

# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 5

May 2004

## Cliff and Joann's Backyard

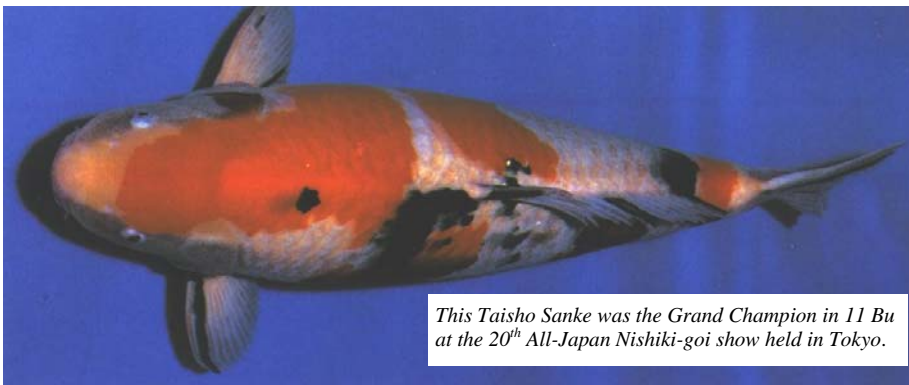
Long Island, New York

<http://www.homestead.com/backyardpond/>



The preface to their website is: *“We have discovered that a pond is never completed. It is blanketed in its own aura, thrives on a life force of its own, and amazingly it continually surprises you with its constant changes, however subtle or impressive they may be.”* Joann

Their Dogpatch Creek pond is 2300 gallons and Chipmunk Creek pond is a 200 gallon biological pond. The two ponds, separated by an 18' dry riverbed, flow back and forth via bottom drains and underground plumbing. If you'd enjoy a chuckle, check out “Cliff Notes,” one of the many interesting areas on their website.



*This Taisho Sanke was the Grand Champion in 11 Bu at the 20<sup>th</sup> All-Japan Nishiki-go show held in Tokyo.*

## Fish of the Month The TAISHO SANKE

The Taisho Sanke is a very old variety that was created either directly from early Kohakus or from crossings of these with black koi. It started to appear during the period 1912-1926, now known as the Taisho era. The Taisho was first publicly exhibited in 1915 and it is thought the fish was about 15 years old at that time.

Sanke means tri-colored, but in Japan today, the term Sanshoku is used more

often. Both terms are considered correct. A Taisho is basically a white koi on which Hi (red) and Sumi (black) patches are found scattered about.

The desirable points are as follows:

- The Hi (red) markings are the same as the Kohaku.
- The pectoral fins should carry up to 3 stripes of black (Sumi) in them; it is better they carry 2 than 4.
- Sumi in the fins should be matched, but very few do, as seen above.
- There should be no Sumi on the head of a good Taisho.

A few of the terms for Sumi markings:

- Tsubo-sumi — A Sumi patch on a white background. This is very desirable.
- Kasane-sumi — A Sumi on a Hi patch.
- Kuchibeni — Red lips as in Kohaku. Aka, Beni and Hi are all terms that denote red. Beni is darker than Hi.

## Toronto 2004 - It's Worth the Wait

Canada is renowned for its diversity, so it is very fitting that our multi-talented international Society's 2004 Symposium is in one of the world's most multicultural cities. In this 20th anniversary year we're excited about celebrating the variety and strength of our membership - people and businesses from all aspects of the water gardening field and all regions of the world. We look forward to visiting Toronto and other areas of Ontario.

Many members were disappointed that we had to skip last year's Symposium. They're long overdue for catching up on the latest news from IWGS friends. With this in mind and after reading survey comments from members about their favorite things about the Society, we're allowing plenty of time for socializing. *"The best part of the IWGS is the networking - sharing of techniques/news/advice from others around the world - many of whom are now friends. Symposia have played a vital part in this."*

In fact we're starting off the Symposium with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening. Food and friends. What a great way to set the stage after being "off" for a year.

A large number of our members live within 400 miles of Toronto. They may have already seen the sights and want to conserve their pocketbooks. (The Canadian exchange rate is very favorable for Europeans and Americans). Therefore we have scheduled all our seminars on a single day (Saturday, July 24) at the Toronto Botanical Garden and are offering a one-day rate. That rate will also include our world famous auction and hopefully an aquatic plant sale as well.

For those who would like to make our Symposium the center of a longer vacation, our local committee (the Ontario Water Garden Society) is putting together a directory of other places you may want to visit. We'll be mailing a copy of it along with registration confirmations, to help with your travel plans. In addition, the special hotel rate is good for five days before and after the Symposium.

The host hotel, *Inn on the Park*, is surrounded by parkland and close to the Toronto Botanical Garden, the site for Saturday's seminars. It is known for fine service, more like a resort, and even includes complimentary child day care. Our special rate is \$135 CAN.

### SCHEDULE

#### **Wednesday, July 21**

Registration will be in the afternoon, followed by a welcome reception, complete with the fine food for which *Inn on the Park* is known. For people arriving earlier in the day, there will be a hospitality suite to meet others. You can also drop in on the Board meeting, which will begin in the morning.

#### **Thursday, July 22**

We will travel to Niagara Parks Botanical Garden & School of Horticulture. We'll have garden tours, lunch, learn about the horticultural programs from the students, and visit the Butterfly Conservatory. Then it's on to Niagara Falls, with free time to explore. Folks can visit local attractions and the more adventuresome can take a boat ride or go behind the Falls. Dinner and socializing will be at the Park Superintendent's home. We'll have at least two special visitors, Wolfgang Oehme (co-author of *Gardening With Water*) and Allan Armitage (horticultural professor and prolific award winning author). After dinner we'll

have our informal "Shirt Sleeve Sessions" where folks brainstorm projects for the coming year. (This is the perfect time to get involved with a small task or a big responsibility.)

The early birds will return to Toronto. Those who want to see the spectacular view of lights on the Falls will wait until after dark to head back. It will make for a long day, but well worth it.

### **Friday, July 23**

At the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton we will see the continent's largest wetland restoration project. We're working on arranging a behind the scenes tour of their aquatic nursery and visit the Fishway (a two-way fish path with a carp barrier). After lunch we will return to the hotel in time to freshen up for the Banquet.

### **Saturday, July 24**

Our education day is at nearby Toronto Botanical Garden, also home to the city's largest horticultural library. The day will start with registration for the folks just joining us. In addition to the seminars and panel discussions, aquatic related materials will be offered for auction and sale, from classic books to jewelry to artwork. We also hope to have aquatic plants for sale, complete with an inspector providing necessary paperwork for international travelers.

#### **Seminars:**

*New Raves and Old Faves: Aquatic Plants* - Greg Speichert (he'll also sign his new book)

*Planning Choices in Water Garden Design* - Cla Algood, Wakoola Water Gardens

*Favorite Plants for Filtration* - Kelly Billing (Maryland Aquatic Nurseries) & Anita Nelson (Nelson Water Gardens)

*Aquatic Plant Cook-In* - Cathy Wilkinson Barash (Pres., Garden Writers Association)

#### Panel Discussions:

*Water Quality: Getting and Keeping It* - James Allison (Aquapic Solutions), Deb Spencer (Water's Edge), Gary Jones (Aquarium Pharmaceuticals)

*Plants for Unusual & Difficult Situations* - Keith Folsom (Springdale Water Gardens) and two other experts

#### General Annual Session

Dinner on Your Own with IWGS friends

#### Post Symposium

### **Sunday, July 25**

Burns Water Gardens in Baltimore will be the location for most of the day's events. They include lunch and a round robin of demonstrations on aquatic propagation, just the thing to learn new tips and techniques. We'll then head to the private gardens of a professional photographer to view his water gardens and koi pond (indoors and outside). After an informal barbecue we'll head back to Toronto.

### **Monday, July 26**

After checking out of the hotel, we will visit Moore Water Gardens in Port Stanley for lunch. Afterwards there will be some free time at the beach for shopping, relaxation, and swimming. Following dinner on your own, there will be a short drive to a hotel in London.

(Of course folks will stay up 'til the wee hours, sharing their favorite tips to get the best blooms on *Nymphaea*.)

**Tuesday, July 27**

Leaving the hotel, the next stop is Reimers Waterscapes in Tillsonburg. We're confirming the last place on our itinerary and hope for a quick look at either an aquatic research facility or a picture perfect garden with ponds. Attendees will then be dropped off at an airport hotel. They can fly out that evening or stay on to see more of Canada.

**THE SMALL PRINT**

Main Symposium: Registration includes opening reception, breakfasts (TH-S), tours, lunches (TH-S), dinners (W-F), and seminars (S)

\$375 US (by 5/31) \$475 US (after 5/31)

**Banquet Only**

\$65 US (by 5/31) \$85 US (after 5/31)

Post Symposium: Includes tours, some breakfasts & lunches, workshops, and BBQ dinner

\$175 US (by 5/31) \$235 US (after 5/31)

Seminars only: Includes continental breakfast, lunch, all sessions, and auction/sale

\$90 US (by 5/31) \$110 US (after 5/31)

\*Special discount for Affiliated Society members: 1 free with 6 paid

Above rates are for members. To become a member contact [info@iwgs.org](mailto:info@iwgs.org) or 941 756-0880, or add \$30 US.

Host hotel is *Inn on the Park*. Special rate is \$135 CAN, for five days before and after Symposium, deadline 6/20. ([iotp@idirect.ca](mailto:iotp@idirect.ca) or 877-644-4687 or [www.innontheparktoronto.com](http://www.innontheparktoronto.com)) Mention "Waterlily."

**Genesee Valley Pond And Koi Club Newsletter**  
**Volume 8 Issue 5    May, 2004**

I want to thank Fred Jung for a very interesting presentation on Koi and the essential water chemistry to keep them healthy. The photos showed the wide range of Koi types and the characteristics to look for when purchasing them. He presented us with a CD copy of the koi photos from his talk as well as a print-out of his outline for the presentation and many of his remarks regarding the significant color and scalation of the various types of Koi. These items will be added to our club library for future reference or for additional presentations.

We have also added the reference book *Parasites of North American Fresh Water Fishes* second edition by Glenn Hoffman. This book was added to our collection because it provides information about the parasites that may infect our pond fish as well as the fresh water fishes. It describes the methods used to examine the fish for the usual parasites and those that are found only in very selective organs and tissues. It also contains additional references to other works in case more detailed information for identification, life cycles and possible control methods are required.

Larry Nau attended a presentation by Dr. Eric Johnson in Dayton, Ohio on Saturday, April 24th. One of the highlights was the news that there may be some breakthroughs for KHV. The University of Georgia has and is continuing to do considerable research on this. Since this research is not government funded, their resources are limited to donations from corporations, organizations, clubs and private individuals. I will obtain more information about this from Larry, but I would also like to discuss the possibility of the club making a donation to show our interest and support to finding a remedy for this affliction.

Our May meeting will be a presentation by Carole Southby on Native Plants for Boggy and Swampy Areas. Carole studied horticulture and natural sciences in England and has adapted well to the new plants and growing conditions in the US. She regularly teaches classes at RCGC and has been a presenter at various shows and symposia. She and her husband Dave are also photographers and some of their work is included in the current exhibit at RCGC.

I'm sure that you will find her presentation very helpful in learning about new possibilities for your bog and water garden areas. In preparation for Carole's presentation, I would like to offer a few thoughts on native plants from an article by Sandra Dark. Native plants may be somewhat common but they are part of your garden's and area's ancient heritage. They have adapted, over time, to the vagaries of local climate, soil, microorganisms and wildlife. They usually demand less maintenance, water, fertilizer, pest controls and tend to be more disease-resistant than hybrids or exotics. Favoring native plants can be an important step in preserving and enhancing what may be threatened or restoring what has already vanished even where ecosystems have been damaged or destroyed by development or the invasion of more aggressive exotics. You can get into native plant gardening all at once or try it a little at a time. Most of them can grow successfully with more exotic plants as long as their soil and other requirements are compatible or you can set them off in miniature habitats of their own. Local agricultural extension

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offices and local native plant societies are excellent resources for information on native soils, growing conditions and plant selection.

Be responsible. Digging and transporting certain wild plants is illegal.

Furthermore, you do not want to risk robbing the wild of threatened or endangered native plants. In some cases; it has taken many years for these plants to develop and adapt to their present soil conditions. Disturbing this environment can be detrimental to the remaining population as well as the plants that you may have considered removing. You can purchase nursery-grown plants and seeds from some garden centers, specialty garden centers and breeders or mail order companies.

Also, the Genesee Land Trust plant sale on May 15 at the Brighton Town Hall from 8:30 am- 2:00 pm will be featuring more native plants this year.

### MEMBER TO MEMBER

Our members, Chuck and Flo Littman, were on the verge of giving up their water gardening efforts after a series of disasters last season. They were raided by herons and lost many of their fish. Then,

during one of our freezes, the pond piping burst and they lost the rest of their fish and probably many of their plants. After some serious discussions they have decided to try it again. If any of the members have extra fish that need a home, they would like to hear from you to discuss the size and type of fish to make sure that they would be compatible with the size and conditions of their pond. They live at 325 Pinnacle Rd. and the phone number is 334-4931

Next month will be a very special meeting for us. As announced earlier our guest speaker will be Paula Biles, a internationally known water garden and water lily devotee. She is the executive director of the IWGS and enjoys sharing her knowledge and insights into these hobbies. Her presentation for the club will be: All About Water Lilies- Tropical and Hardy. She will also give us additional information on the upcoming IWGS Symposium in Toronto on July 21-24 and the post symposium activities July 25-27. Paula will also be speaking at LilyFest on other topics on Saturday. To encourage participation in the IWGS event, Larry Nau / Bergen Water

Gardens and Nursery are willing to donate and raffle off a travel package to the symposium and seminar (for one) to a lucky member of the club. (The cost and arrangements for additional person could be made by the winner) The package would include round trip transportation on the fast ferry, overnight accommodations and admission to the seminars on Saturday, July 24. To qualify you must submit your name to us before the June 4th meeting and the drawing will be made at the meeting. As we discussed earlier and depending on the number of responses, the club will also *offer* an award toward the cost of the seminar session to additional winners. Some of the IWGS details are included with this issue.

LilyFest is also coming up quickly. We can use some plants for the auction on Sunday June 6th. So save your extra plants and divisions for this fund raiser. I would also like to feature some more mature plants around our display area. These plants could be picked up for return to your home after the auction. Please call me at 473-6276 if you can loan us any specimen plants to help create this display.

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To get ready for the opening of our ponds and water gardens, let us discuss some of the ideas and methods for making water changes. In its simplest form, a water change replaces a portion of the dirty water with an equal portion of clean water. This is necessary to dilute the concentrations of undesirable materials in the pond.

The effectiveness of a water change is determined by two factors: how many times you do it and how much of the water is replaced. The frequency depends on the season, fish toad, feeding and water quality test results.

The amount of water and its effectiveness can be controlled by you. If you add the new water and just allow the pond to overflow until the proper amount has been added, you have reduced the effectiveness of the change. You have diluted the wastes but you are also discharging some of the fresher water with the partially diluted water. If, however, you remove the predetermined amount of contaminated water first, you have removed the maximum concentration of contaminants. The addition of the fresh water then has a greater effect because it is diluting a lesser volume.

Now is a good time to get a head start on setting up your bio-filter. Regardless of whether you cleaned it in the fall or whether you have had it running during the winter, it should be thoroughly cleared again. However, before you start your major cleaning operations, make sure that you have fresh and active bacteria. The dry forms of beneficial bacteria have a shelf life of 1-1 1/2 years under ideal conditions. Liquid forms may only have a shelf life of 3-6 months depending on their storage conditions. The best advice, if you have any doubts, is to start fresh. After all your fish deserve the best conditions so help them with the best filter materials.

It is a good idea to start the bacteria early so the colonies can establish themselves before you start it in the pond. You can do this by taking a bucket of pond water, adding an airstone or small pump to agitate the water then add the bacteria and filter media to support the bacterial growth. You can feed the bacteria with some fish food or fish emulsion. By establishing the bacteria in the media before entering the pond, it helps to minimize any algae that may be starting right at the

beginning of the pond season. While the bacteria are developing, you can return to completing your spring-cleaning program, knowing that as soon as you are ready, the bio-filter is also at its operational level. Clean the containers, tubing and pond. Remove leftover algae by spraying exposed algae with hydrogen peroxide or add it directly to the pond at a rate of 3 ounces per 100 gallons. This is best accomplished on a cloudy day or in the evening since hydrogen peroxide breaks down quickly in sunlight. If possible, flush out the tubing by running a garden hose through it. After the debris and dead algae have settled out, flush or vacuum the dirt from your pond and tanks. The next step is to clean your filter media. Lava rock can be pressure washed, NO balls can be rinsed either by hand or by mechanical agitation in a container and filter pads can be cleaned but in many cases it is easier to replace them. Just these few simple steps and a thorough spring cleaning can make a huge difference in your pond and you could save yourself a lot of headaches throughout the peak months of our pond season.