

Koi Joy – The pleasures of water gardening

October the third and forth are the dates for the First Coast Koi Clubs 7th annual koi extravaganza. Those of you that have koi ponds or are considering this hobby should come. Admission is free and open to the public.

Koi shows are a great venue for seeing what the koi world is all about. Koi keepers compete for awards and bragging rights and display the best specimens of the many varieties of koi. Everything you might want to know pertaining to the hobby is available for the asking, and vendors are on hand displaying and selling equipment, pumps, filters and of course, a large variety of koi in price ranges to fit every pocket book.

What do koi keepers consider when selecting their fish? First find a reputable dealer. Most offer an extensive variety of koi and can provide all the information you need to know about both their koi and their company. Look over any fish you're considering very well for signs of illness and damage. Also observe the entire tank for actions. If any are isolated, or sitting on the bottom, or just seem lethargic, think it over before making the purchase. A good dealer should not have any unhealthy fish in their tanks, but fish do get stressed during transport making them vulnerable to disease when placed in your pond.

Koi prices vary greatly and depend on the color, patterns, and markings of the fish and how they compare to the standard for that variety. The closer the koi compares to the standard, the more expensive it becomes. The standard for each specific breed of koi includes color, markings, scale type, and body shape.

. Koi shows are a great way to see the different breeds of fish that are available and to learn what to look for when selecting the fish for your pond. Generally, the second day of the show the judges will walk from tank to tank and explain why the winners were winners.

From the personal experience files comes “You don't need award winning fish to experience the pleasures of water gardening.” Starting out with a few of the less expensive variety will provide you countless hours of enjoyment and entertainment without breaking the bank. As Don and I say “There is a koi show every evening at our house”.

7th annual Koi Extravaganza. October 3rd. 10am till 5. October 4th 10am till 2.
Howard Johnsons Inn in orange park. Free admission. For further info visit the website. www.firstcoastkoiclub.com

If you have any questions, email me: Dale@DWhaley.com