



Charleston Showa Koi Club

Last meeting....

Our last meeting was held at Trish and Cathy's house. We had a very good meeting with lots of new people and great food.



We also gave our Koi person of the year award to Gwen.



And our Koi of the year award to Linda.



Next meeting....

Our next meeting will be at Robert and Linda's house the day after the pond tour on May 14th at 2:00. At this meeting we usually go over how the pond tour went and changes that would make it better next year.



Calendar of events...

June 12 – Bring all donations and salads to Linda

June 13 - is the pond Tour 9-4 finale 5-7

June 14 - Robert and Linda 2:00

July 12 – Ralph and Sue

August 9

September 13 – Chris and Mark

September 18 – 20 Atlanta Show

October 11 Cindy and Charlie

October 16 - 18 NCKWS show in Cary, NC

November 6-8 Charlotte Show

November 15 – Ty (Matt McCain)

December 13

Meeting times and places may be subject to change.

Some good advise....

By Chris Carr



Though the rainfall has been welcomed for our gardens and lawns, this much rain could pose a problem for your garden pond! If you take a sample of the rain and test the pH, you may be surprised to find that it tests at about 6.0 and zero on the carbonate hardness (the water's ability to maintain a stable pH). Combine this with our soft tap water (KH of only 1 degree) and your pond could be in for a deadly pH crash!! All pond customers should immediately test the pH AND KH of their pond water. You will likely find both parameters to have dropped due to the massive amounts of rainfall in the last 10 days. If you do not have the test kits to check these levels, print off the FREE water analysis coupon on our website (under the "specials" icon), bring about ½ cup of pond water into the store and have it tested. Tide line Aquatics recommends maintaining your ponds pH at about 7.5-8.0 and the KH of the pond at 3-5 degrees. If you find your ponds pH and KH are low, it is simple to correct. First, you should always test the pond water for ammonia prior to raising the pH. If ammonia is present and you raise the pH above 7.0, the ammonia becomes much more toxic. For this reason, you should neutralize any ammonia in the

water prior to buffering the pH and carbonate hardness (KH). Once you have verified that no ammonia is present in your pond water you can correct the pH and KH. Dissolve about 5 level tablespoons of Baking Soda (sodium bicarbonate) per 1000 gallons of pond water and add it to a high flow area of the pond for even dispersal. Repeat this every 24 hours until you have corrected the pH and KH levels. There are also pH and KH buffers available that are made for ponds if you prefer not to use Baking Soda. Do this now folks!! If your pH and KH are low and the water temperature begins to warm up again, the pH of the pond can crash and kill ALL of your fish within hours. We just want to keep you informed so your pond fish can remain safe!

Pond tour....

As everyone knows this Saturday is the pond tour. Please don't forget to bring your donation and your salads to Linda before 2:00 on Saturday. We would really like to have both by Friday night. Everyone should be signed up for a salad and everyone should bring a donation for the raffle (gift card, yard item, fish item flower item...)

I will send an e-mail to remind those who signed up to help at the finale. If you didn't sign up and can help please be at Linda's between 2 and 3 to help set the tents and prepare the food! We will need people to help serve food, drinks, raffle tickets and prizes, parking, welcome tent and to just mingle and talk to people about koi, ponds and the club.

Don't forget to wear your koi club shirt!

It looks like it is going to be a big turn out, as of today we have sold over 200 tickets!!

From the Pond

As a lot of you know it is time your Koi are spawning. Some of us do this each year and have already gotten started, so this isn't for you. However some of you are new to this and don't know what to or even how to get the fish to spawn. Don't worry it's not rocket science. Put a male with a female and they will do the rest, well it may not be quite that easy but close.

The first thing you need to do is pick the female you want to spawn. The next thing you need to do is pick out two males that are suitable for the outcome your looking for (now that is the real trick). Now you ask why two males. You don't want to take a chance that the male is not fertile, the female will expel her eggs either way.

Now you have the fish. You need to set up a tank for the fish to spawn in it should be large enough that the fish can swim around freely. Now you need something for the fish to spawn on, spawning matt, mop heads, water hyacinths, just about anything will do. Make sure if you use a plant media that it is clean. Now fill the tank with fresh water use de-chlorinator if needed. Let the water sit till it is the same temp. as where the fish is now. Remember to aerate the water. When the water is

right put the fish in and they will do the rest.

Soon as the spawn is over you need to move the fish to a clean up tank just the female, the males can go back to the pond. The reason for moving the adults is soon as they spawn they start eating the eggs. Just after the spawn you can move the eggs to a larger tank to hatch out or a pond of their own. You will need to keep a close check on the water parameters for the next several weeks. After a spawn the ammonia will rise quickly so be ready for it. In four to seven days the eggs will hatch. Hatchlings are very vulnerable to several things like temperature changes and other water conditions so keep a good eye on it.

Once the eggs hatch the babes will live for about two days on their egg sack then they will need food and lots of it. You will need to grind the koi food to a powder for them to eat. Feed the fish small amounts several times a day rather than large amounts once a day. Soon you will have more little fish than you will know what to do with.

Good luck and please remember Good Water = Happy Fish, Bad Water = Dead Fish!

Keep an eye on the water conditions Zero Ammonia, Zero Nitrites and a good steady PH is what it takes to keep happy fish!!!