

HOT SPOT

英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部



The E-Mag of the South East Section BKKS

- twinned with the :-

Issue 29
 February 2009



Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society.

The Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.

The South African Koi Keepers Society.

Partners in goodwill.

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Koi Clubs participating in this exchange scheme are:-

- **Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.**
- **Oregon Koi & Watergarden Soc.**
- **South African Koi Keepers Soc.**
- **Chiltern Section BKKS.**
- **NorCal Chapter ZNA (USA)**
- **Australian Koi Association AKA**
- **Mid Atlantic Koi Club**
- **Cambridge Koi Club**
- **ZNA Potomac Chapter**
- **Essex Section BKKS**
- **Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Soc.**
- **Cayman Island Koi Keepers**
- **Koi@Home (Belgium)**
- **Banana Bar Koi Society.**
- **East Midlands Koi Club.**
- **North East Koi Club BKKS**
- **ZNA Guangdong Chapter.**

HOT SPOT is the

on-line version of the South East Section BKKS' newsletter called "Spotlight", suitably sanitised and denuded of in-house content to make it interesting for other Koi Clubs. However, it will also contain some occasional South East publicity.

"Hot Spot" will be a periodic publication i.e. it will get published when we have enough articles to fill it's 8 pages.

Copies of it will reside on the South East's website and will be distributed to other Koi Clubs who indulge us with an exchange of magazines or newsletters.

Articles taken from "Spotlight" are the copyright of the South East Section but may be used by clubs who participate in this exchange.

The original text and photos can be obtained via the editors whose details can be found on the back page.

Preview of this
 years AJNPA
 G.C!

Now in its
 3rd Year!

2008 a year of international fellowship.



**South East's ambassadors to Holland.
Christine Woolger, Bill Ennis & Lloyd Bartley.**

The South East Section Show has been a destination on the International show circuit for some years. A tradition started in 1989 when a delegation of visitors from the USA arrived at the show escorted by the then BKKS JSC Chairman Alan Rogers. A year later Stan Ranson a former editor of Koi USA magazine dropped in. In 1996 four Japanese breeders followed suit and presented a trophy to a Koi of their choice, and in 1999 the De Vlaamse Koi en-Vijvervrienden Society delivered our first Friendship Trophy and introduced us to this concept prevalent amongst ZNA chapters. That trend continues to this day and in 2003 our then Show Chairman Terry Wells decided to reciprocate and produced Friendship trophies so that our travelling ambassadors can return the favour.

2008 was a bumper year for the South East with representatives visiting Belgium, Holland and South Africa (twice), and in addition the

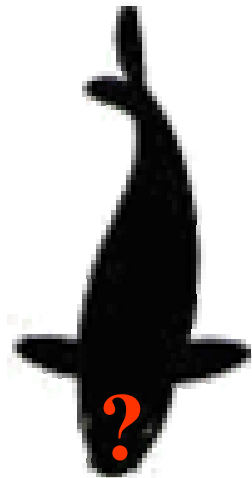
USA where we have a permanent representative in residence.

Where possible we ask our representative to get a photo and the details of the recipient, which most of them manage to do.

However, naming no names, this year somebody forgot. So the recipient at this year's SAKKS National in Johannesburg remains a mystery.

But the remainder of our envoys didn't and so we can bring you a photographic reminder of 2008's crop of Friendship Award winners.

Normally we try to give our Friendship Trophies to a Koi that represents our Selected Variety of the year (Kinginrin for 2008) but if a suitable candidate can't be found our ambassadors can use their discretion.

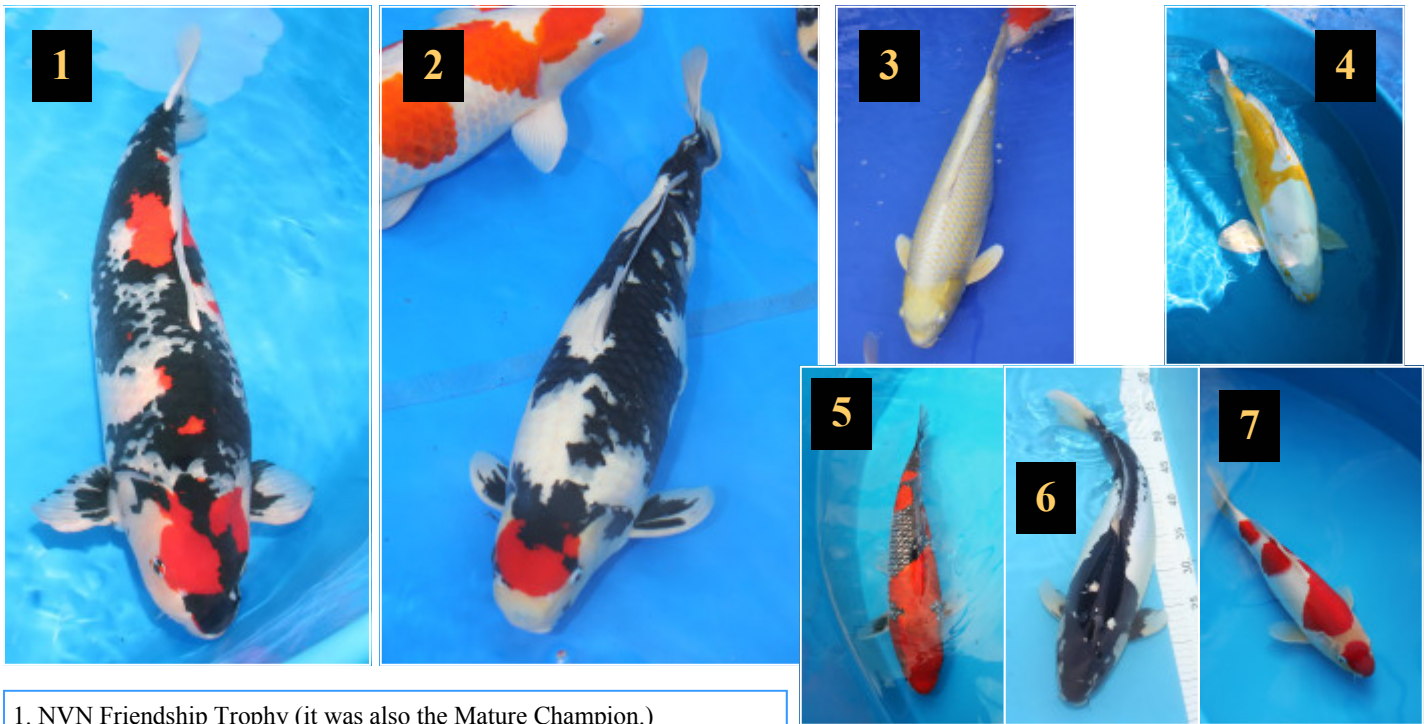


Johannesburg 2008 - can any SAKKS member supply the missing details and a photo?

Overseas winners of the South East Friendship Trophies 2008.



Friendship trophy winners at the 2008 South East Show.



1. NVN Friendship Trophy (it was also the Mature Champion.)
2. Koi Society of Australia KSA Friendship trophy plus NVN Trainees Friendship Trophy as well Adult Champion.
3. Banana Bar Koi Society BBKS Friendship trophy.
4. KLAN (German ZNA) Friendship Trophy
5. Australian Koi Association AKA Friendship Trophy.
6. Oregon Koi & Water Garden OKWS Friendship Trophy.
7. SAKKS Friendship Trophy and Koi@Home Friendship Trophy awarded for Best Tategoi.

Alan Archer the South East Show Chairman would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2008 Judging Panel.

Dirk de Witte, Toën Feyen, Jim Phillips, Doug Raby, Kazuo & Gerard McDonald.

Just like us, koi rely on a healthy immune system to protect against disease. If anything happens to suppress it, the chances of the fish becoming ill are increased, so it's vitally important to keep it working properly. A koi's defences against infection can broadly be broken down into three parts:

Physical protection

Various physical barriers help to prevent **pathogens** (disease-causing organisms) entering the body. These include the skin, scales, mucus, walls of the intestine, etc. For example, the mucus layer may thicken when large numbers of parasites are present, giving rise to 'slimy skin' syndrome. This helps to trap them, and prevent damage to more sensitive tissues. As well as providing physical protection, the skin and mucus also contains various cells and components of the immune system. For example, Lemaitre *et al* (1996) identified two antimicrobial proteins in carp mucus, which work to disrupt the cell membranes of harmful bacteria.

Immune system

If pathogens manage to enter the fish, then they have to be dealt with quickly and effectively to avoid disease. The immune system is a complicated mechanism, consisting of numerous types of white blood cell (**leucocytes**) and various substances that complement their action. A healthy carp may have around 20,000 - 50,000 leucocytes per mm³ of blood. Leucocytes are produced in **lymphoid organs**. In fish, the primary lymphoid organ is the **thymus**, where lymphoid cells develop into **lymphocytes** – white blood cells that are involved in the specific immune response. Secondary lymphoid organs, where circulating white blood cells may aggregate during an infection, include the spleen and kidney. In addition, there are diffuse aggregations of lymphocytes and **phagocytes** found throughout the gut, gills, and mucus layers. Fish do not have either bone marrow or **lymph nodes**, which are important lymphoid organs in mammals. The fish immune system can be split into non-specific and specific immunity.

1. Non-specific immunity

The non-specific part of the immune system, as the name suggests, involves a similar set of cells and components, regardless of the type of pathogen encountered. The principal cells

involved in the non-specific immune response are phagocytes (principally **macrophages** and **granulocytes**), **eosinophilic granular cells** (EGCs), and **non-specific cytotoxic cells** (NCCs). Phagocytes are the key players, and they work by engulfing pathogenic cells and destroying them.

When the fish is infected, chemical signals attract granulocytes to the area of the infection. There are different types of granulocyte, but **neutrophils** are usually the first to arrive (accumulating within an hour). They immediately begin mopping up any unwanted cells and micro-organisms. This process is facilitated by an increase in blood flow to the affected area, and increased permeability of the capillaries surrounding the site to allow phagocytes to move out of the blood supply and into the affected tissue. Following this, **monocytes** begin appearing, which turn into macrophages at the infected site. Macrophages are more important in cases where the infection persists, as they remain at the site for longer. In chronic cases, **granulomas** may form around the infection, or in the case of protozoan parasites the tissue may encapsulate the pathogen. The white spots seen in whitespot infections are the result of encapsulation of the parasite. This whole process is known as the inflammatory response, and it is key to non-specific immunity.

2. Specific immunity

The specific part of the immune response is so-called because it is tailored to the specific pathogen in question. It can also result in the development of 'memory', whereby cells remember a particular pathogen, allowing them to respond more quickly if it is encountered in the future. Creating a 'memory' for a particular pathogen is the basis for vaccination.

The principal cells involved in specific immunity are **lymphocytes**; these can be divided into **B-cells** and **T-cells**. These cells work in conjunction with regulating factors, such as **cytokines**, and components of the non-specific system, such as **macrophages**, to mount a co-ordinated attack against any invading pathogen.

So-called because they originate from bone-marrow in humans (which fish do not possess), fish B-cells are responsible for producing antibodies. Antibodies are special proteins (**immunoglobulins**), which work in a multi-

tude of ways to inhibit or destroy invading pathogens. For example, they may act as anti-toxins, neutralising the toxins produced by certain bacteria, or they might impede the ability of a virus to enter the fish's cells. When a pathogen encounters a B-cell, it causes it to divide and produce more antibodies. An '**antigen**' is any pathogen or other substance that causes B-cells to react in this way. First time around, this process of division and antibody production may be quite slow, and the pathogen may be able to cause disease. However, once the infection has cleared up, the B-cells become memory cells. These remain in circulation for months or years, allowing a much faster reaction time if the pathogen is ever encountered again. For example, following an initial infection, carp may develop immunity to diseases such as whitespot. If encountered later on, they may harbour the parasite without displaying signs of disease. This is fine, except they may pass it on to non-resistant fish. This is one reason why quarantining new koi is so important, and if necessary using preventative treatments.

T-cells (so-called because they pass through the **thymus** during development) do not produce antibodies, but can have a direct effect against antigens, as well as playing a role in the regulation of the specific immune response. There are three main types of T-cells in mammals ('helper', 'suppressor', and 'killer') and there is good evidence to suggest that similar cells exist in fish. For example, they may directly kill pathogens, enhance phagocytosis, and encourage the division of B-cells.

Effects of temperature

Because koi are ectothermic ('cold-blooded'), their physiology is directly affected by water temperature. This includes the functioning of the immune system, which varies in effectiveness depending on the climate. Like most fish, the specific immune system works best over the fish's optimal temperature range. This is in the region of 18 – 28°C for carp (koi), depending on strain, and is described as immunologically 'permissive'. Below this tem-

-perature, elements of the specific immune response may be less effective, and this is described as immunologically 'non-permissive'. Because koi are a warm water species, their immune system is not so well adapted for cold water. For example, the non-permissive temperature for carp is 14°C, whereas in salmon it is 4°C (Morvan, Troutaud, Deschaux, 1997). Wishkovsky & Avtalion (1987) found that carp infection with *Vibrio* bacteria at 25°C did elicit a primary antibody response, whereas those held at 12°C did not.

However, it is not true to say that the immune system is inactive in colder water. In fact, research suggests that the non-specific immune system may work harder to compensate for the lack of specific immunity. For example, Morvan, Troutaud, & Deschaux (1997) found that phagocytosis, and the activity level of certain white blood cells, increased in colder water. Also, if the fish has acquired immunity within its 'permissive' temperature range, it can mount a specific response in colder water.

However, there is no doubt that impaired specific immunity, coupled with other factors (e.g. less stable water quality, depleted energy reserves), can make koi more vulnerable to certain infections at times of the year when temperatures are lower. Hence why koi keepers need to be more vigilant during the spring and autumn, when temperature can fluctuate widely.

Effects of stress

Most koi keepers know that stress is one of the commonest causes of ill-health in their fish. This is because it results in the release of hormones (corticosteroids and catecholamines) that suppress the immune system. This may seem counter-productive, but in a dangerous situation fish are better off diverting resources to areas of the body that are essential for their immediate survival. This is sometimes called the 'fight or flight' reaction, and it mobilises energy reserves to get the muscles prepared for action. If stress is chronic, for example due to poor water quality, the immune system may be suppressed for longer than is safe, making the fish more vulnerable to infection. For example, Houghton & Matthews (1990) found that cortisol (an important corticosteroid) injections increased the susceptibility of carp to whitespot infections, with up to

100% mortality. Even fish previously immunised against whitespot were affected. Because of the effect of stress on the immune system, it is extremely important to avoid it in koi ponds. This is done by creating a good quality environment, and by minimising disturbances to the fish.

Immunostimulants

In recent years, interest has grown in the use of feed-based immunostimulants to help prevent common diseases. Originally researched for farmed fish, more and more ornamental fish foods are now marketed with such properties.

There are many ingredients that may or may not have these properties, but commonly incorporated ones include β -glucans, lactoferrin, mannan oligosaccharides, and peptidoglycans. Of all the immunostimulants, β -glucans have had the most research done on them, and are well-proven to have beneficial effects.

β -glucans stimulate the non-specific, as well as the specific immune response, and thus reduce the ability of a pathogen to cause infection. For example, research carried out by Wageningen University and Tetra's Research & Development laboratories, has shown that a particular type of β -glucan can increase the activity level of carp macrophages, and increase their capacity to kill bacteria. This is supported by independent research on fish such as carp, yellowtail, and turbot (Yano, 1989; Santarem *et al* 1997; Matsuyama *et al* 1992). Although immunostimulants hold much promise for disease prevention, a good quality basic diet is still essential for delivering nutrients and energy needed for a healthy immune system.

References:

A. Wishkovsky, R. R. Avtalion (1987) Induction of immunosuppression to bacterial antigens in carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Journal of Fish Biology 31 (sa), 101–106.

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response to *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* Fouquet Journal of Fish Diseases 13 (4), 269–280.

Iwama, Nakanishi (1996), The Fish Immune System

Lemaitre *et al* (1996), European Journal of Biochemistry, 240, 143-149

Morvan, Troutaud, Deschaux (1997), Differential Effects of Temperature on Specific and Non-Specific Immune Deficiencies in fish

For more information on koi & koi keeping:

www.koiexcellence.co.uk

Glossary

Non-specific immune system = the non-adaptive part of the immune response, which reacts in a similar way to all pathogens.

Specific immune system = the part of the immune response that adapts to specific pathogens in different ways.

Pathogen = anything that has the capacity to cause disease.

Immunological = relating to immunity

Disease = an abnormality of the fish, usually caused by a pathogen, nutritional deficiency, or environmental parameter. **Lymphoid organs** = areas where lymphocytes and other cells relating to the immune system are produced or aggregated.

Lymphocytes = types of white blood cell that are primarily involved in the specific immune response.

Thymus = primary lymphoid organ in fish, where lymphocytes are produced.

Lymph nodes = discrete masses of lymphoid tissue where antibodies are produced. Not found in fish.

Granulomas – inflammatory lesions containing phagocytes.

B-cell = type of lymphocyte that produces antibodies

T-cell = type of lymphocytes that have a regulatory and pathogen-destroying function

Cytokines = referring to a number of different proteins that affect the immune response

Immunoglobulin = ‘antibodies’ – proteins produced by B-cells

Antigen = anything that stimulates antibody production

Phagocytosis = ‘engulfing’ of unwanted cells / pathogens

Phagocyte = white blood cell that engulfs and destroys unwanted cells and pathogens

Macrophage = type of phagocyte which mops up debris and unwanted cells around infected sites. They also mop up old red blood cells.

Interleukin = type of cytokine that stimulates activation of the cells involved in the immune response

This article was provided by
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AJNPA Combined Show GC 2009.



This year's AJNPA Grand Champion is this 92cms female Showa bred by Yamatoya from Takeda broodstock.

Bought as a two year old by Fujiki-san from Saitama Prefecture and grown on by Yamatoya for four more years before being taken home by the owner. In 2007 she spent the summer in Maruju's mud pond in Mushi-game.

She was one of 5 Koi nominated for Grand Champion this year (she was also amongst the nominees in 2006 and 2008) eventually narrowly beating a Dainichi Kohaku into second place.

Information gleaned from Mike Snaden (Yume Koi) & Mark Gardner (niigata-nishikigoi.com) who also supplied the photo. More next month.

The relationship between scales and fukarin.

Diana Lynn Rehn

One of the most recent words I have had a fascination about is “Fukarin”...just what in the heck is it? How does it grow? What is it made of?

The simplest definition of Fukarin is that it is a layer of skin that grows underneath a scale and then wraps around the edges of a scale. I have heard it described as a sort of French manicure for koi!

In order to learn about Fukarin you need to learn about fish skin and scales! So, I did some research to end up learning more about Fukarin! Some of the articles I was reading made my eyes glaze over with the scientific stuff. Even scientists don't know everything about fish skin and scales. But they are trying to learn, especially as to the waterproofing attributes and the collagen producing capabilities. Who knows what they will discover in the future.

I am not an expert or a scientist, but I like to learn and share. I would like to share with you some of what I have learned in an easy to understand language. (Sorry, some scientific-type stuff is unavoidable.) This will help us all to understand such things as: how scales grow, where scales get their colour, what the purpose of scales are, what scales are made of, where fukarin develops and how it “wraps” a scale.

INTRODUCTION

First the basics: The skin of koi is in three layers, plus the cuticle. The layers are as follows:

Cuticle: The slime coat. Protects the koi from harmful bacteria and toxins in the water. Also protects the koi if handled by humans!

Epidermis: The outermost cellular layer. A very thin layer of about 4 to 20 cells thick. This layer contains cells that have mucous producing glands (Ah-ha...slime coat!). The epidural layer covers most of the scale.

Dermis: This layer contains the scales, the scale forming cells, pigment, blood vessels, and nerves.

Hypodermis: This is a very thin fatty layer between the other layers listed above and the actual muscle of the koi's body.

So, now on to a more in-depth examination of some of these layers:

CUTICLE

The cuticle is known as the slime-coat. This slime coat is much more than just icky slime! It contains antibodies, enzymes (antibacterial lysozymes) (includes some lysozymes that can destroy the cell walls of certain bacteria) and protein. Mr. Cover states it is “koi's first line of defence against water-borne irritants and parasites”. As with scales, it also assists in reducing the drag for a smoother flow of water over a koi's body.

EPIDERMIS

The Epidermis includes those mucus producing goblet cells that make up the cuticle, leukocytes, macrophages. The outermost epidermal cells can divide.

DERMIS

The Dermis has a lot going on. It includes the scale forming cells. These cells are individual and deep in the dermis layer. They “gather” together as they move towards the surface of the skin to form the individual scales. These scales start to gently turn towards the surface of the skin and emerge as scales.

A scale is a small, plate like outgrowth of the skin. There are four shapes of scales, but koi have a cycloid-type scale, (the word “cycloid” comes from the Greek “cyclo” meaning circle) a scale that is more or less circular with basically smooth edges. It has basically two layers:

Bony layer - framework impregnated with calcium based salts.

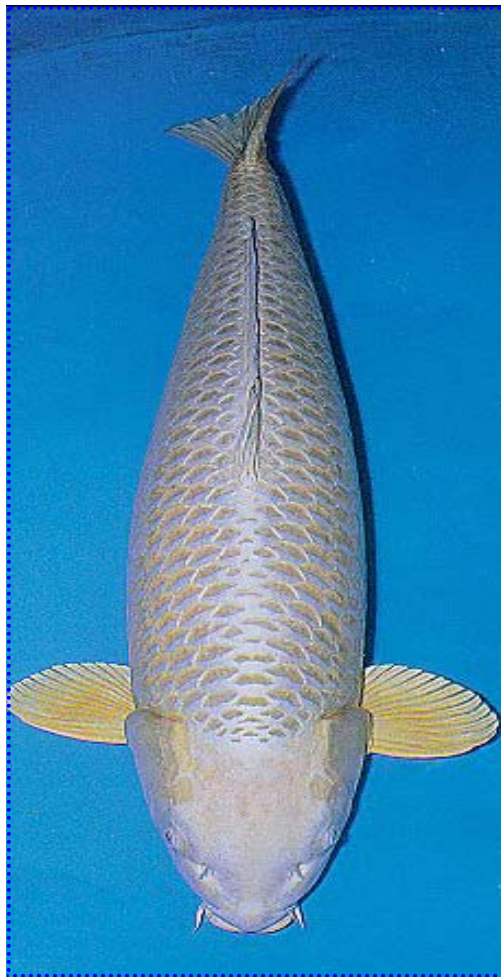
Fibrous layer-mainly made of collagen

However, collagen fibrils, fibroblasts, and a collagen matrix is involved in making the scale. Suffice it to say they all intertwine and make a strong structure that emerges as a scale. The epidermis and dermis produce collagen. The collagen matrix (the ladder and “frame” of the scale) is only made in the epidermis.

Scales grow in an overlapping formation, sort of like tiles on a roof, except there can be six or seven layers overlapping one scale. Scales overlap and are smooth so the fish can move while swimming. We only see about 20% of most scales.

The purpose of scales on a koi are numerous. However, the primary purpose is for external protection. They allow for smoother flow of water over a koi's body, reducing drag. It keeps the koi “water-proof”. The cycloid-type scale gives it flexibility as the scale can move (slide) over each other as the koi moves its body.

Scales continue to grow as a koi grows adding layers in a more-or-less circular pattern from the centre out, like the rings of growth of a tree. These growth rings are called circuli. The cooler months these circuli grow more slowly and closer together, leaving a ring called an annulus. These rings can be counted. However, numerous ring-layers can be added due to various factors which include: weather, health, water quality, nutrition, and more. So, one ring does not mean one year. Numerous rings can be added for each season.



In the above photo (from the KHA page, Koi Anatomy) the fukarin can be seen as the lighter white skin surrounding the scales which are yellowish or darker.

Some fish use their scales as a source of calcium in times of starvation or prespawning activity. I do not know if this is the case in koi. Some fish can reabsorb a scale.

The epidermis also has the colour storing cells, Chromatophores, for which we get the amazing variety of koi colours. Genetics, health, care, and feeding all affect the colour.

Chromatophores are cells that have granules that store pigment. If the cell stores:

- ~ black pigment (melanin) it is called a melanophore
- ~ yellow pigments, (carotenoids) a pteridine, it is called a xanthophores, which can include colours from pure yellow to pure red).
- ~ red pigments (a pteridine) it is called a erythrophore if the xanthophores is predominately red.
- ~ guanine or purine crystals (the iridescent or shimmering part of the scale) is called a iridophore. It does not produce pigment. What colour is reflected from that scale depends on the type of purine is in the chromatophore and how the crystals are arranged on the scale.
- ~ no pigment (clear is a colour!) it is called a leucophore.

All the above-listed pigment producing cells are located in the dermis layer.

As we all know, color-enhancing koi food contain carotenoids. A koi has the ability to retain these carotenoids throughout its life, but the intensity varies based on the quality, quantity, and type of carotenoids in that food. However, whether or not the koi does keep the intensity can be affected by its genetic predisposition to keep the intensity or even store the carotenoids. This greatly affects a koi's appearance!

There are actual hormones that play a role in stimulating the dispersion of pigment. These hormones are regulated and located in the pituitary and pineal glands. Scientists don't fully understand the correlation, but it has been shown that calcium is needed to bind the hormone to the colour producing cell. High calcium contents in these cells helps promote aggregation of colour. There are much deeper scientific things that are also involved, such as: enzymes, receptors, messengers, and on and on. I won't confuse you with these.

FUKARIN

So, now on to fukarin. As explained earlier, the dermis layer is the "skin" part where each scale develops. In fukarin the dermis layer grows beneath the scale, (grows up against the underside of the scale) and then continues to

grow and wrap around the external edges of the scale. This is known as fukarin. Fukarin is one sign of good genetics.

Fukarin is most clearly seen in Ogon and Asagi varieties, especially on the shoulder area. The pictures provided in this article clearly shows fukarin.

Seems like it took me a long time to get to fukarin, but you really needed background on the skin and scales to understand fukarin. I hope you enjoyed learning as much as I did. Next time, I think I will check into osmosis!

By no means am I an expert, so I had to rely on these sources for my information:

Koi Anatomy, by Spike Cover (Yeah Spike) as found on the AKCA website under the KHA learning information.

About Fishes, Fish Scales,
<http://www.austmus.gov.au>

Phase Contrast Image Microscopy, Ctenoid Fish Scale, <http://microscopyu.com>

Olympus Microscopy Resource Center, Differential Interference Contrast Image Gallery, Cycloid Fish Scale.
<http://www.olympusmicro.com>



See the fukarin on this Platinum Ogon. The white skin is growing from underneath the scale and wrapping around the silvery scales.

Fish Scales, Gordon's Fish Scale Page,
<http://www.earthlife.net>

New World Encyclopedia, Scale (Zoology)
Biology of Fish, Robert B. Moeller, Jr., DVM.
California Animal Health and Food Safety
Laboratory System, University of California

Pigment Granule Transport in Chromatophores, By Salley E. Nyquist and Kathryn Brady Toner, Dept. of Biology, Bucknell University
www.zoo.utoronto.ca

Skin Development in Bony Fish with particular emphasis on collagen deposition in the dermis of zebrafish, Int. J. Dev. Biol. 48: 217-231 (2004). www.ijdb.edu.es

Read away if you wish more scientific and other facts!

Diana Lynn Rehn is President of Inland Empire Water Garden & Koi Society, Spokane, WA., USA.

New pin discovery.



Discovered by Mike Harvey whilst in China. It's not a Koi club pin.

It's a pin representing the prefecture of Yamaguchi containing the symbol of the prefecture entwined with a golden carp.

Needless to say, Mike has one and I don't. Anybody rectifying this situation will earn my gratitude.

4th ZNA Guangdong (China) Chapter Show.

Mike Harvey.

Although it is said that koi came to Japan from China centuries ago, until recent times very little was known in the Western world about Nishikigoi in China. In fact it was only when I met Hongman Leung, the current Chairman of the ZNA Guangdong China Chapter in Holland in 2007 that I became aware of the extent of the hobby in the Peoples Republic of China.

When I was invited to judge at the 4th ZNA Guangdong China Chapter Nishikigoi Show to be held in Jiangmen over the weekend of 28-30 November 2009, I couldn't resist the opportunity to see and learn more about the hobby in this fascinating country. Jiangmen is just a three hour bus ride from Hong Kong, changing buses at the Mainland China border post. China is not a destination to travel around without someone who speaks both English and Chinese and I was fortunate to be met in Hong Kong by Maize Leung, Hongman's wife, who accompanied me to Jiangmen along with Mr. Sakai, the ZNA Certified Judge from Japan who was to be the Chief Judge at the show. Arriving at the Jiangmen Yucca Hotel, I was pleased to see the familiar face of Tony Price, a long time friend and a ZNA Local Certified Judge from the UK. By the end of the evening I had met all of the other Judges who had flown in from either Japan or Taiwan and had renewed friendships with some of the Judges from Taiwan whom I had met as far back as 1994.

The Koi Show is partly sponsored by the Provincial and local authorities and was held in conjunction with the 1st Jiangmen Agricultural Show. The Wuyi International Exhibition Centre is a huge site with the agricultural show being held outdoors and in adjacent buildings and the Koi Show in a large well lit indoor site. The 78 show vats were arranged in the centre of the site with the public restricted to the outer area of the show vats and the judges and assistants being able to move around the inner area unrestricted. Along the entire one side of the site there were koi dealers selling koi and pond equipment and the other main sponsor, Hikari having a large stand at one

end of the site. The Guangdong Chapter stand and the grand prize giving stand occupied the opposite side of the site.

After a short Judges briefing by Mr. Kao, who had the responsibility of running the Judging processes, we set about selecting candidates for the Grand Champion A, Reserve Grand Champion A, 3rd Champion A and the Jumbo Champion A. There were over 500 entries and a number of very large koi over 80 cm, with the largest being a Sanke of 95cm. But to me the koi that really stood out above the others was a Kohaku of just over 80 cm. It had a good body shape, the hi quality was absolutely superb and the white skin had a lustre that was faultless. Despite being somewhat smaller than the Sanke, the quality of the Kohaku was such that it took the top award ahead of a larger Sanke, whose skin and quality simply could not match that of the Kohaku. The Sanke became the Reserve Grand Champion and another 90+ cm Sanke won Jumbo Champion A. Before completing the major awards we were rushed off to the Opening Ceremony for the Agricultural and Koi Shows. Held outdoors with a huge stage and decorated magnificently, the ceremony was attended by a crowd of around 10,000 locals, with many speeches and closing off with fireworks and confetti raining down on us all.

We then returned to the show site and judged the major non-gosanke awards - an Ochiba Shigure of 90cm winning the Grand Champion B award. That evening we were the guests of Mr. Pan, the Chapter Vice President, who has what must be the largest array of koi ponds of any hobbyist I know of. As we looked into these ponds we realized that Mr. Pan had not entered his top koi onto the show - in fact the comment was made that we could have held a show at this venue just drawing entries from his own ponds - such was the quality and numbers of koi he has swimming around in these ponds. A wonderful dinner amongst friends at Mr. Pans private facility rounded off a

great first day in China.

The next day did not go off quite as well - with my good friend Tony Price not feeling well and putting on a brave face as we continued and completed the judging of the koi in their sizes and varieties. The quality of the koi on show and the organisation were excellent making for a very enjoyable judging experience. During the day we attended a luncheon for 500 guests at the Yucca Hotel. I was extremely honoured (and somewhat intimidated) to find myself seated at the main table alongside the various state dignitaries, few of whom spoke any English! But what amazing service - all 500 attendees were served a 4 course meal in just over an hour!

Both Tony and I were extremely fortunate to have two excellent interpreters with us throughout the Show. Peng Jing, a young Chinese student studying English at the local University did a superb job of translating for me throughout the show and Shirley, an employee of Hikari, translated for Tony and nursed him through his bad times. In fact Tony ended up in hospital that evening - a bad chest infection and flu which the doctor wanted treated in hospital. Hats off to Hongman, who spent that night in a bed alongside Tony, interpreting for the hospital staff and caring for Tony. Whoever said the role of a Chapter Chairman was easy! Despite little sleep Hongman was back at the show site the next day for the prize giving and finally debenching.

The Prize Giving was a grand affair, with a beautifully decorated stage, smartly dressed ladies to assist in the proceedings and a barrage of people with cameras recording the excitement of the entrants proudly receiving their awards. The SAKKS award went to a beautiful Kumonryu and the KwaZulu Natal Chapter award to an equally good Goshiki.

Before debenching, there were two events which were really in many ways unique. The first was a huge Koi Auction. Both dealers and hobbyists were able to auction

The Grand Champion.



koi (provided by breeders and dealers) were handed out free to all the children at the show. The queue for these was soon a hectic rush to get one of these bags before they ran out and the patience of Hongman, who was dishing them out, was pushed to the limit- but the delight on the faces of the children was enough for him to keep his cool.

Between all these events I found the time to wander through the various koi dealer stands. To my delight the quality of the koi on sale was very good- many of these being imported from breeders such as Momotaro, Dainichi and other to buy 3 of well known Japanese breeders. And all at very reasonable prices, even taking into account the weak South African Rand. With a truly successful show in every sense of the words now over, Hongman hosted a barbeque for the judges, sponsors and committee members at his home in Zhongshan, where I got to see his 10,000,000 litre mudpond, a feature in this 13,000 square metre garden and in which approximately 100 koi are kept. He also has a 180,000 litre concrete pond and some “smaller ponds” both at his home and adjoining his office premises!

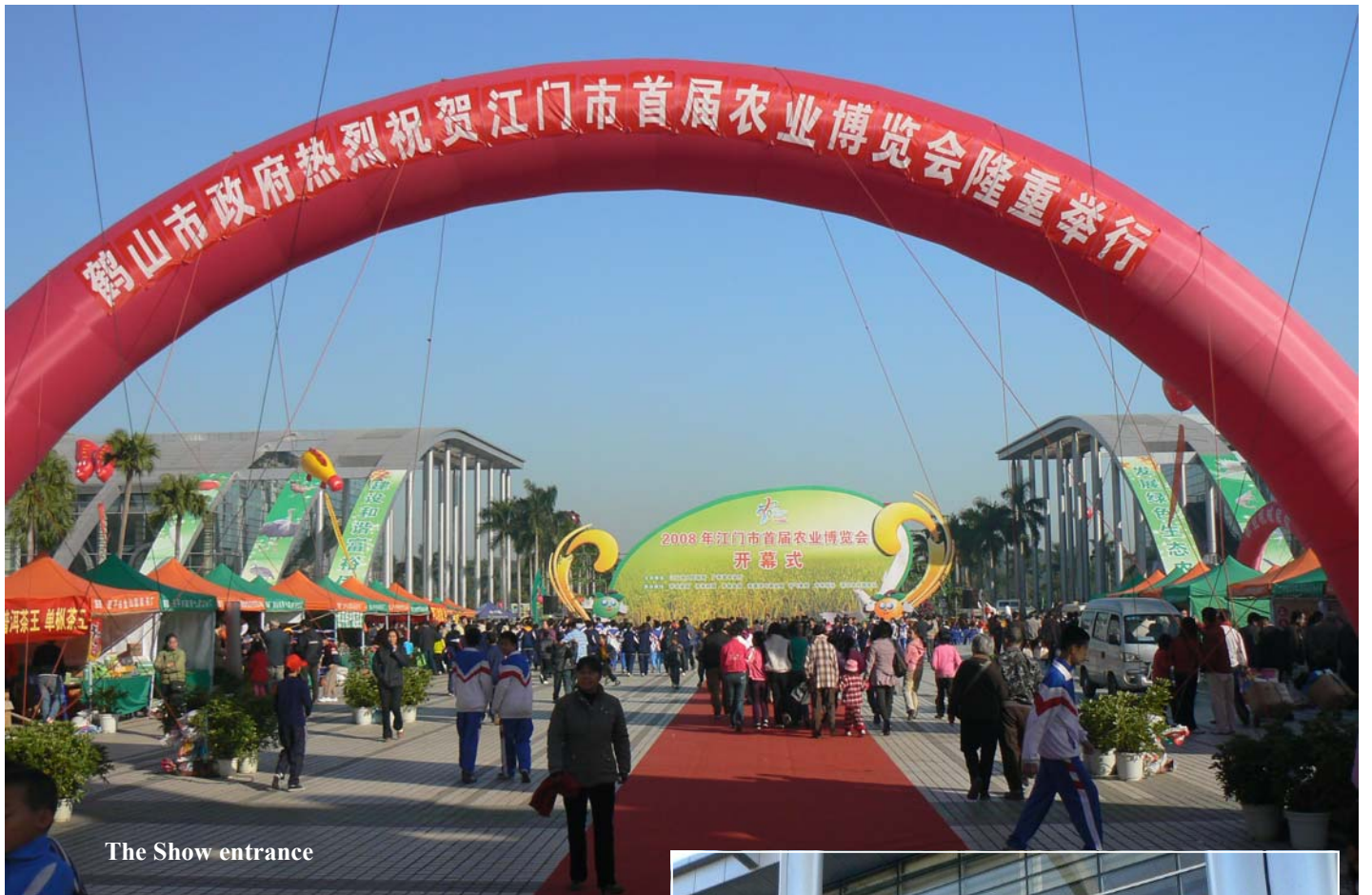
After the show Hongman and some members showed us around Guangdong, and later Shanghai, during which I got to meet some wonderful people and to see a number of dealers and local breeders.

At one dealer in Jiangmen I saw some superb Momotaro Sanke and Omosako Shiro Utsuri for sale – and wished I could have bought some myself. Hongman took the opportunity to buy 3 of these stunning Koi. Later at a koi farm in Shanghai, a breeder showed us some of the most beautiful breeding stock I have seen anywhere- from Torazo, Dainichi, Shintaro, Sakai, Isa – you just name the breeder. Unfortunately it was winter and there were few of the koi bred locally to be found in the ponds- but it just reminded me that the hobby (and business of breeding and dealing in koi) is very much alive and thriving in China. And there is no shortage of quality to be seen there either.

off koi at this event – with many of the koi that were on auction being taken from the show vats, placed in clear plastic bags (like those used during judging of the .

smaller koi at the All Japan Show) and auctioned off.

The second event was even more of a spectacle- hundreds of small bags of



The Show entrance



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Grand Champion B
89cms

To Hongman and Maize Leung, Mr. Pan and his partners, the members of the Guangdong Chapter and Jiangmen Koi Club, the owner of Hikari, China and Shirley, his assistant, Peng Jing (my translator), Mr. Tao Tao (a wonderful man who loves koi but isn't even a koi keeper) and Mr So, Chairman of the ZNA Shanghai Chapter, and everyone else who made my first trip to China an experience of a lifetime, my sincerest thanks to you all. Hongman and Maize, I know what tremendous effort went into organising both the koi show and the trips after it and thank you both once again.

Mike



SAKKS
Friendship
Trophy winner



The Judges and chief show officials

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Chu Ken Hachikō 忠犬ハチ公 – Hachikō the faithful dog.

Bernie Woollands



In 1999 in an effort to get more visitors to our Open Show I contacted a Japanese expats club in London and they duly published a pre-show article in their newsletter. That newsletter was titled Hachikō. During the discussions with the editor I learned that Hachikō was a dog that faithfully waited for the return of his master at a train station and had become a mascot to Japanese business commuters the world over. From the little I learned, the story was very similar to Scotland's 'Greyfriars Bobby' and Australia's 'Dog and tucker-bag'.

Well the anticipated flood of Japanese expats to our show didn't happen although a few turned up including the editor and her family. It was on this occasion that I learned that Nishikigoi are not as common in Japan as I first thought. Neither of the group had any knowledge of the variety or show class names although they obviously made sense when I pointed them out. Her teenage

daughter found it highly amusing that a bunch of westerners could bandy about Japanese words and phrases so nonchalantly.

At the time obtaining more details about Hachikō was difficult but thanks to internet search engines that is no longer the case. So finally, here is Hachikō's story.

Hachikō was an Akita and his owner Hidesaburo Ueno was a professor in the agriculture department at the University of Tokyo. Every day Ueno-San would walk to Shibuya Station with his dog. The dog would return home alone but return in the evening to meet the train and his master. This routine had begun in 1924 and in May 1925 the professor suffered a stroke at the university and died.

Hachikō, just two years old was given away after his master's death, but he would routinely escape and show up his old home. After a while, the dog realized that his mas-

ter no longer lived there and sought him out at the station, always turning up exactly at the time of train and waiting in vain. His owner's fellow commuters realized what was happening and regularly brought him food. The Station Master took pity on him and allowed him to sleep in a disused store-room when not awaiting the trains. Stories of his vigil became regular occurrences in the Japanese press bringing the Akita breed, in decline at the time, to the nation's attention and increasing its popularity. Hachikō kept up this vigil for 10 years before succumbing to old age.

In April 1934, a year before he died they erected a bronze statue of him at the station. Sadly the statue was recycled for the war effort, but in 1948 a society formed in his honour commissioned a replacement. Furthermore they chose the son of the original artist to re-create it. The new statue was erected in August that year and still stands there today even though the station has been modernised over the years. Today the exit where the statue stands is now officially known as the Hachikō exit and is a popular meeting place for the residents of Tokyo.

Hachikō continues to be honoured to this day on the 8th of April when dog lovers from all over Japan turn up for a ceremony at the station. Copies of the statue have been installed in the town where Ueno-San bought him, and at the entrance to the National Akita museum in Odate. His story has also been filmed on several occasions.



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Partners in goodwill.

This sentiment and it's logo were the product of Norman Call's (our representative in the Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society) imagination. It came about in an organic sort of way that has a lot to do with the relationship between our two clubs, our two countries and our hobby.

Our Spotlight newsletter had USA/UK logo that was getting a bit faded & jaded after years of photocopying etc. Knowing that Norm was a graphic designer I asked him to give it a makeover which he did. It has adorned our newsletter ever since. It was delivered in October 2001 at a time when the atrocities and the aftermath of 9/11 were still current news and fresh in peoples minds.

That month, we were invited to attend a fund raising 'Barn Dance' by the governors of the school where we hold our Koi shows. The school was at one time in its history (WWII) a training school for fire-fighters of the London Fire Brigade who still support the school, as we do now. I forget the details now, but the heroics of the New York City Fire Department were mentioned in relation to the dance.

As a gesture of support Teresa Lambert one of our members printed off Norm's logo, laminated them and produced brooches which we wore to the dance. I sent one to Norm, who is an avid pin collector, who in turn turned the concept into a pin. The logo next appeared on the OKWS' own newsletter "The Tall Fish Story" underlined with the sentiment - "Partners in goodwill" an ethic we have since adopted and spread. Our partners are now the OKWS, The NVN (Dutch Koi Society) and the KwaZulu Natal chapter of the South African Koi Society SAKKS.

Dates for your 2009 Diary.....

- Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society Koi Show. at **12-14th June** at Sherms Market, Roseburg, Oregon, USA. Currently waiting for the date of this one
- The KwaZulu Natal Chapter, hosting the SAKKS National **25th & 26th July** at the Gateway Theatre of Shopping, Umhlanga Rocks near Durban, South Africa.
- The 17th NVN Koi Show (The European National) **21st to 23rd August** at Kasteltuun, Arceen near Venlo, The Netherlands.
- The 23rd South East Open Show, **30th & 31st August** at Parkwood Hall School, Beachenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent, UK.

Working for an International Koi Community



About the South East Section.

The South East Section was founded in 1981 by a break away group from the London Section. It obtained Section status from the BKKS in 1982 and serves the counties of Kent, East Sussex, Surrey and Berkshire and the southern boroughs of London.

It's neighbouring Sections are the South Kent to the south, Essex to the North, Worthing to the west and the MSB (Middlesex & Surrey Borders) to the north-west.

The South East has a pretty stable membership generally numbering about 85 families.

Almost since it's founding the SouthEast has participated in information exchange with overseas Koi clubs and continues to do so today.

Our 'Open' show is both an attraction to the UK Koi scene as well as Koi keepers

Every year the show attracts an increasing number of overseas visitors and through them a number of useful connections have been made which enhances our appreciation and understanding of the hobby.



The show is always held on the August Public Holiday which generally falls on the last weekend of that month. Details can always be found on our web-site -

www.koi-clubs.com/SouthEast

The South East meets on every 4th Sunday of the month with the exception of December. Our meetings start at 2pm and we endeavour to have a speaker for 2 out of every 3 meetings. Those speakers generally cover Koi related subjects but occasionally we have one that diversifies a little e.g. Bonsai.

Our current membership fees are £15 per family and details as well as a schedule of speakers can be found on our web-site.

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And

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