



Charleston Showa Koi Club

Last meeting...

Linda Lewis

Thanks to Robert Lewis and Johnna Hansen for hosting the meeting last month at Carolina Koi Farm. They really showed us a great time. We had OJT!! That's right on the job training. A club member brought a sick fish for us to diagnose. Robert and Johnna demonstrated how to scrap a fish and draw blood. We then had the opportunity to try and draw blood. Several gave it a try. Check out Dan! He looks like he knows what he's doing. Way to go .Dan.



They demonstrated the art of testing water, scraping fish and putting them to sleep. Robert stated that at the very least, we all should be able to test our own water.

We had a special visitor at the meeting, Angela Trotter Thomas. She was featured on the cover of Koi USA for the

May/June issue. She brought one of her paintings to show and is very interested in becoming a member of our club.



At the beginning of the meeting we were given a raffle ticket. Little did we know, Robert and Johnna had gathered up some fish; if you stayed till the end of the meeting everyone received a free fish. As your number was called you went to the tank and picked out the fish of your choice.



As last month, the food was delicious. Don't forget that all meetings will be pot luck so bring your favorite dish. Thanks to all who attended. Hope to see all at Ralph's for the October meeting.



Min. from the 12/9/10 meeting.... Rudy Lutge

Cindy called the meeting to order at 2:35pm. She then thanked Robert and Johnna for having us at their koi farm. She then thanked all visitors for coming. She then made the motion that we accept the minutes listed in the newsletter for last meeting. All said "aye". Ralph reported that we have \$7725.00 in the bank and that he has the library with him if anyone wanted anything. Cindy asked if there was any old business and none was mentioned. Kathy gave an update on the pond tour for next year. She mentioned that anyone who puts an ad in the booklet will get one free. Also the armbands will be the tickets and not the book. She also said that our pond tour meeting will be a different day of the regular club meetings. Richard will be emailing

out the next pond tour meeting time and location.

Cindy then talked about a business network directory. We will create a business network directory. This will be a place for all members to let others know about their business affiliation or ownership. This network will not be linked to or posted on the website. It will be distributed to all members with the November newsletter, but not part of the newsletter. The announcement/call for info will be sent out in the October newsletter. Info is to be sent to Gwen and a column entitled "business network" will be added to the member roster.

At this point Cindy adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm and turned the meeting over to Robert who discussed water testing, sedating koi and drawing blood for KHV testing

A Word from the President Cindy Coombs

Good morning everyone. In our meeting Sunday, I neglected to mention two VERY important events. First, many from our club will be caravanning to Brady Brandwood's koi farm in North Carolina (www.lotuslandkoi.com). Brady is one of the top breeders in the United States and this is an annual event that draws visitors from all around the south. Brady will have hundreds of fish for sale, ranging in price from \$10 to thousands of dollars. I have personally purchased some of those little \$10 fish and watched them grow into beautiful show quality fish, so don't think that just because they are cheap that there are not some really good ones in there. There will be something for

everyone at Brady's. We are planning to meet at Brady's on Sunday, September 26th. I believe the caravan from Charleston area will be leaving around 7:00 am. Contact Butch for more information.

Next, there is a koi show right up the road in Simpsonville in early October. The South Carolina Koi and Water garden society will be hosting their annual koi show October 1, 2, and 3rd at Heritage Park in Simpsonville, SC. This is a simply wonderful show with some of the nicest hosts you will ever find. There will be koi and dry goods for sale, raffles, and gorgeous show fish to look at. Several members of our club will be showing fish that weekend (me & Charlie, Ralph, Grant & Penny, and Bernard & Erina). Our club will be sponsoring a friendship award for the most promising showa. Any of our club members who are present need to meet me the show tanks at 11:30 on Saturday October 2nd to make our selection. We will award the trophy at the banquet on Saturday night. Tickets for the banquet (all you can eat BBQ) are \$18. Our club usually has an entire table at the banquet so come and join us! It's always a fun evening. For more information, go to <http://www.sckwgs.org/>

Winterizing Your Pond

(By Robert Lewis)

Here in the Deep South there is not a lot we need to do to get our ponds ready for winter. A good cleaning of the filter system and bottom of the pond if you don't have bottom drains should do it. We only have a couple of days a year

that the tempters drop below freezing and if you keep your pond running as you should it can't freeze anyway.

There are a couple of things you may need to do for the plants and fish however. The plants will need to have all the old growth cut back so that it doesn't fall off into the pond and cause problems. You should be slowing down on the feeding as the water starts to cool and maybe change to a wheat germ based food. Once the water tempter gets to 55 degrees you should stop feeding the fish at all. Most people feel that the fish can't go without food but the truth is they can go quite some time living off their body fat.

I know that this is the middle of summer and it may feel like the wrong time to be talking about winterizing. However what you do in the worm month will determine how your fish make out over the winter. I can't talk about everybody's pond directly so I have to use an average case scenario. As a rule our ponds are over stocked for the filtration we have so this is the first thing you will need to take a look at. To give you an idea of how many fish a pond should have would be imposable there are too many variables. But with good filtration 15 to 20 pounds per thousand Gallons is a good start. The next thing you should look at is diet, what are you feeding your fish. A good Koi food should be high in protein and low in fat (sounds just like your doctor huh) and should be given to the fish in small amounts several times a day rather than a large feeding once a day. Next is changing 10 % of the water and cleaning your filter once a week. These few easy steps will keep your fish healthy all summer and ready to go into the winter with no problems.

Calendar of events...

Oct. 1-3 Greenville Koi Show at Heritage Park in Simpsonville, SC

Oct. 10 – Ralph in Sumter, SC (Photo for grow out competition)

Nov. 14 – Chuck and Wendy Vincent

Dec. - 14th – Carlos and Terri Gould

Meeting times and places may be subject to change.