

1st Annual National Arboretum Koi Sale - Saturday April 22 10am to 3pm

In an effort to thin the large number of koi in the 115,000 gallon pond at the National Arboretum's Administration Building, site of our annual koi shows, ZNA Potomac members have been asked to help catch, sort and sell the koi on **Saturday, April 22 from 10am to 3pm**. In addition, help is urgently needed to help set up our club show tanks on Thursday, April 20 and to catch, sort and inspect the fish on Friday April 21. A number of the "better" fish will be returned to the pond following some routine maintenance activities and a thorough spring cleaning.

For those of you who participated in the "Great Wild Carp" Rodeo at the Arboretum a few years ago, when the 115,000 gallon pond was totally trained so a species of very invasive and aggressive wild fish could be removed, you will recall how interesting it was to work with the Arboretum staff during this great undertaking. At that time more than 500 fish of all shapes and sizes were removed and inspected by ZNA members for any sickness or disease. This is a great chance to work with lots of fish and to help promote our hobby and club at the same.

The Arboretum will have plenty of labor and assistance on hand to deal with the mechanical aspects of draining and cleaning the pond. All koi club members and friends are invited – **and very welcome** – to come to assist in the **catching, inspection and transportation** of the koi to their temporary quarters. This is a great opportunity to see and work with lots of koi of varying sizes and conditions. Koi experts like Chuck Poppe and Tom McKenzie will help you to master safely handling a 24 or 30 inch fish. Doris Poppe, our local expert on koi health, will be on hand to help identify any sores or injuries. Since this pond is only drained every two or three years, it is really a great opportunity for you to help support one of the greatest public koi ponds in the United States.

The National Arboretum's pond with our technical support and input, has truly become one of the top "go to" destinations for Arboretum visitors and is now recognized as one of the "top 10" public koi ponds in the U.S. according to folks who have been to the public koi ponds at Long Beach City College's Pacific Coast Campus; the Japanese Friendship Garden in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco; the Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon or the Huntington Library in Pasadena. Come help support a great local - and national - educational koi resource! **Plus, you may also find some koi you wish to buy and take home with you!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Join us for a nice day in the park!

Thursday: Tank Set Up - 9am

Friday: Fish Catching & Sorting 9am

Saturday: 10-3pm Fish Sales

(Help needed to net & bag fish)

For more info call:
Chuck Poppe at 703-360-5918

2006 ZNA Club Dues Due

Please take a moment to send your check to our
Treasurer: Margie Linn
5620 23rd Street
Arlington, Virginia 22205

Regular dues are \$25.00; \$85.00 if you want a subscription to **NICHIRIN**, the key publication of the Zen Nippon Airinkai International organization.

For folks serious about learning more about nishikigoi and to develop your **eye** for quality fish, **NICHIRIN** is the way and your subscription helps maintain the international organization but also local clubs like ours. This is a good investment in helping to support our hobby.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ZNA POTOMAC**

ZNA POTOMAC KOI CLUB: SPRING MAY BE IN THE AIR BUT BE SURE TO HOLD OFF THE FOOD UNTIL THE WATER TEMP IS CONSISTENTLY 50!

WINTER-TO-SPRING WEATHER MEANS WATCH & WAIT!

Fluctuating temperatures and those occasional glorious warm days mean the fish may become more active, tempting you to reach for the food. But please remember, offering high protein food too early, when the water temperatures are still dropping below 50 at night is an invitation to trouble. Warming weather conditions create a very stressful time for our fish. Weakened from the long winter, their immune systems are vulnerable to attacks that can lead to all sorts of illnesses.

The best thing you can do at this point is make sure they have the best possible clean water and plenty of oxygen. Take a close look at your pond. Can you remove as many leaves, sticks, acorns or other winter debris as possible? This is a good time to start testing your water and to add fresh water, but be careful about chlorine and chloramines. Many local jurisdictions will begin flushing their drinking water system with free chlorine in March and you must be sure that you use appropriate chemicals to neutralize the chlorine or chloramines.

Spring is also a good time to add some salt to the water. Noted koi veterinarian Dr. Erik Johnson recommends salt for koi. If used in sufficient quantities, it will kill many different types of parasites and has the added benefit of increasing the production of each fishes' slime coating which helps repel invasive bacteria. For a spring treatment, Dr. Johnson recommends

adding about one pound of salt per 100 gallons of water, adding the salt in 12 hour increments until you have approximately 3 pounds of salt per hundred gallons in your system. This should give you a salinity concentration of 0.3%. Sensitive plants must be removed from the pond or they can be killed or damaged. Salt will also kill some types of algae and the resulting decay of string algae will consume much dissolved oxygen and raise the ammonia levels in your pond. Thus filtration or aeration to compensate for these effects is essential. Salt concentrations like this can be left in your pond for 14 days and then can be removed by partial water changes over the next few weeks.

What kind of salt to use? Any type of rock salt is ok, so long as it does not contain anti-caking agents or trace minerals. Dr. Johnson recommends that you look for "99.5% purity with no trace minerals" on the bag. Also, be sure you get **sodium chloride** and not *calcium chloride*, which can be found next to the sodium at some stores.

■ KOI ACTIVITY CALENDAR

- **April 22 National Arboretum Koi Sale** 10-3pm Administration Building; *Help is needed to handle and bag fish.*
 - **April 20 Tank Set Up** 9am
 - **April 21 Sort & Inspect Koi for Sale** *Help is needed both days!*
 - Proposed Tour of Pond at Japanese Embassy Residence (date to be set)
 - **June:** ZNA Potomac Annual Young Koi Auction at Smitty's
 - **July:** Pond Visit & Meeting at Poppe's
 - **August:** Pond Visit & Meeting at Ed Gillenwater's with Ray Abell showing how to treat "shimmies"
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