



# Koi Ahoy

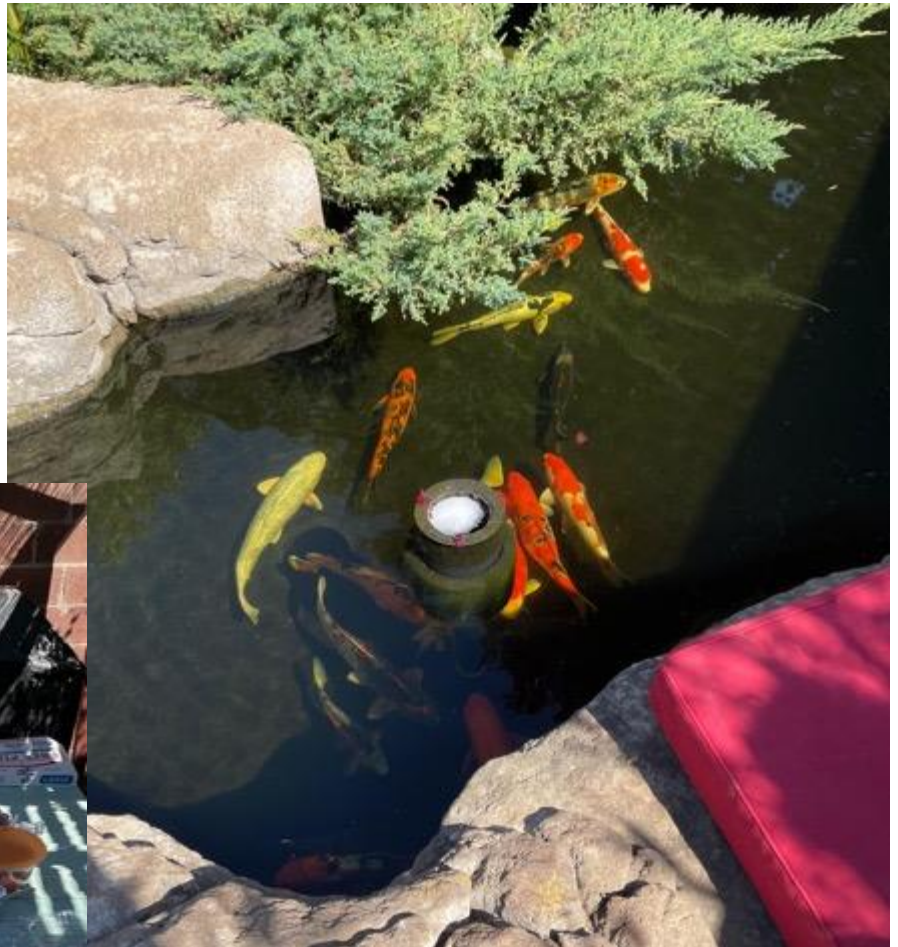
October, 2021

Bob Haugland, Editor  
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This month we visit the Cardenas Pond, Sunday, October 31. **3140 Whitewood Dr., Carmichael, 95608.**

This is more of a Halloween Party than a meeting so please see pages 3 & 4 for the details.

**Chuck Cottam, President**  
**Bob Haugland, V. P.**  
**Carl Huppert, Treasurer**  
**Michelle Cardenas, Secretary &  
Social Media Director**  
**Pauline Sakai, Photographer**  
**Board Directors:**  
**Lyn Pitts**  
**Jean Jahr**  
**Jerry Kyle**  
**Michelle Cardenas**



## George Garbero's Pond

Our September 26 meeting was about the nice collection of quality koi and free pizza (It says that right on the box) that George and Denise provided for us. Like most of us, George's pond may be a little over stocked, but his excellent filtering system keeps the water clear and the fish healthy.



In the corner of the yard and not far from the pond is George's homemade filter set up. Gravity feeds water from the pond to the filter, then a pump returns the filtered water to the pond waterfall. As with most pond filters, it looks like Rube Goldberg designed the plumbing system, but there are some nifty features built into the design. The horizontal black tube in the lower left corner is the UV light. Installed horizontally so that if water stops flowing it remains full of water and the heat from the tube doesn't melt the unit. It's also plumbed so that it can be bypassed while the filter still runs if he needs to change the tube.

The filter itself is the two 55 gallon barrels. That's 110 gallons of filter for his 1400 gallon pond. Normally these homemade barrel filters are inconvenient to clean because you have to turn everything off before physically cleaning the filter media. George's two barrels are independently fed by Rube Goldberg's plumbing, so they can be bypassed individually. This means that George can turn one off and take his sweet time cleaning it while the other one continues to filter the pond. Given the size of the filter for the size and fish load of the pond, I doubt that George has to clean these barrels very often.





Relaxing in the patio by the pond: Bob Mascadri, Sandy Mascadri, Soan Bozzone, Bobby Wilson, and Shannon Skalisky.

**Our Busy 2021 Calendar**  
**October 31 Halloween Party**

Our regularly scheduled meeting falls on Halloween this year. Michelle and Dion Cardenas will be our host and they'll be celebrating their new home and new pond. It's party time! Food, Fish, and Football Fun! Business will be short. Nominations for 2022 officers, some announcements, and maybe some yadda-yadda...

October is also Italian Heritage Month and Michelle's Italian heritage compels her to cook various pasta for us. The voluntary potluck will take on a slightly different bent. You can opt to bring salad, dessert or antipasti...

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There's another option. You can bring wine for our **HallowWine** tasting bar. Of course, we ask that if you imbibe, you do so responsibly. Anyone who tastes too much, makes an obnoxious scene, passes out and falls into the pond will be abandoned there and eventually consumed by the bio-filter.

This is also a **Costume Party**. Your costume need not be fishy, but extra points if it is. There are nice prizes for various categories of costumes. Keeping with the Halloween theme, there is also a **pumpkin carving/decorating contest**. Since by Halloween you have probably carved your jack-o-lantern, just bring it to the party, win the contest, then take it home for trick-or-treat night. Oh yeah, maybe bring your folding chair.

We will also have a visit from a UC Davis Aquatic Health Team as our guest speakers. They will brief us on the services available from the UC Davis Veterinary Department, and host a Question and answer time. Get your koi pond questions ready!

**November 13**...Less than two weeks later...It's Saturday. The 14<sup>th</sup> would be our regularly scheduled meeting (Moved up to free up the Thanksgiving holiday). It will be a picnic at McKinley park that we're calling a **Koi Festival**. 11am-3pm. We've reserved area 7 by the Rose Garden. There are tables, trees, and barbeques available to us. We'll light at least one barbeque and the club will provide hot dogs and all the fixin's. You can also bring your own meat to grill, or any other potluck-picnic stuff you might want. This is a family affair so bring your kids, grandkids, in-laws, and neighbors.

There will be signage to attract visitors so we need some volunteers to:

1-Bring one or more koi in a bag for display. (CKC members only) There will be oxygen to add to the bag and your baby will only be there for a few hours so as to not stress the fish too much. If you want, you can write a price and phone number on the bag and maybe sell it.

2-We'll set up a small table for a raffle. You may want to donate a nice koi or garden related item to be raffled off. Please, only bring your raffle items on the day of the Festival. You can also help man the raffle booth which will also serve as an...

3-Information Booth. Just sit there and talk to people who may have questions or might want to join our club.

We'll also be voting for the 2022 officers. This will be a paper ballot so we don't have to convene anything.

## **Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 5, 1pm-3pm.**

This is only three weeks after the Koi Festival, so mark your calendars. We go back to Old Town Pizza in Roseville. Tickets will be \$20/person. We encourage you to pay in advance to the treasurer at either of the previous events. In addition to pizza we'll get breadsticks, salad, chicken wings, and pitchers of soda. If you want a different drink it can be purchased individually. If you have a dessert you want to share you can bring that too. This is also a white elephant gift exchange so start looking around for that elephant.

## Plans and Thoughts for 2022

Assuming Shannon Skalisky is confirmed as our new VP, she will be the go-to Gal for organizing our 2022 calendar. In addition to arranging the monthly pond/meetings, the VP is tasked with finding speakers and topics when ever possible.

We're currently toying with some ideas such as a **Grow Out Contest**. This would be where we invite a koi dealer to offer us a good selection of tosai at a reasonable price. Each koi purchased is measured, photographed, and registered. The buyers all try to see who can grow their fish the biggest in a set period of time. ie: We could re-measure in six months, a year, or 18 months.

Another concept is a **Progressive Pond Tour**. A progressive dinner is where you'd have hors d'oeuvres or snacks at the first house, then go to a second house for the main course, and the third house would be desert.

We could pair this concept with ponds, and lunch, not dinner. The idea here is to 1) see three ponds, 2) accomplish a meeting at the same time, 3) invite others via facebook posts to join us, 4) have none of the headache or expense of printing a program.

## September's Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting 12:38pm

Accepted minutes and financials from August

Bob to meet with Carl and get added as signer on club accounts

Christmas party- try and get member to organize- 1st Sunday of December- Lyn volunteered to organize party

Chuck stepping down from president- need nominations for 2022 positions- president and VP-- Bob volunteered for president and Sharon S volunteered for VP

November meeting date will be the Koi Festival in McKinley Park- will make a committee-- Bob secured permit for 11/13/21 11am-3pm-- Michelle will put a "Save the Date" on Facebook with details to follow

Bob brought up a progressive pond tour idea for Spring 2022 where there would be 3 or 4 CKC member ponds where each pond would serve a "course" (ie drinks/coffee, appetizers, lunch, dessert).. keeps pond tour less expensive (no program) and everyone can see all ponds- will be a free event and will advertise via Facebook

Koi classes- previous success--have a 3 hour make up class in evening coming up 6:30-9:30pm

October meeting at Michelle C. house on Halloween- will have costume contest (scariest, most original and best koi)---pasta feed--have people bring salads or dessert-- come for meeting and stay for some football

Meeting closed at 1:05pm

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## General Meeting 2pm

August minutes and finances approved

Call for nominations for President and VP- Bob for president and Sharon S. for VP

Koi Festival for November meeting at McKinley Park- permit secured- potluck, vendors, swap meet, bagged fish---need volunteers to help organize

Spring 2022- progressive pond tour--3 or 4 CKC member ponds close together- free to public- each pond with food/drinks/dessert--advertise on Facebook

More koi classes coming up

Christmas party first Sunday in December--Lyn to organize--pizza place in roseville again??

October meeting at Michelle C. house on Halloween- will have costume contest (scariest, most original and best koi)---pasta feed--have people bring salads or dessert--come for meeting and stay for some football

Soan got certificate for Koi Person of the Year

Kelly brought her friend, Shawna, as a guest

Will need people to sign up for hosting meetings 2022 calendar

Raffle winners: Kelly, Michelle C., Pam

Garbero's pond: 2 pump system, gravity fed, 1400 gallons, sump, does not use a UV, plants in waterfall, fish are not fed October-February, buffers with baking soda as needed, treats pond twice a year with potassium permanganate

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

## August CKC Financials\*

Starting Balance - \$ 5,235.31

Expenses - \$2.57 (PayPal Fee)

Revenues - \$245.00 (membership and koi auction)

Ending Bank Balance - \$ 5,477.74

**\*Note** that this is still the August financial report. Carl is on vacation for the rest of the year. I/me, Bob Haugland agreed to be added to the club bank account as a signer in case there is some urgent business. I declined to also take possession of the ledger. This means I will not be able to give an accurate balance each month. As of this writing, there has been no activity, except maybe the PayPal fee. My un-official balance for the end of September is \$5,475.17.  
Bob

## What Else is Also in Your Pond

by Bob Haugland

Last month I glossed over the chemicals that probably makes up the water in your pond. Also covered the phytoplankton, or microscopic plants that are always there. Now we'll graduate to the animals, the zooplankton.

The very smallest of these animals would be bacteria and viruses. These guys are so small that our koi parasite searching microscopes can't see them. They're so small that some don't even have color. That Corona virus you see on TV is an artist's concept. In the rare cases when they show an actual photo, it has been colored with stains so that it's easier to see. Bacteria may be a little bigger but we still can't see them with our 400x microscopes.

Further up the food chain in our ponds are the animals we call protozoa; the one celled critters. Amoeba, paramecium, etc. These guys are now big enough to see with a home microscope. One such animal is Costia, a koi parasite that replicates rapidly and large numbers can kill koi. Protozoa generally eat bacteria and smaller phytoplankton.

There are also little aquatic animals in your pond that hang around your algae farms looking to eat all of the above. They're called Infusoria, (in-fu-sor-ia). Still microscopic, these guys are big enough to have legs, eyes, and even lay eggs. There are lots of Rotifer species. They're called Rotifers because they have tiny cilia on their heads that move in a syncopation that makes it look like rotating saw blades. Their eggs can survive dehydration and can blow around in the wind. You could be breathing Rotifer eggs right now! (Not likely) Other common infusoria are Cyclops, Hydra, and Flatworms. Infusoria are a staple diet for newly hatched fish of all types.

Finally, we get to some stuff you can see: Bugs. Usually it's insect larvae. The one we always get in our ponds that concerns all new ponders I'm going to call blackfly larvae. No one has been able to tell me exactly which fly larvae it is, but blackfly will do for now. These are the little black worm thingies that you find in filters, waterfall streams, on rocks, etc. About ¼" long, black, and smaller in diameter than a pencil lead, they stick to the afore mentioned places in groups. They are harmless to your pond and are delicious and nutritious koi food. If you knock a group of them off of a spillway into the pond, the koi will gather around and enjoy the feast.

It's also common to find dragonfly larvae in your filters and such. These are carnivorous predators and will catch and eat a fish that's their own size. That's not a koi pond problem as they are actually a bite sized snack for our koi. That's why you won't find bugs or insect larvae in your pond; the koi eat them. Pond rookies sometimes put mosquito fish in their koi pond. That's not necessary since the koi will eat mosquito larvae. Mosquitos lay eggs in stagnant, non-moving water. Koi ponds aren't stagnant, non-moving water. Water striders also need calm water. If you have them, an air stone will break up the surface enough to discourage them.

Snails. There are some pros and cons to aquatic snails. They eat decomposing plants, koi poop, algae, and assorted goo. There are many species that range in size from very tiny to the walnut sized Mystery Snail. If you like to see the big snails in your pond you're going to have to buy a herd of them. If you just get one or two, they'll be rarely seen. I'm not a fan of snails. Even if they eat your koi poop, what's left? (Snail poop) If you buy a lily or a bog plant for your pond, it could come with a snail or snail eggs. Here again you'll only find them in your filters and such because the koi love them. They're crunchy like potato chips. Betcha can't eat just one.



## CKC Report to AKCA October 2021 by Jerold Kyle, CKC Club Rep

It feels good that the Camellia Koi Club is getting back to normal. Meetings being held outdoors in large patios and yards where we can spread out has always been our norm. New members joining to see large ponds they would otherwise have never seen is our norm. Ponds built by 'Do it yourselves' with superior Koi is our norm as seen last month. A new pond under construction that is in final stages will be visited this month. To take things to a higher level, since this meeting will be on Halloween, it will be a Costume Party Club Meeting and members are invited to be in costume. Our hostess works for UC Davis Vet School so we will see nice Koi and can pet the Chickens and rabbits which is her normal. Plans will be finalized for next months' meeting which will be a Koi Festival at McKinley park on Nov 13 that will allow visitors to see who we are. It is hard for some to believe that all this is our "normal" but, this is who we are.

