



April 2007

Wetwork News

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER KOI AND POND CLUB

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CLUB PURPOSE

Share ideas on building & maintaining ponds & filter systems

CLUB LIBRARY

Pond related books & tapes available for loan to members

PROGRAMS

Guest speakers; Raffle of pond related goods; Auction of pond related goods; Member sharing pond experience

ACTIVITIES

Pond tour; Koi show; Photo contest; Hands on hobby related projects

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual.....\$15.00

Family.....\$21.00

Please contact Greg Young to join the club!

Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men.

~Chinese Proverb

Greetings and Salutations Fellow Ponders,

I hope everything is well in all our gardens and ponds. As my quote states, nature knew it was spring before we did. I started, like many others, that great spring chore of cleaning up the yard. I was so happy to see the crocus and primrose in bloom. Many were hidden under leaves, but nonetheless, they knew it was time to come out. Even my koi, that are in the house, know it is time for them to get outside.



As we start getting our yards and ponds up and running, April's meeting will be the last opportunity to order our project plants. Please see Bob Colling or Ed McKee for info.

Please keep in mind as we start that great season of "yard work" we will be having a mini auction in May. So consider bringing in any extra plants that you would like to auction off during next month's meeting. Also in May, we will be having our photo contest. So I am giving you some extra time to find those perfect pictures for the contest.

At this time, I would like to congratulate Ed McKee for being our Koi Person of the year for 2007. Ed, you are a great asset to this club. Thank you for all your help over the years, for myself and for the all the time you have donated to this club. I would also like to mention the wonderful nomination given to him from Phil. You can read Phil's essay in this month's newsletter.

On behalf of the club, I would like to take a moment and thank Larry Nau for his wonderful presentation at our last meeting. Lotuses were a mystery for many of us. But now, I believe many will try this beautiful plant in their ponds this year. Larry showed great professionalism. He is a man of his word. He took the time and presented to the club during a time of a major family loss. The whole club sends their condolences to him and his family.



Our very own Greg Young will be our guest speaker this month. His presentation will be on opening our ponds and pond maintenance. Greg has many tips and tricks to help get your ponds up and running smoothly. So please bring your questions, Greg has the answers waiting for you.

Let us all continue to lead this Club to great new heights (and depths).

Yours in ponding,

Chris

President

Notes from the Editor

Please remember to renew your membership, if you haven't done so already, so that you can continue to receive your newsletters and all the benefits of membership in the club without interruption. Please see Greg Young at the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting and need another membership application you may download it from the club website www.nfkpc.org.

Many of our members are involved in other clubs and activities in the Western New York area. If I receive the information in time, I will be happy to mention it in the newsletter. It is more convenient to receive these items by e-mail but you may send them to my home at 23 Crystal Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14220.

Please join me in welcoming two new advertisers to the newsletter and website, and remember to patronize all of our advertisers.

Mary

Koi and Goldfish Show 2007

Ed McKee and Mary O'Connor

We will be having a meeting at 6pm on April 13th at the VFW Post before the general club meeting. If you are interested in attending e-mail me at mary.oconnor@verizon.net or call me at 823-8979. Pizza will be served.

In the future we will have sign-up sheets for those willing to offer assistance on the days of the show in August. There are a wide variety of jobs, from fish handling to auction assistance.

If you wish to reserve a tank please let a committee member know in advance. We will have forms at a future meeting to be filled out if you are showing your fish and we will require a \$25.00 deposit to hold a show tank for you for koi, or If you are showing goldfish. Your deposit will be returned after the show if you bring your fish. Remember to bring a 10 gallon tank for goldfish.

Letters have been sent out to company's that may wish to exhibit their products at the show. We also asked for product donation also. If you know of a company that may donate to our show and auction, please let us know.

Please remember to bring your koi pictures to the April general Club meeting if you would like them to be considered for use on our poster advertising the Koi Show.

Refreshments for 2007

April	Denise Moeller, Sandy Crawford, & Tracy Prucnal
May	Bonita Wulf
June	Nancy Wojnowski
July	Kathy Arries
August	Please Volunteer
Sept	Please Volunteer
October	Please Volunteer
November	Beverly Wojtaszczyk & Jody Ferris

Please consider hosting a meeting in 2007. You can do it alone or with a friend or two. This is always an enjoyable part of the meeting when we are able to visit with each other.

We will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting or you may contact Barb Weber at 688-7924.



Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be at the home of Carol Filipski at 50 Oriole Place, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00pm.

By checking mapquest, take New York State Route 90 East to exit 51E to route 33. Exit at Union Rd, go right to Genesee St. Turn right on to Genesee and after approximately .9 miles make a left on to Mildred Drive, proceed for .2 miles to Oriole Pl.

If you are interested in attending, or require more specific driving instructions, please contact Carol at 892-1877.

All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. You may find it easier to express your feelings to the Officers and Board Members in a more intimate setting instead of at a regular club meeting. We value everyone's opinion.

2007 Koi Person of the Year

By Phil Grefrath

Some people like to remain in the background quietly serving the pond club without a great deal of notoriety, and we as members often forget their efforts. One of these members is Ed McKee.



Ed has been a member of the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club for twelve years and for six of those years he has served on the board. He has helped set up and take down the tanks at the Koi show for the last twelve years and assisted with the running of the show. Ed helped build the Erie County fair pond and on several occasions has helped in the yearly cleaning and has manned our booth at the fair. Ed spearheaded the volunteer work cleaning up the old pond at the Coit House.

Ed's background fits in with the needs of our club since he owned and ran a nursery and is a licensed electrician. He was one of the first members to start working at the Erie County Botanical Gardens doing the initial clean-up. Later, when the Club took over the responsibility for maintaining the Koi pond at the gardens, Ed headed up a team to install 120 volt service to run the pump for the falls (over 1,000 ft of wire) which saved the gardens hundreds of dollars and made Greg's dream a reality.

Ed made sure that the mulch was provided and helped set up the pond at Plantasia. Ed has helped with the Club plant auctions providing his nurserymen's expertise about the plants that were auctioned. Ed has single-handedly been responsible for the great number of plants in the gardens of our members. Presently, Ed is serving on our Club's Impact Team helping club members with their ponds; not bad for a young guy in his seventies

At this time I would like to nominate Mr. Ed McKee for the AKCA Koi Person of the Year and thank him for all the help he has given our club over the past twelve years.

This is edited and reprinted from the **Koi Chronicles**, the newsletter of the **Atlanta Koi Club**



Club Show Tanks

For Sale – Limited Quantities
Special Offer to AKC members

The AKC Board has decided to sell its flexible blue show tanks and use the proceeds to purchase 40 hard-shell tanks. Major benefits of the hard shell tanks include ease of installation and ease of cleaning, which are some of the most time consuming aspects of setup and breakdown at our Koi Auctions and Shows. Hard shell tanks are also very durable and will neatly stack for easy storage.

The good news is that there is strong demand for our old flexible tanks. The board has decided to give priority to our membership. Prices are more than 50% off the original cost.

450 gallon 6 foot flexible tank
\$250 for members
\$300 for non-members

750 gallon 8 foot flexible tank
\$300 for members
\$350 for non-members



The club has 21 six foot flexible tanks and 21 eight foot flexible tanks. All tanks are in excellent condition. We may keep up to 6 flexible tanks for special/emergency purposes, i.e. koi rescue, loan to moving members, etc.

Interested members should e-mail Herve Rijnveld at stuff@atlantakoiclub.org and specify the size and number of tanks you'd like to purchase. This is a one-time offer, so be sure to put your name in the hat! Depending on demand, the Board may have to resort to a lottery-type system to allocate the limited number of tanks.

Deadline for this offer is April 15, 2007. Buyers will have to make payment in full at that time.

Check out their website, www.atlantakoiclub.org, for information on the club and some wonderful pond pictures from the members.

Sunshine Club

By Lorri Porter

If you are aware of a member experiencing a "Life Event" in their family such as weddings, birth announcements, illness, surgery or death, please contact me at 694-6652 with the details.

Condolences to Kathy Cunningham on the loss of her father, Tracy Prucnal on the loss of her grandmother, and Larry Nau on the loss of his aunt.

Our thoughts are with Jan Evert as she under goes some medical tests, Carol Filipski as she recuperates from bronchitis and Jennifer Kaeslau as she recuperates.

On a lighter note it was good to see Cliff Benson at our last meeting.

Wedding bells are slated for Ed Shelp, Jr. and Kimberly Popplewell on May 20th.



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Hérons

By Walt Oldenburg

Hérons...What are they eating today?

Lays potato chips...you can't eat just one. That is the relationship a Heron has to your fish. Your goal is to take away his chips. Herons will not normally land directly in the pond but will land in the garden and stalk from there. They will stand right at the edge of the water or if it's shallow enough they will wade right in. They hunt by stealth. Motionless, until their prey swims by, and then - BAM! ... They spear or grab fish with their long beaks.

There are many products marketed out there to stop them from eating your pets...Listed are some of the Pros and cons:
Best defense is the right dog. Nuf said.



Fishing line: Tension line works great for birds. They don't like anything touching their wings so just a few lines of heavy pound fishing line stretched tightly across the pond about 12" or so above the water works wonders. Nearly invisible, they can't step over it with our tripping.



Nets: I think they look horrible, but raised above the pond are very effective. Placed just above the waters surface, Herons have been known to stand on them and spear the koi through the net.

Scarecrow: Motion-sensing sprinklers work good. However; they have a limited view. People forget to turn them on. You can try the "scarecrows"... they spray water at anything that moves but... There are herons that are so smart they know that scarecrows aren't going to do anything to them.



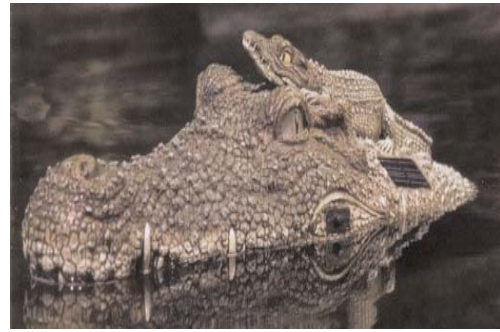
Electric fences: A little unsightly however; very effective for keeping Herons, raccoons and otters away.

Decoys: Brian Drake (Vancouver, WA koi dealer)

said recently that he feels that decoys actually attract other **Herons**. "Replica **herons** do not work...it actually encourages **herons** to come and visit." Some people claim that plastic herons actually attract other herons in early spring while they're searching for a mate.



Fake crocodile heads... might well work in Southern areas where crocodiles are well known predators. Spectacular episodes of lurking gators, flashing of teeth, boiling water as the gators charge upon unwary **herons** would stick in the mind of the cunning and sneaky heron. However, many **herons** are not familiar with crocodiles at a young stage, or have never seen them before so in many cases it just won't be noticed, except,



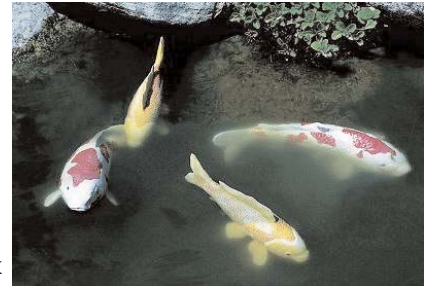
in areas where crocodiles are well known..."

Other options: Steep Walls: I have heard that steep sides in your pond will prevent a heron from wading out — they won't

jump into something 2' deep.

Hiding places: You can add water lilies, big bits of pipe, Black plastic caves on the bottom or you can float large sheets of black polythene. Surprisingly, many black plastic objects when submersed become virtually invisible in a natural setting. So the idea of this clutter in pond is not as bad as it sounds.

Koi decoys: Believe it or not, folk are reporting they work. These plastic koi are anchored in the open pond... Looking like an easy meal, the heron sneaks up, bats at it a few times, tries to yank the koi plus anchor out of the water only to discover it can't.... by which time all the real koi are well alerted and in hiding, having a good snicker.



Guns: Not an option... Keep in mind that **herons** are protected waterfowl in the US. Killing or harming one here, results in a large fine and in some states...jail time.

Fun Facts: Did you know herons will come at night???. We walked out our back door at 11:30 pm to see a heron sitting on our neighbors roof eyeing up our koi...you have to do something since once a heron gets a fish they are like terminators from the movies...they keep coming back and back and back.

Hérons are creatures of habit; they will 'tour' their favorite water holes quite religiously. When they spot a new pond with fish they will add that pond to their schedule and turn up like clockwork with the same routine...

Their eyesight is extremely good; it is something of a big advantage if the fish turn out to be garishly bright koi or goldfish.

Should they spot one little thing that frets them, they will abort landing...

They want the pond all to themselves, with no complications like dogs, or people about...

Only then, when they are absolutely sure it's safe to plunder, will they come in and land in a high place overlooking the pond, perhaps a chimney or a small tree close to the pond. When they have landed at a high vantage point overlooking the pond area, they really take their time and look with those beady little dark eyes to make absolutely sure nothing is lurking before flapping to the best landing spot close to the pond...

The following is an excerpt from the book:

“Koi – A Complete Pet Owner’s Manual”

By George C. Biasiola II

Part 4 in a series – continuing with diseases

Trichodinids: *Trichodina* and related species such as *Trichodonella* are troublesome ciliated protozoa that commonly parasitize koi. They are capable of causing damage to the skin and gills, leading to secondary bacterial infections. They have been implicated as the precursor to the development of *ulcer disease*.

Affected fish frequently scratch themselves on the sides or bottom of the pond, have clamped fins, lose their normal coloration, and have difficult respiration. The skin develops small reddened ulcerations that gradually enlarge.

Most of the medications used for the treatment of ich are also suitable for eradication of trichodina. The parasites are sensitive to malachite green or formalin.

Because trichodinids multiply by simple cell division with no free-swimming form, usually only one or two treatments are required.

Chilodonella (*Chilodeonella Cyprini*) is a ciliated protozoan commonly affecting koi and goldfish. It is an obligate parasite that inhabits the skin and gills. When examined microscopically, it appears heart-shaped or oval. Infected fish develop a noticeable bluish-white opaqueness of the skin, with excess mucus secretion. They will tend to scrape themselves on the pond bottom. Increased lethargy and an increased respiratory rate are often observed. Mortality is rapid, especially among juvenile fish. Treatments using malachite green, formalin, or salt dips are required for eradication of the parasite.

Epistyllis is a ciliate that is known to attach to koi. The protozoan is not considered an obligate parasite, but will multiply under certain conditions, forming large stalked colonies. Attachment to the host invites secondary infection by bacteria.

Koi affected by *Epistyllis* develop white tuft-like areas, resembling fungus. As they grow, the areas become ulcerated, with a reddish ring surrounding the white area.

The presence of *Epistyllis* is almost always associated with poor water quality and high water temperatures. High levels of organic material in the pond water favor its development. It is easily controlled by the use of formalin-based medications.

Ichthyobodo Necatrix, formerly known as *Costia*, is a small, flagellated protozoan. It is a troublesome parasite, attacking fish that have been previously stressed. The Japanese refer to this disease as

dorokaburi, or “slime disease”.

Affected fish develop a whitish film on their skin, are listless, and hold their fins close to their body. Conspicuous red lesions can also be present, and the fish will repeatedly scratch themselves on the pond bottom. Rapid, labored respiration is not uncommon.

Like other protozoa, *Ichthyobodo* is sensitive to medications containing malachite green, salt, or formalin.

Sporozoans are a group of troublesome parasites whose life cycle involves the production of large numbers of tough spores that can survive for long periods without a host. Although they are not as commonly encountered as other protozoa, it is important to be able to recognize the signs of infection. They form white nodules on the fins, skin, and gills, and produce light-colored lesions in the muscles.

Affected fish usually show very little alteration in their normal behavior. An increased respiratory rate can be observed when the parasites invade the gills.

No safe and effective treatments are available for sporozoan infestations. Affected fish must be removed from the pond to prevent possible transmission of the disease.

Coccidians are another group of protozoa capable of causing severe losses. The most frequently seen coccidial disease is known as nodular coccidiosis, caused by the organism *Elmeria Cyprini*. Young koi are the most likely victims, sustaining damage to the intestinal lining.

Affected fish can show a loss of color, have sunken eyes, and become thin. A yellowish color in the feces is characteristic of the disease. Various medications have been tried, but the disease is still considered untreatable. Affected fish must be removed from the pond to prevent transmission to other koi.

Platyhelminths

The platyhelminths include various parasitic worms such as flukes and tapeworms. Many have complex life cycles requiring more than one host.

Trematodes or flukes are a class of parasites divided according to their life cycle into two major groups: the monogenes and the digenes. Monogenetic trematodes are external parasites of the skin and gills which require only one host to complete their life cycle. The digenetic group is made up of internal parasites. They have a complex life cycle requiring more than one host.

Monogenetic trematodes: The pond owner should (continued on page 9)

be primarily concerned with the monogenetic flukes, as they are common parasites of koi and other fish and can cause serious mortality increases.

Gyrodactylus and *Dactylogyrus* are two monogenetic genera that commonly infest koi. Virtually every imported fish carries these parasites. Koi bred in the United States can also carry the organisms with infestations becoming especially serious during the summer months.

The flukes attach to fish by means of a special attachment organ, called a *haptor* that is equipped with hooks.

Affected fish show variable behavioral changes, depending on the severity of the infection. The most common clinical signs are increased rate of respiration, dull coloration and excessive scratching on the pond bottom or on various objects. Serious infections involving the gills result in hemorrhaging, skin damage, and secondary bacterial infection.

Monogenetic trematodes are easily eradicated with commercial medications containing formalin. Products containing organophosphates, mebendazole, or praziquantel are also useful for control of monogenetic flukes. You should consult a

pond-fish specialist or your local retailer for information regarding medications for the control of these parasites.

Digenetic trematodes have a complex life cycle, with a number of larval forms and several hosts. The first form, known as a miracidium, parasitizes snails. Here it develops into a cercariae. This form parasitizes a second host, either forming a metacercariae or maturing directly into the adult parasite. Metacecariae appear as nodules on various parts of the body, including eyes, gills, muscles, and skin. Eventually they transform into adults, which migrate to the intestinal tract.

Affected fish become listless and a pattern of slow mortalities can develop. If the parasite is present in the gills, these will be pale, with swellings of cysts. Nodules can be present on the skin as well as on internal organs.

Generally, digenetic trematodes are not considered to be serious parasites of koi. Keeping snails out of the koi pond is a simple but effective way to prevent the development of the disease. Once the parasites have infested the fish, the disease is basically untreatable.

* * * * *

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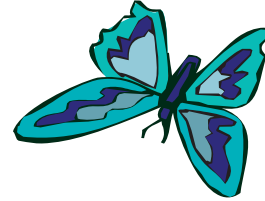
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If you have any questions, please contact me at (716) 823-8979.

Sincerely, Mary O'Connor, Editor of Wetwork News



The NFKPC meets the 2nd Friday of every month at 7:00 PM, at the VFW Post on Elgin St. in Tonawanda. Take Delaware north from I-290, 1.5 miles to right on York (at Keyser Buick) to Elgin. Everyone is welcome!



Niagara Frontier Koi & Pond Club
 23 Crystal Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14220



Niagara Frontier Koi & Pond Club - Upcoming Events

April 13	Deadline for photo's for poster for Koi Show 2007
April 20-22	Springtime in the Country Craft Show Erie County Fairgrounds
May 4-6	Southern Koi Expo - Winston Salem, NC www.triad-koi-society.org
May 11	Club Photo Contest
May 30	Raffle for the Elephants
June 21-24	AKCA 26th Annual Seminar - Phoenix, AZ
July 21	NFKPC Annual Pond Tour
July 28	Genesse Valley Pond Club Annual Pond Tour
Aug 25-26	Koi and Goldfish Show 2007 - Buffalo, NY

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