



With his new "Cattfish Camouflage" Jack thought he have an edge over the pond fish.

Newsletter Editor
1979 State Road 13
Jacksonville, FL 32259

SCALES & TALES

First Coast Koi, Goldfish and Water Garden Club



At the home of Jim & Libby Mattingly
4072 Dover Road
Jacksonville, FL
RSVP to 733-6831
We will be serving ham in celebration
of Thanksgiving



Too many koi!!!

Directions: From San Jose Blvd. between University Blvd. and Emerson Street, closer to Emerson, turn west on Peachtree Street (towards the river) and go two blocks to Dover Road. The house is on the corner of Dover & Peachtree. Look for the koi windsock.

Hi Club members

Ah, the cooler temperatures are finally here and we can enjoy the out doors even more. We can work in our yards and our ponds and don't even break a sweat. This is a good time to clean your filters, skimmers and don't forget to remove the leaves from the bottom of your pond to keep your drains from clogging. Also, make sure you remove all the dead plants and leaves out of your water garden.

Our October meeting was hosted by Tom and Wendy Conlin on a cool Saturday evening. Wendy's delicious chicken soup made us all feel good and all the others goodies made us feel even better. Everyone enjoyed their beautiful ponds and the fire pits. We mainly talked about our last show. I gave a short presentation on how to choose a new Koi for your collection. Several nice gifts were raffled off and Marsha was happy to win the door price and the Koi print.

At our next meeting we need to discuss our plant sales and come up with a work schedule to get

our plants ready. I hope everyone will spare a couple of hours on a Saturday. Our election of the new officers is coming in December and Don Whaley agreed again to handle the nominating committee. Anyone interested in running for any position on the board or likes to nominate someone please contact Don @718-0176 or e-mail don@dwhaley.com. We will start up our koi classification program, were we show the different verities and how to categorize them.

The Club is always looking for new, donated items for door prizes and raffle's. If you have something please bring them to the meeting. The November meeting will be at Jim and Libby Mattingly, Sunday at 2:00 PM. I hope we see you all there.

Sincerely, Fred

PS: Jim and Libby have too many Koi and will be selling a few selected, after the meeting, to make room for more beautiful Koi.

Remember that our December meeting is a very important event for our club. Not only will be meeting at the home of one of our long time member, Peggy Morris, but we will be electing officers for next year and voting on our Koi Person of the Year. This honor goes to someone who has dedicated a lot of time and energy on behalf of our club this past year. Please consider holding an office and being a part of the workings of the club. The club doesn't run itself and everyone is encouraged to be active.

Officers & Contacts

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Some days we just get stuck, and bogged down.
Some days all you can do is smile and wait for someone to kindly
remove your butt from the hole you find it wedged into.

Steps to a Successful Quarantine Experience

One of the most interesting and exciting times for the koi hobbyist is finding and buying a new fish or two for the pond. There are so many varieties, sizes and quality levels that it can take months to decide just what it is that "trips your trigger". Many times it just comes down to a simple: "I like this one".

There is one thing that is often overlooked during the search. That is: "Where are we going to put it?" For far too many people releasing the newcomer into the pond is about all the preparation thought to be necessary. There are the customary excuses:

"My dealer has very healthy fish".

"We only buy fish from one place".

"We've never had a problem introducing new fish to our pond."

"If we lose one or two now and then it's not a big deal".

And my favorite-and one which is usually unsaid but often quietly favored:

"Everyone else does it".

Having dealt with tropical and ornamental fish for most of my life I can assure you that the quickest way to a devastating experience in this hobby is to add new fish without proper quarantine. No, it doesn't happen every time. But it does happen. More frequently than we know. People just don't want to admit that they just lost their prized pet koi. So it goes away quietly and no one is the wiser.

I have been called many times to visit a pond where the fish are sick

and dying. One of the first questions I ask is: "About how long ago did you put a new fish in you pond?" In many cases the answer is: "About two (or) three weeks". Just about the right amount of time for a parasite outbreak and bacterial infection to begin. So if you want to have a positive and successful experience when you have found that new "treasure" please prepare before you buy.....not after.

A quarantine tank can be many things. I've seen 55gal, 75gal, 120gal, 240gal, 300gal, 800gal, and 1250gal tanks used as quarantine tanks. Whether they are aquariums, stock tanks or professionally built indoor tanks with polycarbonate windows and under water cameras they all have some things in common. They are equipped with powerful filtration, are aerated with large air pumps, have secure covers and are well lit. The nets, food, hoses, medications, test kits are all separate from the owner's collection. In other words this is a QUARANTINE tank. It is not just a place to house a few fish for a couple weeks. A quarantine tank is for holding, observing, treating and: testing.

Holding should be a minimum of four weeks but eight weeks is far better. If at all possible one or two fish from the existing collection should be added to this tank. During this time the water quality must be monitored for ammonia, nitrites, nitrates, total alkalinity, Ph and temperature. Water changes should be accomplished frequently and consistently to insure that the water quality is maintained.

Ammonia level should be zero or nearly so at all times.

Nitrite level should be zero or nearly so at all times.

Nitrate level should be less than 50ppm.

Ph level is important as it should be a consistent reading somewhere between 7.0 and 8.5.

Total alkalinity(carbonate hardness) level: simple: The tank needs some. At minimum 50ppm. Higher levels are perfectly fine but lower levels can allow for a Ph crash.

Temperature needs to be held between 65 and 75 degrees F Consistency is key.

Observing the new fish is very important. New fish may be a bit spooked at first but with the help of a couple fish from the existing collection should soon be feeding and swimming about with them. They should not be laying on the bottom. They should not rub or "flash" against the tank sides. They should be coming to the surface for food more eagerly as time passes. Anything which indicates to you that this fish is not feeling good is cause for action.

Treating new fish is discussed at length and at times heatedly on internet forums around the world. However it is generally agreed that there are a few water column medications which are important to have on hand before the new fish arrives. If you plan on buying a microscope or already own one that is terrific and you're already ahead of the pack. However if you study the minimum medications needed for parasite treatments it is perfectly fine to treat them using a shotgun approach. The point being to treat the new fish as if they have parasites to begin with. An approach that is actually more accurate than the hobbyist might think.

Either way there are a few medications which are important to have:

A formaldehyde and malachite green solution such as Quickcure or ProformC

Praziquantel

Plain softener salt

Diflubenzuron-trade name: Dimilin

Yes there are more but this will give you a start.

You'll also need:

A gram scale

Measuring devices and cups

Well-capped jars for mixing

Iodine

Cotton swabs

Small tools such as a tweaser, exacto knife

And yes there is more but for now this is enough.

Once you have acquired some quarantine skills and can bring your new acquisitions through the holding, observing and treating steps you'll find satisfaction knowing you've done your best to insure your fish's health.

Finally: Testing.

For those of you who have read about the devastating effect of Koi Herpesvirus there is something you can do if you wish.

Once your koi have gone through several weeks in warmer waters a blood sample can be drawn and sent to the Infectious Diseases Laboratory at the University of Georgia. The blood sample will be subjected to KHV and evaluated for antibodies. This test is known as the Virus Neutralization test. Although no test is perfect I'd place this in the 99% accurate range. About as good as can be done at present.

No matter what else I hope I've convinced you to take quarantine seriously and prepare yourself before you buy that new "bauble" that looks you in the eye and says "take me home?"

Karl Schoeler

Karl Schoeler, founder:
EIHIOICGI

October Meeting Minutes

The October meeting was held at the home of Tom & Wendy Conlin with 13 members and one guest in attendance. Fred would like to have an update for email addresses from everyone so that Don Whaley can email successfully. We need a Koi USA rep for the monthly article.

Fred thanked Teresa Lawrence and Greg Stephan on all their hard work on our show. There were a lot of compliments from everyone. A special thank you to Dale Whaley for extraordinary centerpieces and trophies. Nellie Hawley, Fred Leib, & Dave Majcher all donated raffle items. At the next show the club needs to consider hiring more help to set up and break down. There is a list on the website of all the winners at the show.

Next weekend, October 25th, is the Rainbow Koi Club second anniversary get together. The Tropical Koi Club's show is Halloween weekend in Delray Beach.

Fred presented a short talk on how to buy koi.

Libby Mattingly