

September 25, 2006

Issue 10-07



## SKAPA Newsletter

### Articles:

KOI Talk  
By Don Harrawood

Rainstorms & Pond  
Design  
By Ken Austin

Turtle Cove  
By Elaine Hengen

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 members

**Doug and Pilar Matney, Kelly and Pat McCullough, Brian Maddox, Kelly and Candy O'Leary, and Will Jewell**

Welcome to our circle of pond lovers! We look forward to getting to know you and your families and hope you will enjoy our association. We are always so pleased to have new members as we can all mutually benefit from more knowledge and experiences shared.

Thank you John and Linda for hosting our August meeting. What a wonderful turnout we had, complete with friends and guests as we celebrated Ray Collier's 80th Birthday. I would like to thank Neomi Harper of Cold Stone Creamery on Mesa for her special Koi cake. She custom designed for this special occasion. You must check out the pictures on [www.skapa.org](http://www.skapa.org).

We wish to send our condolences to Robert Wilson and Family, as Robert's father passed away recently, and to Larry Stelley and family, as Larry's mother passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with both family's in there time of loss.

Our best wishes go to some of our members for a quick recovery, including Lorena Carrillo, Marcellus Fullmore, Jesus Fernandus, Eric Walker and Ed Knoblauch. Our prayers are with you all for a speedy recovery.

Our hats are off to the Pond Tour Committee, Guides and Volunteers. It was truly a wonderful event this year with the weather being incredibly beautiful on both days. Thanks to our Pond Tour Hosts for opening their homes to all. We hope each of you enjoy your special custom 2006 Pond tour stone, (back by poplar demand). A special thanks to our Pond Tour Chairman John Manns and Elaine Hengen for all the hard work put into this tour, which was the best SKAPA tour to date. Thanks to our sponsors RHINO SELF STORAGE, SIERRA TITLE CO., FIRST SAVINGS BANK and NASH GARDENS. I would also like to thank Valley Feed/PetsBarn for donating 7-25'lbs bags of Mazuri koi food to raffle off.

Happy Pondering  
SMITTY

*Pescado Biscochos (Fish Cookies) were a big hit at our last meeting. You can order them by calling Lily Vasquez at 593-8183.*

### KHV

KOI Hepesvirus is a Disease that affects KOI and Carp and is very contagious. If your Pond should become infected it can wipe out all of those beautiful fish that you have cared for so much. Find out more about KHV and what you can do to prevent it in your pond at our online site of the month.

### ONLINE SITE OF THE MONTH:

<http://www.akcaprojectkhv.org/KHVfactsheet-final.pdf>

**K  
o  
i**



**A  
r  
t**

**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**

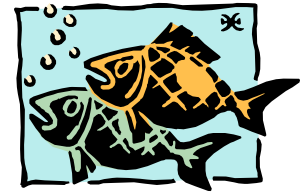
Hai Feng Koi Food, 11 pound bags.  
 Each bag contains 5 sealed equal portions.

**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 Harrowood  
 Koi Health Advisor



**Get Ready to Winterize your Koi**

Here it is the first part of October. Water temperatures are running in the low 70's and high 60's. In three or four weeks it will be time to reduce your koi feeding times to only once per day, and to mix your high protein food with some low protein food. Cheerios breakfast cereal is a good choice for low protein food. As the water temperature lowers, the ability of our fish to digest their food is greatly reduced.

Soon our water temperature will be in the upper 50's. At this time, we should stop feeding high protein food altogether and continue feeding low protein food. At this temperature, the fish's digestive system starts to shut down. Wheat Germ based foods are more easily digestible by our fish.

When water temperature remains below 50°, it is time to cease feeding altogether. Sure your fish may see you and beg for food, but it is unwise to feed them, since the food at these low temperatures will stay undigested in their intestines. This is unhealthy for them and may cause them harm.

At 50° and below, our fish will go into hibernation and will stay in the deepest and warmest part of the pond. They will sustain themselves by burning the fat that they have stored up through the summer. They will be very inactive until the water again warms up in the Spring. In Spring, when the water again stays above 50°, start feeding again once per day with the low protein diet until the water reaches the high 50's. Then gradually start them on a mixture of higher protein feed along with low protein food. At 60° water temperature, they should be given 100% high protein food.

Throughout the winter, it is best to keep your filter and biological systems running, since the fish continue to secrete ammonia even though they are in hibernation. The filter system will continue to convert this ammonia to nitrates which are not harmful to fish. Keeping your filter running through out the winter will help keep the pond clean, add oxygen to the water, and keep the beneficial bacteria alive until Spring.

In Winter it is advisable to add some salt to your pond water to help the fish maintain the proper salt level balance in their bodies during hibernation. We should add at least one pound of crystal salt for each 100 gallons of pond water. This should amount to about 0.1% salt concentration. Recommended salt is called "Solar Salt" and is available in a blue bag at Lowes for around \$3.50 per 40 pound bag.

A pond thermometer that can read water temperature at the bottom of your pond is recommended. By knowing water temperature, one can make better decisions regarding when to control the feed mixtures during Fall and Spring.



# Calendar of Events

2006

Date	Event	Contact
SEPT 30- OCT 1	14th Annual Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Show, Held at Water Garden Gems in Marion, Tx.	Ray Jordan at (210) 494-2035 or check web-site at <a href="http://www.texasKoi.com">www.texasKoi.com</a> .
OCT. 6-8	Las Vegas 1st Annual Koi Show	<a href="http://www.Lasvegaskoiclub.com">www.Lasvegaskoiclub.com</a> or (702) 221-1KOI (1564)
OCT. 08	SKAPA meeting to be held at the KEYSTONE BOTANICAL GARDEN at 1:30 p.m. with guest speaker Brett Rowley of BRETT'S FISH FARM. Brett will also have some of his KOI here to sell. Brett is a real Pro and has some great fish.	Smitty @ (915) 532-5219
OCT 24- 26	Japan Nishikigoi Expo in Hawaii.	For more information go to: <a href="http://www.kodamakoifarm.com/expo">www.kodamakoifarm.com/expo</a> . or call (951) 672-6700.
NOV. 11- 12	Southern Arizona Koi Association 27th Annual Koi Show and Auction.	Debby Young @ (520) 682-7697
DEC. 09	SKAPA ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA to be held at the CATTLEMAN'S STEAK HOUSE	Patti Dodd @ 585-2035

## 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

**MAZURI® KOI DIETS:**  
Koi Platinum Ogata, Koi Platinum Wheat Nuggets  
Koi Platinum Nuggets, Koi Pond Nuggets  
Koi Platinum Bits

For your nearest dealer or to order online, call 1-800-227-8941 or visit us at

[www.Mazuri.com](http://www.Mazuri.com)

3136 Bolton Rd.  
Marion, Texas 78124  
800-682-6098  
210-659-5841  
FAX 210-659-1528

[www.watergardengems.com](http://www.watergardengems.com)

## Rainstorms and Pond Design

By Ken Austin, Koi Health Advisor

The rain events we have had this summer have reminded a lot of us about an important aspect of pond design. That is: How to avoid contaminating our pond water with rain runoff and/or rain water accumulation.

When it comes to rain, there is direct rain fall that comes directly out of the sky and onto an object on earth, like the roof of your house or your pond. Then there is runoff, which is rain water that has landed on an object or structure and then flows to another location. This would be the water flowing off the roof of your house, off of your patio or off the leaves of a tree. And finally there is accumulation. Runoff water will continue to flow until it is obstructed like against the rock wall around your property. At this point, more runoff causes the water to accumulate and create a bigger, deeper pool of water.

The direct rainfall that goes into your pond can be a problem since it fills up the pond and causes it to overflow. If it overflows directly from the pond, your fish can decide to swim out with the overflow water and wind up in places they don't belong. With open chamber filter equipment, the overflow could occur in the filter area and damage the pump.

The runoff and accumulated water in your yard present a very particular problem. This water can be contaminated with fertilizer, pesticides and any other chemicals that have been applied to your yard. If during a heavy rainstorm, the accumulated rainwater gets into your pond, then your fish could be in danger of toxic poisoning.

All these issues can be address by first locating a pond away from houses, garages and structures where runoff from the roof will be an issue. For existing ponds, gutters can be installed on the roofs of adjacent buildings so that the water is directed around the building and away from the pond. For yards that are prone to flooding, build your pond up so the perimeter is higher than the surrounding grade. For existing ponds, subsurface drains can be installed to prevent the accumulation of water near your ponds. French drains (rock filled pits) are only helpful for small amounts of rain. During heavy rainstorms they will fill up and not be effective.

For assistance in evaluating your pond design for upgrades to deal with runoff or rain water accumulation, contact one of SKAPA's Koi Health Advisors – Ken Austin, 584-6293 or Don Harrawood, 833-9339



**PET'S BARN**  
Discount Pet Supplies

*Locally Owned With 7 Locations To Serve You In El Paso*

368 Yarbrough • (915) 591-9415  
5500 N. Desert • (915) 833-1178  
9828 Montana • (915) 594-9144  
9807 Dyer • (915) 751-3553  
1360 Lee Trevino • (915) 592-7443  
636 Sunland Park • (915) 584-3468  
1790 N. Zaragosa • (915) 849-0653

*...The Professionals Choice!*

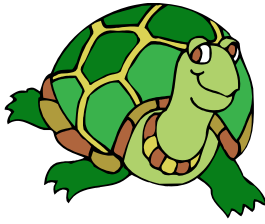
**Our Clients:**  
Food Fish Growers  
Hatcheries  
Institutional Exhibits  
Research Facilities  
Public Aquariums  
Zoos



For CLEAR water try a **SMARTUV**

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

**SMARTUV** Performance  
**GUARANTEED**  
Clear Water



## Turtle Cove

by Elaine Hengen

One of the interesting things about providing a home to turtles is being able to observe the changes in their behavior as the seasons progress. Not only are there the marked changes that come with hibernation in the winter, but there are distinct changes in behavior over the course of spring, summer and fall.

With summer is winding down, I have noticed that our turtles have become much hungrier than they were a month ago. It first struck the aquatic turtles in early August, and the box turtles in late August. Mother Nature must have sent her signal that they had better get busy and put on some weight for the upcoming hibernation.

The box turtles have gone through distinct phases in their levels of activity, as the summer has progressed. Gone are the sleepy days of estivation through the worst of the summer heat in June. They have been replaced with increased activity and an obsession by several of the turtles to try to get out and go somewhere else. Every morning I pluck Les, the male three toed box turtle, from the ledge around Lake Terrapin, where he claws at the Plexiglas and peers out into the rest of the yard, and put him down in front of the food dish. After he eats his strawberries, dark greens and mixed vegetables, he settles down for the rest of the day.

Our aquatic turtles have been most affected by the rain and storms that we have had. The changes in atmospheric pressure leave them unsettled and often they climb out of the water to unsuccessfully seek a way out of Turtle Town. I often wonder what they are thinking when they try to get out and go somewhere else. Do they worry about whether there is water, food and shelter where they are going/want to go?

We have been working on our yard and considering the addition of some new plants in our Turtle Town area. Because turtles are inclined to snack on plants, it is important to be cognizant of plants that are poisonous. Some of these plants include azalea, bird of paradise, bottlebrush, calla lily, Christmas cactus, crocus, daffodil, dieffenbachia, eggplant foliage, English ivy, holly, hyacinth, impatiens, iris, jasmine, jimson weed, locoweed, milkweed, mistletoe, morning glory, some wild mushrooms, oleander, poinsettia, potato foliage, rhubarb, tomato foliage, tulip, verbena and wisteria.

As you can see from this list, many of these plants are very popular in gardens, so take care in selecting plants for your yard when you have turtles sharing the space. There are some flowers from your garden that will be tasty treats for the turtles. These include rose blossoms, hibiscus flowers, nasturtiums and dandelions. Make sure, however, that they are free of pesticides and herbicides.

Why does a turtle have a shell? When Zeus held his wedding feast, all the animals were invited. Only the tortoise arrived too late for the banquet. Zeus wanted to know why, so he asked her the next day. Her answer was, "My house is dear to me; my house is the best." Zeus was angry at her answer and ordained that the tortoise should always have to carry her house around with her. (From Aesop's Fables)



The next SKAPA meeting on October 8th at the **KEYSTONE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN** at 1:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Brett Rowley of **BRETT'S FISH FARM** in Liverpool, Texas near Houston. Brett is a professional KOI Breeder, Fisheries Biologist, and contributor to various fish and KOI publications. Brett will also have some of his fish for sale!!

