

The Inland Koi Connection

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IKS • ISSUE 274 • APRIL/MAY 2020



Meetings Cancelled

In light of the health concerns across the country and around the world, all our scheduled IKS meetings were cancelled as of March 19, in accordance with the county and state restrictions. Still being careful, not even the Board is meeting face-to-face.

Nevertheless, we have found a way to continue visiting members' ponds and leaving even less of a footprint on their properties than that on which we have prided ourselves for years. How? We can still "see" ponds in photos, read their "pond talk" stories, and meet members who may otherwise not be able to host us physically. Such visits are also extremely convenient for everyone as they don't interfere with anyone's schedule or travel plans...*as if we're free to be travelling!*

This month, without the long drive, we'll visit **Alan Pollock** all the way out in La Quinta in the Coachella Valley beyond Palm Springs. This month's fourth Sunday would be a bright and sunny day in the desert — 98° and climbing throughout the next week — and about 10 degrees above the average for May. The area is beautiful, even in the heat, and known for its resorts and golf courses (it's the leading golf destination in the US) set against a mountain backdrop. That exquisite "borrowed landscape" backing everything played a major role in the development of Alan's pond.

I hope you enjoy meeting Alan; I've been corresponding with him for several years and have been enchanted by his British turn of a phrase, his dry wit, and his disdain for conventional punctuation. Soooo much is said by what isn't written, forcing you to explore mind and memory to fill in the blanks! I only fear my editing for space will have lost some of that....
~Ed.

LEFT BEHIND ~ OR JUST FORGOTTEN

Jerry & Pat Mall brought these three items to our February meeting at **Aiko Howo's** home in Redlands, but no one there claimed them. They are leftovers from our November Thanks-giving meeting at the Malls' in Temecula:

- Artic Zone BackSaver ice chest
- Corning French White casserole and lid
- Rubbermaid container



The Milfelds have these at their home. Call them at 951.780.7395 to claim them.

In Memorium...

With great sadness we announce the passing of

Mary Leever

on Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Declining health finally took the upper hand, and her death was almost expected. Yet Mary joined us at each meeting as long as Carl was able to get her there, always with a birthday cake in hand.

Carl is *Okay*, but still recovering from a stroke suffered in January. If we hear word of a memorial service, we will pass it on by email.



Spring around the Pond brings with it a number of almost expected diseases with which we should be familiar. Here are the top five:

⑤ **Carp Pox** ~ Although not the koi herpes virus (KHV), carp pox is also known as *cyprinid herpesvirus-1*. It causes lesions in the skin that



look like “candlewax drippings” or “frosting” along leading edges of lips or fins. In cooler water temps, the lesions can be severe, but as the water warms, the fishes’ immune system and skin replacement can make the lesions almost vanish. Only in severe cases will a fish start to be compromised to secondary infections.

Since this is a herpes virus, **there is no treatment or cure**. If one fish in your pond is showing clinical signs, all your fish have already been exposed. Only immune-compromised or stressed individuals will show clinical signs. This is a common disease to diagnose, and unless the case is severe, the fish will have good health, but will not be pretty.

④ **Monogenean Trematodes, or flukes** ~ These irritating little worms are most commonly *gyrodactylus* or *dactylogyus* species. They can infiltrate skin or gills and cause severe irritation. Signs of skin irritation include increased redness on pale fish, bruises, missing scales. Koi cannot scratch themselves but will throw themselves sideways along the sides or bottom of their pond in an attempt to dislodge the flukes; this is known as “flashing.”

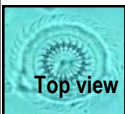


Severe infestations can cause gills to shut down and death to occur. Many over-the-counter medications claim to be effective, but please keep in mind that these meds are not controlled nor overseen by any government checks. A veterinarian can prescribe a prescription-strength medication to take care of the problem safely and easily.

③ **Gonadal Sarcomas** ~ 8 to 12-year-old female koi seem particularly susceptible to gonadal sarcomas, space-occupying tumors that most likely start from gonadal tissue. The only visible physical sign is a slightly enlarged, perhaps asymmetrical, body shape. By the time they are visible externally, most of the internal organs are failing. Ultrasound screenings may catch this disease early (if a vet specializes in fish) so the tumor can be removed via surgery, but they often are not caught in time.



② **Trichodina** ~ An aggressive parasite often aided by the #1 disease in koi. “Flashing” is a common reaction to the irritation it causes. They are easily treated by prescription-strength meds, while over-the-counter meds do not work well for some reason.



① **Water Quality** ~ Not truly a disease, but poor water quality is the #1 diagnosis for disease. Water quality is directly linked to fish health, with a direct effect on the overall immune function. [see bottom pg.6] The majority of issues in koi are secondary to poor water quality and all diseases are made worse. In drought-prone areas, regular water changes are difficult; with limited maintenance, stress from poor water quality often leads to secondary diseases involving bacteria, parasites and fungi.

~ **RENEWALS** ~

Aker	Henry (Rich)	Nyirady
Alexander	Hoffman	Painter
Atkiss	Hunter	Parks
Blais	Hurley	Pollock
Broomfield	James	Poyle
Chandler	Kushner	Rein
Coby	Leever	Rhodes
Cover	Lei	Richardson
Dirac	Leverett	Ross
Fales	MacLaren	Thompson
Fraday	Mall	Walters
Halterman	Marrin	Watson
Hamilton	McClain	Wright
Hanson	McHan	Zoetemelk
Henry (Bob)	Milfeld	<i>Are you here?</i>

Welcome to our newest members!

Dennis & Diana Williams (3/4/20)
 4315 Piedmont Mesa Rd, Claremont 91711
 dennisw1932@yahoo.com ~ 626.222.3636
We're sorry we won't get to meet you in person until 'this' is over and we can resume our monthly meetings....

Farewell to KoiUSA

Due to loss of advertising support, *KoiUSA* has been forced out of business; it is the primary source of income for AKCA. To make it up to the most recent new subscribers, they will upon request send up to 6 back issues in lieu of a refund. Subscribers received a letter about this.

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Alan wrote this for me, taking longer than he hoped as he was out of town a lot working. I've said how much I enjoy his correspondence; here's an email example of his casual style:

"Ok, here's the Weeks Epistle you've been waiting for... Hope it is useable.... There are two parts to the story, which I have divided by title: A Pond Story... and The Dream....

I realize you said you were going to a smaller format... so maybe I rambled on too much... so you may end up with...

In the Beginning was The Dream... and in the End... It was Finished.... !! Talk soon. Hugs from Here, Alan"

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE DREAM...

It was a hot summer, in the early sixties in southeast Los Angeles... a time of no cell phones, Xbox, computers or the like, and when TV time was rationed. Kids were to be outdoors, playing, exploring, doing yard work, interacting with other kids in the neighborhood.... So, what did we do, like any normal kid of the day, living in a small house with what we thought was a gigantic backyard?

We went out to the far back part of the yard and started digging next to the big cypress tree. We were set to dig the biggest, deepest hole in town.

Within a couple days we were making headway, at least we thought so. Maybe we had moved two feet of dirt. *Hey, we were 8 and 10 years old... between lemonade sips and a cookie from the kitchen bin every few minutes, we were going places with this idea, even starting to think what Japan looked like if we dug deep enough....*

As fate would have it, there were hiccups: some rocks, or so we thought, and roots from the old cypress caused us to expand outside of the area closest to it. As the dig continued, we hit more rocks, but soon discovered they were actually pieces of cement! Irritating as it was, we continued, thinking,

Who would dump this stuff here and why?

Eventually we uncovered a continuous piece of cement and so, being good explorers, we dug and scraped, following it to discover a broken jagged edge of something with a big oval shape. As we dug down we found that it went down too -- not straight down, but at a slant. *Whatever had someone done here in the far part of the yard? What was this?! It was full of wild possibilities.*

As we continued to move earth, we shared with neighbor kids what we had found. Painting a picture of treasure -- *Oh, yes, there must be treasure and untold mysteries, maybe even someone buried* -- that had to be uncovered and explained, and as soon as possible.



The hunt was on! Not only were we digging a fantastic mine of wonders, but the neighbor kids started showing up, and they brought their shovels. Ah, the excitement, the adventure! Everyone had an opinion of our work including my Dad, who was not excited about coming home to his yard and finding a quarry. But for some reason he backed down and let us continue

With all this help things were moving along rapidly and yes, we really did think we'd be reaching Asia, probably running into a kid digging from the other side who would be as surprised as we were to find someone at the bottom of his hole. *(Keep in mind: we're 8- and 10-year-old kids, for God's sake; the world looked smaller in a much bigger way then!)*



So, picture it... dirt flying, shovels shoveling... kids chattering with excitement... I mean, it's been a few more days... we're 3' down in an oval ring 8' by 10' and the cement is slanting down and narrowing side to side. The big question was, *Why put finished cement in a hole this size and then filled it with dirt?!*

After a month of digging... ok, ok, probably five days after everyone came to help...that we finally hit a bottom. Five feet below ground level, an oval hole, the sides broken off around the rim... with, of all things, a hole in the bottom, looking like a bathtub drain.

Looking at our excavation, all we saw was a cement bathtub. Whatever was anyone thinking?! In wonderment we looked at each other on this very hot, HOT day (I am sure it was a 1000 degrees) and asked all of life's exhausting questions about the beginning and the end of Eden... when someone came up with a brilliant idea: *Fill it with water... and we'll have a swimming pool for the summer!* What a grand and clever thought! We all agreed and so it was filled; within a couple hours we were swimming and splashing in a cold-water plunge.

In the next week, as you can imagine, we were sharing all over the neighborhood about our discovery and our "new pool." Frankly, we should have been given a medal for unearthing such a thing, but we settled for having a cool dip on a hot day. Moreover, we still needed to understand it.

As things would go, I was sharing with an old timer in the neighborhood who had lived on the block since the 1920's. As I told the excitement of our find, he retorted, *Oh, you found an old fishpond.... What?* I said, *A fishpond? What do you mean?*

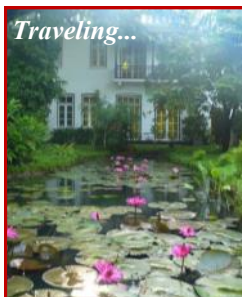
He began explaining how, in the 1920's and 30's, as the homes in the area were being built and bought, people put in fishponds and lily ponds alongside patios and gardens as an

enhancement to their yards and for the enjoyment of sitting outside; after all, it was California, the land of sunshine!

He continued, recalling some elaborate ponds of the day, with fish and water gardens. It was exciting just to listen: I could visualize some of the homes that still had their ponds and water gardens in the front yard or in the back. There were patios, bridges over a pond to a tropical paradise – a theme of the era – and victory gardens or whatever else had been designed into the landscape... much of it is only remains now.

And with that, my fascination with fishponds was born. I started seeking out ponds in the neighborhood to see what was left or covered up. I took on cleaning some ponds for widows in the area and, even as I traveled in later years, I would always check out or look for water gardens.

Although our cement pond-swimming hole in the back yard was mandated by the powers-that-be – my Father – to be filled in at Summer's end, I can say it was a fun Summer, an experience of one's youth, especially since the neighbor kids didn't come to help! It started me dreaming of one day having a pond, a special place to sit by, to take in nature, to talk to God... a place to retreat....



AND IN THE END... IT WAS FINISHED

In July 1986, La Quinta in the Coachella Valley, 30 miles east of Palm Springs, was a place where dirt roads and open space still existed. My Godmother and I were on a drive to see what building and expansion was happening, as she had been active in the incorporation of La Quinta. A friend was selling his home, a rental at the time, so we drove by....

The realtor was having an open house; double front doors, wide open to the street, let me see right thru to the back yard, which was full of color. There were 26 date palms on the property, remnants of the old Point Happy Ranch before subdivision, which cast an invitation to check it out....

Have you ever walked into a home and just known you had to live there? That's what happened to me. I was captivated by the yard viewed from inside the house, the mountain next door overshadowing the yard for afternoon shade. As it was, the tenant had made the yard into a miniature golf area. Nine holes around the trees, different terrains to imitate a true golf course, and smack in the middle of the palms a pond, about 10 feet in the round and a little return with a bit of landscaping next to it. Yep, it was love and my excitement grew.

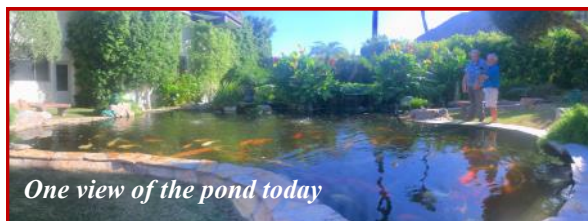
On December 22, 1986, we moved in... to discover all the joys of buying a home ... all the hidden and not so hidden things that had to be fixed or replaced.... But all worth it. Of course, the first thing we discovered was that the pond had

been created using... *trash bags* as a liner! Yes, you heard correctly: great big trash bags overlapped to create somewhat of a seal held by rocks; a waterfall ran continuously to keep it filled. Apparently the tenant did not pay the water bill.

Along with that ingenious thought, he had buried electrical wiring in the sand, running it to the pump and lights, but they were not grounded and the wires were bare. This cleverness ran around the yard for garden lights, etc., right up to the electric meter which, we discovered, the tenant would reverse to run backwards.

Well, with that little visual – and many more – you can imagine the work cut out for me. But it was exciting to think of the end result... Sadly, the dream had to be abandoned... and so the pond was put on hold for a time, actually for years, as life happened and interrupted my “pond redo.” Although many attempts were made to get some type of water effect in the yard, nothing came of it.

Daily we would sit in the yard picturing a pond in the slump out in the middle of it, where once a plastic-bag-lined pond had lain. The yard had changed through the years, by design and necessity. The many date trees had been disappearing through the years due to age and the tops breaking off and plunging 30 feet to the ground with a tremendous bang. Just as well, they were way too tall to comfortably farm the fruit. Fortunately, the changes in the yard just tempted the mind to wander and create... and so I did.



In the early 2000's, we started research, making enquiry to many pond experts and shops handling pond equipment... taking notes of the do's and don'ts of their experiences. Then we went to one of the **Koi Pond Tours** the club put on in the Riverside area....

Wow, what a wonderful day, seeing the many ponds and meeting wonderful people and getting to interact and ask questions about koi, water effects, design and experiences in all areas, pumps and, well, everything you could think of in the wondering mind of a guy who wanted a pond. And then to enjoy the handiwork of those who had built with such love and care and ingenuity. Needless to say, I came home excited and ready to dig...again!

And so, one Wednesday shortly after that, while speaking with my gardener I mentioned I'd like to start digging a pond. His response was that he was available that Saturday, with his family, to help. And so it began....

One of the most repeated things I heard was, *Once I built the first pond, I realized all the things I would have done differently; and then on the second pond, I realized what I would do on the next pond....* Keeping that in mind, I tried to cover all the bases for our project the first time. IKS advises, *“Build your last pond first!”*

Desiring to incorporate the natural surroundings we saw every day, I wanted a pond to blend in and make a statement. Our main visual is the mountain next to us, so I wanted a design that would flow to it visually, naturally, not a cookie cutter shape. I chose a free form, to reflect the natural.

We decided to line the waterfall and surround the pond with quartz stone; eventually we extended the stone into the 6'-deep area of the pond, three feet below water level. This has been one of our favorite choices as it stands out yet blends comfortably, and seeing the fish contrasted against the rock is also very pleasing to the eye.

Although I didn't plan on a 25,000-gallon pond, *a funny thing happened* along the way... we kept digging. In my research I learned side walls



Alan Pollock

needed to go straight down so debris wouldn't settle and intruders couldn't stand in shallow water and enjoy the fish (literally). Made me think: *Swimming pool returns move water around the edge of the pool to push debris toward the skimmer....* So we placed returns around the pond to push all unwanted fish stuff, the fine dust we have daily in the desert, leaves from the olive trees, etc., down into the Kio drains [United Aquatics Kio Pond Bottom Drains] to be taken out to the cleaning filters, as well as keeping a consistent movement of water, which would help during the extremely hot days of 100-plus temps and assist in cooling the water. And the fish really enjoy swimming in front of these returns!

Expanding on debris removal, two chambers, 3'x4'x4' deep, were created to act as skimmers to collect “that which does not sink”; galvanized baskets caught leaves and such before they entered the drain system. They act like a vortex chamber gathering debris; I also thought they could act as bio chambers if I wanted. The chambers have drain pipes to the filter vault as well as a pipe from the main pond to the chamber; these assure that if the water table drops, it will refill from the pond without issue and will allow water flow to continue to pumps if needed. We lose about 2 to 4 inches of water a day in the heat of Summer, so this assists if the auto-fill fails.

Side walls did originally slope inward towards the main drains, keeping in mind debris removal. Finished digging, the pond was approximately 15'x15', and it was time to get the thing lined and filled. I called in the professionals to discuss plastic liner versus cement. Although I was quite pleased with my design of returns, chambers, waterfalls, etc., the pros were

neither excited not enthusiastic: in fact, I was counseled to change my plan and directed on how to do so.

So, back to the dig... fortunately, sand is a very workable medium when wet and we could make changes easily, but it did mean an expansion in the size of the pond. After all the changes were made to satisfy the liner pond professionals – losing the curves, making the side walls straight vs. sloped, etc. – they weren't interested in doing my pond: one said, it was too much work! So, back to the phone book....

During the coffee break of *what to do next*, we sat with a hole in the ground, 5' deep, straight-sided, contour shape all but gone. To say the least, I was dismayed to be at what appeared to be a standstill – and not content with the look of it!

During what I called a cooling-off period, one of my elder four-legged kids stumbled into the unfilled pond, unable to get out. To make it worse, there was no quick way to get in and get her out. Not to worry, we did get her after digging a step into the depth of the pond.

With that experience, we chose to put a 2'-wide ledge around the pond, 2' under the waterline, for emergency exits; also handy if you want to sit in water and be like a fish. Then I changed the depth of the pond to 6' at drain level, graduating to 4', 3', and then 2'; this would be helpful if a person ever fell in, allowing them to get out without assistance. It proved to work quite well when, after filling the pond with water, I fell in, not once, nor twice, but three different times. Yep, a wise change, and the graduated levels made it easy to walk out after the shock of falling into cold water. By the way, it is amazing how the curious koi come to meet you when you're under water! As for the ledge, the returns sweep the area nicely and I have no issues with debris settling on them.

With that last change the pond had grown: it was now 30' across by 25' long, the free-form shape returned, and I



Bog area

was content with the visual once again. Now to get it lined... After much discussion I was leaning more towards a Gunnite finish; it would make it really permanent and allow me to put more stone below the waterline to achieve the visual effect I was seeking. But to find someone to do this...?

A contractor friend came up with a stonemason he had used and brought him by. To my relief, he looked at the job and got so excited about being part of it, I could do nothing but hire him. It was also fortunate that he knew a Gunnite company, and within a week we were off to the races....



The Gunnite crew arrived: without a hitch and within a couple of days, the forms and rebar were in and the pond took another step towards completion. I enjoyed being able to work with the rebar to create a flow off the edges and waterfall design. Gunnite was sealed with a product called *Blockade*: mix it up like pancake batter, add a color, roll it on, and it dries like stone within a day; let it cure and the Gunnite is sealed. This, instead of plaster.

On to the stonework! To be honest, it may have been overkill, but the result is great. Mike, the mason, and his crew got busy. We went to the quarry to hand pick some boulders and colors for the exposed rock. *Of course we did: we had to have perfectly color-coordinated rock, now didn't we?*

With each trip to the quarry for more rock, we watched the pond come alive, integrating with the mountain, changing the landscape once again. It amazed me even more to see a couple of workers, five feet tall and about as wide, pick up a boulder that I am sure weighed more than 200 pounds and move it until it was in just the right spot.

Mike was so interested in making the rock look perfect, he also had his men hand cut each piece as it was placed so that there was a finished edge on the flat slate to butt up to. Frankly, I was just going for the natural look, rough edges and all, and at an hourly rate per guy... believe me, roughcut would have been just fine! But Mike wouldn't hear of it, and he finally convinced me how satisfied I would be having the cuts made. Ok, I admit... I was happy, and besides... this is a one-time event for this pond.

Discussing the filtration system with others, *gravity flow* was mentioned versus an electric pump alone moving water. Many opinions were offered on filters and ultraviolet lights; the Vortex system was seen at some ponds. I added to the equation our desert heat, how pumps last – working harder or

not in the heat – and the gallons of water I wanted to move over the waterfall and around the pond.

As to heat and direct sun on the equipment, Mike proposed making an underground vault for it. I liked the idea, so the shovels got busy again: a vault was created to hold all the equipment below water level to assist pumps to run easily and self-prime. After the equipment was in, I had a galvanized lid made to cover some of the area and act as a planter.

For filtration, we used two gravity-fed *Evolution Aqua Cetus Sieve* pre filters and two *Artesian Pro* 1.85 HP pumps, moving 10,000 gallons each, to a 30,000-gallon *Aqua Ultima II* pressure filter. We reserved a spot to add a second filter of 20,000-gallon capacity later. The water leaves the filter and flows through two 160W *Aqua Classic UV Sterilizers*. I have also added a 110W *Evolution Aqua UV* light, that I really like for its ease of bulb replacement, and it appears to contact more water as it flows through the chamber. A *Hakko* air pump supplies the Rhino Koi drain air pads.

As for the waterfall, I created a small upper pond. The original thought was to have the return water come through a sand-filled bottom area to act as a finishing filter; however, the water has always stayed clear as long as the UV lights are on and up-to-date, and the filter is maintained regularly, so the upper waterfall area became a bog for plants and for the few fish eggs that make it through the filter at spawning time.

For the past many years we have finally been enjoying that of which I dreamed from my childhood. I find it a joy to maintain and we take such pleasure having our morning



coffee as well as afternoons and evenings sitting by the pond, the fish gathering 'round to hear our tales of the day: they're good listeners. We also have resident ducks, Ralph and Myrtle, that come daily,

and all the wonderful wild bird life that abounds in the yard to enhance our enjoyment. ~ARP

Having issues with your koi? Check your water quality. If your parameters are not within range, it's time for a water change. Always use a liquid-based test kit purchased within the last year. If parameters are within

Parameter	Range	range, how many fish are affected? Just one or more than one? If only one is affected, move it to your quarantine system. You should keep a QT set up and ready for use.
Ammonia	<= 0.1 mg/L	
Nitrite	0 mg/L	
Nitrate	<80 mg/L	
pH	6.5 - 9.0	
kH	>100 mg/L	
gH	>100 mg/L	
Temperature	Seasonal	



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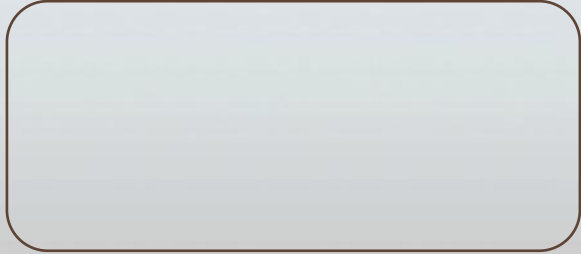


Thank you



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Return Service Requested



 **K.O.I. News!** Koi Organisation International
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May 2020

Membership Renewal

We have enclosed another pre-printed Member Renewal Form in this newsletter for those who have not renewed yet: perhaps you misplaced the original. We would love to see everyone renew: many members have never attended a first meeting, and we're missing the opportunity to know them.

Make necessary corrections on the form and return it . . .

New Badges are in for:

Armand & Eve Blais
Mary Leever ~ Kelly McHan
Jerry & Pat Mall ~ Frank Painter

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