have a safe, happy and healthy July 4th holiday period.

On Saturday, July 8th, RCGC will be holding their Summer Garden Tour - "The Gardens Of Lake Ontario II." This is a continuation of last year's theme on the Gardens of Lake Ontario, only this year they will be visiting gardens beyond the east side of the city. The stops will include sites in Ontario, Pultneyville, Sodus and Sodus Point. The four stops in Sodus Point are within walking distance of one another, so the total drive will be reasonable. Tickets are available at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and for everyone purchasing them at selected stops on the day of the tour. Check the various flyers and newspapers for additional information or call RCGC 473-5130.

July 14th is the date that has been noted on the calendar schedule as the delayed date for our meeting to avoid the holiday week. We hope to present a photo tour of the fish and judging activities leading up to the AKCA Seminar in Buffalo. We may also have photos of the vendor area at the show. I will bring the poster and book, that were mentioned previously, to give you a better appreciation of your present and, hopefully, your future Koi acquisitions. If time permits, we will show the video "Building A Basic Garden Railroad." This is for informational purposes in case we are able to visit a pond and garden with an existing railroad.

We have been invited to participate in the Niagara Frontier Pond Tour on July 22nd. We hope to have sufficient representation that we could set up a car pool. We must have the names of anyone who is interested in attending by

July 14th or earlier which would be even better for them. Please call Larry at 473-6276 or e-mail lkhursh@aol.com to add your name to the list. Also, there is a progressive tour like ours, but you must make the first stop to pick up the necessary maps and driving instructions for the various stops on the remainder of the tour.

Brian Nagel and I are still working on hosts and plans for our tour and picnic on July 29th. We want to be certain that we do not overlook anyone who has volunteered to be a host so please call and reconfirm that you wish to be a host before July 8th. You can call Brian at 385-0495 or Larry at 473-6276. We hope that this will give us time to prepare a tentative schedule to announce at the July meeting. The final maps, driving directions and picnic schedule will be included in the August newsletter.

For those who might be new to the club and to our pond tour, it is a progressive tour where we will proceed from stop to stop according to a time schedule. This allows the various hosts an opportunity to join us in making the tour to the other stops. We will complete the tour with a picnic at the home of the last host. The club provides the meat, beverage and necessary paper products. We ask that those who will be attending the picnic to bring a dish to pass. This year the tentative request is that those whose family names are from A-H should bring a salad type dish, family names I-P should bring an appetizer and those in the Q-Z area should bring a dessert. The request list may have to change depending on the responses that we receive within a given group. Please call Kathy Hursh at 473-6276 by July 25th if you plan to attend the tour and especially if you will be attending the picnic

portion of the tour. This is necessary so that we can adequately plan the purchase of the necessary meat and other supplies.

## Going On Vacation

Chances are pretty good that if you are going on vacation, you have made arrangements for someone to check your pond and feed the fish. But a little more advance planning may be even more important in case a problem develops. Some of the following suggestions are from B. Scott Gould and Steve Eckhard and were published in *KOI USA* in the article "Vacation Help" and some are from member experiences.

- Have a club member or a Koi/pond professional on call for problems that are beyond the scope of your monitor person.
- Provide written instructions on how your system operates and have all valves, switches, pumps and filters identified. Include location and access to the electrical panel.
- Cut back on the amount that is to be fed or better yet pre-measure the food and place in individual containers.
- Have your monitor person make periodic checks for specific fish or numbers in case you are visited by predators now that there is less activity in your yard. As an added precaution, you may want to cover the pond with netting to keep the fish in and the predators and birds out.
- Store your capture/transfer nets away from the pond but have them and a quarantine area available in case of fish health issues.
- Make no significant changes to the pond, filter or plumbing systems to minimize the possibility of undetected leaks from the changes.

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- Have some type of back-up equipment or system available either of your own or through your on-call responders.
- It may also be helpful, in case of a leak or higher evaporation rates in hotter weather, to have a storage tank of dechlorinated water available. If this is not practical, at least have dechlorinator materials on-hand.

We hope that you will have a nice vacation and that these suggestions were only helpful for your peace of mind and were not necessary to implement to solve unexpected problems.

## A Plant To Remember

I have mentioned on several occasions how happy I was to finally obtain some Water Forget-Me-Not. I do not particularly care for its terrestrial relative, *Myosotis sylvatica*, because it seems to have such a short bloom season in early spring. However, the one that I grew in the vegetative filter last summer seemed to bloom almost all season. Fortunately, there was a recent article in *Aquascape* by Jen McGowan regarding this plant. The following is a summary of her thoughts on this transition plant.

The scientific name for the water variety is *Myosotis scorpiodes*. The *Myosotis* portion means “mouse ear” which is somewhat descriptive of the size and shape of the little petals of the flowers. The *scorpiodes* name comes from its growth resemblance to a scorpion’s tail and also gave rise to its common name, “Scorpion Weed.” The stems tend to coil like a scorpion’s tail and it has a trailing growth habit that adds some interesting structural elements to the edges of the pond, stream, wet banks and the shallow waters of a pond or bog. As she sees it, Water Forget-Me-Not is capable of bridging the gap between a regular perennial

bed and a garden of floating or boggy plants.

*M. scorpiodes* will do well in just about any climate from Alaska to Florida. It really thrives in a cooler and more moist climate and will over winter successfully and spread at an acceptable rate. Although it is considered a robust grower, regular thinning of the plantings and cutting it back after its flowers will keep it under control.

While it is really a tender biennial, it self-seeds so well that it can be regarded as a perennial in the pond. This may cause some concern that it may require continuous weeding. This is not necessarily the case since their diminutive size doesn’t allow them to crowd out the other plants around them. They are also redeemed by the beautiful azure blue bed of blossoms that will, under good growing conditions, continue from June to September.

This plant will also do well in light shade, dappled shade and in areas that are considered to have less than adequate light. It can even find a home in a water garden that is under tree cover. It brings a burst of bright blue color that can keep a shady pond from looking drab.

For ease of control and planting, she recommends using a section of panty hose to create a planting “sack”. Cut about a 6-8 inch length of panty hose and close or tie off one end. If you want or need to weight the plant down, put some rocks or stones in first. Gently remove the plants from their containers, trying to keep the soil around the root ball. Ease the plant and the soil down into the “sack.” When the plant is in place, you can either use a twist tie to carefully tighten the top of the sack around the stems or you can gently tie the hose itself around the plant. The hose sack, which is soft and pli-

able, should have some play or give to it so that when you have secured it, the plant stems will still have room to grow and expand. This method allows the plants to get the additional nutrients that they need from the water but also makes it possible to add fertilizer if necessary.

This plant can create the necessary connected look to bring the water garden and your adjacent perennial beds together. If you try it, she is sure that you will be pleased with the results.

The author also closes one of her paragraphs with this statement. “It has been said that whomever wears a forget-me-not wouldn’t be forgotten by his or her lover. Those who grow *M. scorpiodes* have such positive reviews to offer that I would like to extend the romantic legend to the pond: Those who plant Water Forget-Me-Not shall not have their ponds forgotten.”

## Some Closing Suggestions

Remember to keep fertilizing your water plants especially the lilies and lotus to maximize their blooming size and frequency.

Keep the beneficial bacteria up in your filters and reseed with additional bacteria after cleaning the filters.

If the hot weather continues and the pond temperature nears 80 degrees, the fish may eat less so reduce your feeding regimen to minimize waste from the food.



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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 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

**July 8, 2006:** RCGC Garden Tour “Gardens of Lake Ontario II”

**July 14, 2006:** Note change of meeting date to avoid meeting during the holiday week. Topics will be a review of photos from AKCA Seminar and the fish that were presented for the judges training and a short video on Garden Railroading.

**July 14, 2006:** Possible NFKPC monthly meeting if not in conflict with preparation for their Pond Tour

**July 22, 2006:** NFKPC Pond Tour

**July 29, 2006:** GVPAKC Pond Tour and Picnic

**August 4, 2006:** Topic will be edible plants

**August 11, 2006:** NFKPC monthly meeting

**September 8, 2006:** Note the date change to avoid meeting on a holiday weekend. Presentation will be on plants for around the water garden for fall and winter color and interest. Watch the newsletter in case there is a location change to see the actual plants.

**September 8, 2006:** NFKPC monthly meeting

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