

# The Inland Koi Connection



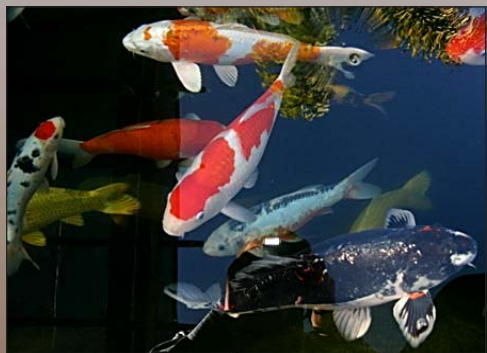
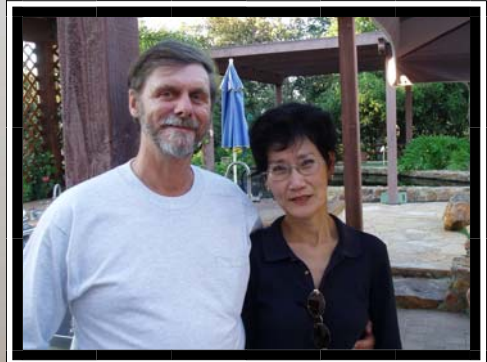
THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF IKS  
ISSUE 164  
NOVEMBER 2009

**NOVEMBER 22, 2009**

**STEVE & LILY RHODES**

**26151 Carancho Road  
Temecula, CA 92590**

**Sunday - 2-5 pm  
Last IKS General Meeting  
of 2009 - Members  
Sharing Thanksgiving  
Potluck Side Dishes.  
(951) 500-2157**





Our October meeting was at Rick & Marlys Whipple's home. There were sixty five people there, and there was plenty of room to roam around the landscape and to enjoy their 17,000-gallon pond and two quarantine tanks. I really enjoyed the gazebo overlooking the pond; if there were a diving board at the end of it, I'd have been tempted to dive in. There were some large animal sculptures around the property, including a giraffe – speaking of sticking your neck out!

The speakers were Kirk and Amy Taylor from the Inland Empire Turtle and Tortoise Club. Their talk drew a lot of interest and possibly held the attention of our members better than most of the speakers that we've had in the past. Kirk and Amy brought some turtles with them in order to show the differences between various types of turtles. At least they can pull their necks in.

The Angels and Dodgers failed us this year; they didn't get to the World Series. I'm going to drown my sorrows this month by going to the British Virgin Islands for some swimming workouts. But as they used to say in Brooklyn, "Wait 'til next year!"

Speaking of next year, we are starting to make plans for the 2010 pond tour. It will be held Sunday, June 6, in the Riverside area. The pond tour chairman is Dennis Lynaugh. If you would like to be part of the committee, let Dennis know.

The November meeting is our last meeting of the year. That means it's time for our club elections. All officer and director positions are up for election. The ballot, as proposed by the nominating committee, will be presented and nominations can still be offered from the floor. I tried to get Fox News to come in and cover the election, but they said they were busy trying to get Obama to come in for an interview and couldn't make it.

This will be Tee Wright's last meeting as club librarian. Tee has served in this position for the last few years, so when you see her at the meeting, thank her for handling the job so that you didn't have to.

Also at the November meeting, we will be distributing the membership renewal forms for next year. On the back of the form is a questionnaire for you to give your input as to how you feel about IKS, and what you would like to see done for next year. (Please don't say that you wish that Gene was still club president.) If you turn in your survey before the January meeting, you will be eligible for a drawing to win a \$50.00 gift certificate for the Newsletter advertiser of your choice.

Our meeting this month is one week earlier than usual because of the Thanksgiving weekend. We will have turkey and ham; just bring your favorite side dish and chair, and practice gorging yourself for Thanksgiving.

See you at the meeting, tryptophan and all.

Mark

Mark Krakower, IKS President.



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Steve and Lily Rhodes will host this month's meeting and annual Thanksgiving celebration. Their place, which sits in the middle of 20 acres, is amazingly beautiful. The house was built to a Chinese Principle that starts with a hexagon, so as you walk in the front door you are in a hexagonal entrance and all eight paths lead to different parts of the house. Steve designed it himself.

There is a joke in their family that Steve is more Chinese than Lily. Steve studied *t'ai chi* and martial arts, and won a bronze medal for the USA in the world championships. Steve and Lily publish a magazine, *QI*, which is a journal on traditional health and fitness. Steve worked in the printing industry; part of the digital revolution; he helped magazines such as *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Time* change to the digital formatting. He was in charge of the western USA for a printing company which required him to travel constantly; it finally caught up with him and he retired to be a farmer with 20 acres.

On the property there are 2,150 avocado trees, plus thirty different fruit trees near the house. There's also broccoli, bok choy, onions, tomatoes, celery, spinach, peppers, strawberries, grapes, watermelon... just naming a few of the fruits and vegetables in their kitchen garden. Recently Steve built a wooden patio deck and is extending a pathway down to the road which leads to a creek crossing their property. They plan to plant more fruit trees and will share more with the birds and critters living close.

Lily is Chinese; born in Taiwan, she moved to the U.S. with her parents. Steve was born in Virginia but studied in Beijing, China; he traveled and studied in mainland China four times from 1979 to 1984. You would assume they met in China, but their original meeting was in Virginia, USA, at her parents' restaurant; they met again several years later at another restaurant in Washington, D.C. The loving relationship between Steve and Lily is obvious, but it is also very respectful. She has an eye for beauty and creativeness, and he has the steadfastness to get things completed. With what they have finished in just five years on their twenty acres of land, you'll see what I mean.

They both have a softness, too. For example; Lily will reach down into the pond and gently pet her koi, then play 'catch' by tossing a pellet of food. They in turn respond with understanding and patience by giving her time, then opening their mouths to catch the pellet. Among other things, Steve's softness comes with the hummingbirds; an unbelievable amount of zipping and twittering. The other day a roadrunner bird invaded their garden and when Steve walked outside, something was different. It was unusually quiet, with no hummer sounds at all. He left well enough alone and eventually the beautiful sounds of the approximately thirty hummingbirds returned. In the summer, their hummingbird population explodes and sometimes he refills the eight feeders twice a day!

Steve built everything outside of their house except for the driveway. Lily was a big help also as she mixed cement and lent a lot of muscle. Steve dug their 14,000-gallon pond out of the native granite. He started with a pick and eventually used a jackhammer; even Lily handled the hammer. I don't know how he did it, but the pond is seven feet deep. All the raised flower beds around the property are built with the stone he pulled out of the pond.

Steve built a pump house for his pumps and filters; he had to put the filters in first and build the house around it. He uses two Nexus 300 Easy Filters and an Alpha One 2.5-cubic foot bead filter, and he just added a rock, gravel, and sand filter. Two 4"

bottom drains and a 4" skimmer feed the filters, plus he has 200 watts of UV for clarification, and all this is driven by three 1/8-hp Performance Pro pumps.

The pond hole was so strong (because it is mostly granite) that Steve just used a special cement formula to smooth out the hole and then had it sprayed with a polyurea liner. Steve is also a computer whiz and he carries a PDA that controls the lights in his house, the music outside, the pumps on his pond, and the air domes. He can even change 1200 gallons of water in his pond at the touch of a button! I thought that was pretty cool.

One more great thing: as you line up for food at the meeting, you'll be walking through the family room to the kitchen. While you wait, take a glance at the big screen TV. It will be showing scenes from a camera in the pond. This is just way too cool! The fish look great swimming by.

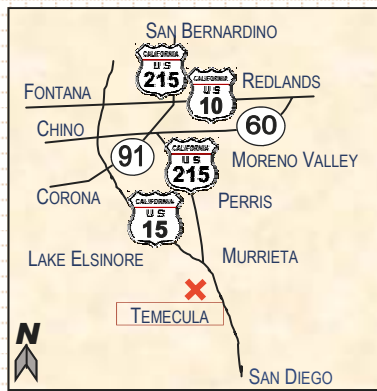
This will be the last meeting of the year and you don't want to miss it. Lily and Steve have been in this home five years and working constantly to get it just right. He says he needs another five years, but it looks perfect to me. And just so you know, when he does that 1200-gallon water change, the water goes into the grove to water their trees. Steve and Lily agree, water is too precious to waste.

Be sure to call your reservation in, bring your special side dish for the potluck, your chair and a jacket because it gets chilly in Temecula in November. We will see you there.

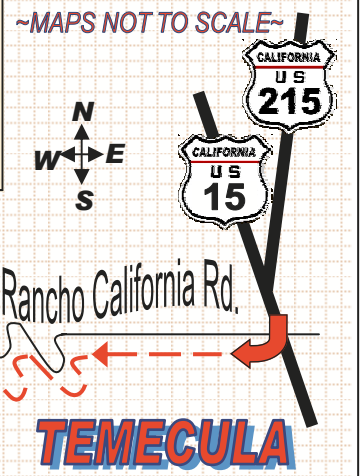
Larry & Debby Leverett, IKS Editors



- Directions:** •South of the 15/215 junction, take the RANCHO CALIFORNIA RD. exit and head west 2.5 miles. *[It's a winding, mountainous drive, so if you'll need it, take your Dramamine early!]*
- Left on (first street) AVENIDA DEL ORO and go 0.3 miles.
  - Left on SANDIA CREEK RD. and go 3.7 miles.
  - Left on CARANCHO RD. and go 1 mile to 26151 on your right.
  - Please park along the right side of their 600 foot cement drive way - and walk up to the house.



**Program:** Shawn McHenry of Mystic Koi, speaking about his recent buying trip in Japan OR Bill DeBrosky of Mystic Koi, discussing the filters Steve Rhodes has.





## IKS GENERAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

Our monthly general meeting at the Whipple's was a real treat, not only for the unusual pond and yard layout, but for the "and now for something completely different" guest speakers. The weather was breezy but surprisingly temperate and 65 IKS family members attended.

Rick is a general contractor, so their home and yard reflect that ability and vision. He and Marlys have had a pond for 15 years, and in its latest version it holds more than 50 big koi. Last month's IKS Koi Connection showed its most striking feature, a raised pergola 15 feet above the pond. The pond also has an electric fence around it; we were warned that it was "hot!" The fish appeared happy and healthy.

Rick had just completed a second quarantine tank for a new batch of koi, and it was dressed up nicely with block and three big carp statues, in keeping with the animal sculptures decorating the rest of the yard. Both Q-tanks have propane-fired water heaters, a wise precaution if (when?) a fish becomes ill this winter or spring.

We had a nice change in guest speakers this month, with a subject only marginally related to koi. Kirk and Amy Taylor brought in a bunch of mysterious containers, plastic totes actually, and lined them up on two tables. Kirk introduced the topic - turtles! He and Amy belong to the Inland Empire Chapter of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club. The crates held adult box, painted, red- and yellow-bellied turtles, and red-eared sliders, as well as a desert tortoise. They showed babies of some varieties, too, only about an inch across. They were perfect replicas of the adults, which were up to 10 inches wide.

Kirk explained how water turtle habitats differ from

most koi ponds. Turtles breathe air, so they need a place to get out of the water and sun themselves; this would be considered a heron feeding station by many koi keepers. Then there is the fact that turtles are omnivores and that means they will nip any fish that they can catch. If there are more than one turtle in the pond, they can corner a fish with disastrous results. They have similar nutritional needs, and like the same water temps. In the winter they go dormant, only needing to come up and breathe every few weeks. And if you swim or wade in their pond, watch out as they can nip toes!

The obvious question was, "How can I get a baby turtle?" It has been against federal law to sell small (under 4") turtles for many years. Most are protected species. But turtle fanciers find that their pets lay eggs, and the eggs hatch. So what the Turtle Club does is find homes for these little critters something like our own Koi Rescue. Kirk described a case where one had been run over by a car; he epox-ied the side of the shells back together and the turtle lived. He spoke about many details of turtle anatomy and behavior, too many to mention here, so if you are interested (and I know many are) go to their website: <http://www.tortoise.org/> and click on the Inland Empire Chapter. They hold meetings at the SB County Museum every first Friday of the month.

This was a great presentation, and many members were still talking to Kirk and Amy as Rick called out the numbers for the raffle. In closing, Mark reminded us that the next business meeting will be on 10/28/09 at the Scott Marrin Co. at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Zuma and Tom Ross



If you turn your renewal form over (which is included in this newsletter), you'll find a questionnaire on the back. Mail or turn in your form at the meeting to the IKS Treasurer; your membership in the Inland Koi Society and your discounted subscription to Koi USA (as indicated) will be renewed. **If you have completed the questionnaire**, it will be entered into a drawing to be held at the January 24, 2010 IKS General Meeting. One \$50 gift certificate, to any Advertiser in the Newsletter, will be presented. \*One completed form per family and winner need not be present.



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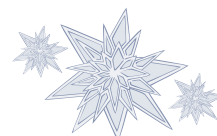
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## Fall & Winter Feeding Tips

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

[www.drsfostersmith.com](http://www.drsfostersmith.com)



How you feed your fish in the fall and winter can have a large impact on their health through the winter to the spring. Spring is a time when fish are less hearty from winter and the fluctuating temperatures add to their stress level, making them vulnerable to disease.

A proper and balanced diet can help give your fish the protection they need. For instance, the diet of a koi in the wild would include fish, mollusks, crabs, and basically everything else that moves. A koi will enjoy eating anything that lives in water, be it fresh or salt, but it's best to cook these first to make sure parasites or disease will not be transmitted to your prize fish.

Feeding your fish insects such as spiders, grubs, and worms on a regular basis can add great health benefits. Just make sure the creature won't bite the fish. You can even feed commercially available dried insects.

Goldfish do not eat as much food as koi, but often eat insects in and on the water, and would benefit from a variety in their diet also. Fancy goldfish, though, can have problems sucking in too much air when taking food from the surface, causing swim bladder problems. For this reason it is wise to feed them [food](#) that slowly sinks.

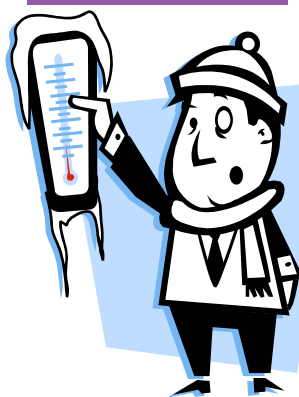
Floating food such as [flakes](#) or [dried insects](#) should be soaked first before feeding. For all types of fish this can be a great way to add vitamins to their diet. Vitamins B and C, and spirulina are great supplements as well as a small amount of wheat germ oil. Fish oils can be a great source of energy for your fish.

As the cooler temperatures arrive, you'll want to start getting your fish ready for the winter ahead. The only way you can possibly feed your fish correctly as the weather cools is to know the temperature of the water. If you do not have a [thermometer](#), this is the time to get one.

Once the water temperature lowers to 70°F, your fishes' staple food should be mixed with a [wheat germ base](#) that is lower in protein. When the water temperatures reach 60°F the staple food should be switched to wheat germ based foods exclusively. Proteins are much harder to digest than other nutrients. The wheat germ diet can continue to be fed all winter if the water temperature doesn't get below 50°F. At 55°F the fish's metabolism starts to slow, reducing its intake requirements. *Once the water temperatures go below 50°F, it's time to stop feeding until spring.* **Important:** Do not feed if there is any chance of the temperatures dropping below 50°F within a few days. Fish are not capable of proper digestion in cold water and the food can decay in their system, sending bacteria into the bloodstream and killing the fish.

**At 55°F the fish's metabolism starts to slow, reducing its intake requirements. Once the water temperatures go below 50°F, it's time to stop feeding until spring.**

Anytime you are feeding when it's below 60°F, keep in mind the bacteria in your filter are also slowing their activity. They no longer reproduce, and they will die off or go dormant when extreme water temperatures are experienced. It's a good idea to test the water regularly to make sure ammonia and nitrite aren't showing up. A great diet to end the year and start in spring would include a mild antibiotic soaked in the food. Do not add antibiotics to the water as they can damage the natural balance in your pond.



# One of Steve and Lily Rhodes Fruit Trees...



## Longan

The longan or dragon's eye is a smallish fruit, bigger than a large marble but smaller than a ping pong ball. It grows on a branch with many fruits together.



Pop the stem off the top of the longan so the peeling can begin.



Use your thumb nail to peel the fruit to reveal the clearish whitish soft inside.

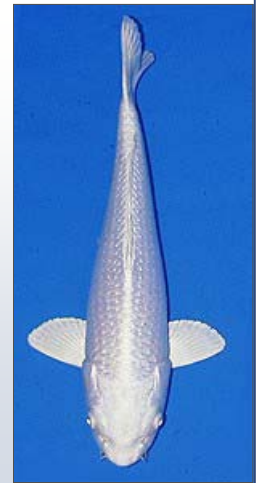
Biting it just right makes the dragon's eye. The seed isn't edible and is discarded along with the peeling. It has a slight coconutty taste

## F.Y.I.

If you are planning to visit Japan and are wondering when is the best time to go, autumn is a good choice. Japan has four distinct seasons. Autumn months in Japan are September, October, and November. After its humid summer, Japan is in its coolest, its most beautiful season, autumn. Japanese festivals are related to the agricultural calendar, and the autumn festivals are held in every region to give thanks for the harvest. Fall festivals in shrines begin with Shinto rituals. People also set up stalls to sell various food, crafts, and other produce from the area. You have many chances to see Japanese festivals in Autumn.



Platinum Ogon, or Purachina, are white koi whose body shines with the same luster as the precious metal. These first appeared in 1963, probably from out crossing Kigoji with the grayish-silver Nezu (short for the Japanese word for rat, nezumi) Ogon - which remains a variety in its own right. At about the same time, the Cream Ogon became popular. This is a metallic koi, mid-way between a Purachina and a Yamabuki Ogon. Examples of this breed are very rare. Countrygardenfish.com



## Do you know what day fish hate?

Fry-day

## UPDATE



Inland Koi Society's website is gaining attention on the Web.

Since January 2009, Inland Koi Society's website has had over 10,500 hits from new and returning visitors.

Thanks to Statcounter.com, IKS is

able to see each search query our visitors use to find us and what country they live in.

Koi enthusiasts from over 50 countries including Canada, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Norway, and Malaysia have visited our site. IKS has had over 3,000 new visitors from across the globe.

Some have used Google's free web translator (<http://translate.google.com/>) to read our site in another language. However, most of our web hits come from within the United States, and anyone looking for a koi group in the Inland Empire can find us on any major search engine. By entering key words like "koi and Riverside" Inland Koi Society's website appears at the top of the list. Most visitors come to the site to download our newsletter, see the latest events on our calendar, and view the 2008 pond tour photos.

Ease of access to information and improved structure within the site have helped search engines find us and increases IKS's visibility on the Web.

[www.inlandkoi.org](http://www.inlandkoi.org) Webmaster: [Alecia Everett](#)

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MARIANO & CATHY PALPALLATOC	CHINO HILLS	07 - 09
RHONDA SIMMONS & CODY SHORT	RIVERSIDE	07 - 09
ROB & LAURIE VANCE	UPLAND	10 - 09

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*IKS hopes you enjoy a fun and informative association with our club! As a member, you get the advantage of having years of experience (mistakes and lessons) available to you, while at the same time there are enough newer hobbyist members that you don't feel you are the only one who is clueless on a subject. Ask questions!*



## MarLu Home & Garden Design

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- Develop your personal peaceful garden spot



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## Leo's Construction

Driveways • Universal Flagstone • Block Wall  
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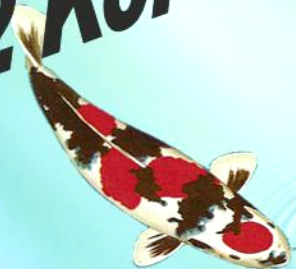
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# DRAGON Series

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23rd Annual KCSD Koi Show ~ February 12-14, 2010 The show Hotel will be the Hilton Del Mar, San Diego. Show room rates will be \$119 for February 12 & 13. The same rate applies if you also book additional contiguous nights. Internet is complimentary.



**注意**  
**ATTENTION!**

This is the last newsletter you will receive in 2009.

The next Inland Koi Connection will arrive about the third week in January 2010



**AKCA 2010 Seminar**  
May 19-23, 2010  
Nashville, TN 37219  
615-259-4343



At Novembers IKS Meeting, plan to elect, re-elect or nominate.



Time to vote for IKS Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, & Treasurer), and Board of Directors



Life is very busy and times are hard, so this is just a reminder the IKS RENEWAL DUES are coming up before 2010. November's Inland Koi Connection contains a reminder and a renewal form for your convenience, in the middle of the newsletter.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MERRY CHRISTMAS



**HAVE YOU CALLED OR SIGNED-UP?**  
**Turkey and Ham Entree With Potluck Sides**

Members are asked this month, to bring a side dish to go with these holiday entrées. We have a reservation list so our hosts will know how much turkey to cook and to make sure we don't wind-up with 50 pies. Please call Debby Leverett to put your name on the list.

951-781-3887

2009

NOVEMBER

Coming Events

- 14-15 **ZNA NORTHERN CALIF.** ~ Chapter Annual Koi Show Holiday Inn - San Jose, CA/ contact Barbara Jackson [barbpi@gmail.com](mailto:barbpi@gmail.com)
- 22 **IKS GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**~2-5 pm / This will be the FINAL meeting in 2009 and IKS tradition calls for a Thanksgiving Pot luck. Hosts will be Steve & Lily Rhodes in Temecula. For more information, contact Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223
- 26 **THANKSGIVING DAY** ~ Be thankful for what you have ☺...
- 27-28-29 **APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL** ~ 9am-5pm / Free/ Riley's at Los Rios Rancho in Oak Glenn. We'll have a hands-on demonstration of apple butter making the old-time (and slow!) way - outdoors in a big copper kettle. Plus enjoy pioneer crafts and games, music, carriage rides, and lots more. On Saturday we'll cap off the evening just like our ancestors did. Chuckwagons will prepare a pumpkin stew for the Apple Butter Hoedown. The chuckwagons will be using the apple butter we cook up to create their own unique dishes - come taste and vote on Sunday. 39611 Oak Glen Rd., #13 Oak Glen, CA 92399 - (909) 797-1005 [www.losriosrancho.com](http://www.losriosrancho.com)

DEC 2009

02 **IKS BUSINESS MEETING** ~ 7 pm / *All members of IKS welcome!* 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside/ Contact Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223



01 **HAPPY NEW YEAR** ~ May health, wealth, peace, and joy be with you in 2010.

24 **IKS GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**~2-5 pm / For more information, contact Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223

27 **IKS BUSINESS MEETING** ~ 7 pm / *All members of IKS welcome!* 6531 Box Springs Blvd, Riverside/ Contact Mark Krakower at (951) 371-2223

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## ***Consistent Hummingbirds***



All photographs of the garden, pond, and fish were courtesy of Steve Rhodes.



## ***Rhodes filter house and equipment***



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