



Scales & Tales

First Coast Koi, Goldfish and Water Garden Club

August 2009

www.firstcoastkoiclub.com

Volume 8, No. 7

Our Next Meeting

Will be held at the home of

Don & Dale Whaley

Saturday, August 15th at 5:00 pm



3801 Oldfield Trail
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Call Dale to RSVP-880-3834

Directions: Starting in Mandarin at I-295 and San Jose.

Proceed south on San Jose to Loretto Dr., turn left (east) on Loretto to the first stop light. (Aladdin Rd). Turn right (South) on Aladdin Rd for 8/10 of a mile to Oldfield Trail (which is a small private road just past the sweeping curve on Aladdin on the left (East side) Turn Left (East) on Oldfield Trail and immediately turn left into the drive way.

From our President

Hi Club members

I can't wait for the temperature to cool down a little and the afternoon thunderstorms to stop. I would like to have a meeting by the pond again without water dripping from inside or above.

We had a great turnout at our June meeting at Dan Wehby's home. Everyone enjoyed Dan's beautiful Koi pond and the lush landscape. We talked about our upcoming events and our annual Koi show in October. Greg Stephan, our show Chairman, gave us an update on the planning progress. It looks like we have everything under control and the show packages have been mailed out. Dan gave an informative presentation on safety around the pond and the actual operating cost of your pump in our area.

We held our first club garage sale on June 25 and 26 at my home. Many of our club members donated used and new items for that sale. My garage and Florida room were covered with furniture and boxes of items for a week. A great number of members showed up on Saturday to help with the set up and sale. Some even found bargains and treasures to take home. We found out that arranging a garage sale is a lot of work but in the end it was worth the effort. The club made over \$500 and we still have a lot of stuff left. Thanks to all members that donated items and helped at the sale. How about another garage sale in the fall?

I was able to locate a like new 20x60 tent. The board members agreed that this would be a

great addition to our inventory and we purchased the tent. The tent will be used at our show and I'm sure the vendors will appreciate a shaded cover. The tent can also be a moneymaker for our club. We could rent it out to different events and collect a rental fee.

The next meeting will be at Dale and Don Whaley's on Saturday, August 15, 5:00 PM. We will vote on the Pond of the year and have some informative presentations.

Hope to see you all there.

Sincerely, Fred Leib



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All Florida Koi Appreciation Picnic & Social

Hosted by Nature's Coast Koi & WG Club in Old Town, FL.

You are cordially invited to come and join the other nine Florida clubs in a day of fun, food, and camaraderie. Reunite with your friends in our sister clubs around the state.

Show your team spirit-wear your club shirts!!!

When: Sunday, September 6, 2009

11 a.m. - until

We plan to eat at about 1:30 p.m.

Where: The Fosters' home

375 NE 749th Street in Old Town

352-542-8925



We will provide all food, drinks and beer. Feel free to B.Y.O.B. (set-ups will be provided)

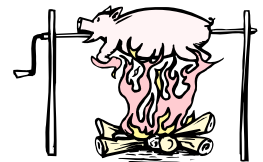
Menu

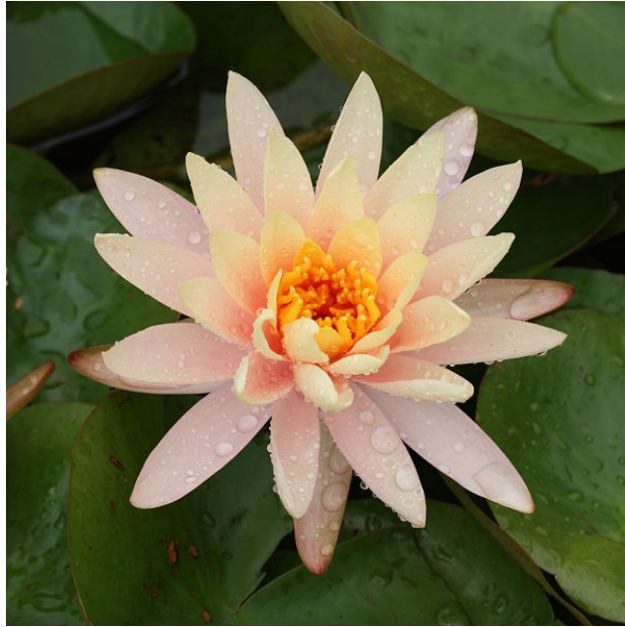
BBQ pork, chicken & spare ribs

Baked Beans, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob & rolls

Watermelon, cantaloupe & dessert

We ask that each person attending bring a raffle item. We will hold a raffle in the afternoon and proceeds will go to defray the cost of the day's activities.





Nymphaea 'Peach Glow'

Nymphaea - Jewel of the Water Garden

by Rosanne Conrad reprinted from Pondkeeper

I always loved water lilies. Until a few years ago, I knew nearly nothing about them except that they had a way of stopping me in my tracks every time I came across one. When I decided to plant in a pond, there wasn't any doubt as to what my first plant would be. So after the pond was in, off I went to a local nursery, one of the few that carried aquatic plants. The nursery was owned by a Mennonite family who were very personable and eager to help. I was delighted by their selection of water lilies! They had red, pink, yellow, and "I think that one in the corner is a white," said the owner with pride as I was perusing my options. I just couldn't decide on the pink or the yellow, they were both full of blooms and looked totally irresistible. So, I did what any rational woman would have done, I took them both.

It didn't take long before I was completely in love with these plants. Day after day, bloom after gorgeous bloom, my lilies kept me coming back for more. I couldn't get enough. They were the first things I wanted to see in the morning (as I sipped my coffee) and the last thing I wanted to see before bed.

Then one day a friend came by, and I couldn't wait to show her my lilies. She had a water garden too and knew quite a bit about aquatic plants. "Is that a Charlene Strawn or a Texas Dawn you have there?" she asked. This left me totally stumped feeling stupid, and thinking to myself, "What the heck is she talking about." I think I responded with a less than brilliant, "... I dunno."

That was the day that led me on my search to know more about the Hardy Nymphaea. And since that day, I've realized that the more I know, the more there is to know about this "jewel" of the water garden.

I started soaking up every bit of information I could get my hands on. Books, videos, and catalogs are more plentiful than I could have imagined. I learned a lot just by studying the wholesale catalogs. The ones with full-color photos and accompanying descriptions were very helpful during that first year-- and most of those catalogs were free for the asking! I couldn't believe that there were scores of hardy water lilies to choose from with names like Virginalis, Chromatella, Rembrandt, Escarboucle, and Fabiola.

HARDY VS TROPICAL

Learning about the hardy water lily was more interesting, or at least more practical, to me than the tropical varieties. I think the tropicals are stunning, but living in an area where zone 5 meets zone 6 presents its share of problems. When I learned about the scores of "hardies" available, I was convinced that my time would be better spent researching them and leaving the tropicals to my friends in

the south. I decided that I could live without the electric blues. shocking pinks. and other neon colors that only the tropical's can provide, at least until my greenhouse is built!

I often go back in my mind to the day I bought my first water lilies. Although I was impressed, at the time, by the selection of water lilies offered by the nursery I patronized, I was later disappointed that they did not know more about them. They were pegged simply pink, red, yellow, and white. I am still not completely sure about the true identity of the pink one I bought there, although I have it narrowed down to two possibilities.

DON'T 'KISS' OFF IDENTIFYING

Garden centers and retail nurseries who deal in aquatic plants need to identify their plants properly. Some retailers choose to operate on a KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) policy when it comes to aquatic plants. This is understandable, as most entry-level hobbyists come in looking for a particular color of water lily, so the retailer will simply peg them with a "Yellow" tag rather than bother with the proper, but lengthy, N. 'Marliacea Chromatella'. But remember this. Entry-level hobbyists soon become educated hobbyists-with a yearning to know what they have (and what they're buying).

ELEPHANT IN A THIMBLE

There are a lot of things to consider when buying and selling water lilies. Size, amount of sunlight required, blooming traits, etc., all need to be taken into account. You wouldn't want to sell someone a water lily with a spread of up to 18' for a 2' container garden. would you? It would be like trying to stuff an elephant into a thimble!

Retailers need to acquaint themselves with their water lilies, (and all aquatic plants) so they can, in turn, educate their customers. A little knowledge goes a long way in the area of customer service! Provide your customers with good, solid information, and they will trust you, continue buying from you, and will recommend you to fellow water gardeners.

NYMPHAEA 101

Pronounced nim-fa ahim fa' ah the name was applied in the year 1753 (by Linnaeus) to a genus of aquatic plants within the family called Nymphaeaceae. Nymphaea comprises both hardy and tropical species, varieties, and cultivars. There are approximately 180 recognized as hardy Nymphaea in the world today!

THE ROOT OF IT ALL

To begin an understanding of the different varieties of hardy Nymphaea one should start at the root, or "rhizome". There are three accepted classifications of rhizomes including Marliac., Odorata, and Tuberosa. There are more of the Marliac varieties than there Odorata or Tuberosa varieties, and there are two distinct types of Marliac rhizome. Hobbyists who intend to grow their water lilies in containers would be more successful growing those of the Marliac type. The spreading Odorata and Tuberosa types quickly outgrow their containers. This can be a nuisance for those not interested in transplanting their water lilies each year!

Offspring of Odorata rootstock are from the native Eastern North American water lily. They are identified by their long, fleshy, brown rhizome. Eyes develop on the rhizome, with each having the ability to begin a new plant.

Central American white water lily hybrid. The rhizomes are similar to the Odorata, except their daughter plantlets are loosely attached.

The Marliac hybrids have two kinds of rootstocks. One develops a pineapple-like form crowned by a single growing tip. As the mass grows larger, it will produce eyes which are able to generate new water lilies. The second type of Marliac rootstock is more elongated. Most red hardies are of the second type of Marliac rootstock. These elongated rootstocks produce fewer eyes than the other rhizome types, while the pineapple-like Marliac produce the most. The Marliacs tend to clump rather than trail, (although this is not always the case).

THE HARDY BLOOM

Hardy water lilies come in a variety of colors and shades including red, white, yellow, pink, salmon, and changeable. The changeables are the most interesting, because they open the first day as one color, perhaps yellow-and by the end of the day, their shade may be leaning toward salmon. The second day they may be orange, then rust on the third.

Blooms vary in shape, size, and number of petals among the varieties. There are two basic shapes: cup and stellate (star). The cup shape has variations including double cup, open cup, and double open cup. A good example of a cup shaped flower is N. 'William Falconer'. A good example of a stellate bloom can be found in the N. 'Charlene Strawn'. A good example of a double cup is the recently introduced N. 'Lily Pons'.

The leaf shape, size, texture and color can vary greatly from variety to variety and from plant to plant. So can the coloring and markings of the peduncle and petiole. Water and soil pH, light exposure, plants depth, growing zone and whether the plant has adequate nutrients, all play a role in the color of the pads. Pad colors may also change with seasons.

There is so much to learn about the Hardy Nymphaea. The best advice I can give anyone who is interested in learning more about the hardy water lily is to read, read, and read! There is a wealth of information available, and you will become entranced by what you will learn.

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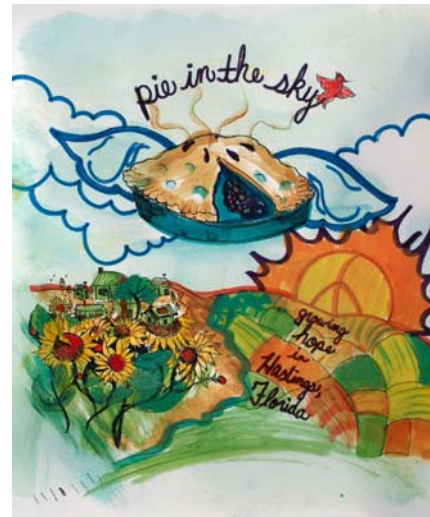
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Thank You, Koi club members for your support!

Pilau, Pies and Pews was a huge success, raising more than \$4,000 for Pie in the Sky and Communities in Schools, both benefiting the Hastings community.

I really appreciate all of you who came out to support this new venture. Special thanks to Dale Whaley for donating her time and talent to paint a beautiful pew, which sold for \$250.00 and also Don, who works so hard getting things set up (and can lift a pew all by himself over his head, wow!) And thank you all again for your donation to the food bank in Hastings via the proceeds from the pond tour. The money was used to buy much needed groceries which we were able to

purchase at .18 cents a pound. That \$320 really went a long way. What a super bunch of folks ya'll are!!!

Malea Guiriba

Teach your Koi To Eat From Your Hand

Koi are very sociable critters and love to stay in a group. They also are less shy when in a group. Your koi can be trained to eat from your hand if you have enough patience to earn their friendship and trust.

Feed them in the same place every time. Drop a small handful of feed in the water and stay there and observe their actions. They must see you when they eat. Do not walk away from the pond before they start to eat. They need to learn that their food comes from you and that you are not a predator. The bravest and hungriest will start to eat and the others will follow. Withhold food for a day or two if they will not eat during your presence, then try again.

Gradually your koi will equate you with their food. Place your hand close to the water and tease them closer to your hand with sprinklings of food. Put your hands in the water while they eat. Start with just a few pellets and they gradually will understand that their food comes from your hand. Eventually the bravest will start nudging your hand for food. It will be just a matter of time that their friendship and trust will be yours. Soon all your fish will swim, jump and splash toward you every time you approach the pond. With some patience, you will be able to tickle their chin, rub their backs, and they may even suck on your fingers.

In the summer months, koi will have big appetites and when water gets colder, the amount of food they want will be less. Make sure that you do not over feed your koi, because uneaten food will deteriorate your water quality. Since koi have no stomach in which to store food, it is best to feed them less at more frequent intervals. As a rule of thumb, koi should be fed at least twice per day.

Koi will eat almost anything that a human does, including meats, vegetables, fruits and cereals. They enjoy treats such as Cheerios and chopped fruits and vegetables. The best diet for them is a well balanced commercial koi food.

Make sure you have adequate filtration for the waste produced by the number of koi you have and amount of food that you feed. Nothing is more important for the health of your koi than good water quality, and water quality is greatly dependent on adequate filtration.

Many pond owners are unaware that while koi are basically bottom feeders in nature, they eat quite a bit of algae. Although large amounts of pond algae are unsightly, koi enjoy the benefits of being able to eat algae when they want and as much they want. They generally eat the short "fuzzy" string algae that form on the pond bottom and sides, and ignore the long stringy algae. Some amount of algae is a healthy condition in our ponds. In the presence of no feed available (such as vacations), koi will survive on algae for a considerable period of time.

Don Harrarwood



A Good Home is needed for 4 young Mallard Ducks. These were rescued about a month ago and really need to go to someone with a natural pond and yard that they will be safe in. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Teresa Lawrence at tancho99@comcast.net



The web channel for Koi, Aquarium, & Pond people!

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.

Newsletter Editor
1979 State Road 13
Jacksonville, FL 32259

SCALES & TAILS

Next Meeting
5:00 PM
August, 15th, 2009