

**This Month in the Koi Pond** — Jerry Kyle, *Koi Health Advisor* (“KHA”)**Who cares? Or: Sometimes We Gotta Rant.**

Frustrating. It seems the more we learn the more we realize just how little we really know. The youngster quipped, “But Grandpa, I called you because you always know the answer!” That was before. When I was younger I knew everything. Well, almost everything. Unlike before, sometimes (like now) I don’t have all the answers.

I love this hobby. I wanted to build a pond and have some fish in it so started looking around for information. Someone said find and join a koi club as there are people there who know what to do. Sound familiar? I just described a lot of us in this hobby. We came and we learned and we built while having a lot of fun making new friends.

Everyone you talk to can say, “If I were to do it over again I would.....”? We would all do something different. No matter how nice or how perfect our pond is there is always something we know we could have improved on. We know this because as we progress we continue to learn.

What sets a KHA apart is he/she was not satisfied with a little knowledge and wanting to do better needed to know more. And more. And more. And, being thankful for those who came before and wanting to carry on that tradition by in turn being helpful, we continue to study and keep up with the new knowledge and pass it along. To support the hobby. No, that’s not entirely true. Also to support our new friends. You see, we joined for the koi but stick around for the people.

Why do I feel you love it when I (or another KHA trying to help) say something you believe or want to hear, but turn a deaf ear when it’s something you do not want to hear? Is it because you are younger than me so, like me years ago, already have all the answers? Is it because to change somehow validates you were wrong in whatever you are doing and don’t want to admit it. Even secretly to yourself? Is it just too hard? Are you just too busy? Do you just not care? What? All across the country there are KHA who want to help. Use them. That’s why they are there. To support the hobby means to help YOU.

Last month I put a lot of thought into an article about water changes. Water changes are something we all learned about a long time ago and may be tired of hearing about over and over. Like listening to a broken record we hear it over and over. Do I hear, “Alright already, we know. So some don’t pay as close attention to water changes, the koi are still alive aren’t they?” Sure, but can’t you hear that ticking sound? I gave you new information why leading KHA Vet Advisors are concerned about this problem. I referred to the tick, tick, tick of the time bomb that is in many of our koi ponds due to nitrates.

Helloooooo, Is anybody out there? It’s getting warmer and they (you know who) are eating more and I hear the tick, tick, tick getting louder as water changes become even more important with warmer water. Even without my hearing aids I can hear it. Tick, tick, tick. Why doesn’t everyone? As I look around I still



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see so many that have not dealt with, and I am afraid will not deal with, good water changing procedures. It frustrates me to feel so ineffectual, so ignored, so unsuccessful in creating changes for the good. I only wanted to help and am saddened and maybe a little mad. What can I say to get someone to get off his/her duff and act like they care enough to take proper care of their koi?

Hey, if you constantly perform regular water changes for the love and proper care of your koi, this was not meant for you. It's just that hearing that tick, tick, tick when others do not worries me. Thank you for being a good koi steward and understanding this was just a rant to try to get the attention of those who need to take better care of their babies.

Want to rant back or get a copy of the article I referred to? Just ask. All I ever wanted was to help.

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