



THIS MONTH IN THE KOI POND *Jerry Kyle*

Some say they joined a Koi club to be better keepers of their Koi babies. They even give the babies names. We name dogs, cats, and horses, but fish? OK, Koi fish too. Some want to build a pond and do it right the first time or remodel and get it right the second time. I told everyone I was just too old, too poor, and too lazy to want to build something two or three times to get it right one time so I joined a Koi club in California. Some have a need to do their best at whatever they do and being involved in the AKCA programs and local Koi club functions put them in a position to learn more than the average hobbyist ever dreams of. It's about our Koi's health, our ponds, learning to do it right, being the best at what we do, making friends, supporting our clubs, and finding that doing all this turns out to be fun. We would not put this much effort into something otherwise. In life we work hardest at that which is the most enjoyable and gives us pleasure. Being able to give good advice, help someone find a solution, winning some recognition at a show or pond tour, or helping solve a Koi health problem lets us feel the pride. Pride, self satisfaction in doing well, and a sense of helping, being valuable, and being needed is our reward for having fun within this wonderful hobby.

While many participate in our Koi and/or water garden hobby there are, unfortunately, those who are missing out on some of the potential satisfaction of being fully involved in helping themselves and helping others. Part of the mission of most of our clubs is to promote good Koi husbandry and/or to show our Koi. We can not show Koi if they are not healthy. We can not even maintain them very long in the backyard pond if we do not learn to keep them healthy. We all need to understand good Koi husbandry. The AKCA invests a great deal of time and money to develop, maintain, and continually update and improve the Koi Health Advisor (KHA) Program so many KHAs can give back to their hobby by sharing what they have learned. The KHA program is wasted if not taken advantage of. Are you missing out on the self satisfaction of learning to be a better Koi keeper both for the good of your own Koi and for the satisfaction of being able to help others do what we do - promote good Koi husbandry, our hobby, and our clubs? KHAs are not geniuses that know everything but are part of a dedicated group that has highly qualified teachers, mentors, and veterinarians they can call on. Individually each KHA is one, but working together they are over a hundred trained people sharing their experiences and knowledge to help each other find the right answers.

Over the past 8 years since the KHA program has been in existence some of the old timers who were the first KHAs have retired and are no longer involved. It is time for some of the newer members of AKCA affiliated clubs to get involved and join the KHA program to continue the tradition of sharing the knowledge. That may be you. Classes are soon to start so a decision needs to be made now whether you are going to get involved or sit on the sidelines, be a watcher or enjoy being a player. Help yourself, your club, and fellow members promote good Koi husbandry as you join me in feeling good while having fun and sharing the pride.

The AKCA-KHA Committee has reconsidered the non professional KHA class \$100 registration fee and eliminated it. With a goal of improving good Koi health husbandry it is more important to continue to help educate our members to keep abreast of ever improving knowledge. This is accomplished in a number of ways including KHA Certification, KHA Continuing Education, and articles in our magazine, KOI USA. Membership in any AKCA affiliated Club and a two year subscription to KOI USA is now the only basic requirement to take the class. The \$100 registration fee is gone. This is in keeping with our focus on education and promoting the hobby. To promote the hobby we must first promote you.



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The classes are all on line at your own pace except for the hands on lab which will be held at the AKCA Seminar in Nashville, TN, May 19-20, 2010. Classes start at your convenience anytime from July 1 through October. An early application allows you more time and greater assurance of a seat. Interested? E-mail Tim Czech, KHA Class Coordinator at 65blcc@gis.net and ask for an application and particulars. If you have questions, I am khajerry@yahoo.com . Since you are already involved, take the next step. We need YOU!