



MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

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www.louisvillekoiclub.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17th - Meeting

Nunnlea House
1940 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.
7:00pm Refreshments
7:30pm Meeting

April 21st - Meeting

Nunnlea House
1940 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.
7:00pm Refreshments
7:30pm Meeting

MARCH MEETING - Thursday, 17th

At the March meeting, we have several topics on the agenda.

First, we will show members an easy way to calculate their pond volume. Most hobbyist don't know the correct amount of gallons of their pond and this is important to know for many reasons.

Second, we will cover spring pond opening questions from plants to fish.

Third, we will have an update on how the show is coming together.

Also, we will have hand-outs & door prizes for members!

Share Your Passion: By Judy Beam

I've always loved the koi variety tancho. When I saw this one up for auction at the mud pond harvest last Oct., I knew I wanted to try and win it. And I Did !!!

She is 8 inches long and has stayed indoors over winter so she wouldn't have to fight the cold weather at such a young age. I look forward to seeing how well she grows this summer.

Please Share Your Passion ! Send a photo of your pond or favorite fish to Troy Head at Headache6@Bellsouth.net



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last couple of weeks I've received several phone calls about what dates the club meetings will be. In the past, we would hold our meetings on the second Thursday of each month, but because of planning issues this is no longer possible. Check your newsletter for dates of all the club events. With just three meetings before our annual show, the club could use all the help it can get from members to "Get the Word Out". We'll have material available at each meeting about the show for the members to take with them to hand out. I hope to see many of you at the March meeting. Besides covering pond related material, we'll have hand outs for members along with door prizes, don't be left out !

Happy Pond Keeping!

Troy

ALL JAPAN SHOW 2011

Earlier this year, the most prestigious koi show in the world was held. This was the 42nd Annual All Japan Koi Show. This years show had 1,376 koi entered and all were of very high class in quality. After hours of judging, a wonderful 7 year old Kohaku that was measured at 96cm (just shy of 38 inches) was selected as Grand Champion. The owner is a Thailand hobbyist and the breeder was Sakai Hiroshima.



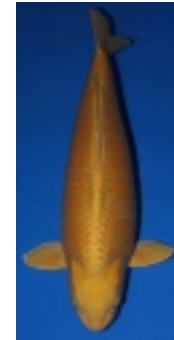
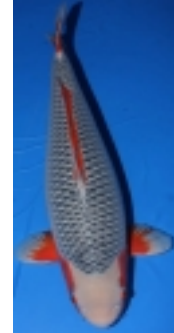
Grand Champion



Reserve Champion



3rd Place



Other Award Winners

Photos Courtesy of Mark Gardner at www.niigata-nishikigoi.com

The Plant Corner



Water Lotus

Like many water plants, the water lotus comes in many flowering colors. Water Lotus is related to the Lily with the big difference being that the flower blooms around 15 inches above the water surface where the lily blooms at the water surface. Water temp. should be above 60 degrees when placed in a pond. A large container of around 18 inches round is needed for planting of the tubers and should be placed between 6 to 12 inches below the water surface.

The Goldfish Corner



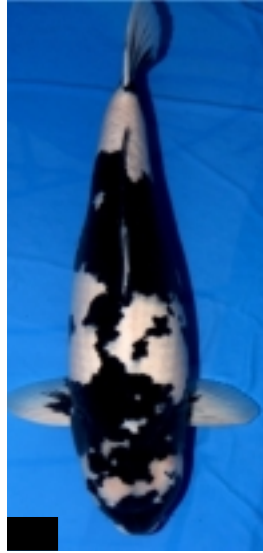
Calico Goldfish

The calico goldfish comes in most all goldfish varieties types, such as common, fantail, telescope, oranda, ryukin, ranchus and many others. They have metallic and transparent scales with shades of blue that produce a pearly appearance. It's believed that the variety was developed around the 1900's.

SHIRO UTSURI

Trying to understand sumi (Black) in koi is one of the more difficult things to master. Many times we will see sumi under the skin that looks a light blue or gray. Sometimes, this sumi will come to the surface to give us that wet ink look we want, while other times it never comes to the surface. Below are four photos of (believe it or not) the same koi over a span of four years. Can you pick which photo comes first when the koi was a two year old , then three , four and then finally when the koi was five years old.

The Answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



Group Buys : De-Chlor

This months "Group Buy" is Sodium Thiosulfate (De-Chlor). This will be sold in bags of 8oz. for \$5.00 . It takes only 1 tbsp. to treat 1,000 gals. of water, so 8oz. will go a long way. You can pickup this "Group Buy" and get details of this product at the March meeting.

We still have shipping bags for fish. These will also be available at the March meeting.

PhD - Pond Health Directors

This program gives all club members a list of contacts for pond or fish related issues.
Cindy Badder - 502-296-5016 Mike Pfeffer - 502-254-7432 Troy Head - 502-418-7628
Please place calls between 9 am - 9 pm

POND 101 - March Lesson : The bad bacterial that ALL of our ponds have become active before the amunin systems of our fish become active. Watch your fish closely during this warm up period.

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Be First!
Remember, you can get your newsletter first by receiving it by email. Just email Troy Head (headache6@bellsouth.net) telling him you want your next newsletter by email!

Club Annual Dues
Annual Dues can now be paid. It was decided that dues will remain at \$20.00 . Please send your payment to :Charles Phelps : 6806 Old Briscoe Ln., Louisville, Ky, 40228
(502)-239-1323

SHIRO UTSURI (Answer)
The order of photos are 4th, 3rd, 1st then 2nd

Understanding koi as an 'eating machine'

This is a discussion about koi and their algae eating consumption. It has been mentioned that koi feces show no, or little digestion of algae that passed thru the koi. And it was suggested that learned minds felt algae was not part of a carp's diet. So how can this be?

Well, a good part of these misunderstandings came from snippets of information and anecdotal conclusions. And to a great degree, I blame the aquaculture industry with its myopic focus on growth in the shortest period of time, for confusion regarding what a koi IS.

If you were to study the contents of carp stomachs from around the world, you would think it would become clear just what it is that wild carp eat! But it doesn't- especially IF you focus only on WHAT a local carp population is feeding on as a primary source of protein. In clam and cockle infested waters, for instance, carp feed heavily on— you guessed it- clams and cockles! In areas where zebra mussels are a problem- carp are right there eating the B-jesus out of those mussels! And you can find lots of locales where carp feed on crustaceans as a main protein. But if you step back and look at the forest thru the trees, you will quickly realize that koi and cousin carp are :

- 1) True omnivores
- 2) true scavengers.
- 3) non specific in their diet items or 'Generalists' as opposed to specific in their sources of protein or prey item.

This, in fact, is the second secret of carp's amazing ability to adapt. If temperature and 'less than ideal' water condition are one and two, then certainly being a Generalist and a Scavenger is their third greatest adaptation gift.

So here is the punch line- koi get a large amount of their diet from decaying vegetable/ plant and animal matter. And often this is reduced to the general category of detritus type food. Meaning decayed algae, decayed plant and dead bacteria, fungi and dead or borrowing animal plankton. When a koi is 'working the mud' it is deriving small but continual flow of micro detritus in various stages of mineralization or decay. And studies have shown that in some cases (setting and season), 60% of the diet is from this detritus mix.

In the case of algae, we see a primitive 'plant' that grows and dies constantly. And it's leaking content is then recovered by the rest of the biomass within a system. But this is not a light switch. The gradual decomposition attracts the carp to the scent of valuable nutrition (via the barbels) . And grazing produces a smorgish board of microbes, broken down algae walls and associated fungi.

This is the real secret of mud pond effect on koi I think. It was made very clear at the last quality koi farm harvest when we saw all the 'mouth holes' visible in the drained mud ponds. It really made a great visual of just what those koi are doing in those murky waters all season.

It might interest some to know that one reason common carp were released in open water in America in the early 1900s was to control plant growth. They do this two ways- 1) by uprooting the plants . And 2)direct ingestion of plant parts- and not always just once! Because a portion will pass through the fish and become part of the detritus layer, the plants can be, and are, eaten a second time or more!! This transfer of nutrition then reduces the amounts available for things like duck weed and eventually make water and it's food source , unavailable for water fowl. This is then the down side of having carp manage your food chain.

And finally, recent studies show carp , as true opportunist omnivores and generalist scavengers, as having a gut that houses SPECIAL and SPECIFIC bacteria for processing plant material and managing detritus in plant form. In addition, one powerful gut enzyme is specific for breaking down cellulose, the hard waxy protective material in cell walls of most plants.

In the model of algae , picture this- decaying and live sunken algae being broken down by bacteria as a normal mineralization process- the fish ingesting that material as general detritus, its bodies bacteria breaking it down further with raw enzymes assisting and finally, if that is not enough- a second ' ride' through the system! Carp are up there with rats, house sparrows and cockroaches as one of the worlds best and most adaptable survivors! Long live the Carp! (by James Reilly)