

December 2, 2006  
Issue 10-09



## SKAPA Newsletter

### Articles:

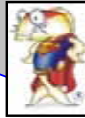
KOI Talk  
By Don Harrawood

KOI Nutrition  
By Ken Austin

SKAPA  
Appreciating Koi Through  
Friendship and Knowledge  
Since 1996

*Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year*

### From our President



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER  
**SCARLETT HORAN**

We are please to have you join us!!!

What a wonderful turnout we had with new members and guest at the new Doris Van Doren Library. We hope to have more meetings in their beautiful auditorium.

Thank you Water Gardener Magazine. Copies of the new magazine were handed out at our meeting. SKAPA will earn \$3.00 from each subscribe from our membership (10 subscriptions minimum). Please help support your club. For more information, please contact Don Harrawood at 833 - 9339.

Don't forget our December meeting and tenth annual holiday gala will be held this year at the Cattlemans Steak House on December 9th at 6:30 PM. Please make advance reservations with Patti Dodd at 585 - 2035. This will also be a great opportunity to pay your 2007 yearly dues, so please bring your check book. Our Treasurer Dr. Dennis Reiter will be available to collect your dues at the meeting, or you can give your check to any club officer.

Wishing you all the happiest of holidays as you celebrate family traditions and create a lifetime of memories.



Happy Pondering  
SMITTY



*PS Don't forget SKAPA pins, patches and t-shirts make great Christmas stocking stuffer!!*

## KOI Can Blush

**Koi show stress by blushing red in their fins and on their bodies. When they are handled in a net you can see the red in their fins, between the spines. Also when they are in a stressful environment, such as bad water, they will often show a red blush on their bodies under the scales. Sometimes they almost look like they have varicose veins. If you see this they are trying to tell you something is causing them stress. Take measures to relieve the stress or you will start to lose Koi.**



**Denco, Inc.**  
**Denco at Nash Gardens**  
 150 Sunset Road, El Paso  
**Your Full Line Pond Supply Store**

Aquadyne Bead Filters, Aqua Ultima II Filters, Filter Media, Wave Pumps, Aqua U.V. Sterilizers, U.V. Replacement Tubes & Flasks, Savio Skimmers, Hakko Air Pumps, Japanese Koi, Domestic Koi, Koi Food, Pond Medicines, Pond Chemicals, Pond Lighting, Landscape Lighting, Aquatic Plants, Plumbing Supplies, Bottom Drains, Swing Check Valves, Flex PVC tubing, Many other useful items. (915) 587-6000

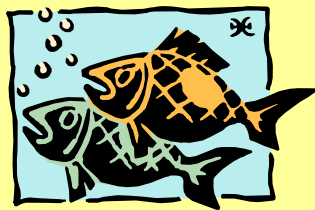
**SPECIAL PURCHASE**  
**Koi Food**

Hai Feng Koi Food, 11 pound bags.  
 Each bag contains 5 sealed equal portions.

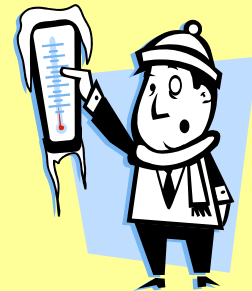
**Sale Price \$21.95**

This is a real bargain at \$2.00 per pound

Available at Nash Gardens (150 E. Sunset Rd.)  
 587-6000



**KOI Talk**  
 By Don Harrawood  
 Koi Health Advisor



**It's Cold out there !!!**

If you have an outside pond, it is time to discontinue feeding your fish until Spring. Outside pond water is now below 50 degrees, and will probably stay there until February or March. Do not feed your fish even though they seem to be begging for food. They will eat much and cannot digest what they may eat.

Your ultraviolet light bulbs should be changed every 12 months for best results. After 12 months of burning life, U.V. lights become ineffective even though they are still burning. In order to get more life from your U.V. bulbs, it is advisable to unplug your U.V. lights now and leave them unplugged until April 1. There is no danger of getting "green water" during the winter months when water is very cold.

Please keep your water circulating all winter. This will aid in aeration and in keeping your pond clean. After leaves fall, remove them from your pond and keep as many leaves out of your pond as possible. If leaves stay in your pond all winter, they will decay and contaminate the pond water, forming hydrogen sulfate gas, which is harmful to your fish. Bottom drains will help greatly in dissipating these gases from your pond bottom. The same reasoning applies to excessive water plant debris. Remove the dead stuff from your pond and bog.

If you have any questions, please call me at 915-833-9339 or email at [dharrawo@elp.rr.com](mailto:dharrawo@elp.rr.com)

**PET'S BARN**  
 Discount Pet Supplies

Locally Owned With 8 Locations To Serve You In El Paso & Las Cruces

368 Yarbrough • (915) 591-9415	1360 Lee Trevino • (915) 592-7443
5500 N. Desert • (915) 833-1178	636 Sunland Park • (915) 584-3468
9828 Montana • (915) 594-9144	1790 N. Zaragoza • (915) 849-0653
9807 Dyer • (915) 751-3553	1600 S. Valley Dr. • (505) 541-8300
	Las Cruces, NM

*...The Professionals Choice!*

**Our Clients:**  
 Food Fish Growers  
 Hatcheries  
 Institutional Exhibits  
 Research Facilities  
 Public Aquariums  
 Zoos

For CLEAR water try a **SMARTUV**

**EMPEROR AQUATICS, INC.**  
 www.emperoraquatics.com

**GUARANTEED Clear Water**





# Calendar of Events

2006-2007


Date	Event	Contact
DEC. 09	SKAPA ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA to be held at the CATTLEMAN'S STEAK HOUSE	Patti Dodd @ 585-2035
DEC. 09	BRETT'S FISH FARM 2nd Annual Fall Fish Sale. Also, Vance Schutzes of TANK HOLLOW will be there with longfin koi for sale.	<a href="http://www.Brettsfishfarm.com">www.Brettsfishfarm.com</a>
JAN. 27-28	PROFESSIONAL KOI POND BUILDING SEMINAR in Mira Loma, Calif.	please contact: Living Water Solutions: 702-845-6782 or <a href="mailto:livingwatersolutions@msn.com">livingwatersolutions@msn.com</a> or W. Lim Corp: 951-360-7878

**26th Annual AKCA Seminar**  
 June 21 - 24, 2007 In The Greater Phoenix Area

**HAVE FUN IN THE SUN**  
 Relax Your Body and Soul





Marriot Phoenix Mesa  
 200 North Centennial Way  
 Mesa, Arizona  
 Phone (480) 898-8300  
 Fax (480) 964-9279  
 Web site: [www.phoenixmarriottmesa.com](http://www.phoenixmarriottmesa.com)



To Find Out More About This Fantast c Seminar And Vacation, contact: Tom Ayers - [azkoiboy@yahoo.com](mailto:azkoiboy@yahoo.com) or Robbi McCleney - [rmccleney@cox.net](mailto:rmccleney@cox.net)

Hosted By The Valley Of The Sun Koi Club and the Southern Arizona Koi Association

photos courtesy of the Phoenix Visitors Center

**Mazuri.**  
 The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

EXOTICS RULE OUR ANIMAL KINGDOM

**MAZURI® KOI DIETS:**

- Top quality fish and soy protein
- Complete and balanced nutrition
- Astaxanthin, canthaxanthin, spirulina, shrimp and beta-carotene for brilliant color
- Each bag is date coded for guaranteed freshness and is produced in the United States




For your nearest dealer or to order online, call 1-800-227-8941 or visit us at [www.Mazuri.com](http://www.Mazuri.com)

MAZURI® KOI DIETS:  
 6oz Platinum Agilis, 6oz Platinum White Nuggets, 6oz Platinum Nuggets, 6oz Platinum Blue



3136 Bolton Rd.  
 Marion, Texas 78124  
 800-682-6098  
 210-659-5841  
 FAX 210-659-1528  
[www.watergardengems.com](http://www.watergardengems.com)

## **Koi Nutrition**

### **by Ken Austin – Koi Health Advisor**

In addition to good water quality and disease prevention, a healthy diet is equally important. Feeding koi a healthy diet however requires a slightly different approach than feeding our four footed pets. This is because koi have different internal digestive systems and a lower metabolic need for food and oxygen. This is how fish have adapted to their cold water environment. Part of that adaptation is fish do not need extra food just to maintain body warmth and their ability to produce ammonia directly makes their digestive system more efficient.

The first step in feeding you koi a healthy diet is to read the label on the food bag. It should contain the brand name/product name; statement of purpose and directions for use; guaranteed analysis – crude protein (min), crude fat (min) crude fiber (max) and ash (max); a list of ingredients in descending order of proportion; any warnings or caution statements; company name and address; and the date of manufacture.

I recommend that you select a koi food that meets the following requirements:

Protein should be a significant portion of the koi's diet. Look for a food that has at least 35% protein. While you are reading the label look at the list of ingredients for the source of protein and high on the list should be fish origin (fish meal and oil). Low quality rations contain significant animal protein (meat and bone meal) and plant protein (soybean meal). Those protein sources also include high levels of saturated fats or carbohydrates that are not good for a koi diet. You should also be looking for a "complete ration", meaning that not only is the protein there, but also all the essential amino acids that make up protein are also there.

Also on the label, look for "essential fatty acids" or the words linolenic and linoleic. They are called essential because the koi can not synthesize them and therefore they must be in the diet at a minimum of 1% (dry) each. Koi readily use unsaturated fatty acids for energy and growth. Koi also have a minimum daily requirement of vitamins and minerals. If you are interested in knowing if the ration you are using meets these requirements, feel free to contact me and I can help you with those details.

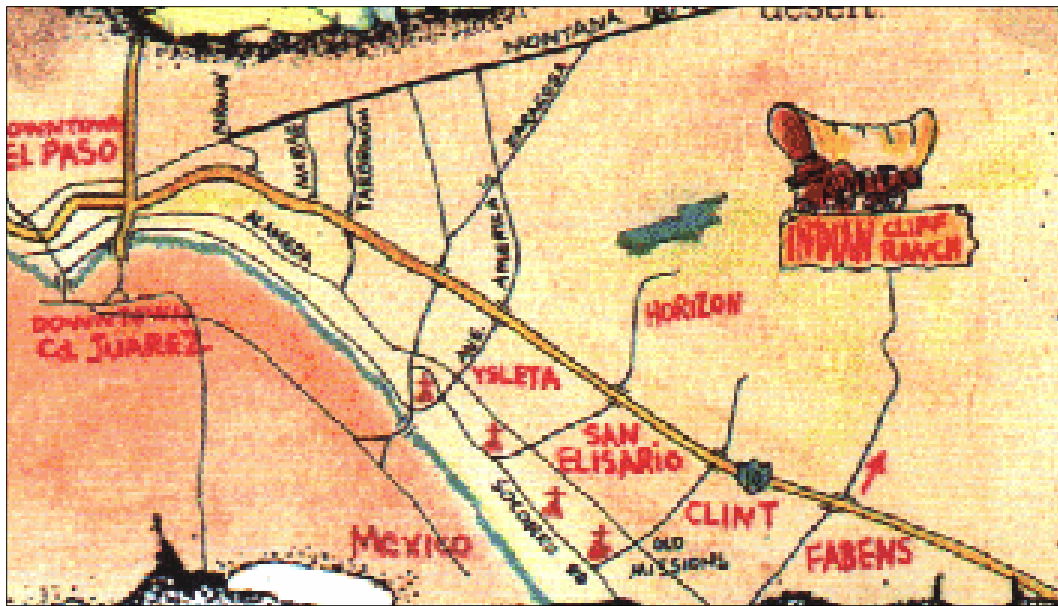
Carbohydrates are typically not found to any great extent in a fish's natural diet. So, they have little need for them and little capacity to use them. Fish food labels typically do not list the carbohydrates, but add up the percentages of protein, fat, fiber, moisture, and ash – subtract from 100% and that is the carbohydrate portion. Ideally, this should be less than 25%. Fiber is also not recognized to be necessary in fish diets and should be less than 5% of the diet.

Other choices in koi food diet include such things as color enhancers. Skin cells in koi contain pigments; one of them (carotenoids) is obtained through diet. A good quality koi ration should contain enough marine based foods to provide all the carotenoids necessary for full color development. Carotenoids may be degraded by heat and oxygen and so if the food manufacturer adds them back in it can be beneficial especially if you like the results in your koi's appearance.

Another often recommended diet for koi is low protein and high carbohydrates when the water gets cooler going into winter. Often Cheerios is recommended as the food to use. As mentioned above there is a reason koi diets should be low in carbohydrates - it makes them hyperglycemic. This condition affects the liver and the overall health of the fish. There is no need to change the diet as the water gets cooler. They will eat less, so you should feed less. Watch how they eat and if there is still food visible in the water after five minutes, you are feeding too much. At water temperatures below 50 Degrees F, they do not have to be fed at all unless they are up off the bottom and appear to be looking for food. Then feed them sparingly.

The five minute rule can be applied all year long. Overfeeding koi creates a significant water quality problem and it is unhealthy for the fish (like it is for animals and humans). Multiple **smaller** feedings daily are preferable to one or two larger ones. The word smaller was emphasized because it is the same total amount of food for the day, divided into smaller portions. Some koi keepers prefer automatic feeders that feed either continuously or several times per day. These devices are not trouble free and to avoid problems they are best not used to feed more than one day at a time where fresh food is loaded daily.

Don't forget to sign up for the SKAPA ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA at the **CATTLEMAN'S STEAK HOUSE** on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. contact Patti Dodd @ 585-2035 or e-mail Patti at [patti1@elp.rr.com](mailto:patti1@elp.rr.com).



Approximately 35 minutes from Downtown El Paso. Take Interstate 10 east, make a left turn at Fabens Exit 49, go 5 miles north into the desert to Indian Cliffs Ranch and Cattleman's Steakhouse.

If you get lost call **(915) 544-3200**

