



Charleston Showa Koi Club

Last Meeting...



On January 10th, we were honoured to welcome Mat McCann from Quality Koi to our meeting. Prior in the week, Mat shipped 4 lovely showa to Chris, who skilfully cared for them and transported them to the meeting on Sunday. Mat went over each fish carefully and explained what was good and bad about each one, in order to expand our knowledge of Showa selection.

Mat explained that a young koi's body shape is a good indicator of mature size. Of the four fish Mat brought, one was a bit porky looking. He said that while she is a high quality fish (and a female); her shape indicated that she would not be as large as the others he brought. She would grow to only 28" where the others would possibly reach 30". Or more. Two of the fish were probably male and had typical male bodies. The 4th had a female-type body and nice shape but was lacking somewhat on pattern (very little white on the head).

Next, Mat talked about the type of sumi that each fish carried. It is known as atarashi sumi and is a new style of sumi that is deeper and shinier black that is normally seen on Sanke and not showa. Quality's showa are the first domestic bred showa to exhibit this type of sumi. He explained that some of the fish show quite a lot of finished sumi (also an

indicator of sex since males finish earlier) while others were fish for the future. Sumi can take years to fully develop on a koi.

Mat also discussed the shiroji on each koi, or the quality and luster of the white. These fish were shipped using US express mail and were in transit for nearly 48 hours. And yet their luster and the crispness of the white were so beautiful. Mat likes to use the comparison of cotton and silk to describe luster. Cotton is flat and dull compared to silk that is soft and sheer. All four of the koi had a consistent shiny luster over the entire body.

Finally, Mat picked up each koi and bent them slightly to evaluate the depth of color. Depth of color can be compared to coats of paint. A koi with shallow depth of color will have red on the surface of the scales only. As you bend this fish, you will see white or cream color on the skin below the scales. This is a poor quality red that will not last as the koi matures. The highest quality color goes all the way down into the skin, with the skin being as red as the scales. This is compared to four coats of paint. It is very rare and a fish with depth of color like this will be very expensive. This is a koi whose color will last. In between these two grades you will find depth of color that does go down into the skin, although not as dark as the top grade. Another element of color is the hardness of it. The beni (red) can have a softer look or a harder look. This is an indicator of finish. While beni is developing, it will look softer. Once it finishes it takes on a harder appearance. It is more desirable in a young fish to see soft beni because it means the color should hold up longer.

At the end of the meeting, the four showa went home with club members. Because the fish came to us from a heated greenhouse, we only allowed members with heated tanks to participate in the drawing.

A huge Thank You to Mat for spending the day with us! Cindy

Our Next Meeting...

Our next meeting will be at the home of Dan and Joy's on February 14th at 2:00 with the pond tour committee meeting being at 1:00.

Dues...

Dues are due. You can pay them to Ralph at the February meeting or you can mail the check to him. Single memberships are \$25.00 and Family memberships are \$35.00.

Calendar of events...

Jan.10 - Butch and Lorna
Feb.14 - Dan and Joy
March 14 - Orlando Fla. Koi Show
March 21 - Open 3rd Sunday
April 11 - Middle Ga Show
April 18 - Cindy and Charlie 3rd Sunday
Photo for grow out
May 16 - open 3rd Sunday
May 23 - AKCA seminar
June 12 - Pond Tour
June 13 - open Photo for grow out
July 11 - open
Aug. 8 - open
Sept. 12 - Lotus Land Koi Farm
Oct. 10 - Open Photo for grow out
Nov. 14 - Open
Dec. - 14th - Open
Meeting times and places may be subject to change.

AKCA Update...

AKCA-PROJECT KHV: Ray stated that Grant Patton has volunteered to join the committee as well as Steve Eckhart. He wants an action plan with goals and objectives in writing modeled on the Oregon State University grant. He also wants to utilize the website; put up info on Project KHV. This should keep them busy for the next several months. **Motion:** To approve the name change to AKCA KHV Project

Committee; add Steve Eckhart & Grant Patton to the Steering committee; and, to use the website. Motion by Burt, 2nd by Harlan. **Approved.** Robert

Pond tour...

The pond tour is coming along. If you are interested in the pond tour please be at the meeting Feb. 14th at 1:00 at Dan and Joy's. Everyone's help is needed. If you would like your pond on tour please contact Louna and get your information to her. If you know anyone who would like an ad in the book please let the committee know.

Members...

Just letting Chris know we are thinking about him during the passing of his grandfather. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Members please e-mail or call Gwen with any illness or passing in your family so we can be with you as well.

Website update...

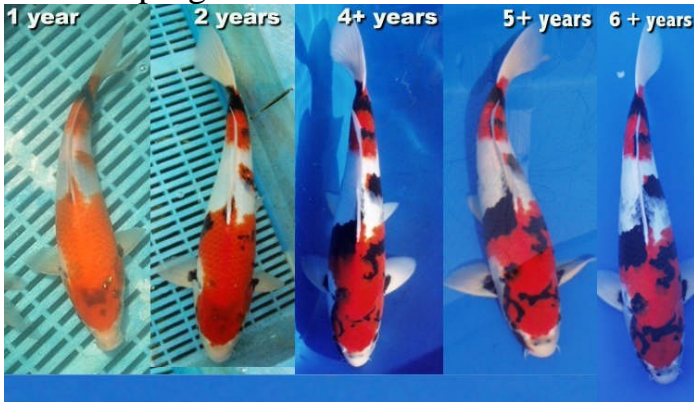
Trish is working really hard to get our website updated. If you haven't already sent her a photo of your pond and a description please do so ASAP! If you host meetings at your home the web is where I pull photos for the newsletter. If your photo is not there most of the time I don't have one to put in the news letter. Also visitors to the web don't get to view them either. So if you haven't visited the website lately take a look.

Roster update...

If you have any changes to your numbers or address please email Gwen.

Would you pick this fish at 1 year?

This male Showa was born here in 2001, and will be 7 years old in May. He seems to be still 2 years from peaking, with a closer look at the color development. This type of sumi finishes beautifully, and with sharp edges, and it has the strength to cut through red well. The downsides are it is hard to locate pattern or determine pattern potential when the fish is young, and this type of sumi can continue to rise throughout the life of the Koi,... which on some Showas can push them beyond their peak of beauty pattern-wise early in their show careers. Here's a progression.



Would you pick this fish now?



<http://www.activeboard.com/forum.spark?forumID=113822&subForumID=387082&p=2> Thank you Brady!

Seasonal Feeding

<http://www.keystonehatcheries.com/default.asp?id=188>

As water temperatures go up and down it is important to adjust your feeding patterns accordingly, taking into account the ability of your fish to digest and assimilate the food and your biofilters ability to process the waste. Below are some guidelines, but never feed more than your fish can consume within a couple minutes and never feed if your water quality is poor. Koi and Goldfish that are in good condition can go weeks without feeding, so if you have poor water quality, cease all feeding until you have performed water changes and resolved the problems.

Above 85°F: These high water temperatures are dangerous because of stress to fish and lower oxygen levels. Do what you can to cool the water through partial water changes and shading. Only feed Wheat Germ based diets in small amounts that the fish will eat in one or two minutes during the morning and/or evening.

70 to 85°F: This is the ideal growing water temperature for Koi & Goldfish. Feed Staple, Color and Growth diets in amounts that the fish will consume within a couple minutes up to 4 times a day. These types of fish have very small stomachs, so they prefer eating small amounts of food frequently rather than large amounts occasionally.

60 to 69°F: Reduce feeding frequency to once or twice a day at most. Feed Wheat Germ and Staple diets but avoid Growth diets.

50-59°F: Feed no more often than once a day and limit it to Wheat Germ diets. If your fish show no interest in feeding, let them rest.

Below 50°F: Do not feed your fish unless they are begging you! This will only happen if the sun has warmed the water and triggered their feeding behavior...or if you have a bad thermometer! If you do feed them, limit it to Wheat Germ diets and only feed once or twice per week. Once the water temperature has dropped to the low 40's, you will do more harm than good by disturbing your fish.