

July 16, 2007
Issue 11-04



SKAPA Newsletter

Articles:

KOI Talk
By Don Harrawood

A Turtle Story
By Susie Austin

SKAPA
Appreciating Koi Through
Friendship and Knowledge
Since 1996

Celebrating our 11th year

From our President



A warm welcome to our new members

Sandra and David Torchia, Paul and Sally Kennedy, John and Linda Price, Joe and Jennifer Shamblin

We are pleased to have you join us!!!



Mosquito Fish

Mosquito fish (Gambusia) are small guppy-like fish used to control mosquito populations by devouring mosquito larvae. According to U.S. Navy research, a pair of half-grown Gambusia can consume 5000 mosquito larvae in 11 weeks. An adult female can devour several hundred larvae per day. These voracious predators have upturned mouths specially designed for scooping up larvae prey, and represent one of the most environmentally friendly forms of mosquito control.

They require virtually no maintenance, as they are self-feeding and self-sustaining. Their adaptability and effectiveness in mosquito control have made mosquito fish one of the most distributed freshwater fish in the world.

What a great turnout we had at the special dedication of the aquarium that SKAPA donated and installed for the Dorris Van Doren Library. Thanks to Ken Austin and his crew and Norice Lee (Library manager) and her staff for putting together this event. We along with the kids all had a fun time. A special thanks to author Richard M. Wainwright for the autographed copy for his book *Royal Koi & Kindred Spirits* also given to the library. For more information on this book, go to www.rmwainwright.com or call 1-800-633-1357.

I would like to thank Valley of the Sun Koi Club (Phoenix, AZ.) and Southern Arizona Koi Association (Tucson, AZ) for their hospitality toward Ken and Susie Austin, Darrell and Patti Dodd, Don and Nell Harrawood and myself. We had a great time and it was very much appreciated. We hope to see more members join us next year in Jacksonville, Florida (June 27 thru 29, 2008) for AKCA's 27th Annual seminar. I was able to meet Ms. Carolyn Weise of Ecological Laboratories, Inc., who will be our guest speaker at the October meeting. Carolyn is very "KOI" and sure to be a fun and great speaker.

Congratulations to our KHA Ken Austin, Ken just got his card certifying him as "Master Koi Health Advisor".

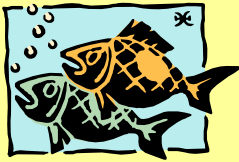
SOMETHING NEW

The July meeting will be our first "WATER PLANT SWAP" event. If all goes well this can be an annual SKAPA event. Please bring your excess water plants to swap with other members. This is a free plant swap but we do ask if you can donate a dollar per plant to AKCA Project KHV.

2007 Paid members YTD= 105

Happy Pondering
Smitty

**Be a pond tour volunteer
It's Fun!!**



KOI Talk
By Don Harrawood
Koi Health Advisor

Ultraviolet Lamps and Algae Control

Ultraviolet lamps attached to a pond's water circulation system is the best safeguard against "green water" algae. This safeguard, however, is limited to the effectiveness of the UV light itself. It should be of proper size, installed properly in the pond system, and properly maintained (bulb changes) to be effective.

As you may know, an ultraviolet sterilizer is one of the best ways to guarantee clear water when the clarity problem is due to single cell algae making the water green. A UV will not help with filamentous algae (String Algae). So why would a pond that has a UV still be green? Below are the possible reasons for the problem.

First look and make sure the lamp is glowing. Your UV should have a clear portion that allows you to see if the light is burning. It should be easily seen at night. If it is not working the lamp is bad, the ballast is bad, or there is an electrical connection problem.

Next, make sure that your U.V. light is properly sized for the amount of water in your pond, and the amount of water flow per hour. Each ultraviolet sterilizer has a rating for the pond size it will handle and the maximum flow rate it can handle. The flow rate should not be exceeded. If your pump pushes more water than the unit will handle, the water flows too quickly not allowing enough time for the UV to kill the algae. Some manufacturers use what's called a clarity rating instead of complete sterilization.

Lamps have a 12-month guaranteed usage life. After 12 months the lamp may still be glowing, but the amount of ultraviolet light output is **significantly** less. Depending on your pond size and flow rate you may still get many months of service life. But if your lamp is past its life expectancy and the pond is turning green it's time for a new lamp.

If the lamp is not burning and it is not an old lamp, then your ballast (transformer) may be bad or an electrical problem may be present. You should consider troubleshooting to determine the cause for the problem. A ballast can go bad due to being flooded, lightening, or other causes of power surges.

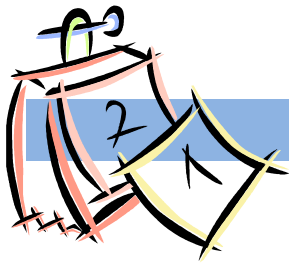
Next, the sleeve that protects the lamp from the water occasionally will need to be cleaned. It may get a build-up of deposits on it that prevents the UV rays from accessing the water. Simply cleaning this sleeve can make a big difference in pond clarity. Dirt can simply be wiped off with a paper towel. If the sleeve is getting a white film then this could be a mineral deposit. Using a mild acid like vinegar or diluted muratic acid will clean it. Now days, Aqua Ultraviolet Company manufactures U.V. lights with wipers that allow the owner to clean the sleeve easily with just the pull of a built-in cleaning rod with a wiper attached that cleans the sleeve.

Following is a table showing the designed capacity for Aqua Ultraviolet Lights showing the gallons that can be sterilized and gallons that can be clarified based on lamp wattage:

Aqua Ultraviolet Lights

Wattage	Sterilize (gallons)	Clarify (gallons)
15	500	2000
25	1200	4000
40	2000	6000
57	3000	6500
80	4400	8000
120	6000	12000

Clarity rating usually means having clear water about one foot deep. The Aqua Ultraviolet units are provided with both a clarity and a sterilization rating. Sterilization provides crystal clear water. A UV only makes the water clear it does not help the general water quality. A properly balanced pond with good filtration and biological conversion is the only way to help your overall pond health.



Calendar of Events

2007

July 22

SKAPA Meeting to be held at :
Larry & Jeannette Lockard's house
5250 Hunters Glenn (Upper Valley)
Time: 4:00 pm

Sit with us under the shade of the Lockard's new pergola !!!! Bring a dish to share!!

We are planning on having a plant swapping at the meeting, so bring your extra water plants to share with your fellow club members

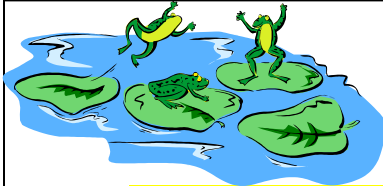
We may be short on chairs, so bring your own chair if you can.

From I-10 turn south on Mesa, cross Doniphan, where Mesa turns into County Club Rd. Continue on Country Club across the River to Hunters Glenn. Turn right.

July 27-28

The annual TAPS convention and seminars will be held in San Antonio, Texas July 27-29, 2007. More complete details will be posted on their website at: <http://www.texaps.org/>

SEPT 29-30



It's Pond tour time, and for the Sixth year SKAPA will be presenting some of the best pond's around.

Come Volunteer or just come and participate in the Fun!!!

2007 SKAPA OFFICERS

President:	Ralph Smith (Smitty) (ralphsmith507@aol.com)
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Web Master:	Larry Lockard (larrylockard@yahoo.com)
Club Veterinarian:	Tom McCabe DVM (tmccabe1@elp.rr.com)
Pond Tour Chairperson:	John Manns (ehengen1@elp.rr.com)
Historian/Mastergardener:	Linda Doughtie-Lane (ldoughtie@aol.com)
Koi Health Advisor:	Don Harrawood (dharrawo@elp.rr.com)
Koi Health Advisor:	Ken Austin (kraftz@swbell.net)

Remember, you can always find more information and copies of past newsletters on our website at:



skapa.org



A Turtle Story By Susie Austin



In our original pond I had baby turtles and knew nothing about them. They got out and Bla Bla Bla and that was the end of my turtles. One day my neighbor showed up with a small aquatic turtle looking for a home. I got an aquarium and put in a Repto Filter, Aquatic Reptile Heater, and a basking lamp. I added a floating log to use for basking. Don't forget the food!

My first turtle's name was "Daffy" & all I knew is that she was an aquatic turtle because when I put her in water she swam. (I tried that with another turtle once and he couldn't swim so that led me to believe he was a box turtle. He did survive the swim test and I found him a good home) Anyway Daffy, was lonely so I got "Red" a red eared slider. The red eared slider is a fast growing turtle. I always wanted an outside turtle pond so my husband designed one that they can't escape from. The turtle pond was complete about the time they needed more room to swim.

I missed having the turtles in the house so I got "Hatch" a red eared slider. He was lonely so along came "Tex" a Texas map turtle. I bought a Texas map turtle because they are a small breed and I'm hoping he will be able to stay inside a couple of years.

It was time for Hatch to go in the outside pond. He was hogging all the food and taking up a lot of room. The water temperature on the outside pond needs to be around 70 degrees before putting the turtles out. The first time I put Hatch out I did not know that. I checked on him after 30 minutes and he was upside down in the pond. He was rescued and brought back into the heated aquarium. Now, the water temperature is 70 and he has been outside for several days. He is adapting well and Red and Daffy are teaching him all of their tricks too!

Need I say more? Tex was lonely. He looked all over that aquarium for Hatch. Then "SP" arrived. He is the size of a quarter and is a Southern Painted turtle. Tex doesn't know what to think. I'm sure they will be best of buds within in a couple of days. They did not get a chance to be buds. SP has been buried in my garden.

A week after SP was laid to rest "Spry" arrived. She is about 3/4 inch long and is a Southern Painted turtle. She is very active and started eating right away. I caught Tex on the floating log right alongside of Spry. They are buds! I guess when Spry grows up I'll have another decision to make.

NO MORE TURTLES INSIDE! Don't hold me to that statement even though it is in writing.



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Editor's Notes By Darrell Dodd



Why do we have a Pond Tour?

While we are furiously planning for the pond tour this time of year, I find it a good time to reflect on why we go through all of this bother anyway.

There are many reasons why we have the tour that are grounded in the same reasons that we belong to SKAPA. We want to share our love of Ponds, KOI and aquatic life with others. The tour gives us a forum to share and spread the good words of ponding and KOI keeping. I am always amazed at the turn out for our tour and the amount of people who are interested in our hobby. Our Annual event which is going into its sixth year has become one of the best Pond Tour's in the country attracting well over 500 people each year.

Beyond the sharing of our passion though, there is an equally important motive.

The Pond tour is SKAPA's only source of revenue beyond your dues. I have heard several comments lately that we really don't do anything with this money that is raised. This is simply inaccurate.

The pond tour has funded the construction of the pond at the El Paso Desert Botanical Garden which is seen by hundreds of people each year. This pond has served as a true public service at the Garden and I personally have talked to many, many people who have become interested in ponding because of it. More importantly it is a favorite attraction and educational tool for the many school children that visit the Botanical Garden each year.

The Pond Tour helped fund the Aquarium and exhibit at the Doris Van Doren Library where hundreds of children and adults are educated on ponds And KOI.

This year we hope to work out an agreement with the El Paso Zoo to fund substantial upgrades to the KOI pond which will bring it more on par with other zoo exhibits' and contribute to the education of thousand of children and adults.

I urge each member to volunteer with the knowledge that you are not only doing a service to SKAPA but to the community as a whole.

I extend my many thanks to our current and past pond tour committees and chairmen and wish to recognize the pond tour founders, Dennis Reiter, Debbie Hartman, Lalo Arragon, and Ralph Smith (El Presidente) for starting us down this path.



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ASSISTING WITH POND PROBLEMS

By Ken Austin

Master Koi Health Advisor

As one of the Koi Health Advisors for SKAPA I often get calls from our members who have problems with their ponds. I enjoy helping out whenever I can. The other day I got a call from a member who said the plants in her pond were all dying, but the fish seemed to be OK.

Now this is an interesting dilemma. In the simplest of terms, what plants need to survive is water, sunshine and nutrients. Pond plants usually have plenty of all three. Terrestrial plants are sometimes fussy about the soil pH or how sandy the soil is or how much water or how much shade they get. Pond plants are just not that fussy. Usually you can just plant them and they will grow.

So when a pond plant just up and dies, there has to be another agent at work. When I arrived at the pond sure enough, the plants were almost all gone. The few that were left were brown leafed and struggling. Then I noticed the table on the patio that held all the pond supplies. One bottle in particular caught my eye. It was a product intended to remove algae and the bottle was almost empty. One of the warnings on the bottle was "Do not use in tanks or ponds with live plants."

When I told the pond owner about this she said "Please tell everyone to not go shopping without your glasses. You may need to read a label." And she said, "don't listen to those sales people at the pet stores." OK - - you all have been told.

Another pond owner was out of town and her pond sitter called her to say that the pumps were not working. In this case, the pond owner did not have my phone number and I was not called. The pond sitter could not get the pump working and as a result many fish died. It is always a good idea to have a pond sitter when you go out of town. It is also a good idea to give them the phone numbers of SKAPA's Koi Health Advisors, just in case they may need some advice. Your Koi Health Advisors are: Don Harrawood at 833-9339 or Ken Austin at 584-6239.



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