



# OCT 2011 NEWSLETTER

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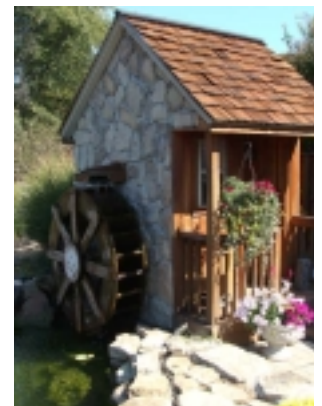
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 15th & 22nd -  
Mud Pond Harvest**

**Nov. (TBA) - Meeting**  
Officers Elections and  
Harvest Photo Program

## *Share Your Passion* by Al & Marcia Aichele



Our pond was built in 2004, with additions added on each year since. At the present time, we have ten large koi along with several babies that were born earlier this year. The pond is approximately five feet deep at the center and holds 15,000 gallons. Along the waters edge, we have various plants, with most being water lillies.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

While it's sad to see another wonderful summer come to an end, I'm excited to see all the koi come from the mud ponds, both here in Kentucky and Japan. I promise all members a great time. If possible, please try to attend both harvests. The club has held back some great raffle prizes, don't be left out.

I'd also like to thank all of you for the support you have given the club this year, many of you haven't missed a single event. While I'm thanking our great members, I'd like to thank Chris Carter and Mike Pfeffer for helping with the newsletter. They have agreed to write articles each month, with

Chris focusing on filtering and Mike covering a range of pond related topics. I'd also like to thank Marc Skaggs, who has joined as part of our "Pond Health Director" (PhD) Program. Having knowledgeable members to contact with questions is one of the more important reasons to belong

to the club.

*Happy Pond Keeping!*

*Troy*

# Kentucky Mud Pond Harvest



**Kentucky Harvest**



**Japan Harvest**

## **Oct. Events - Mud Pond Harvests! Yes, there will be two Harvests!**

While Koi Mud Pond Harvests are happening all over Japan, this year we will be having two here in Kentucky! On **Oct. 15th at 9:00am**, the Phelps will harvest their mud pond that is located behind their home at 6806 Old Briscoe Ln. While in the mud pond this summer, the koi had a spawning. The Phelps will be giving away some of these babies during their harvest.

Our second harvest will be the annual club event that is held at Troy and Sherrie Head's house. This harvest is **Oct. 22nd at 10:00am** (There will be a drive to the mud pond, so please be on time). This is the harvest that many of you have attended over the last couple of years. After the harvest of about 25 koi, we will head back to Troy and Sherrie's house for lunch.

Besides the harvest of many koi in the 30" range, we will have some great raffle prizes and a contest to see who can guess the total amount of inches all the koi have grown when combined.

Directions to Troy & Sherrie's House: 75 Persimmon Ridge Dr., Louisville, Ky, 40245  
Take Gene Snyder (I-265), exit at Old Henry Rd. (3 miles north of I-64). Take Old Henry east 1/2 mile. Turn right on Bush Farm Rd. and go 3 miles to 3 way stop sign. Go straight at stop sign and turn left on Persimmon Ridge Dr. Go 3/4 mile and house is on left.

The club will furnish lunch, just bring your favorite lounge chair!

*Call Troy for any weather related change of plans.*

## **The Plant Corner**



**Umbrella Palm**

This plant is very hardy and can grow in shade up to full sun. It reaches a height of four to five feet tall and can spread out up to four feet. This plant has become popular because it makes for an excellent accent plant. Planting depth can be from just receiving splashes of water from a waterfall up to ten inches of water. The plant does best in water temps of 70 to 80 degrees.

## **The Goldfish Corner**



**Ryukin Goldfish**

This variety of goldfish was first believed to originate in Japan in the 1770's. The variety is most notable for its unique body shape that features a "Hump" in the shoulder area. The dorsal fin rides high on the body. It comes in both short and long fin versions and the tail can come in both triple and quadruple finned. The Ryukin comes in a variety of colors and patterns like many other varieties of goldfish.

The first part of any good filtration system should include a way to remove solid waste from the water. One way to accomplish this is by using a settlement chamber. The chamber should be gravity fed from a bottom drain(s) and large enough to allow for slow, almost lazy, circular water movement. Since the solid waste is heavier than water, gravity will force it to fall to the bottom before the water moves on to the next part of the filtration system from a center pipe.

Cone shaped chambers allow the water to swirl, causing the solids to separate easier and collect at the bottom of the cone. Ensure the settlement chamber has a drain for the easy and regular removal of these solids. A pump can also be a way to remove solids by placing it at the lowest point of the chamber. It's best to valve the lines both before and after the chamber so when draining the chamber can be isolated.

As with most things pond related, the amount of available space and money have to be considered when choosing a settlement chamber. Bigger is better, the amount of solids removed is directly related to the length of time the water spends in the chamber before it exits to the next filter section. There are many different size and style options, both commercial and do-it-yourself. Adding brushes and or pads can help in removing solids from the water, remember these will have to be removed and cleaned regularly.



Side view of a commercial settlement chamber with valved drain



Top view of a DIY settlement chamber showing entering lines (left) and exit line (center) with settled solids

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## PhD - Pond Health Directors

This program gives all club members a list of contacts for pond or fish related issues.  
Mike Pfeffer - 502-254-7432 Troy Head - 502-418-7626 Marc Skaggs - 317-710-2169  
*Please place calls between 9 am - 9 pm*

**POND 101 - Oct. Lesson :** While we need to be careful not to over feed our pond systems (water & filter), this is the time that we need to feed our koi well so they have the energy reserve to survive the long winter months.



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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](mailto:headache6@bellsouth.net)) telling him you want your next newsletter by email!

## Crystal Clear Clean Ponds

One of the great joys of keeping koi is being able to see them swimming around in the water. If your pond is full of murky water, then you won't see the fish clearly. This doesn't mean that the koi are necessarily unhappy, since water clarity and water quality don't always go hand in hand. In fact a crystal clear pond could be harbouring bacteria that could make your koi – and goldfish for that matter – quite miserable. Furthermore, as any experienced koi keeper will tell you, fry do much better in murky water, particularly when blanket weed algae provides a partial cover that they can nibble on.

You can only monitor the condition of your water by testing it regularly. And you can only maintain the condition of the water by fastidious filtering. This will also maintain the clarity of the water.

## Fish pond filters

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There are two sorts of basic pond filter, the mechanical kind and the biological type. While mechanical filters catch waste and debris, they don't remove toxic matter like harmful ammonia. Biological filters on the other hand are not really filters they are designed to purify pondwater. A secondary job is to remove solids. Algae is far too small to be removed by a filter unless first killed by UV light.

While there are different types of pond filters – which in turn use different forms of filter media – it is very important to ensure that the filter can cope with the volume of water in your pond.

## Things that make pond water murky

Algae are a common cause of cloudy, murky water. While blanket weed forms on the surface of the water, other types grow suspended in the water, quickly producing green water. Algae thrive in hot weather and unless you keep checking the pond, you might find it turns green and murky overnight. A UVc installed as part of your filtration system is the best way to control green water caused by algae. Just be aware that UV tubes don't last forever and you will probably need to replace it annually.

Excess food in the pond water can also make it cloudy. This might be because the food has broken up as it enters the water, or because food dye has leached into the water. It could also be simply because you are overfeeding and the koi are not eating all the food.

## Testing the water quality of koi ponds

If you own a swimming pool, chances are you test the water regularly and adjust it if the pH, total alkalinity and chlorine levels are not at the required levels. While the requirements for a fish pond are quite different to those of a swimming pool, it is just as important to test pond water regularly. Don't wait until you have a pond full of green water that is full of algae, or brown water that contains excessive koi excreta.

While you can take the water to a dealer to test a sample of the pond water for you, there are also excellent test kits that you can buy that will enable you to test:

- ammonia content,
- nitrate content,
- pH levels, and
- oxygen.

Ammonia readings should always be zero, and the nitrate readings should be as low as is possible, also ideally zero. Ammonia and nitrate in the water will tend to make it cloudy and can affect your fishes' appetites.

The ideal pH level for koi is between 6.8 and 7.5, which is virtually the same as the levels we aim for in our swimming pools. We measure pH according to a logarithmic number scale of zero to 14. If the water is neutral it will have a pH reading of 7. If the reading is over 7 the water is alkaline and if it is below 7, it is acid. In swimming pools a high pH will make water cloudy and scale will start to form on the walls of the pool. If it is too low, the plaster will start to etch and if there are metal fixtures in the pool these are likely to corrode from the excessive acidity. A low pH causes skin problems and eye irritations in humans. A low pH can damage the gills of koi, goldfish and other pond fishes. Serious swings in pH can kill them.

A pond aerator will ensure that there is enough oxygen in the pond water to help keep it clear and healthy.

Ultimately, a simple maintenance program will ensure that your koi have crystal clear, sparkling water that is healthy as well.