

ATLANTA Koi CLUB



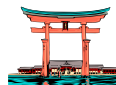
Koi Chronicles



Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi

October 2007
Volume 19, Issue 10

By the Pond



David Boyd, President AKC

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The Atlanta Koi Club would like to thank Josh and Amanda Bare for hosting our September meeting and allowing us to enjoy the afternoon at their pond. We had a great time discussing the show and getting the last minute details taken care of. Also discussed were nominations as we will be having our elections in October for Vice-president and Treasurer.

This year's show was accomplished by the hard work of our Chairman Ron Scott and the people he had helping him. I want to take a moment to thank the four people who spent a lot of time getting things organized, Vicki Knill for handling the goldfish section of our show, Toni Anderson for handling trophies and the banquet, Peggy Fricke for getting the volunteers to help man the show and lastly David Pugh for being in charge of registration.

The show would not have been a success without the numerous people in our club and other clubs who worked hard to make things happen. I would like for our club to take this time to pat itself on the back for the way things turned out. I have heard nothing but compliments for our show and the following banquet. We had a number of out of state koi being shown and the quality of fish that were exhibited was something that has not been seen in a long time.

Thanks to the judges Nicole Lembke, Debbie Hester and Jan Thompson for coming to judge the koi, and Art Lembke for judging the goldfish.

Congratulations to Henry Culpepper for winning Grand Champion of Nishikigoi category, Vicki Knill for winning the Grand Champion of the Long-fin category and Gaye L. Jones for winning Grand Champion of Goldfish.

Hal Brown announced the nominations for our upcoming elections at our October meeting. Vice-presidential nominations are Steve Castel, Harvey Siskin and Michael Anderson, Treasurer nominations are Steve Castel and Robin Smith. The floor will be open for additional nominations at the October meeting.

Finally, if bringing Gizmo to the show on Saturday was problem, I want to apologize. He recently lost his friend Spencer, and was suffering from separation anxiety when left home alone. His usual sitter was out of town and I didn't want to leave him alone all day.

The Big Winners



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Officer Elections at October Meeting

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Hal Brown, chairman of the nominating committee has announced the following candidates for the two offices vacated this year. Terms run for a period of 2 years. You must be present at the October meeting to vote.

VICE PRESIDENT- The person elected to this office will be a member of the Executive team. He will secure meeting venues and prepare/ present or arrange for all programs. Nominees are (alpha) Michael Anderson, Steve Castel and Gary Lee

TREASURER- The person elected to this office will be a member of the Executive team. He/she will do all tasks related to keeping the club finances in order. The usual bill paying, record keeping and budgets are part of this job. Nominees are: Robin Smith and Steve Castel

Steve Castel is running for both offices, but can only hold one. So, should he happen to win both slots, he would choose which office he prefers and the other will be filled by the second place candidate.



(l-r) Robin Smith and Michael Anderson



Steve Castel



Gary Lee

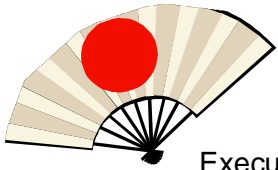
2007 Koi and Gold Fish Show

From what I heard, from members, visitors, and vendors we had a GREAT show! We had close to 300 people come to this years show. Starting Friday night, when we ran out of food and had to get more; to Saturday and Sunday everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. If you didn't attend, you missed not only beautiful fish in the show, but some of the best fish the vendors have ever brought.

We separated the judging of the Koi and Butterfly Koi for the first time ever, which gave us three shows in one. I don't know the exact numbers (I haven't started crunching the numbers yet because the show just ended yesterday) but, I heard we had more Koi, Butterfly Koi, and Gold fish shown this year than any other year.

As chair person I'd like to thank the three pages of volunteers. Without your help we could not have a Koi show and especially one the size of this years. When I volunteered to chair the show, I was retired and had lots of time to spend on the show. As most of you probably know that change last December when I went back to work and I lost all of that free time. If it hadn't been for the efforts of the folk helping me this show would of never happened. So I'd like to particularly thank: David Pugh, Toni Anderson, Mike Anderson, Peggy Fricke, Marylyn Carroll, Vicki Knill, Herve Rijnveld, Bill Dowden, and Bart Atkinson, it's because of their hard work we had such a successful show. Also thank you to the vendors that were at the show and those that sponsored trophies. It's companies like you that enable us to put on a show at all, let alone the size

Lastly, I want to encourage you to not only help and attend next years show, but to plan on being at the banquet. It really isn't the boring lengthy event you hear people talk about at other shows. Toni had superb food, there was plenty of room, and Michael had everyone laughing. To say a good time was had by all would be a gross understatement.



September Meeting Minutes

Peggy Fricke³

Executive members present were: David Boyd, Ron Scott, Herve Rijnveld and Peggy Fricke.

Club President David Boyd called the meeting to order and updated the club on the upcoming Koi Show. David encouraged the membership to attend the show and the party for the sponsor meet and greet that will be held Friday night.

The new tank nets have been ordered and should arrive in time to be used at the show. The old nets will be on sale to club members and the general public at the show for \$25 for the 6 foot nets and \$30 for the 8 foot nets.

All the fish tanks have been assigned and most of show trophies have been sponsored. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the remaining trophies they are encouraged to speak with Ron Scott, Show Chairperson.

The volunteer list is complete. THANKS TO ALL WHO OFFERED TO VOLUNTEER!! Everyone expects this to be the best show ever!

There are still banquet tickets available and will be on sale at the show

David then made a very special announcement that Toni and Michael Anderson have graciously offered to donate two complete computer systems to the club. The systems include computers, monitors and printers. The computers will be used first at the show and then will be given the club Secretary and Treasurer for club business.

THANK YOU TONI AND MICHAEL!!

Additionally, Ron Scott Koi Show chairperson gave an update on the Koi show and thanked all the volunteers for helping him with the show planning.

Hal Brown, Nominating Committee Chairperson announced that his committee has completed its nomination search. The nominees for the office of Vice President are Michael Anderson and Steve Castell. The nominees for the office of Treasurer are Robin Scott and Steve Castell.

Voting for our new officers will be held at the October Meeting. Members are encouraged to attend and vote.

The Meeting concluded and the club enjoyed great food and good company at the beautiful pond and gardens of Josh and Amanda Bare.



For information on advertising or to become a Sponsor of the Atlanta Koi Club please contact **Kathy Scales** at kscscales77@bellsouth.net or call 770-605-0689



Nishikigoi
24 exhibitors
8 exhibitors were novices
138 nishikigoi were exhibited

Butterfly
11 exhibitors
11 exhibitors were novices
17 butterfly were exhibited

Goldfish
10 exhibitors
60 goldfish were exhibited



Let's begin by setting some specific ground rules. Clear water does not mean Quality Water. As koi hobbyists we must test our water routinely and adjust conditions in order to assure Quality Water conditions for our little fishies. Enough said.

So, what should we look for and what should we do to maintain Quality Water. The following has been compiled from numerous books, articles, and conversations with long time accepted Koi experts.

Water testing is extremely important because it gives you the opportunity to detect the presence of potentially toxic substances before fish behavior indicates there is a problem. Therefore, you can immediately rectify the situation before it starts to seriously affect fish health. Unless you are extremely experienced, by the time you visually notice something is wrong it is too late to prevent a disease state.

Why Test Your Pond Water

Any experienced hobbyist will tell you that good water quality is the key to ongoing fish keeping success. Testing the pertinent water parameters and interpreting the results is what's pivotal allowing you to correct minor problems before they become large ones.

Testing water quality on a regular basis, 3-4 times per month, is recommended. It is also important to have a grasp of the nitrogen cycle and the basics of water chemistry. Booklets are usually enclosed with test kits and most provide valuable info along with the testing procedure. Read them to glean what you can.

Test Kits & Meters

It is more economical to buy a complete test kit which would include reagents to test pH, ammonia, nitrite, GH and KH. These are the main parameters to test. Also deserving consideration are salinity, oxygen and nitrate. Test kits work by mixing reagents with the pond water. Add drops as directed and compare colors with the provided color chart. Very simple. With some parameters such as GH, a simple titration is performed to an end point (color change).

It's important to realize reagents have a shelf life. pH is purported to last the longest at about 2 years, but readings from other reagents cannot be taken as accurate if the reagents are over 1 year old. Bottom line, purchase a fresh test kit every year.

Serious hobbyists should consider meters, of particular value are salinity meters which help when treating for disease or reducing the effects of nitrite. Once you use a meter you quickly appreciate the ease and accuracy they provide. ORP meters (oxidation reduction potential) are also popular with the more serious enthusiasts because they provide an accurate snapshot of your water quality in terms of oxygen and organics.

Interpreting and Rectifying Improper Readings

pH - Positive Hydrogen Although the optimum may be 7.4, **it is more important to have a stable pH** rather than con-

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tinually adjusting it to the optimum. 7 - 8.5 is desired.

Out of range readings This will cause acidosis and alkalosis in fish, afflictions that will cause death. Fish may refrain from breeding at out of range readings and a high pH will cause ammonia to be more toxic. If the buffering is exhausted and the pH crashes, fish will sit listless on the bottom

Remedy pH is best control

ed by providing buffering to the water. As a natural effect of nitrification, water will become acidic. The most economical way to rectify this is to add baking soda (not baking powder) or oyster shells. These add carbonates to the water which stop the pH from dropping too low. Calcium Carbonate in the form of oyster shells also adds general hardness and will dissolve as needed, maintaining a stable pH. Your pH will read 8.4 when you use these buffering methods, which is perfectly fine. They will also lower a high pH down to 8.4.

NH3 – Ammonia The fish are always producing ammonia and the turnover important to note that in reality it will never be zero rate is a function of the ponds volume and pump flow. In addition to that, the purity coefficient dictates that it takes about 4.2x the amount of time to actually turnover 99.99% of the pond water. In other words, a 1k pond with a 500 gallon pump will require over 8 hours to turnover effectively 100% of the ponds water. The more turnover the better.

Out of range readings Will cause the fish gill distress and burning and ultimately disease and / or death.

Remedy Immediately cease feeding the fish. A large water change of up to 50% should be done. Lowering the pH closer to 7 will also help as this will convert ammonia into the ammonium ion, a much less toxic version of Nitrogen. Additionally, there are products that will lock up toxic ammonia but they should not be used more than 2 successive times without a water change. They cause faulty readings with most test kits. Zeolite is another option in smaller systems, it chemically bonds with ammonia (adsorption) thereby removing it from the water. Salt can not be used with Zeolite. The ultimate answer to resolving an ammonia problem is a mature filter, more filtration and / or fewer fish.

NO2 – Nitrite Nitrite readings should also be negligible. If you're trying to cycle your filter system, nitrite readings will indicate you're half way there.

Out of range readings High nitrite content interferes with blood's ability to carry oxygen so the fish experience a slow asphyxiation - hence the moniker "brown blood disease".

Remedy Adding salt to the water, to a level of 0.1% - 0.3%, will allow fish to extract oxygen from the water. Reducing feeding and performing water changes will also help alleviate the high readings. Maximize aeration and correct the cycle problem as quickly as possible.

GH/KH - General & Temporary Hardness GH is general or total hardness, mainly calcium, magnesium, minerals and salts. KH, or temporary hardness or buffering is the elements excluding calcium and magnesium. The tolerance levels are high, any reading between 100 - 200 ppm will be okay for either readings. Although there can be effects on the koi's bone and cartilage development to chronic exposure to low levels, the more important immediate factor is the possibility of a pH crash and to prevent it.

Out of range readings High readings would require water changes with softer water or running water through a water softener. It presents no real danger. Low readings, below 100 ppm, will eventually cause the pH to crash to about a 5 pH. This is a real problem in vats and show tanks that have no buffering capacity.

Remedy Adding baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or oyster shells (calcium carbonate) will buffer the pH. Buffering is an extremely important parameter to maintain.

Some Golden Rules

Do Not Overstock your Pond - This is a chronic problem, from beginners who don't know any better to experts who are usually skilled enough to get away with it. But this practice will eventually catch up to you.

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AKC CALENDAR

October 14— Harvey Siskin, Atlanta
Election of Officers

November 11: *Winter Social*, Hosts —Michael and
Kathy Adkins in Cumming

To host a meeting contact
David Marier (404) 941-9459
Or dmarier56@comcast.net



(Continued on page 6)



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Install a Proper Filter - Unless you're keeping fish in such a small number (1 small 6" fish in 1K gallons) then you have to provide proper filtration. This includes at a minimum a bottom drain connected to a settlement chamber and then your chosen system from there. Err on the side of caution, it's impossible to over filter.

Test the Water - This is often your first clue if something is awry and a regular weekly testing regimen should be in place. It is also the first thing you do if there are any signs of trouble. Test your water, save your fish.

Feed the Proper Food - Trout chow is for ... you

guessed it, Trout. Buy a quality staple pellet and augment this with fresh greens and fruit.

Do Not Overfeed - We visit a lot of ponds that have uneaten food floating about. Fish are grazers. Feed 5+ times per day and the food is gone within 30 seconds. If that is not feasible, feed just enough to be completely gone in 5-10 minutes. Some clients have been told not to feed their fish at all — which, when you think about it, makes no sense whatsoever.

Build a Proper Pond - Fish need to be housed in a non stressful environment which means they have plenty of space to exercise and a deep area to retreat to if they feel threatened. A 10 x 20 x 5 foot deep pond is considered the minimum size by most authorities.

Quarantine, Quarantine, Quarantine - have a separate system set up if you expect to be buying fish. It costs money to run a second system, but once your "no quarantine" routine fails and you lose half you're expensive and endeared collection, the cost of a second system seems paltry. Bacteria and parasites are also easily brought in on plants so these need to be sterilized. A separate system also allows you to isolate and treat fish.

Clean You're Pond, then Clean it Again - You can never clean too much. Remember that your koi pond is a closed system, not unlike a typical sewer system. Keep it clean. Make your fish happy.

Observation - Keep a close eye on your fish as problems can seemingly arise overnight. If you suspect a problem, you should randomly catch a fish and examine it in a clear plastic bag to check the mouth and belly area for signs of ulcers, parasites etc. Buy a microscope and scrape your fish at least monthly to check if they are carrying any parasites.

Education - Read, attend seminars and talk to fellow enthusiasts. The more you can draw upon, the better your chances of maintaining and improving your collection. It make it more enjoyable.

Have a Backup - Always ask yourself "What If ". For example, on many ponds owners build they install 2 pumps on 2 different GFI lines just in case 1 pump fails or a line gets tripped. Remember: Murphy had a pond.

Basic Signs of Trouble & Treatment Flow Chart

Any of the following symptoms mean fish aren't feeling well and require a closer look...

Flashing - Fish flicking quickly off objects means water quality issues or parasites.

Clamped Fins -Koi should be active with all their fins extended.

Sulking -Healthy fish do not lie on the bottom or remain motionless.

Appetite - If fish stop feeding there is a problem (unless water temperature is <10° F or >85° F).

Red Marks - Any cuts, sores, lesions etc. require immediate attention.

Gasping - or gathering at a waterfall or air stone = low O2, high nitrite or gill ailment.

Have fun!

Joe



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Preliminary Show Report

Ron Scott

2007 KOI and GOLD FISH SHOW			
Charge	INCOME	Budget	Actual
Code	Description	Amount	Amount
2310	Banquet Tickets	\$1,500.00	\$1,140.91
2315	Wet Lab	\$150.00	\$0.00
2320	Vendor Participation	\$9,000.00	\$3,650.00
2322	Vendor Participation - Advance	\$0.00	\$500.00
2325	Show Specific Shirts, Pins, Etc.	\$825.00	\$1,282.00
2330	Auction	\$500.00	\$800.00
2340	Koi Show Sponsors	\$1,900.00	\$1,635.00
2342	Goldfish Show Sponsor	\$775.00	\$300.00
2350	8' Tank Rental - Non Vendor	\$250.00	\$430.00
2362	Tank Rental Goldfish - Member	\$96.00	\$145.00
2370	Misc.	\$100.00	\$0.00
2375	Raffle Sales	\$400.00	\$364.00
2380	Club Store Merchandise	\$150.00	\$0.00
2390	Advertising	\$500.00	\$0.00
2395	Club Store Seed Money - Koi Show	\$200.00	\$500.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$16,346.00	\$10,746.91

Charge	EXPENSES	Budget	Actual
Code	Description	Amount	Amount
505	Advertising	\$500.00	\$0.00
510	Awards	\$2,500.00	\$2,761.60
516	Pipe & Drape	\$200.00	\$0.00
517	Water	\$500.00	\$1,419.82
518	Electricity	\$300.00	\$0.00
520	Banquet	\$2,890.00	\$2,188.00
530	Equipment	\$2,530.00	\$641.30
540	Food/Drinks	\$550.00	\$365.54
541	Food for Judges	\$200.00	\$0.00
543	Hospitality Suite Refreshments	\$500.00	\$424.16
550	Gifts	\$500.00	\$273.85
560	Lodging	\$750.00	
570	Printing	\$650.00	\$0.00
575	Postage	\$50.00	\$0.00
578	Show Specific Shirts, Pins, Etc.	\$1,800.00	\$2,364.54
579	Items Bought for Raffle/Auction	\$0.00	\$262.41
586	Judging Supplies	\$50.00	\$0.00
590	Water Quality Tests	\$200.00	\$58.11
595	Misc.	\$650.00	\$32.10
596	Donation for KHV Research	\$500.00	\$800.00
599	Club Store Seed Money - Koi Show	\$200.00	\$500.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,020.00	\$12,091.43
	NET	\$326.00	(\$1,344.52)
Not Finalized as of this date 9/21/07			

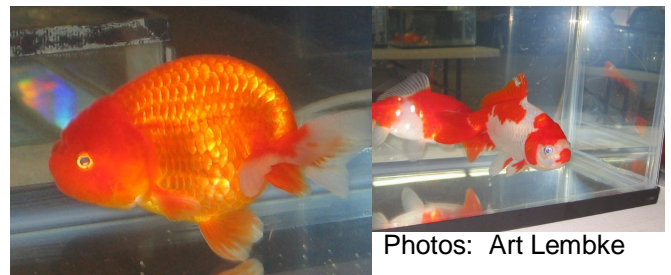


Grand Champion



Reserve Grand Champion

Gol dies Glow!



Photos: Art Lembke

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SET UP FOR BREAKDOWN - A SHOW OF HANDS

The Atlanta Koi Club put on a wonderful Show September 15 and 16. Feedback from vendors and attendees alike were glowing and positive, with a number of vendors already putting in deposits for next years show. Thanks so much to all that helped!

From the view of the casual visitor it all looks easy. Peek behind the scenes and you shudder. Anybody who saw Coastal's warehouse on the Wednesday before the show would have shaken their heads in disbelief. Half the warehouse was chock-full of used refrigerators and appliances. There was hardly any room to even start the Show layout. Furthermore, Bart's team - who were on their way to help during set up - were blocked by an overturned tractor trailer at -285 & I-20. Since they had to cancel, we were down to just a few volunteers.

Hats off to Bill Dowden whose energy and can-do attitude rivals any young wupper-snapper out there. Sleeves were rolled up and under Ron Scott's able direction each area was tackled step-by-exhausting-step. Since we were woefully shorthanded everything was that much more of an effort and took that much longer. Vicki Knill, in fact, personally cleaned and arranged ALL aquariums by herself. We'd see her trudging back and forth all day, pulling the aquarium-laden rolling carts like a Russian Babushka trudging through the deep snows of the Tundra with her loads of firewood.

By Saturday the transformation was remarkable, the result of so many generous members' efforts. It was a wonderful weekend of Koi appreciation and enjoyment.

Then everyone went home

What it took to break down the Show and restore Bill's warehouse to its original condition is another story. We can't thank Bart enough for his team's heroic job, nor Bill's generosity with his space, amenities, utilities, time and effort on behalf of the Club. Suffice it to say that once more it took an enormous amount of time-consuming work.

I sincerely hope we can draw on the goodwill of our Club Membership and have a more substantial show of hands to help set up next year's Show - or any of our other event for that matter - and not put the burden on just a dedicated few. Let's strive to make this Club not just *For the People*, but also one *By the People!*

Meanwhile, here is my show of hands for all those that gave so generously of their time and efforts.

Thanks so much,

Herve Rijnveld
AKC Equipment Manager



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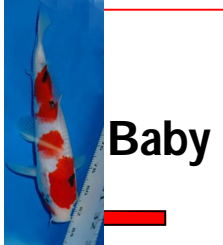
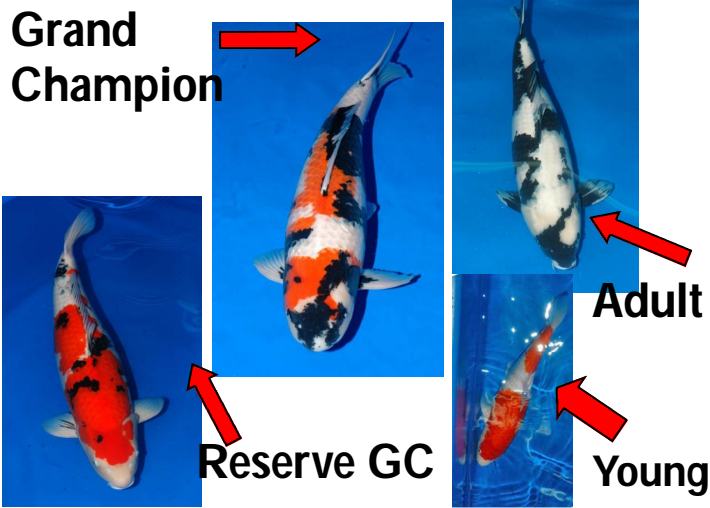
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These are the Champions, my friends.....



2007 Koi and Gold Fish Show

9

From what I heard, from members, visitors, and our vendors we had a GREAT show! We had close to 300 people come to this years show. Starting Friday night with the Vendor Appreciation get together, when we ran out of food and had to get more; to Saturday and Sunday's show everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. If you didn't attend, you missed not only beautiful fish in the show, but some of the best looking fish, vendors have ever brought (the "really" nice ones did go early).

We completely separated the judging of the Koi and Butterfly Koi for the first time ever, which gave us three shows in one. I don't know the exact numbers (I haven't started crunching the numbers yet because the show just ended yesterday) but, I heard we had more Koi, Butterfly Koi, and Gold Fish shown this year than any other year. The judges commented that this years show was extremely close and it was very hard to pick the winners.

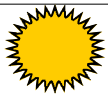
As chair person, I'd like to thank the three pages of volunteers, who without your help we could not have a show and especially one the size of this years. When I volunteered to chair this years show, I was retired and had lots of time to spend on the show. As most of you probably know that changed last December when I went back to work and lost all of my free time. If it hadn't been for the efforts of the folk helping me this show would of never happened. So, I'd like to particularly thank the following people: David Pugh, Toni and Michael Anderson, Peggy Fricke, Marylyn Carroll, Vicki Knill, Herve Rijnveld, Bill Dowden, and Bart Atkinson.

They are the ones that put in all the long hours and hard work to make this show a success. Also thank you to the vendors that were at the show and those that sponsored our trophies. It's companies and people like you that enable us to put on a show at all, let alone one of this size.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to not only help, attend, and show your fish at next years show, but to plan on being at the banquet. It really isn't the boring, lengthy event you hear people talk about at other club's shows. Toni had superb food, there was plenty of room, and Michael had everyone laughing throughout the awards presentation. To say a good time was had by all would be a gross understatement.

Thank you again for everyone's help.

Ron Scott
2007 Koi and Gold Fish Show Chairman



INFOTANZA 2007

Being held October 25-27th at the Garden Hilton in Kennesaw, Georgia.

The primary point of interest to the **Koi and Water Garden** community is that the last day of this industry trade professional oriented event will be opening the doors to any fish, water garden or other pond and water garden oriented club members to be admitted **for free** (*just bring your club membership pin*). This is primarily being done so that **pond and fish enthusiasts** may **take advantage** of the **Fish health Seminar and Wet Lab** being hosted by IPPCA member **Vickie Vaughan**. This extracurricular lab is modestly priced at \$50.00 for non-IPPCA members to attend. IPPCA members are being extended free attendance to this seminar. The IPPCA is currently lining up additional educational speakers for Saturday afternoon that would be of interest to both hobbyist and professionals, keep an eye on INFOTANZA.com for updates.

This is a limited seating event and we already have several registrants to attend, from local koi club members as well as IPPCA members. Attendance will be accepted on a first-come first-reserved basis, and when all available seating is taken, registration for this popular class will be closed.

For more information contact: info@ippca.com or call 866-484-7722.

Gloria Jones
"The Pond Professional"
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