

The Inland Koi Connection

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IKS • ISSUE 280 • OCTOBER 2021



Sunday 10/24 Potluck Meeting ~ 2 - 5 pm



*Make yourself comfortable
this month at the home of
Aiko Howo in Redlands.*

Program:

- **Frank Painter** will give the Pond Talk for Aiko. He has spent the last few years making serious changes to the pond, filtration, and even the land use in her back yard and can address any technical questions you may have. *Do explore the yard fully!*
- We're pleased to welcome back **Eric Triplett** as our main speaker; he will discuss new the trends in pond building today.
- There will be a sign-up list for the November 21 Thanksgiving Feast. Please sign up if you plan to attend (so Pat Mall knows how much turkey we'll need), and sign up for your part of the menu.

Hosted by

Aiko Howo

1335 Sterling Road

Redlands 92373

909.798.1436

WHAT’S BEEN GOING ON IN IKS IN RECENT MONTHS?

• **The IKS Board met October 3** at the Leveretts’ home in Riverside. They will continue to plan monthly meetings, and request your help. We will need meeting places — members willing to host the club around their ponds. Rather than forcing someone to call every member seeking meeting locations, **if you are willing to be a host, please call VP Brenda Aker to volunteer** and let her know which month is best for you. You know how hard we work to leave a meeting place fully cleaned up, with only a bag of refuse to be added to the hosts’ trash bin.

• **Meetings: October 24** we will meet in Redlands around *Aiko Howo*’s lovely pond, moving the time back to 2-5pm.

On **November 21**, a week early, **Jerry & Pat Mall** will again host what has become our traditional Thanksgiving Feast meeting at their hilltop home above Temecula. We will share a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings: Pat orders turkey and the members sign up to fill out the menu with family favorites or new recipes they want to try out. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting; **see more info on page ___**. We will have Koi Races (*get your favorite koi in training!*) and more fun. Renewal forms may be turned in at this meeting. [*see page 4 for menu details*]

• **Treasury:** We continue to search for a less expensive storage location; currently it costs \$370 every two months (*\$2220 a year!*). If anyone has space and is willing to keep a storage POD on their property, please call one of the officers.

• **Membership Renewals** We will mail the preprinted Renewal Forms, as usual, in November, and they can be returned at the November meeting (or mailed). We are still looking for a new source for name badges, or for a different style. Any suggestions?

Members Note: All koi in QT are available for purchase, \$50-\$200 depending on size and quality...*less than retail!* Contact Ed Kushner.

• **Koi Auction:** Praying we’ll be able to host an auction in 2022... of course, COVID-19 is still the determining factor. Looking at June.

• **Elections:** The board proposed and agreed to continue to serve for the 2022 term. Nevertheless, we would like to know of any member with a desire to serve and in what capacity; there is always the possibility someone will need to step down sooner than later.

We also need a new librarian, or someone to review the collection of books and videos we have available to determine what should be removed or retired. We used to have a few people willing to do an oral “book report” at meetings, or to research and speak about a “Koi of the Month.” If that sounds like you, please give VP Brenda a call and volunteer your time. 🌸

Welcome to our Newest Members

David & Belinda San Jose
Rowland Heights CA 91748

We were pleased to have visitors at the Kushners’ meeting in September, and even more pleased when they joined the club. Make a point of looking for the unfamiliar faces, introduce yourselves and make these new members new friends:

Raymond Aguilar
1384 Detroit Street
Norco CA 92860
951.275.2446 xrayra@gmail.com

Jason & Kristine Zara
9739 Palmetto Avenue
Fontana CA 92335
760.970.9338 ~ jasonazara@gmail.com
Kris ~ 760.970.9334

We also welcomed first-time member
Jerry Elkind
Temecula ~ ELKIND1000@yahoo.com
who joined in August 2020.

2021 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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- Ed Kushner**, President 951.520.0092
Koi Re-Homing ~ Web Liaison
- Brenda Aker**, V.P. 951.316.0263
Meeting Sites & Speakers
- Monica Dirac**, Secretary 909.887.7497
- Nick Milfeld**, Treasurer 951.780.7395
Membership
- Peggy Milfeld**, Editor 951.780.7395

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- Linda Kushner** 951.520.0092
- Alvin Watson** 951.764.6387
- Scott Zehm** 951.237.2508
- Theo Zoetemelk** 951.735.9896
Buffet & Banquet Supplies

We haven't been to Aiko Howo's beautiful home in quite a while — *we haven't most places in quite a while, right!?* — so here's a little background...

Aiko is a native Californian whose grandparents emigrated from Japan to the US around 1900; her parents settled in Monrovia in the 1930's and became strawberry farmers. When WW II began, the family — and all other Japanese Americans this side of Arizona — were ordered into internment camps. They spent the war years in Wyoming, returned to Los Angeles, and eventually saved enough to buy a home. A gardener by trade, her father created a beautiful yard with a bonsai tree and a Japanese garden....

Retired after 30 years as a school nurse, Aiko had earned her BS in Nursing from San Diego State, her Masters in Education from Azusa Pacific, and her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner certification from USC. Her husband retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years in the Air Force. They have three accomplished children: Midori is a Chief Deputy District Attorney in Fresno, Michael is CFO of a local microchip company, and Mitchell is a family practice physician for Kaiser. Life after military bases meant settling in Redlands on a "hilly lot filled with weeds interspersed with grass" and spending the weekends battling said weeds.

After 25 years in the house, Aiko figured they were going to stay there, so in 2005 she began reshaping the property so she could create a Japanese garden. They flattened the yard and removed most of the lawn, leaving a small patch of grass for her dog, Sugar. I would have thought a koi pond to be a natural inclusion in the garden, but Aiko's interest was roused by a local pond tour: the peaceful and quiet spaces reminded her of her father's garden. The tour's pond builder willingly built her a pond but, like many novice pond owners, she learned too late that her beautiful pond was too shallow. After but a few months, most of her 10 koi had disappeared, presumably to the pudgy but majestic hawk living in the trees above her house.

Aiko joined IKS in June 2012, after the Redlands Pond Tour. She's learned more about ponds since then and had a second pond built—deeper, with better filtration. It was 11' x 16' x 3½' with a 4-inch bottom drain in the 45mil



liner. A 6500gph submersible pump returned filtered water to a 6' stream flowing into the pond.

Since then, Aiko has expanded her pond and necessarily redone some of the landscape. Instead of commuting daily from San Diego, **Frank Painter** stayed with Aiko for the months that it took him to enlarge her pond and relocate the equipment in a covered enclosure. The pond renovation cost Aiko some garden area, but gave her more deck and more water: it is now a 3,000-gal pond with no visible equipment. Added deck space opens from the middle on heavy-duty hinges to expose a pressurized bead filter and all the rest, accessed by way of steps into the 'pit.' There may be a new RDF (rotary drum filter) in the system now.



"I hope my membership isn't revoked because I'm embarrassed to confess that I get help maintaining my ponds. After spending hours fighting string algae (another battle lost), I gave in to a monthly pond service." ~2019

Besides a beautiful pond, you will also find here a tortoise enclosure, fruit trees planted above a retaining wall just beyond the driveway, and waist-high raised vegetable beds. In addition to raised beds, Frank has built an aquaponics system with growing pads floating over water vats; it's a perfect set-up for raising food fish below and other edibles above, fed by the nutrient-rich water. In the back corner there's an elevated and covered patio built under a canopy of trees; several tables with chairs invite you into the shade. Come explore and discover: maybe time has changed things even more!

Aiko's comments the last time she hosted a meeting still make me laugh: *"I hope my membership isn't revoked because I am embarrassed to confess that I get help maintaining my ponds. After spending hours fighting string algae (another battle lost), I gave in to a monthly pond service."* Well, at least most of the women won't fault her; if it were up to us to do it, we'd hire someone, too!

One October not too long ago, Larry Leverett did an excellent job summarizing how to “Winterize Your Pond” even though each resource he checked began with, “Cut a hole in the ice.” It’s time for a reprint...

Some of our members do live in areas where ice and snow are possible, so if temps drop to 30’s, bag up any tropical plants and store in the garage at 50°. Koi can stay in the pond if you have depth and volume, as long as it doesn’t ice over too thick. Filters and pumps should be drained so freezing doesn’t break anything. Stop feeding so fish can ‘hibernate’ and, if possible, cover the pond to keep leaf debris out of it. This month’s Arctic Blast should be creating some horror stories across the country!

SoCal may drop to 30’s and 40’s, and that’s tolerable to the fish: their immune system starts shutting down, but so does the metabolism of any parasites and other ‘bugs.’ That said, when Spring comes, parasites warm up faster than koi; this can create a problematic season known as *Aeromonas Alley* when bacterial outbreaks are common. Filters should have been cleaned in September, allowing time for the good bacteria to return to healthy levels.

Your koi will become increasingly inactive and stay on the bottom of the pond, searching out the least cold spots. Trouble may come during freak storms when severe winds churn the water continually and the fish cannot find their safe spaces. In such conditions, it’s possible to have a die off, the fish basically freezing to death in the churned up cold water. Five years ago this happened to our member Mike Frady in Virginia: a koi judge, Mike had many really good fish in his 10,000-gallon pond, but lost them because of the high winds. 🐾

“FAMILY FEAST” MENU PLANS

These are the menu categories for the Nov. 21 meeting at the Malls. Check the list to decide what to bring, and then sign up at the October meeting!

Your RSVP tells us how much turkey we’ll need.

- **Stuffing or Potatoes ~ mashed, yams, cheesy...**
- **Vegetable Dishes ~ all the family favorites...**
- **Salads, any kind ~ green, fruit, molded...**
- **Muffins, Rolls, Breads...**
- **Desserts, any kind and all the favorites!**
- **Other Items, including Appetizers...**



**If you’re not attending in October, call to sign up!
We need a count for seating and ordering turkey.
The deadline is Sunday evening, Nov. 14.**

**Please leave a message for the Milfelds at
951.780.7395 or send an email to
peggymilfeld@inlandkoisociety.org**

POND CLEANING CHECKLIST

Daily

- _____ Remove excess food and debris from skimmer
- _____ Monitor water level and top off if necessary
- _____ Evaluate fish swimming behavior and appetite: make note if anything seems different
- _____ Check water temperature

Weekly

- _____ 10% water change using backwash operation (OR vacuum)
Please note: this is only a general guideline. Cleaning frequency and volume will be determined by bio load, size of pond and filtration capability.
- _____ Perform water quality testing if new fish or equipment were added within last 2 months
- _____ Remove dead leaves from any live plants

Monthly

- _____ Perform water quality testing if NO new fish or equipment were added within last 2 months
- _____ Move substrate around with long pole or rake
- _____ Shake biological filtration or rinse gently in reserved pond water

Seasonally

- _____ Deep clean pond to remove excess algae, debris
If your pond has not be thoroughly cleaned in more than 1 year, it is recommended your fish be removed and placed in a temporary tub prior to cleaning.
- _____ Check water bill: any increases could point to pond leaks

Yearly

- _____ Change UV bulb
- _____ Buy new water test kit

FALL FEEDING TIPS FOR KOI
from *Ultra Balance*

Cooler weather is now upon us. The change in seasons means that the water temperature in your koi pond gradually decreases and the koi become less active. As their metabolism slows, koi start swimming more slowly and become less interested in food.

Here's a few Fall feeding tips to follow:

- ❶ As the water temperature falls, gradually cut back the amount you feed, as well as the number of times per day you feed them.
- ❷ At around 64°F, feed your koi no more than twice per day and, as the temperature falls, cut back to once per day. For water temperatures below 64°F, we recommend feeding a highly digestible wheat germ diet.
- ❸ Once the water remains below 50-55°F for at least 10 days in a row, we suggest you stop feeding your koi (fasting them) since their metabolism slows down. Your koi will be a good indicator of this by being less active and having little to no appetite. They will only eat what their body requires by grazing on algae as needed.
- ❹ You can begin to reintroduce food once the water temperature rises consistently above 50-55°F again. Since koi do not have a stomach, just a long intestinal tract, they are unable to properly digest their food in colder temperatures.

What is Manda Fu ~ mentioned by K.O.I. on page 6?

Manda Fu is a health food for koi, combined with growth activating enzymes. It is made by baking a dough mixed with gluten and alpha wheat starch. When the water temperatures are under 59 degrees, high animal protein food should be avoided. This wheat-based food has a digestion rate of 98.2%, making it a suitable koi food for Fall, Winter or Spring, not for a regular diet. For

sick koi, it's easy on the internal organs and helps improve their health. Nutrient breakdown is:

Protein	23% or over
Lipid	5% or less
Fiber	4% or less
Ash	1.5% or less
Moisture	13% or less

Great as a treat and hand-feeding, it looks like packing peanuts.

www.majestickoi.com/Manda-Fu/

October is too much fun!

And it's more than just one night of Halloween! It's pumpkin patches, corn mazes and days or evenings out with or without kids or grandkids. Check out these local places open this year; find lots more at stepoutside.org

Pumpkin Fest at Cal Poly Pomona! Mazes and a market, petting farm & feed cups, duck races, etc., plus a Night Maze. And food. All admission tickets are sold online only, in advance. Attraction prices vary, with tickets \$1 each or 11/\$10; get a wristband or a 'Bundle' of tickets. Definitely check out the website and plan a day out or a date night! It will even give you directions.* [*I wanna go!*]

Pumpkin Festival at AGRIsapes
4102 S. University Dr., Pomona 91768
<https://www.cpp.edu/~pumpkinfestival>
*Get on the AGRIsapes mailing list too.

Check the **Peltzer Pumpkin Farm** website's calendar all the 2021 family fun, now through end of the month. Peltzer is one of the Temecula Valley wineries.

39925 Calle Contento, Temecula 92951
www.peltzerfarms.com

Another place for family fun is **The Pumpkin Factory** in Corona. Games, rides, food and lots of pumpkins. A day with the grandkids? Open daily.

1545 Circle City Dr., Corona 92879
<https://thepumpkinfactory.com/>





K.O.I. News!

Koi Organisation International

Current Accurate Useful

October 2021

This month we are featuring part of an article from one of our koi experts in the UK, Syd Mitchell.

How does soft or hard water affect koi colours?

Water in Japanese breeders' mud ponds doesn't come from springs fed by water that has percolated through the ground, it comes mainly from snow melt or rain water that collects into rivers running off of the mountains and so it has very little contact with minerals in the soil and is, therefore, very soft.



This means that the pH is low, mainly being in the range of 6.6 to 7.0 in the Niigata and Hiroshima area. Since it contains only small amounts of dissolved minerals, it

is also very soft, with the alkalinity in most mud ponds typically being around 14 mg/L (about 0.8°KH) or lower and rarely going higher than 46 to 48 mg/L (approximately 2.5°KH). It is this low mineral content water that is said to have a beneficial effect on colour development and skin quality and there is good reason for this belief.

Continue this article at Syd's website:

"A web site for serious koi carp keepers"

www.mankysanke.co.uk/html/chromatophores.html



EARLY CHRISTMAS TIP



Need Packing in a Gift for a Koi Keeper?

Instead of using packing peanuts, crumpled paper or other padding, use Manda Fu!

This treat looks like pink styrofoam packing peanuts – but is intended as a treat to hand-feed to Koi. Not a replacement for good balanced Koi food, but Koi love it as a treat! It's extruded with air to make it float and it looks – and cushions – like eatable packing peanuts! (protect in plastic bag) A gift for both Koi Keeper and Koi! Brilliant Idea by Mary Nielsen



TIP OF THE MONTH

pH and Rain

Beginning to experience seasonal rains? Rain usually is more acid than city or well water. Several days of rain can affect a pond's pH. Monitor your pH and KH to ensure you're not heading into a "pH crash." Want to know more? Search for articles on pH and KH at K.O.I. Blog:

<https://koiorganisationinternational.org/blog>



Photo from Wikipedia

Useful Websites for Koi-related Info:

- inlandkoi.com ~ tons of info on all koi topics.
- www.koiphen.com ~ #1 koi online forum.
- Access koi calculators at <http://www.koiphen.com/forums/koicalcs.php?do=calcsalt>
- <http://www.akakoi.com.au/Glossary.html> ~ An extensive alphabetical glossary of Nishikigoi terms (for perfect koi ID).
- koi-care.com ~ pond maintenance info, koi food, diseases, koi care, breeding.
- KoiFishPonds.com ~ broad koi site dedicated to good koi ponds & water gardens; equipment & supplies at discount.
- andrewskoi.com and inlandkoi.com ~ Local dealers/importers providing extensive info online.
- CAFISHVET.com ~ website of Aquatic Veterinary Services, hosted by Jessie Sanders, DVM, CertAqV, and Chief Veterinarian specializing in fish. Many good articles, info. Contact (831) 278-1081



Koi Rescue Team were honored as **2021 Koi Persons of the Year**. Over the months of COVID closures, these members stayed active and very busy representing IKS!

*Ed & Linda Kushner
Rob & Deanna Fales
Brenda Kushner*





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