



Charleston Showa Koi Club

Last meeting....

Our last meeting was at the home of Dan and Joy's. Thanks for hosting, lots of information was covered and everyone had a great time. Ralph also gave a treasure report.

Treasure Report....

Ralph reported we have \$8,339.82 in the bank; two new books were recently purchased "Koi Appreciation" and another title he and Cindy could not remember. Cindy and Ralph forgot to bring the books but said the two books are really good.

Next meeting....

Our next meeting is at Jim and Mary's home, March 21, at 2:00 with the pond tour meeting at 1:00.

Important change!! Robert has informed me that the deadline for the AKCA koi of the year and Person of the year has been changed (probably because the seminar is early this year). At any rate, we must vote on these two things at the March meeting instead of the April meeting.

AKCA fish of the year: This is a photo koi show. The winner from each club is framed and available at the AKCA seminar so everyone who attends can pick their favorite. That fish becomes the official AKCA koi of the

year. We need a great fish to represent our club at the seminar. Please take a good clear photo of your best fish and bring it to the meeting. One photo per adult member (unless you own a koi or pond related business, per AKCA suggestion). Everyone will have a chance to look at all the photos and vote on which fish they like the best. If your fish wins, you will need to Email Robert a high resolution digital image of the photo as soon as you get back home so he can submit it to the AKCA.

AKCA club person of the year: this one is obvious. Just think about who you feel has done the most for the club in the past year. We will vote at the March meeting.

Guidelines

- The club must have some kind of judging, such as a photo contest, koi show, exhibit at a fair.
- The results and a **standard sized photo (3.5X5 or 6X4) and negative/slide OR a CD of a digital photo, at least 3mp** must be mailed to Gary Chin **no later than May 1** to qualify for the annual seminar contest.
- Only one fish per club per year may be entered.
- The fish must be kept at the owner's home, in the owner's pond
- A fish can only be entered once per year and can only represent one club.
- All "AKCA Koi of the Year" previous first place winners, cannot be entered another year.

- ONLY clubs that hold shows and select their entrant at that show are entitled to an AKCA Plaque.
- We recommend that Koi Dealer/members be excluded from consideration.
- The Grand Champion of a Koi show is not eligible to represent that club.
- Clubs without shows that are located in northern areas should hold this competition in July of August prior to the June Seminar.

Photos of all entrants will be featured in KOI USA

Good morning everyone. I thought I'd follow up and try to clear up a question I was asked. The reason I stated that you are eligible "unless you own a koi or pond related business, per AKCA suggestion" to keep in line with the other AKCA clubs that will be entering fish in the same contest. The following is a typical statement from an AKCA koi show entry form about eligibility to show:

"ENTRY" This is an English style show open to koi hobbyists. Club affiliation is required. All fish shown must be the personal and private property of the registrant. This is a hobbyist show therefore an entrant cannot be a koi professional. For the purposes of this show, the definition of koi professional is; one who derives income from a selling koi (see below). Examples would be according to item a) below:

a) Koi retailer or wholesaler (dealer), immediate relative of a Koi dealer or employee of a Koi dealer.

b) Examples of those **exempt/not** falling into category a).are businesses like; Koi pins/design, Koi related jewelry or home decorations such as art or ceramics and other things of a like nature.

Hobbyists who sell koi that have been in their pond in order to downsize their koi population or upgrade their collection are not considered to be in a business. Any questions as to whether an entrant might fall into a particular category above should be addressed to the Koi Show Director or Show Chairman.

The reason these rules were adopted is to prevent koi breeders or dealers from benefiting from koi shows. Say for instance the wife of a large American breeder decided to take a load of fish from their facility to the show. She enters 30 fish

and sweeps all of the major awards. Now she can take the fish back to the facility and triple the price. The show has benefited only the dealer and the hobbyists go home empty handed. A Koi dealer could do the same thing; buy fish, show and win with them and then make a huge profit. Soon no hobbyist would even bother. It would be no fun to enter show after show and never take any awards because the dealers and breeders are winning everything. It's for this reason, AKCA shows exclude koi breeders, dealers, their family members and their employees from being able to participate in koi shows.

Since the winner of our AKCA koi of the year contest is going up against other koi who have been judged following the AKCA guidelines, I feel it's only fair for our club to do the same thing. I hope this clears up any questions. Cindy

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...

March 14 – Orlando Fla. Koi Show
 March 21 – Jim and Mary **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.

Members...

We received an email from Rod that he will be going overseas this month for 6 months to a year, we will be thinking of you and Marilyn while you are gone. You can reach him at email Roderick.N.MacNeil@saic.com .

About our Pond Tour...

By Linda Lewis/Beth Lisenby

The Charleston Showa Koi Club is small in number compared to other clubs; however, we stand out in every way. We enjoy the koi hobby and as koi lovers try to spread koi keeping throughout the community. As a club, we take every opportunity to educate the public on Koi husbandry by having exhibitions and speakers in the Charleston community. We had our first pond tour 5 years ago and every year it has grown by leaps and bounds. Our initial purpose was to allow the public to witness first hand the beauty of the Koi and plant life encompassed in that environment. With the stress of every day life, we also wanted the public to feel the serenity that water gardens and Koi ponds create. Our pond tour contains 25 ponds for you to visit at your leisure during the day. On the tour, you will see ponds ranging from 175 to 30,000 gal. We have water gardens, water features and Koi ponds for you to enjoy. We furnish you with a booklet, describing each feature in detail, so you can choose those you really want to visit. There are so many you will not be able to see all in one day. We also furnish you with maps that are routed for your convenience. At the end of the day you are invited to attend a grand finale, complete with a complementary cook out. Our club believes strongly in giving back to the community. Each year we choose a charity and donate a portion of our proceeds. In the past, we have donated to 'The Make a wish Foundation' and the 'John Ancrum SPCA'. This year the pond tour is going to be better than ever. It will be held on Saturday June 12ake plans to attend now, the past two years we had a sold out event, so get your tickets early. Busloads are welcome. E-mail

socialchairman@charlestonshowakoiclub.org for tickets.



Pond tour update...

Trish reported that she is still working on ads. Lorna reported that they have 20 ponds signed up. We still need people to sign up and help with the finale. Don't forget to bring any donations for raffles to the meeting.