



Charleston Showa Koi Club

Last meeting...

Our last meeting was an informal meeting at the show tanks at the Charlotte Show.

The Charlotte Koi Show

Again, as we expected, the Piedmont Koi & Water garden Society put on a wonderful Koi Show. It was nice to see our good friends from North Carolina back in the swing of things after taking last year off.

Several members of our club even participated in the show. Grant and Penny were two of the judges with Grant being the head judge. Ralph and Sue, Jim and Mary showed some of their Koi. Unfortunately, Cindy was unable to show her fish due to a back problem but still had a good time. Other members who attended were Charlie, Dee, Ray, Trish, Kathy, Robert, Linda, Johnna, Richard and Debi.

The Grand Champion went to David Smothers, with a Size 7 Showa

But even more impressive is that our own Jim and Mary took Most Unique with a Kumonryu size 3, as well as 1st Place ribbons for size 1 Kawarigoi, Size 3 Kawarigoi and Size 1 Gin-Rin B. Many of you may not know this but the Charlotte show is only the second show in all the years that Jim and Mary have been Koi hobbyists have entered and they have so far placed in each show! I think we've created a couple of Koi show monster!

Not to take away from our other club winner. Ralph won Best Doitsu with a Size 5 Kohaku as well as ribbons for 2nd place Kohaku, 1st and 2nd place Sanke,

2nd place Hikarimuji and lastly 2nd place Hikarimoyo.

Question of the Day: Do you know what a Hikarimoyo or a Hikarimuji is?

Answer: There are 14 classes that Koi compete in at a show and there are three Hikari classes. Hikarimono or Hikarimuji are one in the same, a single colored metallic koi like an Ogon or a Matsuba. The Hikari-Utsuri is a metallic Utsuri or Showa like a Kin-Ki Utsuri or Kin Showa. The Hikarimoyo is all other metallic koi like the Hariwake of Kujaku.

Congratulations to all and hope to see more of you at the Orlando show in March!!!

Many of you may not that the Charlotte show is only the second show that Jim and Mary have been koi hobbyists and entered koi. And, they have so far placed in each show! I think we've created a couple of koi show monsters! Not to take away from our other winner from our club. Ralph won "Best Doitsu Koi" with a Size 5 Kohaku as well as ribbons for 2nd place Kohaku, 1st and 2nd place Sanke, 2nd place Hikarimuji and lastly 2nd place Hikarimoyo.

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Robert Lewis

Next meeting....

Our next meeting will be held at Bob and Gwen's home on December 13th at 2:00. If you didn't sign up to bring something please e-mail Trish, and if you did we look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Don't forget to bring a photo of your grow out fish that you took before adding it to your holding tank or pond.

We will also be electing new officers at this meeting.

Please don't forget to bring a small donation for the Low country Orphan Relief, I have attached a "wish list" for you or you can visit their website <http://lowcountryorphanrelief.org/donations/our-immediate-needs>. You can also go to this website to get more information about them and what they do.

Our Immediate Needs

- Disposable diapers: sizes 4, 5, 6
- Pull-ups — all sizes, girls and boys
- School uniforms – khaki and navy pants or shorts- can be gently used
- Polo-type shirts in white and solid colors – can be gently used
- Boys' summer clothing – sizes 4 – 18
- Ladies and men's underwear and socks
- Boys' and girls' summer PJ's and nightgowns – sizes 6-16
- Boys'/mens' shoes sizes 1-9

If you donate gift cards this is what they will buy...

Any amount is greatly appreciated. Here how your money can change lives:

\$25 outfit for one child

\$50 pajamas for 6 children

\$150 coats for 5 children

\$200 duffle bag with a week's worth of clothes, shoes, coat and toiletries for one child.

NOTE: Items we CANNOT accept:

NO Toys

NO Large Items

NO Worn/Stained Clothes

NO MUSTY Books/NO MUSTY

Stuffed Animals

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday from the Charleston ShowaKoi Club.

We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday. We also hope to see you Sunday.

Calendar of events...

December 13 –Bob and Gwen

Meeting times and places may be subject to change.

Also keep Linda and Robert in your thoughts and prayers. Linda lost her sister at the end of November.

This is the last part of our "Selecting Koi for Show or for Pond and How They are Judged"

by Dr. Arthur Lembke, Maryland

KOROMO/GOSHIKI

This is a very complex class. It all revolves around a black netting reticulation called a robe that covers part, or all, of the pattern. If you take a Kohaku, Sanke or Showa and put the black reticulation only over the red and not the white, you have a Koromo. If you take the same three varieties and put a black robe over both the red and the white, then it is called a Traditional Goshiki. If you take a Kohaku, and place the black on top of the white only and not the red, you have a Modern Goshiki. **Koromo come in three types:** Ai Goromo, Sumi Goromo, and Budo Goromo. The Ai Goromo has the black robe over the hi, on the body and not the head. This robe reticulation is called Amine or ami for short. The word means net. This black reticulation ideally covers the outer one third of the scale. The coloration caused by the robe on an Ai Goromo has almost a blue hue to it. Hence the word Ai, which means blue. Ai Goromo rules this class if all the other qualities are close. The Sumi Goromo has a darker cast of black over just the red and the black is on the head as well. It is more black than blue. The Budo Goromo has a more purple-blue coming out from the robe and, with the edging being scalloped, almost looks like grapes. Hence the word Budo, which means grape. The standards for Goromo come from the Kohaku. What else? All the rules for the Kohaku, as far as pattern, apply. Snow white, bright red, clean edges, fins, etc. The only addition is the black reticulation robe. It should cover all the red, except for on the head in the Ai type. It should be even on all red, but not be so heavy as to hide or dim the red. Remember, you have to see that Kohaku there. Koromo can also be seen

as having a robe reticulation on top of Sankes and Showas too, but these are normally shown in the Kawari class. Fins on Koromo are white. Goshiki also have reticulation on the white as well as the red. We normally only see these with Kohaku patterns. The white areas are very similar to Asagi. Patterns follow the same rules as Kohaku. Goshiki can be lighter or darker. When they get too dark, though, they look faded. Goshiki were not doing very well in shows, until it was bred back for more Kohaku influence. The Modern Goshiki only has reticulation on the white and not on the red. This shows a much finer contrast in color and brightens the presentation of the fish. Modern Goshiki are starting to compete with Ai Goromo in this class in Western culture. In Japanese shows, the Goshiki are often separated out from the Koromo. Good quality Ai Goromo are very hard to find. Many of the spawns have too powerful reticulation and it spoils the contrast.

KIN GIN RIN

Take any variety of fish and put shiny scales on top and you have Gin Rin. We have the two names because the shiny scales appear different colors depending on the background color. If the background color is red, the shiny scales are gold and called Kin. If on white or black, then they appear silver or Gin. Types of Gin Rin are Pearl, Diamond, Beta and Kado. Pearl Gin is in the center of the scale and gives the look of a round pearl. Diamond Gin is the sunburst type that emanates from the middle like a rising sun. Beta Gin covers almost the whole scale, and Kado Gin covers just the edge. Kado Gin is sometimes mistaken for Fukurin. You have to look close to see whether the sparkle on the edge of the scale is for

Kado or on the skin that covers the edge of the scale, which is Fukurin. Pearl Gin is very rare, but quite stunning. Because it is rare, it is very hard to find one with a good pattern. Diamond Gin is the most popular and wins most of the competitions. It seems to be bred the most and gives the most sparkle. Gin Rin scales, for the purist, tend to complicate the color and hide the pattern. For this reason, they do not compete well with their non-gin counterparts. This is why there is a separate glass for Judging. Any fish can be Gin Rin, including Doitsu varieties. To be in Gin Rin, however, the Doitsu must have the line of scales on top by the dorsal fin, and these must all have Gin. For Judging this class, the most important aspect is the Gin Rin. No matter what type, the Gin must be highly organized on the fish. The Gin should be arranged in rows running the length of the body, parallel to the dorsal. There should be at least three rows of these scales on each side. The Gin scales should be uniform all the way along this line even up through the shoulder to the shoulder crease and back to the peduncle. The one with the most organized uniform lines of Gin wins, at least as far as Gin. After one looks at the Gin, then the rest of the standards (conformation, color, etc) need to be examined for the type of fish underneath the Gin. The Gin carries a heavy weight in the class and is worth extra points, so to speak. Normally, the best Gin Rin scales wins, unless there is a very poor representation of the variety underneath.

HIKARIMUJI

This is a single color Koi that has a Hikari shine. They come in yellow, white, red and orange. If they have a Matsuba pattern on top then they have

Matsuba in their name. Matsuba is considered a pattern and not a color. This confuses people, as it appears to be a two-colored Koi and people want to put it in the other Hikari varieties. The single color shiny Koi are called Yamabuki Ogon, Platinum Ogon, Hi Ogon or Orenji Ogon, depending on their color. If the yellow has a matsuba it is called a Kin Matsuba. If the platinum has a matsuba pattern, then it is called Gin Matsuba. The Hi Ogon is called a Kin Hi Matsuba. All these can have Doitsu forms. As far as Judging, in this class the Yamabuki Ogons normally dominate. They give a clearer and cleaner shine. The doitsu varieties tend to reduce the shine and change the gloss, so these do not do well in Judging. A Matsuba with a very good net can compete well. Because there is no pattern, the bodies on these fish are very important. The scalation is very important for the same reason. There must be no scars, which makes it difficult to own a large Ogon. The Hikari, since this is Hikari class, is very important and the first thing seen when Judging. We look at the overall body shine. Best hints of this are on the forehead, shoulder and pectorals. The shoulder should have good shine and the scalation should be even all the way up to the shoulder crease. Sometimes in these Ogons you must watch out for white creeping in at this spot around the color. Hikari is very important on the pectorals, not only on top but underneath. This is the test of the Hikari and can be seen as the fish backs up in the water. Check this next time you buy one. So body, shine and color are the most important features in this variety. If Matsuba is present, it must add to the presentation of the fish, not dull the Hikari. Good Matsuba is very difficult

so if you want to show, buy the regular Ogons. The light yellow Ogons do the best. Large pectorals on this variety, I think, helps give the impression of power. Ogons should have "BigHands". The head has to be clear, with no blemishes, since there is no pattern to cover it up and the shine magnifies the demerit. This variety is where Fukurin comes from. Here we have that shiny skin between each scale, which is very important: no Fukurin, no fish. Ogons are another fish that like soft water as they grow. They can pop orange or black speckles as they grow in hard water. This is also based on bloodline, so beware of bargains in Ogon for long term fish.

HIKARIMOYO

Hikarimoyo are patterned Hikari fish of more than two colors. Excluded from this variety are Koi of Showa, Utsuri, or Kumomryu lineage. The king here, for Show, is the Kujaku. So if you want to show Hikarimoyo choose Kujaku. I don't select them, I am just the messenger for you Hariwake fans. Kujaku adds another complexity element to the fish over Hariwake. And remember, in the Koi Show world, the harder the journey the more the reward. You can quote me. Major contributors to this class are Kujaku, Hariwake, Kikusui, Yamatonishiki, Shochikubai (metallic Koromo), and a few others. Judging in this class still follows all the basic principles, but again, since we are in Hikari, the sheen is very important. As on the Ogons, look to the shoulder, forehead and pectorals for the quality of Hikari. Beware of defects that can mar the shine. The Matsuba of Kujaku, if not good, can dull the fish. Head defects in shape or color around the eyes and nose can make the head look dirty and the fish less elegant. With the varied patterns,

vertical and horizontal type patterns, it is important to look for balance. The edge of the color must be crisp. Many varieties, even doitsu in the group, tend to have bleeding of color in the edge. So when you are buying, look for good contrast of color. On the Kujaku, which is a two color Hariwake with a Matsuba pattern on top, you must make sure the netting is evenly colored and placed. If the matsuba is too dark it will hide the shine as well. On the Kujaku, it is better if two colors are on the head, rather than a single color. Remember, the Judges like to see interesting areas of contrast and many areas where the colors can be seen together. For this reason a pattern with more steps, or an intricate pattern, would be preferred over a straight continuous one. Color should be the same the whole length of the fish, with no blurred spots. Head color should be the same as the body color. Fins should be large and bright. This is a very interesting class for beginners and even the advanced hobbyist appreciates a good Kujaku. I do!

HIKARI

UTSURI

Hikari Utsuri includes all the metallic Koi that are of Showa or Utsuri descent. It includes the Kin Showa, Gin Shiro Utsuri, Kin Hi Utsuri, and Kin Ki Utsuri. There are not many really nice Hikari Utsuri that come to shows, so any one that is good and clean can compete well. No favorites here, although if all are good, the preference may be for the three colored Kin Showa because of the third color complexity. We are still in the Hikari class, so shine is important and checked the same way as other Hikari. With the sheen on the black base Koi, many times the black can be blurred until it is almost gray, and the reds can appear more orange. This is especially true on the Kin Showa where the Hi is

orange. Sometimes we see Kin Showa with a bright red and they truly can be pretty. Head is important in this class to show off sheen. Just like in Kujaku, these can get black around the eyes and nose, which can be distracting. The heads must have two colors on the Utsuris and three colors on the Kin Showa. Pectoral fins are normally all black or with motoguro. Again, the shine is important on the pecks. Since these are all from Utsuri and Showa lineage, you must watch for head defects from inbreeding. Mouth deformities and heads which are out of proportion, are common. Black tends to scatter on these Koi, so look for clean pattern. Good Koi in this class are hard to find. As a pointer for someone who wants to show in this class, try to find one with a higher proportion of white in the pattern. The lighter colors tend to show their shine the best whereas black shows the shine the least. Older specimens in this class tend to get dull with time, so one that has more white will be brighter and maintain its brightness longer. **KAWARIGOI** Kawarigoi contains all the Koi that do not fall into any other class. It even contains two Hikari type fish, the Kikokuryu and the Beni Kikokuryu. These, for a time, were in Hikarimoyo, but it was decided to put them in Kawari, due to their Kumonryu lineage, which is in this class. Just to mention a few, this class contains: Kumonryu, Beni Kumonryu, Kikokuryu, Beni Kikokuryu, Hajiro, Matsakawabake, Aka Matsuba, Kigo, Benigo, Chagoi, Sorogoi, Ochiba Shigure, Kanako Gosanke, Kage Showa, Kage Utsuri, and countless others. There are too many to go over all the different perfect specimens for each. Within the class the more complex patterns are preferred over single color, if both are equal

quality. The favorites in this category would be Ochiba Shigure, both types of Kumonryu and both types on Kikokuryu. Kanako and Kage can be interesting, but many times they do not hold their patterns for a long time. Their show lives are very short. Kawarigoi are very popular with amateur hobbyists. There are many interesting oddities, but in the Japanese mind, there is a large difference between oddities and quality. One must be careful in Judging these Koi so that these are not confused. Not many of these are bred, so there is not sufficient competition to drive their popularity in the show circuit. What is really important in this class is to have good pattern and body. This can give these Koi a power element, which can push them higher in the ranks at the Show. A few of these in your pond can make an interesting collection. In summary, if you are looking for Show Koi you must first look for the basic elements of quality that are the same for any Koi, in any class. Then you must look for the qualities that are the standards for that class. All these factors are important in showing and finishing high in the rankings. All these, also, are important to know from the standpoint that it also what governs the relative price of the koi. Since Koi are not born with price stickers on their heads, it is important for the consumers to have a relative idea of value. If you are just looking for some nice pond fish for long term interest and enjoyment, I would suggest that you still look for the same qualities in body and color. Where you must make your concessions will be in pattern and relative skin quality of high priced pieces.

Happy Koi Hunting!