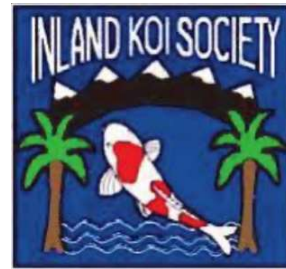


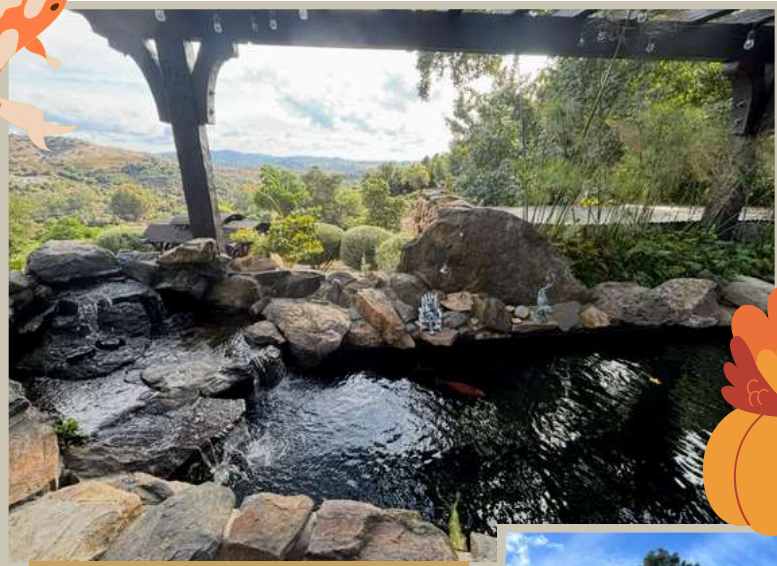
The Inland *Koi Connection*



THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF **IKS**
ISSUE 320
NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY 11/23/25

WWW.INLANDKOISOCIETY.ORG



**IKS HOLIDAY
FESTIVAL MEAL
WITH SIDE DISH
POTLUCK - LAST
GENERAL MEETING
OF 2025!!**

**THANKSGIVING
AT
THE MALLS'**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

2 - 5 PM

JERRY AND PAT MALL

909.841.9971

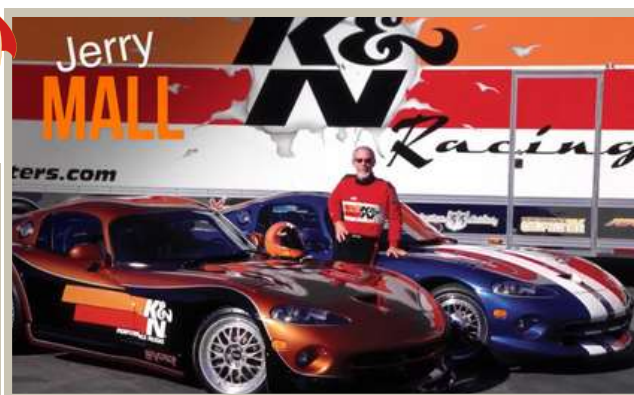
**43024 VIA LAS ROCAS,
TEMECULA, CA 92590**





This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving at **Jerry & Pat Mall's** beautiful home in the hills overlooking Temecula. This should be their **16th year to host** this event, and we truly appreciate their warm hospitality. Lunch will be **indoors and almost formal**, with banquet tables and chairs (**don't bring yours!**) The dining room is a beautifully finished garage to the left of the front door, and Jerry will direct the parking to keep all of us at the top of the driveway. And **it's handicap easy—everything is on the level!** Please call Pat (909.841.9971) or Peggy (951.780.7395) to RSVP! Don't forget to tell them **who/how many** are coming and **what food item(s)** you will be bringing!

The **pond** was designed by one of Jerry's employees for simplified maintenance; do ask Jerry for a tour of the pump house to see his equipment. And guys, you might sneak to the downstairs garage to see **what cars are in residence**. Cars and garages have been a foundation of the **Malls' life**: they **owned K&N Filters** and were heavily involved in nearly every aspect of motorsports, even having **their own racing team!** Jerry used to drive a Dodge Viper, but in one race, doing over 220mph, as he was slowing to 170 the motor blew. **The car flipped several times**, yet **Jerry** walked away unhurt! He backed off racing and is now comfortably retired, and **he and Pat** enjoy traveling. Photos around you showcase **Pat's talent with a camera!**



Legalities require some serious business this month—**Elections for 2026**. Then we'll hope to have some fun with **Koi Races!** This is the perfect chance to **bring out your competitive side and win some cash!**

DIRECTIONS:

- ▶ Use I-215-1-5 South, or I-15 North
- ▶ Exit I-15 onto RANCHO CALIFORNIA RD. and head west.
- ▶ Turn left at the "T" onto DE LUZ RD., continuing past two dips in the road.
- ▶ Turn right at VIA LAS ROCAS and continue the long drive to the end. You will be directed where to park. Parking area is flat around the house.



WANT TO ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN KOI OR POND OF THE YEAR?

If you are interested in submitting a photo of your koi or your pond to be elected as our koi of the year or pond of the year, please **bring a photo of your koi or your pond** for everyone to **vote on at our February meeting.**



WANT A CHANCE TO WIN MONEY?

Participate in our annual koi races for a chance to win cash money!! Bring \$1 bills to bid on which koi you think will win! People of all ages can participate in this event, so all you need is \$1 bills and your best luck!!

This event is in place of our regular monthly raffles but don't worry! They will be back once the new year begins!!



TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING KOI:

- 1) The perfect portrait is taken head-on, looking down the back from head to tail.
- 2) The koi should be in the middle of the shot, not hugging the sides of the bowl. If you can get it on the diagonal, it's even better.
- 3) The pectoral fins are outstretched and stationary, not trying to back paddle out of the shot.
- 4) Take the shot from an angle that is not so low that all you see is a big head, nor so high that you are catching reflections of everything above you.
- 5) Zooming in helps frame the subject but make sure the whole koi, from nose to tail, fits into the picture.

Practice makes perfect! By taking lots of shots you should be able to get some great photos, even if they don't all come out well. You will find the more pictures taken, the luckier you'll get!

For pond photos, try different times of day to get the best lighting. Choose your favorite view of your pond to submit. **Print your photo(s) in color.**

Bring your photo(s) to the February meeting and turn in at the registration table: this includes koi photos and pond photos. **DO NOT** write your name on the back or identify your picture(s) in any way. You may submit a total of **ONE** photograph per category -- that is, one koi and one pond photo

Be sure to turn in ALL submissions before the February meeting where voting will take place!!

Winners will receive a CASH PRIZE!



ATTENTION

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

To my fellow Inland Koi Society Members. I would like to remind all of you that we will be having elections for a new President and Vice President at our November meeting. It is EXTREMELY important that we have you, the members, step up and nominate or be nominated for these positions. After 3 years, Rob Fales and I are stepping down from these positions. We will mentor the new Vice President and President and give all the resources for these two individuals to be successful in these offices. The positions of VP and Pres are not difficult or time consuming, it just takes you to be willing. We promise that you will have a prosperous term, if you are elected for either of these offices.

**Sincerely, Scott Zehm/President
Inland Koi Society**





2025 Board of Directors

Officers

- President —
Scott Zehm ~ c 951.237.2508
scottzehm@eee.org
- Vice President — Location Chair
Rob Fales ~ 951.279.0181
rob_fales@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary —
Monica Dirac ~ c 909.756.1944
monicadirac@aol.com
- Treasurer —
Nick Milfeld ~ c 951.892.4269
Nick Milfeld- milfeld@msn.com
- Newsletter Editor —
Braelynn Zoetemelk ~ c 951.529.3328
braellama@gmail.com

Directors

- **Brenda Aker** ~ 951.316.0263
akerbrenda@gmail.com
- **Gavin Alexander** ~ 951.922.5868
gamial@aol.com
- **Tony Coby** ~ 951.486.1816
Jazzman19@gmail.com
- **Deanna Fales** ~ 951.279.0181
rob_fales@sbcglobal.net
- **Linda Kushner** ~ 951.520.0092
lindakushner1@gmail.com
- **Larry Leverett** ~ 951.500.2157
ldlever@earthlink.net
- **Theo Zoetemelk** ~ 951.735.9896
braellama@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

12

No Meetings!

Enjoy the holidays!!

01

25 ~ IKS Board Meeting

12:30 PM

Larry and Debby Leverett

5349 Jasper Lane, Riverside 92506

Interested members are welcome to attend, but please call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.781.3887

01

25 ~ IKS General / Potluck meeting

2-5 PM

Larry and Debby Leverett

5349 Jasper Lane, Riverside 92506

02

22 ~ IKS Board Meeting

12:30 PM

Nick and Peggy Milfeld

1644 North Hampton Drive, Riverside 92506

Interested members are welcome to attend, but please call hosts to let them know beforehand, 951.780.7395

02

22 ~ IKS General / Potluck meeting

2-5 PM

Nick and Peggy Milfeld

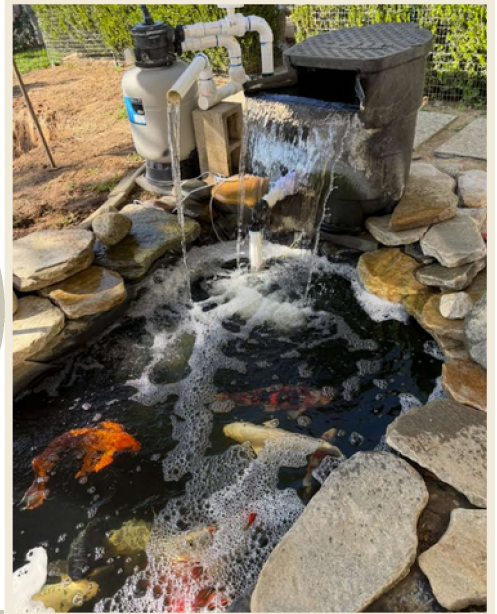
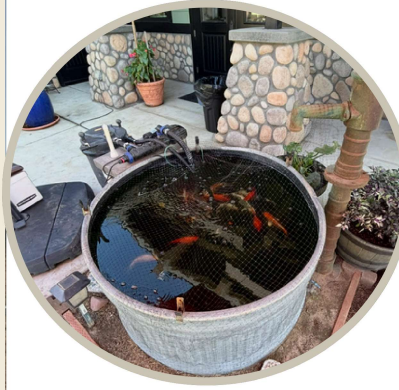
1644 North Hampton Drive, Riverside 92506



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October Meeting Recap!

If you did not attend the October meeting at the Mouw's home in Riverside, **here's what you missed!**



Since we did not have a guest speaker for this meeting, we had a **panel of experts** to provide their **insightful and helpful suggestions and advice** for the **next steps** of the Mouw's pond in progress and for anyone who's **thinking about pond building!**



Thank you to John and Cricket Mouw for hosting this incredible meeting, our wonderful panel of experts, and **a HUGE thank you to those who attended.** These meetings would not be possible without your participation and contribution!



We hope to see you all at the next meeting!



The Nyirady's had another bear sighting at their home!

This time, however, the bear destroyed the lining of their pond putting their fish at risk! Thank you so much, Rob, Deanna, Eric, and Gavin for coming to the rescue to help save their beloved koi!



The most important thing your Koi need is clean, well-oxygenated water free of toxins. As the Japanese say, “we don’t keep Koi, we keep beautiful water. If you keep beautiful water, the Koi will take care of themselves”. If your pond water contains harmful levels of ammonia, nitrite, or has an unstable pH, your Koi will suffer and may not survive. Maintaining excellent water quality isn’t complicated, but it does require consistent effort to keep the environment balanced and healthy.

Stress:

Stress from poor water accumulates in Koi. When Koi experience it, it reduces the slime coat which is the first and best line of defense that they have. It also reduces the immune system which then allows them to catch the first pathogen that passes by. So proper water quality is important. One solution for loss of slime coat is to use Ultimate as it replaces the slime coat with a polymer only in the areas that it is needed without clogging the gills.

Testing Your Koi Pond Water :

To keep water quality high, you need to regularly monitor the key parameters, in order of importance: KH, Ammonia, Nitrite, and pH. To do this you will need pond water test kits available online or at pond supply stores, these kits allow you to quickly check your water’s chemical balance.

KH (Carbonate Hardness):

KH (carbonate hardness) buffers pH, preventing dangerous swings. This is not the same as GH (general hardness). If the carbonate hardness is depleted, the pH of the pond will crash. This is such a serious issue that it could lead to complete loss of life within a pond. The biggest contributor to acidity of the water in a Koi pond is carbon dioxide which is produced by Koi respiration, photosynthesis of plants and decomposition of waste. The higher the stocking of fish the more important that an adequate level of carbonate is maintained.

Safe range:

Ideal KH: 100–200 ppm (up to 500 ppm is safe).

Key Facts:

- KH is always decreasing as fish and bacteria consume carbonates.
- Raising KH: Baking soda is the easiest, cheapest option.
- Limit KH adjustments to no more than 20 ppm at a time to avoid stress.

Treatment for low KH:

- 1 cup baking soda raises KH in 1,000 gallons by ~70 ppm.
- No direct correlation between KH and pH, but high pH increases ammonia toxicity.

Ammonia Levels:

Ammonia is produced when Koi excrete waste and when organic matter decays. In a healthy pond, the biological nitrogen cycle, which is driven by beneficial bacteria, should process ammonia into less harmful compounds. However, overfeeding, overcrowding, or infrequent water changes can cause dangerous spikes.

Ammonia is the #1 killer of Koi, responsible for more deaths than all other water quality issues combined.

Safe Range:

- **Maximum allowable:** 0 ppm (readings over 0.25 ppm are cause for action)

Sources & Contributing Factors:

- >60% from fish respiration (even when not eating)
- **Decaying organic matter** • High pH increases the proportion of toxic un-ionized ammonia (NH_3)

- Higher water temperatures make ammonia more toxic
- Low oxygen levels increase toxicity
- Stressed Koi have lower tolerance to ammonia

Symptoms of High Ammonia:

- Lethargy, loss of appetite
- Gasping or hovering near oxygen sources
- Seeking cooler water or sitting on the bottom
- Heavy slime coat
- Gill burns (over 50% damage is lethal; 20% may recover)

Treatment:

1. **Immediate:** Perform at least a 10% water change to dilute ammonia and add ammonia binder such as ClorAm-X or Ultimate.

2. **Long-term:** Ensure your filtration system matches your Koi load and feeding rate.

3. **Filtration:** Beneficial bacteria (*Nitrosomonas*) consume ammonia and produce nitrite.

4. **Additives:** Ammonia binders neutralize toxicity but do not remove ammonia, water changes are still necessary.

Nitrite Levels:

Nitrite is the second stage of the nitrification process; high levels indicate that the biological filter is either not mature or inadequate for the pond system. High nitrite level causes “brown blood disease” by damaging hemoglobin, preventing oxygen transport.

Safe Range:

- Nitrite should always be 0 ppm. Long-term exposure to as little as 0.5 ppm can be lethal.

Symptoms of High Nitrite:

- Behave as if oxygen is low: gasping, lethargy, hovering near oxygen sources and will seek oxygen i.e. gasping, hovering near bubbler or waterfalls.
- Flashing (rubbing on pond surfaces) • Clamped fins, red streaks in fins
- Will stop eating.

Treatment:

1. **Immediate:** Perform a 25–50% water change.

2. **Supportive:** Stop or reduce feeding to allow filters to catch up.

3. **Biological:** Increase beneficial bacteria in the filter to convert nitrite to nitrate.

4. **Salt:** Add 0.2% salt (2 lbs/100 gallons) to reduce nitrite uptake—only while nitrite is present and for no longer than 2–3 weeks.

5. **Methylene blue:** Can help in some cases by reversing the effects but must not be combined with other treatments. Methylene blue will set back your biological filter and can damage plants, so it is preferred to treat in a quarantine tank rather than in pond itself.



pH Levels:

The ideal pH range for Koi is 6.5–8.6, but stability is more important than the exact number. Fluctuations can be dangerous, especially sudden pH drops (pH crash).

Key Facts:

- **pH** measures hydrogen ion concentration (pH 1 = strong acid, pH 14 = strong base).
- **Low carbonate (KH)** levels allow pH to swing—carbonates are consumed by fish and filtration bacteria.
- **Insufficient aeration and overstocking** can also destabilize pH.
- **Baking soda** has a pH at 8.4 and will not raise higher no matter the amount.
- **Never lower pH.** High pH + high ammonia = increased toxicity.
- **Test source water** before use; add dechlorinator if using municipal water. Ideally your pond and source water should read the same pH.

Oxygen (O₂) Levels:

Koi require high oxygen levels especially in warm water as cooler water will hold more oxygen than warmer water. Larger Koi will show low oxygen effects faster than smaller Koi.

Safe Range:

- **Above 6 ppm:** Optimal
- **4–6 ppm:** Stress range
- **3 ppm:** Fish will crowd near oxygen sources
- **2 ppm:** Death occurs

Factors Affecting O₂:

- **Colder water** holds more oxygen
- **Medications and treatments** consume oxygen
- **Power failures** stop aeration—gentle water movement can save fish

Best Practices:

- **Use air pumps** (low cost, effective over long distances)
- **Waterfalls:** sheet-type with large drop is most effective, followed by cascades with many rocks
- **Circulate water** from bottom to top for even oxygen distribution
- **Use air pumps** (low cost, effective over long distances) • **Waterfalls:** sheet-type with large drop is most effective, followed by cascades with many rocks • **Circulate water** from bottom to top for even oxygen distribution

Best Practice for Pond Health:

The single most effective thing you can do: Frequent partial water changes.
Benefits:

- **Replenishes KH** and trace elements
- **Improves filtration efficiency**
- **Reduces dissolved organics (DOC)**
- **Prevents pH crashes** by increasing KH (unless in an area where source water is low KH)
- **Dilutes growth-inhibiting pheromones**
- **Reduces nitrates**

November 2025

PONDSIDE Presentation!**Coming Saturday, November 15!**
EMERGENCY!

What supplies and knowledge do you need to keep on hand to protect your Koi?
FREE Handout (& more info) on web site:
<https://koiorganisationinternational.org/pondside-membership-perk>

**TIP OF THE MONTH****Is Your Club Looking for Beautiful Trophies or Awards?**

For Koi Shows
For Year End Awards
For Special Service

Excellent Stained Glass Artist.
Will design for your needs! Reasonable prices. K.O.I. used for our Cover Awards.
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/LembergGlassUA>

Looking for entries!**Pond of the Year**

One per club (club affiliation not required):
4-6 photos, 10-30 sec video if desired
Description – location, size, design, filtration, inhabitants
Email to: pattist@snet.net

**Koi/Goldfish of the Year**

One per club (club affiliation not required):
Photos (or 10-30 sec video)
Description – breeder, age, when purchased
Email to: pattist@snet.net

**Champion of Champions**

Champion of your Koi Show:
Photos (or 10-30 sec video)
Description – breeder, age, how long you've owned
Email to: pattist@snet.net

Entries Due Dec 31, 2025!

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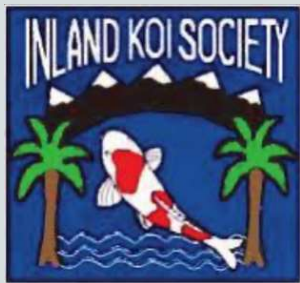


Thank you to **Chien Lee**
of **Nijikawa USA** and to
Iva Gaglione of Ultra
Balance for supplying the
Inland Koi Society with a
supply of nutritional koi
food for its rehoming
program!!!



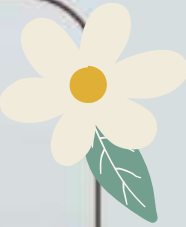
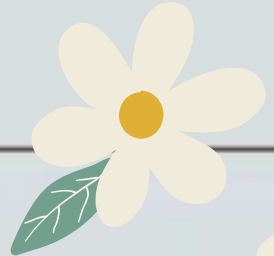
Thank You!!!





INLAND KOI SOCIETY
5198 ARLINGTON AVE., #146
RIVERSIDE, CA 92504

Return Service Requested



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