The Inland Son Contestion



THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF IKS
ISSUE 158
MAY 2009















KOI AUCTION & USED EQUIPMENT SALE

Held at Milfelds' Nursery 2550 Adams Street Riverside 92504







THE OVAL POND...



Hello, Koi fanciers!

There were seventy people who attended our April meeting at the home of Dorothy and Dennis Lynaugh. One of the great things about our club is the diversity of the ponds that we visit at our meetings. Nobody else in the club has a pond like Dennis & Dorothy's. Imagine no filters and a constant supply of water! If this drought continues, they might be the only people in the

club with water for their pond. Thank you, Dennis and Dorothy, for hosting the meeting, and Tom Ross, for stepping up as a last-minute speaker to discuss getting fish ready for the auction and quarantining your fish.

ur meetings run so smoothly because of all the people who work so hard at these gatherings: the people who bring the equipment and the drinks, the people who greet you at the front table, and those who handle the buffet table, the library and the raffle. I'd just like to thank everybody for their constant help.

This is a fun time of year for my pond. The water is warming up and the fish are getting more active. I can feed them now and watch them grow. One water change and there they go spawning. Now if I can only get rid of those darn algae!

Save Saturday, August 22, on the calendar for our August meeting. On that day we will escape the heat of the Inland Empire on a bus trip to Mission San Luis Rey, enjoy visiting the mission's koi pond and grounds, and then have a beach party. More details to follow...

Instead of our regular meeting this month, we will have our biannual Koi Auction and Pre-owned Equipment Sale on Saturday, May 30, at Milfelds' Nursery. This is an important event for our club since the profits will be used to help run our club for the next two years. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the auction. We would like everybody working at the auction to wear the light blue club T-shirts from last year. Volunteers who don't have that T-shirt will be given one and, hopefully, we will have your size.

The auction is a great opportunity to thin out your pond if it has become overcrowded, or to buy new fish for it at great prices. Even if you don't plan to buy or bring fish, come to the auction. It's just exciting to watch what is going on! Everyone who came to or worked at our last auction had a great time. Please tell everyone you know who is interested in koi about the auction. If you know a place where you can leave some flyers about the event, call me and I'll get some flyers to you (951) 371-2223.

See you at the Auction!

Mark

Mark Krakower, IKS President

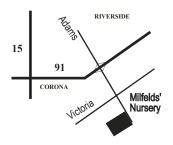
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Greetings, Koi Friends! No Pond Tour this year; it's time for Inland Koi Society's Second

Koi Auction and Used Equipment Sale



Event Sponsors:



Saturday, May 30, 2009 at Milfelds' Nursery 2550 Adams Street Riverside 92504 (One mile south of the 91 Fwy)

Preview 9:00 am **Auction 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Fish or equipment to sell? Questions? **Contact Mark Krakower** kraktronix@sbcglobal.net (951) 371-2223



Cash & Checks only

Bring boxes to support your bagged fish

\$5 Bid Paddle includes Lunch

Trip-toe to bed...

There are better ways to get your daughter to visit for Mother's stabilized Debby's leg and her lab work. Day... better ways to get out of housework and homework and gardening... better ways to get the day off... But on Saturday morning, May 9, our intrepid editor chose to trip on the top stair at home and tumble part way down, in the process breaking her right femur just above the knee in a jagged mess of fractures.

Surgery to install a titanium plate and about nine screws to hold the bone together had to wait until Monday night while they

By Wednesday night Debby had been moved from Kaiser to Magnolia Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, where she will be for a couple of weeks while she learns to coordinate hopping on her left foot and maneuvering a walker. She didn't get to use her free ticket to Disneyland on her birthday, but her spirits are high and she's taking advantage of the rest and relaxation being stuck in bed affords.



Monday PM, May 11 — Ready for surgery...



Friday, May 15: Birthdays aside, there's work to do!

Algae, Our Seasonal Nemesis:

"...if you have a pond, you will have algae!"



Debby Leverett asked if I would share some comments about controlling algae in our ponds. Given the very good article on the subject by Tom Ross in April's newsletter, I will merely attempt to add to his effort with, I hope, some useful information.

The Internet reveals facts about algae, not only for scholars but average pond owners struggling to deal with seasonal string algae (blanket weed). It is interesting to note, in our dealings with green algae, that UC Berkley has identified 7000 types growing in various habitats. It is no news to pond owners that they have some of those habitats. Much of Tom's data, including some additional tidbits, is also provided by the Veterinary and Aquatic Service Department, Drs. Foster and Smith. Their fish article, "Control Pond Algae with Light, Nutrient Control, Filtration and Algaecides," may be obtained at www.peteducation.com.

Tom describes string algae and its talent for anchoring on substrate. It grows near skimmers and bottom drains until it plugs things up and causes a nuisance. When you can't wait for midsummer, when string algae tend to back off from their insidious advance into suction plumbing, you can remove some of the excess with a rake or similar tool. Do this cautiously, keeping in mind that a plastic rake is kinder to a liner pond than a metal one.

Light plays a significant role in the proliferation of algae. Most of the algae we contend with can be controlled with shade, so ponds should be planned to include partial shade.

Koi convert hyacinth and water lettuce roots to a salad bar while uprooting lilies and lotus for recreation!

Trees and covers provide shade, but remember that tree litter requires larger skimmer capacity and can introduce toxic substances in addition to nutrients. I will say more about this later. In attempting to provide shade, some hobbyists use plants, which offer many benefits and use the same food sources as algae. Floating plants, such as hyacinths and water lettuce, can be used to shade part of the pond's surface. Plant shelves can be created where water lilies and lotus produce leaves to block sunlight from algae below. The down side to this plant use is that koi convert hyacinth and water lettuce roots to a salad bar while uprooting lilies and lotus for recreation! In winter these plants die back, but so do the aggressive tendencies of string algae. Also remember that salt, while therapeutic for koi, is detrimental to plants.

Tom stated that filters and fish provide nutrients and that they cannot be completely eliminated. Aquaculture has researched other sources, some of which are not given much thought by pond hobbyists. Rain washes

particulates out of the air, contributing fuel for algae. Runoff from roofs, shade covers, and trees, if allowed to enter the pond, add nutrients. Irrigation runoff with fertilizer from landscapes and lawns make an elevated pond border a no-brainer. Even the phosphates in house supply water feed algae.

Nutrients from fish metabolism occur because we feed them, of course, and more so in the summer. Uneaten food rots, producing ammonia, and food metabolized by the fish does the same. Algae are very adept at doing what they have for millions of years: using the byproducts of the nitrification cycle, from ammonia to DOCs (dissolved organic carbons). This is what appears in every pond.

Biologics cannot perform to full potential if they are competing with organic sludge for real estate upon which to multiply.

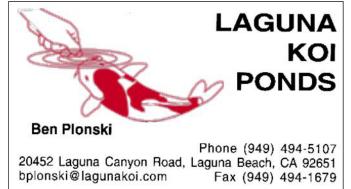
The organics used by algae are collected by filtration, with effectiveness dependent on efficient design. Pond owners use sufficient flow rate and water returns to maintain oxygen levels for biological filtration. Biologics cannot perform to full potential if they are competing with organic sludge for real estate upon which to multiply. This means that mechanical filter designs should allow them to be thoroughly cleaned, and this needs to be done on a regular basis. On the tail end of the bio, or nitrification process, are nitrates and DOCs. The majority of koi hobbyists' filtration set-ups are not designed to rid the pond of these by-products, which, in higher concentrations, are not good for the fish and, you guessed it, contribute to algae growth. Reducing these was no big deal because of simple weekly water change outs, removing 10-20% of the existing water to replace it with the house potable supply. However, many pond owners keep the same water for months (sometimes years!) out of ignorance or laziness.

Unfortunately, they now have another reason to keep old water. The state's drought circumstances have many municipalities poised to dictate allotments and penalize pond owners or anyone else using too much water. For those wishing to keep fish, filtration may start costing a lot more money as they invest in efficient foam fractionators and reverse osmosis systems to reduce the need for water changes.

Tom Ross rounds out the subject of algae control through use of UV, algaecides, barley straw, etc., for koi and water garden enthusiasts. To sum it up, the basic point is that if you have a pond, you will have algae! Waging continual chemical war on it is not the best practice. Hopefully I have provided you with some satisfying alternatives.

~contributed by Bob Walters





IKS GENERAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009 ~ RIVERSIDE

f you missed this meeting, you missed a good one. The day was a little breezy, but not cold. Dennis and Dorothy Lynaugh have a rambling ranch house set at the end of a road. The view from the back is of nature and the hills rather than other houses. There is a natural stream in a small canyon that they have utilized for the setting and the water supply of their pond. Dennis plumbed a waterfall to cascade off boulders into the canyon near the pond. The natural stream runs between boulders, and even has what looks like a great swimming hole. The area around the stream is lush with vegetation and was very cool and shady. There is a covered patio all along the rear of the house, along with several separate sheltered seating areas near the pool and the pond. This is the perfect

get-away-from-it-all house. There were approximately 70 people

at the meeting enjoying the excellent potluck meal, the setting,

and the program.

resident Mark Krakower opened the meeting and asked Dennis to talk about the pond. The area where the Lynaughs live was once called Sheep Springs, referring to the three natural springs in the vicinity. Their stream has been running year-round, which is rare in this dry area. Made of reinforced concrete, their pond holds about 3600 gallons. The sides are straight to keep predators out; a plant shelf is present, about one foot down, and then the sides drop another three feet. The pond is presently running without a pump or filter, as stream water passes through it. Dennis indicated that they tested the water for about two years before they constructed the pond, and to date have not had any problems with it. The obvious hazards of an open water source include the unknown use of pesticides or other chemicals in the area, or the dumping of chemicals in the water. Runoff to the stream could also produce a hazard during rainy periods, but so far the water has been fine.

ark welcomed the new members and visitors and asked each to talk about their ponds or plans, and their interest in the hobby. Ken and April Bryson, and their son Brad, joined in April. They had a garden pond with a few koi for about a year. This worked out well, so they have built a second pond with a long stream between the two. The stream has a bit of an algae problem, so they are considering a UV light. They are also considering going solar for the ponds' needs. Rick and Marlys Whipple live about a mile from the Lynaughs, one stream over, and joined in March. They have a 13,000-gallon pond with plant shelves, using an Ultima II filter and a 40-watt UV. They have a bird problem with a resulting heavy fish loss (30), and now they have installed electric wires as a barrier. Carlos and Su Vidal. and son Max, live in Palm Desert and found the IKS on an internet search; they joined in February. They are constructing a cement pond.

OI AUCTION — Mark asked for more volunteers, and indicated there would be free club shirts (the 2008 blue shirt) for every volunteer. The next auction committee meeting will be May 13, 7 PM, at Milfelds' Nursery, 2550 Adams St.,

Riverside. The auction will be held May 30 at Milfelds' Nursery; there will be no regular meeting in May.

ene then discussed the auction and the fish rescue effort. He noted that all sellers need to have their fish at the nursery before 8:00 AM. Gene thanked the people who were keeping fish that have been gathered for the auction. These people included Jill and Mac McClain, Ed and Linda Kushner, Gene and Cecelia Maingot, Tom and Tee Wright, Mark and Fran Krakower. Some people donated their entire fish collections because of economic factors or the need to move. There will be a lot of big fish available, of excellent quality; some of the fish are 26 inches long. This is a great opportunity to stock your pond. Mark, Gene, Tom Wright and Ed Kushner are doing most of the koi rescues. All koi will be checked for health problems immediately before sale by Orville Hanson and Tom Ross so that no ill or injured fish will be offered. Of course, it is extremely important for every pond owner to have a quarantine tank set up and ready to quarantine every new or sick fish before putting the fish into their pond.

RESENTATION — Tom Ross gave a short talk on algae treatments and his experiences with a new parasite treatment. Common 3% Hydrogen Peroxide, a product widely available, will kill algae if sprayed or poured on waterfall rocks while the water is turned off. Some algae, such as in green water, is beneficial to the fish. A short mat of algae is good for the pond and the fish, but the long stringy algae will foul up pumps, plumbing, and filters. Algae killing chemicals like Algae-Fix can hurt the fish if the dosage is even slightly more than the label recommends. Tom recommended using these type products at half strength, and being very careful about figuring pond volume. Tom has used the new parasite treatment, "MinnCare," three times now. The product appears to have more effect on larger fish. Watch the fish during the treatment, and neutralize the solution immediately if the fish roll over on their sides. Some piping and loss of balance is okay, as the fish recovered as soon as the neutralizer was added, but you need to watch them. The product definitely kills parasites, and in one case also appeared to kill a lot of string algae.

After a short break, Mary Leever and Dennis did the club raffle, with Dennis calling out the numbers.

~Submitted by Dorothy Lynaugh



WATER CONSERVATION

Water Conservation and Koi Ponds

To no one's surprise, California is facing another extended drought. Allotments to farmers for 2009 have been reduced by 30%. Various water districts and municipalities are restricting residential water use in a number of ways. National building codes are being rewritten to reduce or even eliminate outdoor water features including ponds. As our local climate continues to get hotter and dryer, these conservation efforts will not abate—they will increase.

Most of us use quite a bit of water compared to non-ponding households. Filters need flushing, fresh water is needed to replenish minerals and reduce organics and nitrate, and water is lost through evaporation because of our typically low humidity. At the recommended 10% change per week, a 5000-gallon pond uses at least 2200 gallons per month. Then there are the ubiquitous leaks; for example, it has been said that "every" waterfall leaks. Well, at least most of them do! This can result in an invisible and much higher usage. And many ponders let their waste water run down the gutter—increasing the perception that we are wasting water.

The various water suppliers have started to use a variety of methods to discourage use. Los Angeles is ready to enforce new rules limiting outdoor water use in stages, from banning hosing down driveways to restricting landscape watering to twice a week and prohibiting pool refills. A couple of years ago, the City of Riverside implemented a tiered rate for residential billing; the "baseline" is 11,250 gallons per month and there are four tiers in all. The top tier is billed at roughly \$3 per 1000 gallons, and the rates will only climb in the future—according to supply. These tiers are relatively generous compared to those in proposals from many other suppliers.

In other countries the situation has been much worse for a long time. We have a friend who lives on the Isle of Man, in the middle of the Irish Sea. They have no real snowpack, and the only water available is whatever falls as rain. There, you can be fined for leaving an unused hose attached to an outdoor faucet! He has a small goldfish pond, fed by an underground stream; but it is only about two feet across, a foot or so deep, and under constant attack from seabirds. The situation is similar all over the UK and Ireland: Koi keeping is much more exclusive and expensive over there.

So we are left with only a few alternatives.

- We can just go on like we have been, and pay the price in water bills. This
 may work for a while, but it is obviously not a long-term fix.
- We can reduce the water use of our ponds by eliminating leaks, reducing water changes, and holding down evaporation by adding shade and reducing aeration.
- We can reduce other forms of water use with appropriate landscaping and system design. For example, irrigating your lawn with pond water seems logical; it is great fertilizer. But you have to watch what you put in the water. For example, it is a very bad idea to water your tomatoes with formalin and malachite green. A very little salt (less than 0.1%) is not too hard on most plants, but continuous high levels will kill many common trees and shrubs. We have had good luck with various sages, cassia, rosemary, iris and daylilies, but our apricot tree and citrus are not happy. Our queen palms and vitex are also doing well. More information is readily available on the web; try http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/freeform/slosson/documents/1998-19992094.pdf to start.

Zuma and I have used some other well established methods to reduce outdoor water use. First of all, we have been regular visitors to various plant sales at local botanic and demonstration gardens. These typically offer a wide variety of low-water-use plants and we have used them in our landscaping. Our favorites are listed in the appendix.

When we built the ponds, it created a mountain of decomposed granite rubble and dirt. Over several months Zuma spread it over the back yard, making pathways and covering the weeds and the pipes that drain the waste from the pond

Drought Concerns...

filters into an artificial dry wash that was part of our first landscaping project.

So the main planted area, namely the sides of the dry wash, gets a weekly soaking from the filter flush. The water runs all the way down through the back gate to some desert willows. The pathways are easy to keep weed-free and the DG gravel seems to discourage them anyway. Zuma lets the wild poppies that come up grow, though! Our yard is very windy, but the gravel seems to stay put and gives a nice clean look. We still water the rest of the back yard with sprinklers, but only once per week.

The other thing we did was to kill our front lawn. This took a huge amount of water to keep green in the summertime. We are getting it ready to plant yarrow instead. This is a feathery green herb that can be mowed, handles some traffic, and needs less than half the water required by most grasses. Yarrow is moderately salt tolerant. It takes repeated applications of herbicide to eliminate all weeds before seeding, but the old thatch does not need to be removed.

We got our seed from a wholesale nursery in Camarillo (see appendix). There are other sources online, but this one was the least expensive. The seed is very fine, so mix it with fine mesh sand at four parts sand to one part seed. We are still killing weeds right now, but honestly I have been enjoying the contrast of the brown lawn against the green hillside. And Zuma is starting a cactus and succulent garden in the front yard.

The first month we went on the tiered rate was in the summer, and our monthly bill more than doubled. I'll give the program credit, it certainly woke us up. We were aghast at the amount of water we were using. One simple thing we did was to install timers at every outdoor faucet. This eliminated the "Oh no, I left the hose on!" mistakes in both ponds and yard.

Then we must consider the worst-case scenario. Water could be rationed. I seriously doubt that the health of our fish will be very high on the list of priorities at the water district. So, what then?

If we don't want to give up the hobby we will have to look at water recycling. In the first place, we can emphasize the use of pond water for irrigation. If the agencies involved see us as careful water managers, it will ease the perception that ponds are wasteful. This should be stressed as much as possible, in our newsletters and to our elected representatives.

To reduce our use of fresh water additions to clean up the pond water, we can use some simple techniques to renew and recycle it. So, what are the chemicals that build up and require removal? These include organics, nitrate, salts, and various carbonates and other compounds that add alkalinity and raise the pH.

The first one—dissolved organic compounds or DOCs—can be removed with a foam fractionator (aka "protein skimmer") or by treatment with chemical oxidizers. An inexpensive favorite is Potassium Permanganate. This can be applied in small doses (1/2 ppm or one teaspoon per 4000 gallons) directly into the pond; this dosage is fairly harmless to the fish and the filters.

In extreme situations, or if you are squeamish about PP and your koi, some of the pond water can be pumped into a temporary tank and treated with much higher doses. Once the water stays purple (signifying that all DOCs are gone) it is neutralized with Sodium Thiosulfate and any remaining scum cleaned up with Hydrogen Peroxide at roughly one quart of 3% per 1000 gallons. Then it can be safely returned to the pond.

Salts and alkalinity are much harder to remove. Water softeners only exchange calcium for sodium, and the result is not good for irrigation. Reverse osmosis—popular in the UK—produces more waste water (brine) than pure water, so this does not really reduce usage. If we can keep the pond water safe for plants, we can justify refilling with fresh water that would otherwise be used for irrigation.

We are all in this together—what are YOU going to do?

~By Tom Ross, as presented to KCSD

WATER CONSERVATION RESOURCES Travel Experiences

Water Conservation and Koi Ponds, Appendices

Appendix 1--Local Sources for Native and Low Water Use Plants:

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 1500 N. College Ave, Claremont Nursery on site; open 9 – 4, Wed-Sun

Landscapes Southern California StyleSM
Western Municipal Water District
Demonstration Garden
450 E. Allesandro Blvd, Riverside
Annual plant sale; check website

UCR Botanical Garden Spring and fall plant sales Tree of Life Nursery Ortega Hwy (Hwy 74) just south of Casper's Park Open weekdays; many native plants and books

Parkview Nursery 4377 Chicago Ave, Riverside 3841 Jackson St, Riverside

Appendix 2-Wildflower and Low Water Use Groundcover Seed:

S & S Seeds Inc. PO Box 1275, Carpenteria, CA 93104 (805) 684-0436 http://www.ssseeds.com/

Appendix 3-Recommended Reading:

Western Garden Book —Sunset Magazine (get the latest edition) Waterwise Gardening —Sunset Magazine California Native Plants for the Garden —Bornstein, Fross, O'Brien (Cachuma Press)

Landscape Plants for Dry Regions
—Jones & Sacamano (Fisher Books)

Plants for Dry Climates

— Duffield & Jones (HPBooks)

Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes

— Bob Perry (Land Design Publishing)

A Gracious Man of Georgia...

Orville and Sandy Hanson had an interesting experience during a recent trip to Georgia. On the drive back to their hotel after visiting the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Sandy noticed an interesting looking Southern Barbeque restaurant near the hotel. It was decided that dinner that night would be at Fat Matt's Rib Shack.

The place was quite small, with about seven tables inside and a couple more out front. You ordered your food at a window and seated your selves. A large table was reserved, but there was a small table for two open next to it.

While Orville ordered dinner, Sandy noticed a very overdressed man with a cord hanging from his right ear near the front of the restaurant, looking over the customers. Shortly after they had begun eating, Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, walked in the door and sat at the large table. By that time the table was full with their children and grandchildren.

Sandy did not want to interrupt the former president during the family gathering, but Orville did take the opportunity to talk with the president for a few minutes. He reports that Mr. Carter is a very gracious man. After Orville thanked the president for all he has done for the people of this coun-

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try and the world, the former executive asked what Orville had done and why he was in Atlanta. Following a short discussion of his work for the US Navy (Mr. Carter was a naval officer), Orville excused himself so that the former president could get back to his family.

The following day found the Hansons at the **Jimmy Carter Library & Museum**, enjoying lunch at the garden café overlooking a lovely, well-stocked koi pond. The gardens also include a beautiful Japanese garden.

Translated by Peggy Milfeld with thanks to Orville & Sandy Hanson







NAME	CITY	JOINE
APRIL BRYSON, AND BRAD	REDLANDS	04 - 09
MARLYS WHIPPLE	RIVERSIDE	03 - 09
S & SU VIDAL, AND MAX	PALM DESERT	02 - 09
	APRIL BRYSON, AND BRAD MARLYS WHIPPLE	APRIL BRYSON, AND BRAD REDLANDS MARLYS WHIPPLE RIVERSIDE

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R

All truth passes through three stages:

First, it is ridiculed.

Second, it is violently opposed.

Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

A Date to Reserve...

Wednesday - Sunday May 19 - 23, 2010



Nashville, TN AKGA 2010 Seminar

Start planning, start saving, start setting aside... IKS always has the largest contingent at the Seminar — Join us nest year!





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INLAND KOI SOCIETY PROGRAM PLANNING CALENDAR 2009

1 ROGRAM 1 EARTH OF CHEET DAR 2007					
REGULAR MTG 4th Sunday	HOSTS Address	PROPOSED PROGRAM Speakers	BOARD Wed. after Mtg		
May 24 Memorial Day Weekend	No General Meeting because of the IKS Auction MAY 30	Saturday, May 30 Koi Auction Milfelds' Nsy - Riverside Mark Krakower, Chairman	Wed May 27		
June 28 Father's Day 6/21	Randy& Joan Redden 16025 Constable Road Riverside, 92504 951-776-0235	Pending	Wed July 1		
July 26	David & Claudia King 160 Paint Court Norco, 92860 951-898-9803	Pending	Wed July 29		

Koi Club of San Diego hosted members of the Inland Koi Society at a joint meeting in April, held at the beautiful San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden. The afternoon included a tour of the gardens and the koi pond, and a potluck luncheon provided by KCSD, after which participants gathered in the activity center for the scheduled program.







of IKS welcome! — 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside / Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223.

Coming Events

IKS KOI AUCTION SET-UP ~ After 3:30 pm / Milfelds' Nursery, Riverside / For more information, call Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223

IKS KOI AUCTION AND USED EQUIPMENT SALE
~ Preview 9 am / Auction and Sale start at 10:00,

END at 2:00 ~ For more information, call Mark

The Garden was devastated last year by an accidental kill of all its koi, but the population is gradually being replaced.



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Attracting the Public...

To promote the club and the coming Koi Auction & Used Equipment Sale, our IKS crew installed a demonstration pond in the lobby of the recent Riverside Community Flower Show. Surrounded by assorted azaleas, camellias and ferns, the pre-fabricated pond included a recirculating waterfall and koi donated by Inland Koi; fine netting prevents jumpers from escaping. Auction flyers were displayed nearby. We thank the Flower Show committee for inviting us to participate each year.

From the left are Jack Marrin, Mark Krakower, Gene Maingot, Tom Wright, Dennis & Dorothy Lynaugh, and Tom & Zuma Ross; photos by Nick Milfeld.



Visit our <u>updated</u> website: www.inlandkoisociety.org