

# The Inland Koi Connection



THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF IKS  
ISSUE 152  
OCT. 2008



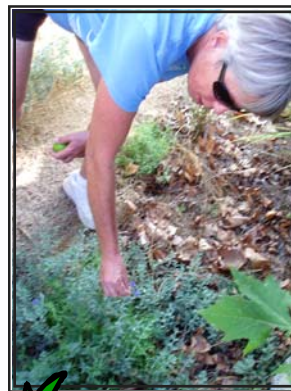
MEETING 4th SUNDAY: OCTOBER 26 ~ 2-5 PM



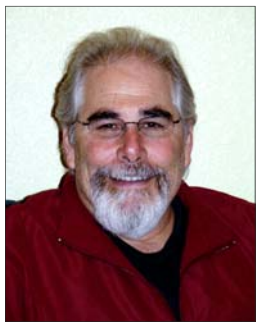
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## ZUMA & TOM ROSS







Everything seemed to come together beautifully the day of our Orange County outing: excellent ponds, perfect weather, clear traffic and, of course, spending time with outstanding people. We had three people join our club that day and I must say it's just awesome to see how our club accepts and assimilates new members. The camaraderie among the 39 club members on the tour and the pond owners themselves (pictures on page 5) was evident and made a clear statement about our mutual enjoyment of the hobby and our ability to enjoy ourselves. I want to thank the pond owners for their openness and hospitality, and also for sharing their time and information with all of us so freely:

- Don and Brenda Chandler of Costa Mesa, who provided coffee cake and beverages for all of us and introduced many of us to a combined foam fractionator/trickle tower unit.
- Burt and Gloria Ballou of Fountain Valley, whose 'Ballou Lagoon' defies description; Burt is the editor of the *AKCA Guide to Pre-Filters and Filters* and the *AKCA Guide to Pond Construction*.
- Mark and Charlene Whalen, also of Fountain Valley, who built a pond to suit their needs of viewing and netting their show fish.

Additionally, I want to thank Eastern Nishikigoi, a koi dealer in Westminster visited before heading back to the Inland Empire, for their generosity with our membership. Jack Marrin, IKS Board Member and active club member for the past 12 years, suggested, planned, and coordinated this year's outing. Thank you, Jack, for proposing such a wonderful idea. I feel I can speak for those of us who attended, "We had a great time!"

Working with Jack and everyone else who attends the monthly board meetings (Officers, Directors, and Friends-of-Koi— usually about 15 of us) is a constant reminder of the talented and devoted individuals who work behind the scenes for our club. Each of you is welcome to join us during our monthly board meetings, held in Riverside, as we work together to manage our club's events, concerns, and funds while keeping our IKS values (education and helping our membership) and appreciation for the hobby our priority.

We will be nominating and voting for the Kelly Houston Koi Person of the Year Award and our Club Koi of the Year at this month's general meeting. We are conducting these contests at this time because the next AKCA Seminar will be held much earlier in 2009; hosted by the Koi Club of San Diego, it will be held simultaneously with their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Koi Show and Exhibition in February.

**Kelly Houston Koi Person of the Year Award:** This award is presented to an individual or couple, nominated and elected by the membership, because of their service to the IKS and our membership. So many people do so much for the club that choosing only one person is difficult. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please come prepared to announce your nomination and share why you believe they should be elected. Individuals who have been elected Koi Person of the Year in the past are not eligible for re-nomination.

**Club Koi of the Year:** In April of this year we had over a dozen entries from IKS members for this award for the June AKCA Seminar. I know it is not always easy to net and photograph your Koi, but once again we are asking for nominations. We are dependent on you to bring the pictures of your Koi, and our club has many beautiful Koi. Club Koi of the Year nominations require that you bring a high resolution photograph of the Koi to the meeting. You can find the contest rules on the AKCA.org website. Club members Cindy and Tom Graham's Kujaku, representing the IKS, won second place out of 104 clubs in the Club Koi of the Year contest this past June at the AKCA Seminar in Jacksonville, Florida.

Special thanks to Mac and Jill McClain for volunteering to set up a quarantine tank at their home to house rescued Koi for our upcoming auction. The tank, pump, and filtration are being provided by Tom and Tee Wright. Watch for more news of the Auction, scheduled for May 30, 2009.

Hope to see all of you at this month's meeting at the home of Tom and Zuma Ross. Enjoy the hobby,

Warmest Regards, *Gene*  
Gene Maingot, IKS President

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2008**

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TOM AND ZUMA ROSS are the hosts for our October General Meeting. They moved to this beautiful two-story house in the La Sierra area of Riverside in 2001 and are especially proud of their two new ponds, which have been years in the planning. They are both very active in and big supporters of IKS. Tom is on our Board of Directors and a certified Koi Health Advisor, and he was recently named Vice Chairman of AKCA. Zuma is the IKS Secretary, attends all club business meetings, and has designed or helped design several club T-shirts. They both have college degrees and maintained successful careers before retiring.

The Ross' say their new ponds, which were built by Leo of Leo's Construction, have exceeded their expectations. Both Tom and Zuma had a hand in designing the ponds. Tom wanted the formal pond to be waist-high so he and Zuma could interact with the koi, and he wanted it to be close enough to the house to be seen from their eating area. They also wanted an informal pond with both lilies and koi located where they could sit under the shade of a tree and just relax.



Tom, being an engineer, knows all about the plumbing of a pond, so he did most of the filters and pumps. On his formal pond, which is concrete, he has a 3/4 hp pump that pulls water from a bottom drain and flows to a pressurized vortex microstrainer, then to a bubble bead filter, through two 40 watt UV lights, and lastly to the waterfall. His informal garden pond is a liner pond

with two 3" bottom drains that gravity flow to an in-ground vortex with a microstrainer. A 1/3 hp pump pulls water from the vortex and pushes it through a bubble bead filter, through two 40 watt UV lights and back to the waterfall. The Ross's fish are beautiful and happy koi who fit comfortably in the new ponds.



They tend to spoil or worry about them like we all do, and I noticed, as Tom pointed out different koi, that you could hear his deep unending passion as he talked.

Tom and Zuma have many hobbies and belong to several other clubs, one being the Velo-cette Motorcycle Club. They went to the Laguna Seca U.S. MotoGP (Grand Prix) in Monterey and the Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) races this year because of their interest with motorcycles. They recently traveled 1,300 miles on their Harley-Davidson Road Glide Motorcycle to Priest River on the Ponderay River in Idaho, where Zuma's sister lives.

Tom and Zuma are especially knowledgeable in the classifications and descriptions of wild mushrooms. Tom lived in Germany and grew up searching for mushrooms; Zuma's sister, Sandy, got her hooked on mushrooming and joining the Spokane Mushroom Club. It makes a great hobby for Tom and Zuma to share, but they are very cautious of harvesting California garden mushrooms. In certain seasons they love to go trekking through the forests on the edge of Washington and Idaho where her sister lives, which is a primo mushroom hunting area, to collect edible mushrooms.



They say once you spot one, there are usually more and as you see them, you get a sense of discovery. There is one mushroom called Amanita that has a red or bright yellow cap with white dots – beautiful but especially deadly. On the other hand the matsutake (Japanese: pine mushroom), is a prized and very fragrant mushroom in Japan.



Zuma is a highly intelligent, curious and creative person, born in California. She learned a lot about plants from her deceased, legally blind father who would manually feel or crush plants everywhere they went. She has developed a weakness for uncommon plants and she prefers a Mediterranean plant garden design, which she has incorporated into her own yard, but wants to keep the surrounding hillsides of their one-acre property natural. Zuma has a vast botanical understanding and her garden proudly displays it. I wrote down many names of plants, trees, and flowers as we walked her yard, but there are too many to list in this space; if asked, I'm sure she would love to take anyone on a tour.

When I asked Tom what advice he would give to interested koi hobbyists, he stated, "Make your pond small enough that you can catch your fish fairly easily if they need to be inspected, but big enough to keep your interest in the hobby ever-growing, without having the expense of rebuilding your pond."

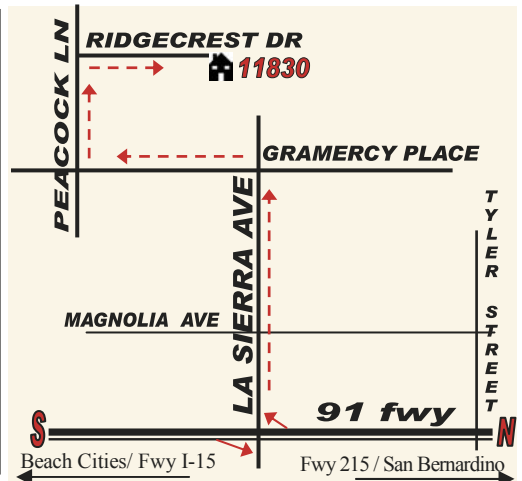
You will really enjoy seeing these two types of ponds and the extensive horticulture surrounding them. The weather has been very comfortable lately and it should turn out to be a GREAT fall day!

Please bring a dish to share in our usual potluck and a comfortable chair to sit in. If you volunteer to bring a raffle prize, be sure to stop at the sign-in table to collect a free ticket. We will see you there,

*~Debby and Larry Leverett, IKS Editors*




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JOHN & ANN GEERKEN	CLAREMONT	09 - 08	JOHN & IRMA WAGONER	WILDOMAR	09 - 08
GEORGE HSU	WALNUT	10 - 08			

*IKS HOPES YOU ENJOY A FUN AND INFORMATIVE ASSOCIATION WITH OUR CLUB!  
 FOR EXTRA HELP, QUESTIONS, OR INFORMATION, BE SURE TO REFER  
 TO THE 'HELP LINE' ON PAGE TWO.*





The **Chandlers'** pond occupies half the backyard, screened on three sides by tall plantings and the garage, with it and the filter equipment shaded by a triangular "sails." Their open-sided orchid house was in full bloom, the amazing flowers competing with their brilliant koi for your attention. Brenda was a gracious hostess, greeting us for our mid-morning coffee break with rolls and assorted drinks. Theirs is a compact yard that exudes tranquility: calming waters, graceful koi, comfortable seating... what a place to spend a morning!



The "**Ballou Lagoon**" is just part of a 30,000-gallon-plus system of three ponds in an almost overgrown tropical paradise. Unseen and unimagined for the street, Burt's ponds are part swimming pool conversion, part original design; they are pristine waters and home to 30 spectacular Koi in the 24"-30" range. And for all the *topicality* of it, wife Gloria indulges her passion for cacti and succulents on the other side of the yard.

~PHOTOS & NOTES ON THIS PAGE BY NICK AND PEGGY MILFELD~



**Mark Whalen** keeps a very practical crescent-shaped pond for his 15 show-quality koi, who get their exercise swimming its 50-foot length. Only five feet wide, this nine-year old pond was designed so the fish could be easily caught and easily viewed; he lights up each end of the pond with MR16 halogen bulbs for night viewing. For netting, Mark can walk the full length of the pond's leading edge, while a 15-foot wide waterfall curves around the opposite edge and quietly lets 11,000 gph of water cascade a mere 18-20 inches over pieced flagstone. Mark feeds his koi 10 to 12 times a day at present, but will gradually reduce that as winter approaches.



**Eastern Nishikigoi** was our next stop. We were greeted with the offer of a 20% discount on everything in the store, and many of us took advantage, buying fish, food and products. ENKoi is a premier dealer, with numerous outdoor concrete vats of fish in varying sizes, plus waterplants, indoor retail, tropical fish and a few display ponds. Mark was impressed with their Bakki Trickle Tower filters, similar to what was seen at the Chandlers' home, and all made guesses at the prices on a wonderful pair of huge Koi (wrong; only \$4000 each, but Ken wants to keep them to breed.)



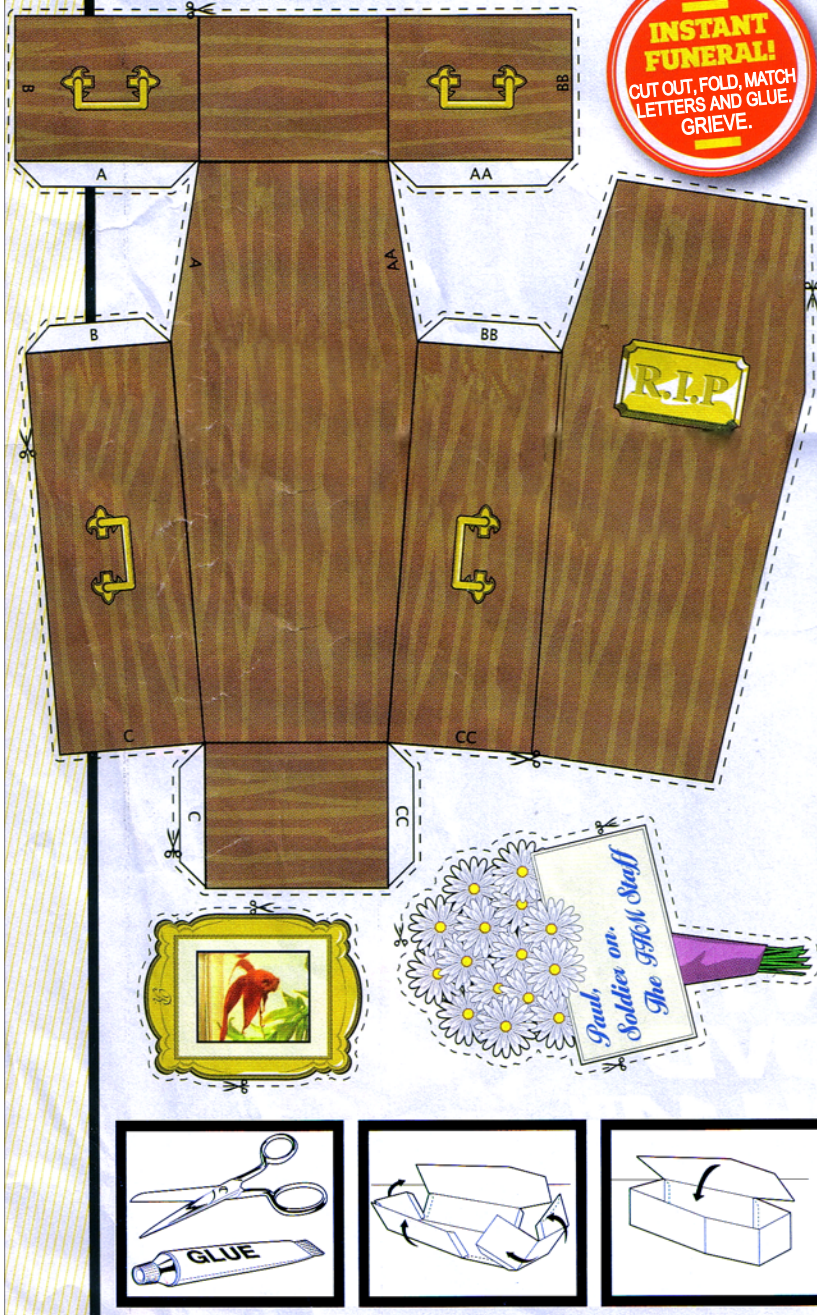
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# GOLDFISH BURIAL!

A reader says his final goodbyes to a floating comrade

**M**y fish Reggie just died," writes Paul Weitzman of Fairhaven, MA. "I've been keeping him in a soda bottle ever since—surely, my little guy deserves better than a last swim down the toilet. Can you help?" We can, Paul.

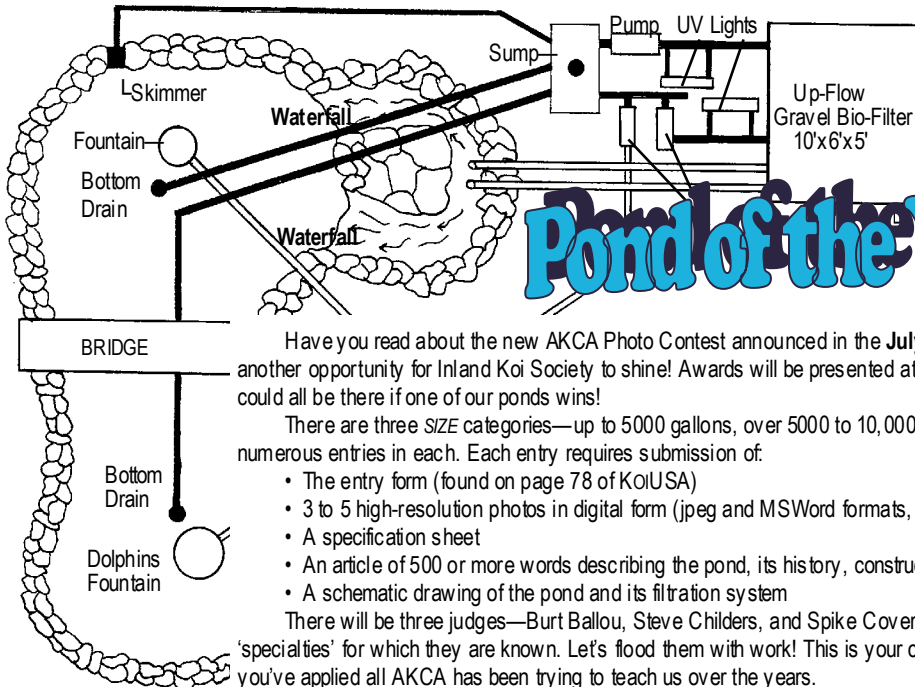
Give the little critter a proper send-off with this tasteful cutout funeral kit. After the ceremony, flush his coffin out to sea. For added effect, first light it on fire and send him out like a viking. Reggie would have wanted it so.



KELLY HOUSTON PRESENTED THIS ARTICLE AND SUGGESTED THIS COULD BE INCORPORATED INTO A KOI BURIAL BOX. JUST MAKE THE BOX A LITTLE BIGGER... (giggle). Thanks Kelly!







*Sponsored by KOIUSA  
and Hikari Sales USA*

# Pond of the Year Contest

Have you read about the new AKCA Photo Contest announced in the **July/August 2008 issue of Koi USA?** (pp 76-78) This is another opportunity for Inland Koi Society to shine! Awards will be presented at the AKCA Seminar in February in San Diego, so we could all be there if one of our ponds wins!

There are three **SIZE** categories—up to 5000 gallons, over 5000 to 10,000 gallons, and over 10,000 gallons—so we could have numerous entries in each. Each entry requires submission of:

- The entry form (found on page 78 of KoiUSA)
- 3 to 5 high-resolution photos in digital form (jpeg and MSWord formats, minimum 960x1280 resolution)
- A specification sheet
- An article of 500 or more words describing the pond, its history, construction process and surroundings
- A schematic drawing of the pond and its filtration system

There will be three judges—Burt Ballou, Steve Childers, and Spike Cover—each with vast experience as well as particular 'specialties' for which they are known. Let's flood them with work! This is your chance to brag about your pond and show how well you've applied all AKCA has been trying to teach us over the years.

We do have a lot of unique and beautiful ponds, and because we visit them at meetings, Larry and Debby Leverett have done write-ups about many of them. If one has been featured on a pond tour, Nick Milfeld has drawn a schematic of it for the tour book! There are probably lots of pictures, too, from both meetings and tours, although recent photos are probably preferable. The Leveretts and Milfelds will make the write-ups and schematics available to any member who would like to submit their pond in the contest, just call or email us and ask!

**The catch is that the contest is only open to current subscribers to KoiUSA** (as of November 30, 2008), which means a \$20 'entry fee' payable to IKS if you are not already subscribing. But do it NOW: entries **must be received** by November 30, 2008!



**THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF KOI PHOTOGRAPHY:**

**DO...**

- ♦Photograph Koi where there are no reflections on the water. Spend time walking around the pond to find the best place, which will depend on the time of day.
- ♦Use a high vantage point. Stand on the pond's edge, a bridge or steps for overhead shots of Koi.
- ♦Use a polarizing filter to remove reflections, but be prepared for a much darker image in the viewfinder. A polarizing filter cuts down the light reaching the film or sensor so you'll need a slower shutter speed or wider aperture to compensate. Slower shutter speeds increase the risk of blurred photos. Wider apertures reduce the in-focus area to the front and rear of the object focused on, so you may not obtain a sharp image of the whole Koi.
- ♦Point the camera at a grey card to set the correct exposure.
- ♦If possible, use a shutter speed of 1/125 second or faster for hand-held shots, which should prevent blurring from camera shake.

**DON'T...**

- ♦Risk a splashing or a ducking for you or your camera. Use the camera neck strap at all times. Always store camera accessories away from the pond, and move away from the pond's edge to change filters, films or lenses.
- ♦Photograph in bright sunshine unless you have to. Wait for shadowless light.
- ♦Rely on the camera's exposure meter to calculate the right settings.
- ♦Use very high ISO speed otherwise the photos will be very grainy.
- ♦Be mean with film. The only way to get good shots is to take plenty of pictures.

Although these suggestions are without a doubt, good for your pond and garden, when taking pictures for the AKCA "Koi of the Year" contest, be sure to transfer your koi into a blue container used especially for koi photography, then utilize suggestions that apply.

You are welcome to bring a standard size, like 4x6 picture (do not put your name on your photos-well post-note it), of three different Koi (one fish per photo) to the October General Meeting and then every family present at this meeting will be able to vote for one favorite.

The winning Koi picture will then be sent to AKCA to compete against all of the clubs' Koi of the Year at the February 2009 AKCA Seminar in San Diego.

**IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN...**

The AKCA Seminar is in San Diego this time and it is earlier than ever before. It will be held in February of 2009. Therefore, we need to elect "Koi of the Year" and the "Kelly Houston Koi Person(s) of the Year" to represent IKS and be honored at the Seminar.

Bring your best shots to THIS MONTH'S meeting and hope your favorite Koi is chosen to represent IKS and be featured in the KoiUSA Magazine.



Do you often notice someone in our club always helping or just being there? Do they smile readily and talk comfortably with others?

Give them a huge "Thank You" by nominating them as our "Kelly Houston Koi Person of the Year."

(This may be an individual or a couple.) If elected, they will receive \$250 to help them attend the AKCA Seminar to receive their recognition. If they cannot go to the Seminar, they will still be honored by our club with a personalized plaque and a huge "Thank You" for all that makes them so special to the Inland Koi Society, just like Kelly Houston was and still is. He is one of the good-guys. :-)

Previous Koi Persons of the Year are not eligible, so be sure to ask about your nominee. If he/she/they are eligible, you will be asked to give a statement of explanation as to why you are nominating them.

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**CHLORINE KILLS 22 KOI AT JAPANESE GARDEN, BUT ONE SURVIVES**

By Jeanette Steele  
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER  
October 10, 2008

**BALBOA PARK** – The lone survivor in the koi pond at the Japanese Friendship Garden is swimming a little erratically this week.

A burnt streak on his black-and-white tail bears witness to the accidental chlorine poisoning that killed 22 of his buddies Tuesday at the Balboa Park landmark. "He's not happy," said Linda Pluth, a member of the Koi Club of San Diego,

which helps maintain the pond.

No one knows why this jumbo *kumonryu*, or dragon koi, lived through the night Monday while the pond slowly filled with an oversupply of city water because of an equipment malfunction.

Without anyone there to treat the water, the chlorine burned the fishes' gills and suffocated them. A gardener arriving early Tuesday morning found the koi floating.

"It's just a tremendous loss. We kind of think of them as living pieces of art," said Lovelynn Hansen of the Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego.

The koi were brightly colored behemoths, weighing up to 18 pounds and measuring as long as 2 feet from speckled nose to gossamer tail fin. They were considered show-quality because of their size and brilliant orange-and-

black dappling, and each fish was worth \$800 to \$3,500.

But to people who love the pond, the value couldn't be measured in dollars. "It was probably our main attraction," Hansen said. "People got to know these koi – and people have their favorites. We kind of think of them as our pets." People say mature koi can recognize their owners and that some live for decades.

A member of the Koi Club of San Diego has lent several fish from his own collection to fill the Balboa Park pond for now. It will cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 to restock. Many fish that died came from Japan, and the replacements probably will come from dealers around the world.

"We are actually trying to work out those details with our insurance company," Hansen said.

Kindhearted koi owners take note: Donations of fish won't help. Club member Jack Chapman said koi transported from ponds with a different chemistry could sicken those at this pond. That's why there's no plan to move koi from the park's Lily Pond to the Friendship Garden.

And "those are not show fish," said Chapman, a certified koi health adviser. "This was a very nice collection of koi. It's nothing short of tragic to lose these fish. I've been taking care of them for the better part of three years."

Koi club members are brokenhearted about the die-off for another reason: In February, anyone who's anyone in the koi world will gather in San Diego for a breeders convention and show.

Friendship Garden officials were already raising money for a major expansion of the 2½-acre site. The plan is to open 11 more acres on an adjoining hillside.

But raising money for the koi will be a top priority now. The 550-member nonprofit probably will hold a benefit in the near future.

"A Japanese garden is not complete without a koi pond," Hansen said

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Well, I put out a message to send me pictures of your travels this year so I could let members know "Where IKS Travels". Here are a few responses:



**AWESOME STORIES IF YOU ASK THEM!** djl



In September 2008 Tom Wright traveled to his Mother's house in RIVERSIDE, CA to celebrate his 50th birthday with family, friends, and good food! *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!* djl



Norma and Jack Marrin in VIENNA at the Kaiser Ball held in the Hofburg Palace on New Years Eve 2007-2008.

*WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DREAM!* djl



"In January, 2008, Phil and Rachel Hunter went to AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND. This photo was taken from the Oceana cruise ship "Nautica", as it left Sydney harbor on the first day of the cruise." *THANKS FOR SHAREING!* djl



Nick & Peggy Milfeld went to JERUSALEM, ISRAEL in August 2008. ▲ Western (Wailing) Wall, where Jews pray continuously for the restoration of the Temple, peace of the Land. Written prayers are tucked into every crevice in the wall. Right, ► Temple Mount with archaeological excavations and Nick at The Garden Tomb on the left. ◀



Dennis & Dorothy Lynaugh

in Shanghai CHINA.

*LOOKS WONDERFUL!* djl



Dorothy & Dennis on the Great Wall of China, Oct. '07

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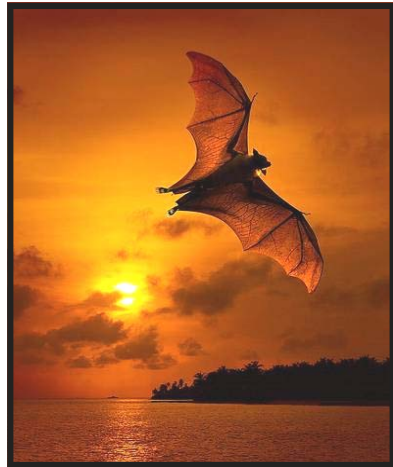
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**INLAND KOI SOCIETY  
PROGRAM PLANNING CALENDAR 2008**

REGULAR MTG 4th Sunday	HOSTS Address	PROPOSED PROGRAM Speakers	BOARD Wed. after Mtg
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Zuma Ross</b> 11830 Ridgcrest Drive Riverside, CA 92505	Koi person of the year 2009, Koi of the Year 2009	Oct. 29
<b>November 23</b> <i>Thanksgiving 11/27</i>	<b>Mac &amp; Jill McClain</b> 16130 Red Pony Lane Riverside, 92504 (951) 398-7048	Elections	Nov. 26?
<b>December 2008</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>	<b>No meeting until Jan. 25, 2009</b>	<b>Adjourned until Jan. 2009</b>



Tom Graham

**MAGAZINE SOLD:**

Tom Graham, former editor of *Koi USA*, bought *Pond & Garden Lifestyle*, formerly called *Pond-Keeper* magazine, from

Garden Pond Promotions Inc. and the founding publisher, Roseanne Conrad, producer of Pondapalooza.

Graham plans to rename the magazine *Pond Biz* and publish it bi-monthly, beginning in November. He plans to keep several of the core contributors, focus on water gardening business know-how, and bolster the publication's emphasis on the koi side of the business.

**Tom is a member of IKS so congratulate him when you see him at a meeting.**



Life is very busy and times are hard, so this is just a reminder the IKS RENEWAL DUES are coming up by December 15, 2008. November's Inland Koi Connection will contain another reminder and a return envelope for your convenience.

2008

**OCTOBER**

<u>Coming Events</u>	
10	<b>AKCA BOARD MEETING</b> ~ 7pm / 529 E. Blueridge Ave Orange, CA 92867 / Call Kelly Houston at (909) 885-2503 for more information.
13	<b>COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED</b> ~Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas, which happened on October 12, 1492 in the Julian calendar
16	<b>NATIONAL BOSS DAY</b> ~ It has traditionally been a day for employees to thank their boss for being kind and fair throughout the year.
17-19	<b>BAKERSFIELD KOI &amp; WATER GARDEN SOCIETY</b> ~ Koi show held at Kern County Fairgrounds Gene Cope (661) 399-6195
20	<b>PUMPKIN PICKING</b> ~at Riley's Farm / Mon- Friday 10-5 Saturday 9-5 Closed Sundays / 12261 S. Oak Glen Road - Oak Glen, CA 92399 909-790-TIME
26	<b>IKS GENERAL MEETING &amp; POTLUCK</b> ~ 2-5pm. At the home of Tom & Zuma Ross in Riverside. For more info, contact Kelly Houston (909) 885-2503.
29	<b>IKS BUSINESS MEETING</b> ~ 7 pm / <i>All members of IKS welcome!</i> 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside / Gene Maingot at (951) 272-4450.
31	<b>Happy Halloween</b> <b>TRICK OR TREAT!</b>

**NOVEMBER**

02	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b> ~ It Is Time To ~Fall Back~
04	<b>ELECTION DAY</b> ~ Do your Civic Duty and vote. Be proud to be an American!
8-9	<b>ORCHIDS IN THE PARK</b> ~ 10 am - 5 pm Carriage House in Prospect Park 1352 Prospect Dr. - Redlands, CA Adm:\$3. www.rsbcos.org (951) 652-8015
11	<b>VETERANS DAY</b> ~Be Proud, Give Honor and Remember.
14	<b>AKCA BOARD MEETING</b> ~7pm / 529 E. Blueridge Ave Orange, CA 92867 / Call Kelly Houston at (909) 885-2503 for more information.
23	<b>IKS GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK</b> ~ 2:00-5:00 pm at the home of Mac & Jill McClain in Riverside. For more info contact Kelly Houston at (909) 885-2503
26	<b>IKS BUSINESS MEETING</b> ~ 7 pm / <i>All members of IKS welcome!</i> 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside / Gene Maingot at (951) 272-4450.
27	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> ~
<b>JAN. 25, 2009</b>	Have a safe and healthy holiday. IKS is adjourned until the new year. <b>We will meet again on the 4th Sunday of January.</b>

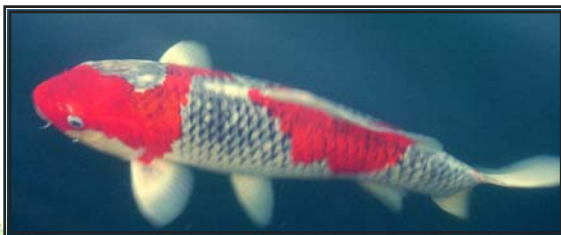
The Inland Koi Connection is a publication of the Inland Koi Society. Material is selected for the club's interest in ponds, koi, gardening, and other activities. IKS Officers and Directors accept no responsibility for accuracy of content. Reproduction is permitted provided this newsletter is credited as the source. Deadline for newsletter items is the 5th day of each month and items should be submitted directly to Editor, Debby J. Leverett at 5349 Jasper Lane - Riverside, California 92506 Phone: (951) 781-3887 E-mail: jenniferd11950@hotmail.com





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Return Service Requested



Visit our website: [www.inlandkoi.org](http://www.inlandkoi.org)