

May 21, 2007
Issue 11-03



SKAPA Newsletter

Articles:

KOI Talk
By Don Harrawood

Dr. McCabe Saves Snow
White
By Ken Austin

Turtle Cove
By Elaine Hengen

SKAPA
Appreciating Koi Through
Friendship and Knowledge
Since 1996

Celebrating our 11th year

From our President



*A warm welcome to our new members
Dr. Alan and Miriam Pittle and Larry and Gail Olson
We are pleased to have you join us!!!*

Did You Know?

Carp breeding first came to America in 1831 and to California in 1872. During World War II, Japanese breeders kept their koi stock in mountain caves for safety. Since the early 1900s deliberate crossbreeding for color variations has developed many new types of koi.



Our dinner meeting with **Dr. Michael Masser, Pond and Fisheries specialist from Texas A & M**, was as always very well attended! We all learned a lot on aquatic environmental issues. I would like to thank **Dr. Masser and Dr. Ray Bader**, also from A & M, and all **SKAPA** members and guests who attended making this yet another success. Thank you **Linda Doughtie-Lane** for acting secretary, as Elaine Hengen took a small weekend vacation.

I would like to thank Debbie Hartmann and Lori Caviness for representing **SKAPA** during this years FeatherFest at the Keystone Heritage Park.

Thanks to **Southern Arizona Koi Association (SAKA)** of Tucson, AZ., for their warm hospitality extended to John and Debbie Hartmann during their annual pond tour.

We wish to send our condolences to Marcellus Fullmore and family, as Marcellus son passed away recently. Our thought and prayers are with you in time of your loss.

2007 SKAPA KOI OF THE YEAR

Congratulation's to **Patti and Darrell Dodd!** Their Beautiful Koi was voted **SKAPA's 2007 "KOI OF THE YEAR"** and will be entered in this years national competition for **AKCA's** Koi of the year, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona on June 21 thru 24 at the **26th AKCA Annual Seminar**. Join me and other **SKAPA** members at this years seminar, For more information go to www.akca.org. By the way, SKAPA's 2nd Place Koi went to a Beautiful Sanke owned by **Master Logan Christian** (Dodd's grandson).

2007 SKAPA KOI PERSONS OF THE YEAR John Manns and Elaine Hengen

Congratulation's to **John Mann's and Elaine Hengen** who were voted **SKAPA's KOI PERSON'S OF THE YEAR for 2007**. To John and Elaine, a special thanks from the entire club for all your support and contributions.

Don't miss our next meeting, May 26, 2pm at the **Doris Van Doren Library**, as **SKAPA** officially presents them with the Koi Aquarium we donated to them.

Happy Pondering
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KOI Talk

By Don Harrowood
Koi Health Advisor

Does Your Pond Have A Skimmer?



Many ponds and water features are made with no skimmer. Without a skimmer the pond owner must use a hand device to remove floating residue, Now there is another option. The “Portable Skimmer” pictured above, is a device that will fit nearly any pond or water feature and does an excellent job of removing floating residue.

The device was developed by *Denco at Nash Gardens* to be used in those ponds that do not have a skimmer. It is a simple marriage of a No-Niche skimmer and a submersible Torpedo Pump. It can be used in most ponds and water features; however it must be tailored to pond depth.

The submersible Torpedo Pump pulls water down through the skimmer and discharges water back into the pond. The pump has a 20 foot service cord. Water flow can be controlled by the attached ball valve. The vertical height of the skimmer is controlled by the length of the pipe, and the top of the skimmer must be below water surface level. The floating device in the top of the skimmer has a 5” to 6” travel for seeking the pond surface.

The device is designed to be portable, so it can easily be placed and removed from the pond. The pump delivers 1500 gallons per hour, and pulls about 2 amps. The price for the whole assembly is \$239.95.

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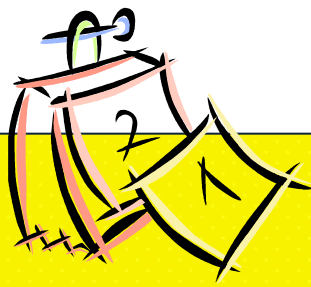
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Calendar of Events 2007

MAY 26 SKAPA meeting to be held at the Dorris Van Doren Library, 551 Redd Road at 2pm.

There will be no SKAPA meeting in June due to the AKCA Seminar.

26th Annual AKCA Seminar
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Hosted By The Valley Of The Sun Koi Club and the Southern Arizona Koi Association

photos courtesy of the Phoenix Visitors Center

JULY 22 SKAPA meeting to be held at the home of Larry and Jeanette Lockard, 5250 Hunter's Glen Ct. at 2:00.

AUG 18 SKAPA meeting to be held at the Rose Garden at 1702 N. Copia.

SEPT. 29 - 30 SKAPA 6TH ANNUAL POND TOUR

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News Flash !

Dr. McCabe Saves Snow White

By Ken Austin, Advanced Koi Health Advisor

We are very fortunate here in the El Paso area to have available to us the services of a very talented fish vet, namely Dr. Tom McCabe. Ken and Susie Austin recently asked for his help with one of their koi named Snow White, a 14 inch butterfly koi with white pearl silver reflective scales (gin rin). As you can see in the picture below the abdomen is swollen and deformed, but no raised scales. An x-ray taken at Dr. McCabe's clinic shows the



deformation but no clues as to what is causing it. The dark images in the middle of the x-ray are swim bladders. The abnormal growth that is causing the deformation blends in with other tissue and does not show up on x-ray.

Abnormal growths like this come in three forms – Tumors, non-specific granulomas (NSG), and cysts. Tumors can be malignant or non-malignant and are generally characterized as having a sustaining blood supply. NSGs are odd growths inside the fish and unlike tumors, usually are not fatal.

Cysts can be caused by many things. One of the more common causes is microspora

burrowing into the tissue of the fish. This fish's immune response is to encapsulate the invader into what we call the cyst. White blood cells fill the cyst and gradually kill and remove the invader.



Transporting a fish like Snow White in for surgery requires some planning and logistics. First the fish is transported in pond water, in an ice chest large enough for that purpose. Secondly, 20 additional gallons of pond water must be sent along with the fish. This extra water is used to prepare the anesthesia solutions used during surgery. Thirdly, an

additional container like the blue bowl shown in the picture above is also needed to hold the fish until the anesthesia takes effect.

Once in the talented hands of Dr. Tom McCabe and his well trained staff, the surgery only took about an hour. Dr. McCabe has at his disposal surgery equipment especially designed for fish surgery. He also has the x-ray equipment and a laser for making incisions with minimum bleeding. What he removed from Snow White's abdomen was a 6.3 ounce (about 8% of the fish's pre-surgery weight) cyst type growth that was sent off to a pathology lab for study.

(continued on next page)

The post-surgery recovery period after a surgery like this will require special care and facilities. In the picture at left, you will see Snow White in a hospital tank. This 160 gallon tank is equipped with its own filtration equipment and a heater to keep that water temperatures above 70 Degrees F. Warm water is essential for



healing and a fully functional immune system. Another essential is the netting you see over the tank. Koi often do not like a new environment and will try to jump out. Snow White will receive an antibiotic injection every other day for a total of six injections. Three weeks after surgery the fish will be sedated one more time to remove sutures. After that, if Snow White is eating well and acting normal, she will be returned to the pond to rejoin her pond mates.

If you have a fish that needs medical attention, it is important that you first contact one of SKAPA's Koi Health Advisors: Don Harrawood – 833-9339 or Ken Austin 584-6293. They can do an evaluation of your fish's condition and guide you through the treatment process.

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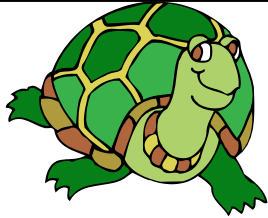
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Serving the Koi Community



Turtle Cove

by Elaine Hengen

May 23rd is World Turtle Day. This annual day is set aside to recognize and appreciate the slow and fascinating world of turtles. This year's turtle day brings interesting news and developments relating to a favorite aquatic—the red-eared slider. This news comes from the Turtle Wife Newsletter—a monthly email journal by the Turtle Wife, aka Anita Salzberg. The latest edition carries two articles relating to the end of turtle salmonellosis and a move to end the federal ban on the sale of turtles with shells smaller than 4 inches.

Louisiana is home to the most turtle farms in the U.S., and has about 60 to 80 turtle farms. China is their biggest market, but it is one that is not profitable. The desire to expand the turtle business in the U.S. has led scientists at Louisiana State University to develop a procedure to make baby turtles 99.9 % salmonella free. Two Louisiana congressmen have introduced legislation directing the F.D.A. to lift the ban on sales. The bill has passed the Senate and now awaits House approval.

Turtle farmers in Louisiana have organized and offer the following explanation for pushing to end salmonella in turtles and to return turtles to the pet trade. “We have a chance to make substantially more money selling turtles in the United States,” Macon LaFoe, a partner in McEnery Turtle Farms in Morehouse said. “We could actually make a living.” He added, “It wouldn't be a get-rich-quick business, but it would be a good, viable business for Louisiana farmers.”

This potential future influx of red-eared sliders into our country makes turtle education even more important. The ban on the sale of baby turtles was not just in response to salmonellosis, but also to wide reports of turtle abuse and abandonment. The small clear bowl with the plastic palm tree that was sold in the 1970's is not an adequate and appropriate home for turtles. Many turtle owners and turtles found this out the hard way.

If baby turtles return to the pet stores, it is incumbent upon aquatic lovers like us to educate people regarding the potential ownership of turtles. With this in mind, I have developed my top 10 list of turtle ownership—splitting the list into two sections with 5 reasons for turtle ownership and 5 reasons why turtles may not be the right pet for you.

AGAINST:

5. You must construct escape proof turtle barriers in your yard, as turtles are great escape artists.
4. It takes some effort to provide turtles with a balanced diet with plenty of calcium.
3. It can be hard to find a good turtle sitter when you go on vacation.
2. Turtles can and do get sick and require veterinary care.
1. You can't hug a turtle—they'll bite.

FOR:

5. Turtles are quiet—they don't have vocal cords.
4. Turtles have lots of personality—at least for a reptile.
3. You get a 5 month break from turtle care while they hibernate.
2. Turtles are interesting and amazing life forms to observe—what would your life be like if you were encased in a giant shell?
1. Turtles do not have to be microchipped.