



# Koi Ahoy

Still November, 2021

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## Our 2021 Christmas Party!

The Grinch stole our party last year. Not this time! Make your calendar for Sunday, December 5, 1pm to 3pm. It's our annual Christmas Party! We've reserved a room at Old Town Pizza in Roseville. 120 Church Street. There's plenty of parking.

We'll install the new officers, but the white elephant gift exchange is most of the fun. The white elephant thing is voluntary (but don't miss out). Just bring a wrapped gift for each member of your family that wants to play. It's usually something you may want to re-gift, or don't want. Can be fish related or not. If it's a used item please make sure it's clean and in very good condition. If you feel led to buy something, keep the cost below \$20.

The gifts are opened one at a time by lottery and revealed to everyone. The next person can steal a previous gift or select from the gift pile, but there are limitations; very specific blood & guts rules that I don't want to screw up here that will be ~~argued about~~ explained at the party.

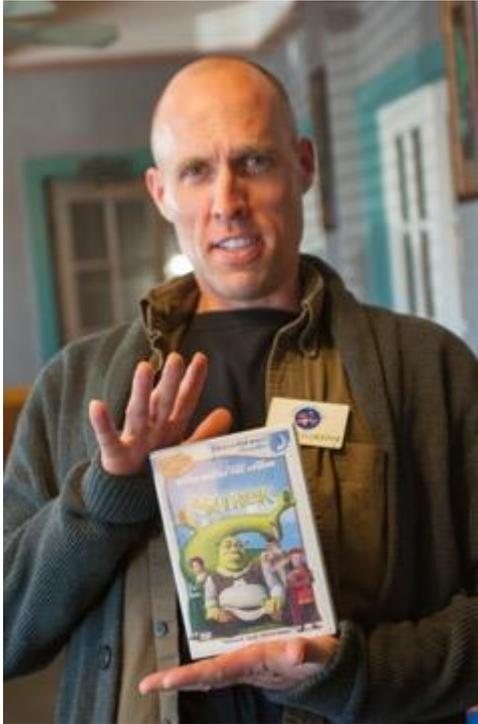
The cost is \$20 per person which we will collect at the door. Cash or check only please. Some people even like to pay their 2021 dues (\$30) with the same check.

For your \$20 we provide pizza, bread sticks, salad, chicken wings, and soda. You may purchase other adult beverages at the bar.

You may also bring dessert items to share.

## The Spirit of Christmas Past

Almost a decade ago our Christmas party was a small group of 15-20 koi lovers who gathered at a Chinese Buffet. That restaurant is no longer there but many of the koi lovers are still here. They proudly display their white elephant treasures for us now.



John with his Shrek DVD.



Marilee with a live Betta fish.



Pauline scored a beautiful serving platter.

Not sure about Bob, but then, who is?



## As We Move Forward



We have ambitious plans for the 2022 season. We'll continue with our monthly pond socials at a new and different pond each month. We'll also continue to offer the Pond 101 classes so that new ponders can become more informed about water quality, koi diseases, and koi husbandry in general. A different kind of Pond Tour is being developed and it will probably happen in the late spring. Also toying with having one of our meetings at a local koi dealer in the early spring. This means that lots of quality fish will be available at a discounted price. Coupled with that would be a grow out contest.





## The Koi Festival

Our Social Media Director, Michelle Cardenas, made this experimental idea a success. When she posted this event on Facebook, the folks from Good Day Sacramento, channel 31, contacted her about doing a morning TV spot during the 7am hour. Since we weren't going to start the Festival until 11am, they did a pre-event interview with Michelle right in her back yard, pondside.



## As a Result

Nine people showed an interest in Camellia Koi Club. Eric, Winston, Ken, Javier & Pauline, Cameron, David, Chrishna, Monti, and Dustin: Welcome to the Camellia Koi Club craziness.

Everyone who stopped by to see us heard about us via Facebook.

All of the bags of koi you see on the ground in the first photo sold.

## In Our Ponds This Winter

We still haven't had the windy rain storm that blows all of the leaves from my tree in the front yard to the pond in the back yard, but it's coming. In the meantime, I'll keep netting whatever does show up to keep the pond as clean as possible for the upcoming winter lay over.

Temperatures seem to be dropping sooner this year. My pond was 54° a few days ago and the fish are getting "slow". I'm feeding a small amount once a day now but I've noticed "Mo" was resting on the bottom with his pectorals clamped so I'm going to have to cut back on the food again. This transition from cool Fall water to cold Winter water is one of the best reasons to have a thermometer in your pond. At 55° I can still feed a small amount. At 50° I will cut them off completely for the Winter. If you don't have a pond/pool thermometer, maybe put that on your Christmas list?

There won't be a *Koi Ahoy* again until late January so here's your winter pH advice. A pH crash can kill your fish. The pH in your pond is stabilized by the carbonate hardness (KH) in the water. The fish themselves, along with plants, algae, and micro-organisms, create carbon dioxide which causes the carbonate hardness to fall. The pH will gradually follow the KH until it gets below the neutral point of 7.0, and then the pH will rapidly fall to as low as 5.5. That's what kills fish.

You can track your KH with a KH test kit. Another Christmas suggestion? If you only have a pH test kit you can track that and when you see a drop in pH you can simply add some baking soda. One pound of baking soda per 1,000 gallons will raise your KH about 50ppm; and your pH as much as 1.0. The pH of baking soda is 9.2, which means it's very forgiving and an over dose is unlikely.

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

