

# The Inland Koi Connection



THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF **IKS**  
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SUNDAY 6/23/24

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



**IKS GENERAL MEETING**  
**9 AM**

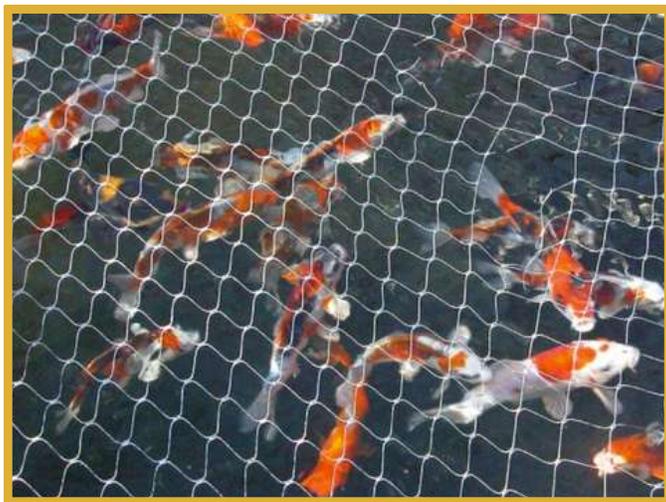
SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD 2024

**HOST: KEN LIU AT BARSTOW KOI**

**42072 Silver Valley Rd, Newberry Springs, CA  
92365**

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH!!**

**FOR EASIER TRANSPORTAION TO  
THIS EVENT, CARPOOLING IS  
AVAILABLE.**



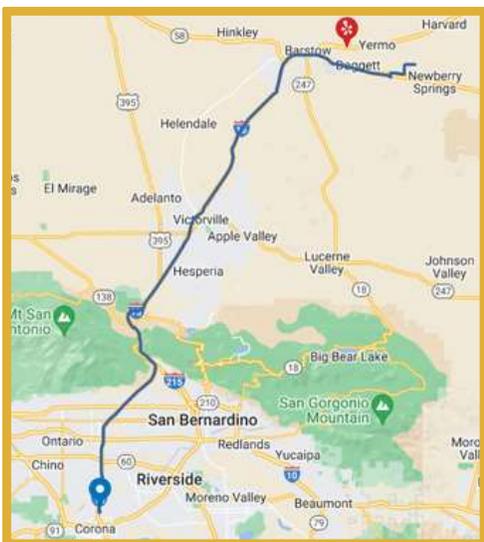
**Barstow Koi**, a 41-acre farm in Newberry Springs 15 miles east of **Barstow**, consists of some 14 mud ponds holding about 700,000 fish. It was founded in 1991 by **TK Liu**, who had been a drill sergeant in Chang Kai-shek's Chinese army. He had moved to Taiwan after the communists took over mainland China, retired, and became a school teacher, raising eel on the side. Japanese buyers proposed he quit eel raising and instead breed koi, which would be more profitable for all of them.

As Japanese koi breeders guided him, **TK Liu** mastered the art of koi, and showed them nationally and internationally for over 45 years; he was first to introduce Japanese Koi to Taiwan. Then, at age 65, he suddenly decided to sell his koi farm and move to the United States. His son, **Ken Liu**, remembers being shocked at his father's decision, telling him, "You won't last a year." The early years were indeed tough for **TK Liu**; his initial koi stock died and there were other woes. But **TK proudly won awards with his Bekko, Utsuri and Sanke**, proving to himself that domestic-bred koi could compete and win.

Reared an army son, **Ken Liu** began his own military career in Taiwan, rising to the rank of major while his parents were starting a new koi business in California. As part of his grooming for top army leadership, **Ken Liu** was sent to Fort Benning, GA, where he learned English and undertook military training. As part of this training, he plotted large-scale maneuvers at Fort Irwin's National Training Center in the Mojave Desert, 37 miles NE of Barstow. [During the 1980s and 1990s, the Fort Irwin also showcased U.S. Army large-scale tactics to foreign military leaders from all over the world.] To be effective, Liu studied the area's climate and terrain.

Shortly after being told he would be promoted to lieutenant colonel, **Ken Liu** realized it was his greater duty as a son to help his then-elderly father. He left the army and came into the **Barstow Koi Farm** business with zero knowledge; now he is the owner. It took many years before he became hooked on the beauty of the fish. Now his exotic, unusual varieties of koi capture the imagination of many pond owners; he produces many non-standard varieties that hobbyists find quite attractive. Ken makes an annual trek to Niigata, Japan, to buy some fish for his customers and some for himself.

"Sometimes it's more a question of what they will sell me versus what I want to buy," he says. To increase the odds of being able to buy his first choice, he spends considerable time socializing with the Japanese koi farmers.



**Directions to Barstow Koi from Norco**

**Please bring your own lunch for this trip, for it will not be provided!!**

If you need or want to car pool please contact **Brenda Aker** as soon as possible so groups can be arranged!!

If you will be carpooling, parking will be available at **the Zoetemelk's** in the dirt in the front yard.

**Please be at Barstow Koi by 9AM!!!**

**Brenda Aker: 951.316.0263**

**Theo and Jeanne Zoetemelk: 1407 Second street Norco CA 92860**

### **This summer, we will discuss parasites that can harm (and kill) Koi.**

One of the deadliest is Costia. These flagellate organisms (meaning ciliated or having hairs) are found in both fresh and salt water, and are very erratic, wobbly swimmers due to the movement of its flagella. They are very tiny (10-20 microns) and may require microscopic magnification of 400X to be able to see them. They are “pyriform” in shape (like a misshapen pear, concave on one side and convex on the other) with two long flagella projecting posteriorly from the body.

When freely swimming, they look like “commas.” They reproduce by cell division. They multiply rapidly at warmer temperatures of 70-77 degrees F. They will encyst in cooler temperatures of less than 50 degrees F. this way when attached to the host.

They may be transmitted by direct contact, but are also capable of swimming between fish, so can survive a short time free-swimming in the water. Costia may be transmitted from one pond to another via nets that have not been cleaned, other shared equipment and even wet boots – because they can remain protected in their encysted state. The two most common species are *Ichthyobodo necator* and *Ichthyobodo pyriformis*.

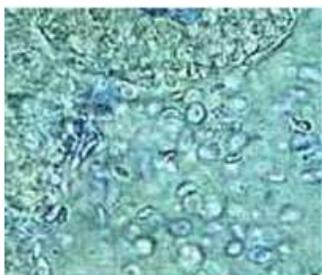
When present in small numbers, they are not as much a problem, and often survive by living on sloughed-off cells. However, when present in large numbers, especially if the Koi are young, weakened stressed and susceptible, they can be deadly. Infestations may occur in the spring when water temperatures are still warming up and /or when water quality is poor.

These are true parasites: they attach to the Koi by their mouth (the narrow end of the body) and they feed on the fish. They inhabit gill tissue and skin tissue, feeding on cells, which causes extensive cell damage and sloughing of cells. Death occurs by damage of gill epithelium and asphyxiation as well as by causing ulcers with resultant secondary infections. When the Koi are weakened, Costia can proliferate on the infected fish and create more damage and death, and the Costia then move to inhabit more Koi.

Symptoms may include breathing difficulties (gasping, swimming near waterfalls or other areas of aeration, swimming near the surface), flashing (especially rubbing the gills), red blood shot veins and fins, a bluish-white film due to increased mucus, and many Koi deaths. Costia may be seen in Koi infected with KHV (Koi Herpes Virus).

The diagnosis is made with scrapings of the skin and gills evaluated under the microscope. As always, if you haven't done a scrape and scope, don't have a scope, or are not comfortable using a scope, seek the help of a Certified Koi Keeper (CKK).

There is an effective treatment available. Most infections of Costia can be treated with Proform C, 100mL per thousand gallons of water. Follow label directions, and multiple days of treatment may be required, with intervening water changes. While treating, do everything you can to help the debilitated Koi. Increase aeration, perform frequent partial water changes, and maintain perfect water quality. Keep in mind that several parasitic infections may be occurring simultaneously and your treatment approach must be modified by choosing the best option effective against all the pathogens.



**Costia, 400X**



**Note the pyriform shape and flagella.**



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- **Larry Leverett** ~ 951.500.2157  
@inlandkoi society.org
- **Theo Zoetemelk** ~ 951.735.9896  
@inlandkoi society.org

## Upcoming Events

06

23~ IKS General meeting  
9:00 AM

**Barstow Koi**

42072 Silver Valley Rd, Newberry  
Springs, CA 92365

07

07~ IKS Board Meeting  
5:30 PM

Larry and Debby Leverett

Interested members are welcome to attend, but please  
call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.500.2157

07

28~ IKS General Potluck meeting  
3:00 PM

Steve and Laura Nyirady  
Beaumont CA

Guest Speaker: Eric Triplett the  
“ponddigger”

08

25~ Koi Auction  
Linda Kushner  
Corona CA

09

08~ IKS Board Meeting  
5:30 PM

Nick and Peggy Milfeld

Interested members are welcome to attend, but please  
call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.892.4269

09

22~ IKS General Potluck meeting  
3:00 PM

Laura and Steve McHan  
Loma Linda CA



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# San Diego Joint Meeting



We had an amazing turnout for our joint meeting with the **San Diego koi club!!** Huge thank you's to everyone that showed up, to **the San Diego koi club** for letting us be apart of their meeting, and an even bigger thank you to **Loni Vogler** for inviting us into her home.



Loni was gifted an award by the **San Diego Koi club!!**

This meeting we were enlightened, from our guest speaker Koi Jack Chapman, the specifics of how **Utsurimono koi** are judged. We learned so much about the backstory and great history of these amazing koi!!



May 2024

## Coming May 4!



### NEW Ideas! Hacks, Mods and Temp. Solutions!

Do you need a quick fix?

What are some simple ways to improve your pond?

We will cover the following topics, with something for everyone! •••

- Pond Volume
- Aeration
- Filtration
- Water Changes
- Cost Savings
- Reliability
- Safety
- Aesthetics

**12 Noon EDT, Saturday**

Check for your K.O.I. email invite, or see your club rep for Zoom join code!



### Are YOU attending a Koi Show? K.O.I. is Looking for Volunteers to Help Staff a Table!

- You don't need to work the entire show – 4 hours would be great!
- Share info about K.O.I. with attendees
- We will send you the material – banners, handouts, etc!
- We will train you and give you examples of how to set up the table
- Please volunteer! Email [pattist@snet.net](mailto:pattist@snet.net)



## TIP OF THE MONTH

### PVC Pipe is Not all the Same!

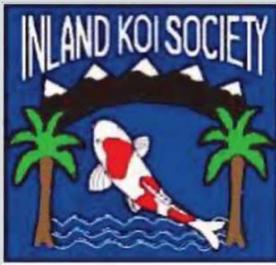
- Use Schedule 40, not DWV. You can tell the difference by looking at the amount of 'glue area' at the end of the fittings. DWV does not have enough room for the glue to hold the pipe together under the pressure of a pump!
- Use FLEX PVC Schedule 40 when possible!



- Can bend over and around obstacles
- Makes broad sweeping turns to reduce head loss from your pump
- 2" x 100 ft rolls sold at Big Box stores. Black and white, white is cheaper. Can be buried.

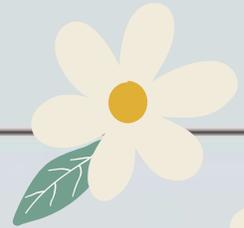


**If you haven't renewed your membership this year, you will be dropped and lose your perks June 1!**



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5198 ARLINGTON AVE., #146  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92504

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Thank you to **Chien Lee of Nijikawa USA** and to **Iva Gaglione of Ultra Balance** for supplying the Inland Koi Society with a supply of nutritional koi food for its rehoming program!!!



We are in need of someone with enough space to house rescue fish!!! Please see **Scott Zehm** for more information.



**Visit Our Website: [www.inlandkoi.com](http://www.inlandkoi.com)**