



# Scales & Tales

**First Coast Koi, Goldfish and Water Garden Club**

June 2010

[www.firstcoastkoiclub.com](http://www.firstcoastkoiclub.com)

Volume 10, No. 6

*Dedicated to promoting the appreciation and joy of Koi, Goldfish & Water Gardens through education, mutual support and public exhibits in Jacksonville, Florida and the neighboring areas.*



## Welcome new members

Please welcome new members to our club.

No new members this month. HMMMMM Maybe we can find a former military recruiter as our next member.

## Coming Events

Hot summer days coming so think cool thoughts. Remember during the summer our monthly meeting moves to the third Saturday evening at 5PM.

June monthly meeting at the home of Barbara Everett  
3953 Aldington Dr. JAX, 32210  
904-777-3143  
Check the website for directions.

Jeff of Jeff's Koi house is expanding his operation to include a water garden store and the grand opening is Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Petersburg. Check out his website for details.  
[www.jeffskoihouse.com](http://www.jeffskoihouse.com)





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From the Editor

Don and Dale

90 plus degrees at 11AM drives Dale and I into the house on the weekends so our projects remain relatively uncompleted while we move on to indoor projects. For the summer months we change our schedule so we're out in the yard early and back into the house for the afternoon to increase our appreciation of air conditioning.

Warmer weather means warmer water which translates into stress for your fish, mostly due to lower oxygen levels in your pond. Now is a great time to double check the size of the pond pump you are using to make sure that you turn your pond's total volume over at least once every two hours and that you have sufficient aeration. Many times people think their fish are ill because they're acting listless, when the problem is due to low levels of oxygen. During the summer when you are battling algae, if you overdose with a chemical algaecide, oxygen levels drop very fast putting your fish into extreme stress. I remember a couple of years ago during August, a power surge zapped our main pump. When Dale and I got home all the fish were gasping at the surface. Fortunately we had enough spare pumps to get water circulating again and didn't lose any fish, but to this day I maintain a spare pond pump and air pump. I've been thinking about keeping an oxygenation product such as Sera's O2 Plus on hand and would be interested if any of you have any experience, positive or negative, with these types of products.#



As many of you know I'm a great appreciator of Minn Finn MAX medication because it saved my pond twice during the last 2 years. After talking with the marine biologist that invented the product, Paul Curtiss, I discovered that EarthWorks is becoming a dealer of the Minn Finn product line in Jacksonville. According to Paul, Earthworks has acquired both the standard and the MAX and plans to keep it in stock. FYI 1 liter of standard treats 2000 gallons ,while 1 liter of MAX treats 8000 gallons.



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From The President

Fred Leib

## Hi Clubmembers

Hope you are staying cool. The last couple weeks have been really hot. The Florida heat must also keep visitors from going on the Pond Tour this year. The turn out was less than last year, but we still had a lot of fun with the visitors to our ponds. We showed eleven beautiful ponds and our guests really enjoyed visiting and talking to the pond owners.



All the ponds on the tour are now in the running for Pond of the Year. Ponds on the Tour this year were Jim and Libby Mattingly, Bill and Marcia Torrence. Peggy Morris, Dave and Joan Majcher, Fred and Teresa Leib, Bill and Sandy Hartley, Dan Webby, Tom and Wendy Conlin, Ken May, Doug and Darla Stuber. Saturday evening after the tour we all went to Al's Pizza for some food and fun. Twenty-six members joined us. I thought that maybe we should hold a meeting there sometime soon. On Sunday we made a fieldtrip to Doug and Darla Stuber's in Amelia Island. On the way we stopped at Ken May's pond and what a gorgeous setup he has. The water is crystal clear with about 150 large koi. A beautifully landscaped backyard with a gazebo completes the tropical paradise. Ken's many inventions and gadgets impressed all of us and we all had a hard time leaving his place. Next we visited Doug and Darla's pond, another beautiful 6000 gallon pond surrounded by a landscape of exotic and unusual plants. We all loved their rock wall with built in gas fire pits. We went home and started making plans on the things we could change and improve on our own ponds. A big thank you to all members that showed their ponds this year.

Our next meeting will be at Barbara Everett's home on Saturday June 19 at 5:30 p.m. Please bring your chairs and a side dish to go with chicken catchatory. See you all there.

Fred



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## Around the Pond

Last month when I said now that March and April are over it should settle down for most of us, I didn't realize at the time just how right I would be. There are very few Koi activities going on with the exception of the North Florida Koi Clubs Young fish show. I didn't attend so hopefully someone can provide me with a review so I can include it in next month's newsletter.

The pond tour is over now and once again because of my pond renovation project, I was unable to attend. Young was taking pictures so I'll get copies from him for next month's newsletter as well. The after tour dinner was well attended at Al's Pizza on San Jose and everyone had a great time so I assume the tour was successful. I'm sure Fred will provide more details in his column.



The summer is usually fairly slow due to the Florida heat but if you know of anything of interest to the club just shoot me an email.

Jeff's Koi House is expanding operations in St. Petersburg and is having a grand opening Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

This month Joe White has a one page article in Koi Usa called "Beginners" which makes for interesting reading if you are new to the hobby.

See ya Round the Pond!

Don and Dale.



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The Gardeners Corner

Peggy Morris



**Ferns:** Stone and Ferns work so well together, and they do a great job of concealing artificial edges of our ponds. Ferns have been with us for more than 300 million years... there are ferns for shade gardens, rock gardens, even sun gardens, and can be found just about everywhere on earth. Most are found in the tropics where tree ferns may grow as high as 40 feet.

Most ferns enjoy living in moist shaded undisturbed spots, but some will root in cracks in rocks -- and this is happening around my pond.

Along with the moss that is quickly accumulating, the ferns give the impression that the pond has been there for years -- rather than a few short months. A great way to quickly naturalize a new pond. Best temperature for ferns is 70-80 degrees, and require a fairly high level of humidity, but with plenty of misting they do very well in our 90 degree temps.



**Ferns** usually have very few problems with insects and diseases... Yeah! They can be injured by insecticides and fungicides which we would not be using around of ponds.

**Perennials:** The backbone of our gardens. The secret to enjoying perennials to their fullest is planting them in combination with other perennials -- selecting plants with staggered bloom times for color throughout the season. Red makes a flowerbed appear larger, while blues will make the flowerbed appear smaller and more distant. Pinks mix well with purple, and white is complimentary with any color.

Annuals for June planting include coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe, portulaca, salvia and zinnia. Fertilize monthly with 6-6-6 fertilizer... and remove old faded flower heads.

Happy Gardening.



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From the Secretary

Libby Mattingly

## **FCKC Minutes of the May Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the FCKC was called to order by VP Tom Conlin on May 16, 2010 with 18 members and three guests in attendance.

Tom started the meeting with a presentation of koi identification and a color handout for everyone.

Fred welcomed everyone and introduced our new members, Doris Young and Tom and Sandy Hartley. The Treasurer reported that the Epic plant sale netted \$567. A decision to continue at Epic will be made in the future.

Fred also noted that at our October 2009 show, the show chairman neglected to have our Grand Champion photographed and that David and Karen Hardcastle's fish would now not be eligible for the AKCA Champion of Champions judging. At the next show all fish will be photographed before leaving.

The Pond Tour is set for Saturday June 5th. We have ten ponds with Doug and Darla Stuber's pond on Sunday only. The club members wishing to attend will try to go in the late afternoon. Don Whaley will print the flyers and the booklets for the three starting points of the pond tour.

The date of our Koi Show will be September 24-26. Nellie Hawley has volunteered to take care of the vendor packets and donation requests for the raffle. Tom Conlin will oversee setup. Fred Leib is still trying to nail down a location. The club will check into buying tank covers for this years show.

Nellie Hawley brought information to the club of a new koi organization, Koi Organization International (K.O.I.). This website, <http://www.koiorganisationinternational.org/> provides current, accurate and useful information for the koi hobbyists. It is an online education university.