

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 17
February 2008

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.**

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.

Water chemistry
...gets fruity see
pages 8 & 9!

Now in its
2nd Year!



February

2-3rd 39th ,AJNPA Show, Tokyo, **Japan**

8-10th, Greater Phoenix Koi Show, Arizona, **USA**.

16-17th, 21st Koi Club of San Diego Show, California, **USA**.

23-24th, 7th Tropical Koi Club of Florida Show, **USA**.



March

7-9th, Central Florida Koi Show, **USA**.

15-16th, 34th ZNA So Cal Show, **USA**.



April

4-6th, SAKKS Free State Chapter Koi Show, Bloemfontein, **South Africa**.

11-13th, 26th AJNPA Wakagoi Show, Ojiya, Niigata, **Japan**.

19-20th, Interkoi 2008 (KLAN) Koi Show, Rheinburg, **Germany**.

20th, Australian Koi Association (AKA) Koi Show, Sydney, **Australia**.



May

3-4th, 1st All Asia Koi Show, **Singapore**.

18th, 31st Koi Society of Australia (KSA) Koi Show, Sydney, **Australia**.

17-18th, SAKKS National, Randburg nr Johannesburg, **South Africa**.

17-18th, Brazilian ZNA Chapter Koi Show, Sao Paulo, **Brazil**.

25-26th South Hants BKKS Koi Show, Waterlooville, Hampshire, **UK**

30-31st, East Pennine BKKS Koi Show, Elsecar nr Barnsley, Yorks, **UK**



June

7-8th, Worthing BKKS Koi Show, Patching, Worthing, **UK**.

14-15th, 2nd Belgian Koi@Home Show, Hasselt, **Belgium**.

14-15th, OKWS Koi Show, Roseburg, Oregon, **USA**.

14-15th, 4th Pioneer Valley Koi Show, Springfield, MA, **USA**.

21- 22nd, NorthMidWest ZNA Koi Show, Indianapolis, IN, **USA**.

28-29th, BKKS National, Newark Show-ground, Newark, **UK**



July

19-20th, KwaZuluNatal Chapter, SAKKS Koi Show, nr Durban, **South Africa**.

19-20th, Essex BKKS Koi Show, Avely, Essex, **UK**.

26-27th, North of England ZNA Koi Show, Rotherham, Yorks, **UK**



August

2-3rd, Upper Midwest Koi Show, Minneapolis, Minnesota, **USA**.

16-17th, North East Koi Club Open Show, Gateshead, **UK**.

15-17th, 16th NVN Koi Dagen, Kasteltuun, Arcen, **The Netherlands**

25-25th, 21st South East Koi Show, Swanley, Kent, **UK**.



September

5-7th, Southern Koi Expo, Winston, Salem, North Carolina, **USA**.

12-14th, ZNA Potomac Koi Show, Vienna, Virginia, **USA**.

12-14th, MAKC Koi Show, Westminster, Maryland, **USA**.

27-28th, Birmingham & West Midlands BKKS Closed Show, Stourbridge, Kidderminster, **UK**



October

10-12th, Festival of Fishkeeping Koi Show, Hayling Island, Hampshire, **UK**.



November

TBD, All Japan ZNA Show, Ojiya Japan, **Japan**. Date to be confirmed

More details can be found on www.koi-clubs.com/SouthEast under the News_Events page.

This site is updated regularly as and when information is made available.

If your show isn't there then it won't be here. So remember to let us know in time for next year.

Advice to travellers - if they don't have a show - Don't Go!



North Idaho Koi Keepers
present
Connections Through Koi

Red Lion Templin's Hotel On the River
Post Falls, Idaho



24th ANNUAL PNKCA CONVENTION
September 12-14, 2008

For more Information
www.pnkca.com
www.northidahokoikeepers.com
or contact
Greg Linnebach—linneb@bigplanet.com
Dan Olson—danolson@pterna.net



Happy to include this as I think the graphic is cool! Ed

Christian Girimoux was a French Canadian that was based in the UK from 2003 - 05 where through the Koi forum KoiChat.com we made friends.

Sadly I only learned of his demise in November 2007. He had died in a car accident in early September shortly after making his yearly pilgrimage to the South East Koi Show.

This article was written by Chris for the SouthEast's newsletter "Spotlight" back in 2004 at the height of the early KHV scares.

Hi, I was born in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in 1956. As you might guess from my name I am from French Canadian stock, although one of my paternal great-grandparents was born in Stepney. My grandfather uprooted my part of the family from the province of Quebec and moved us out to BC after returning from the 2nd world war. My grandfather and his siblings had been involved in family business of fish farming (since 1909), and the majority of my cousins back in Quebec still are.

As a kid, my grandfather would take me back to the folks in Quebec for my annual school holidays and as a result I grew up with a fascination for fish, which manifested itself in goldfish, tropical fish and eventually koi. When the offer of a transfer to the UK came along I was glad to come to the Mecca of Koi in the western hemisphere, and during my acclimatisation week when I was supposed to be house-hunting, I took a couple of days off to visit Infiltration and a couple of other Koi establishments.

Thanks to a Koi Bulletin Board called Koichat.com I met up with Bern Woollands amongst a few others and feel I have settled in to this country, building up a small koi collection on the way. Just recently there have been a number of very speculative and quite scandalous messages being posted about KHV which I have replied to whenever I felt I could add something. That's when Bern asked me to write it all down. I also got a lecture on how to write it, so if you don't like my style, blame him.

Let me say that I have had no experience of KHV personally, neither am I a fish biologist or do I have any qualifications or experience in the fisheries industry beyond those as a youngster. But I do have numerous relatives who earn their livelihood from it, some of whom are highly qualified and many more are vastly experienced. Within seconds of the Girimoux clan meeting the talk turns to Salmon & Trout husbandry.

The Salmon & Trout industry has been threatened by a number of so called fish-plagues for as long as I can remember. They seem to appear every couple of years or so and along with them came the equally serious threat of Government intervention in the form of bans and preventative methods. Some of these measures were considered more of a threat to my folks' livelihood than the current fish plague. As a result my family and hundreds like them picked up an understanding of how these things spread and how they can be controlled.

One of the notions that I have seen on the web is that the virus can be passed from one fish to the other just by sharing the same water. Going along with that is the theory that after an outbreak, the pond has to be stripped down and sterilized. One recent posting even suggested that Lake Kasumigaura has to be emptied and sterilized too. If that were true then most of the Great Lakes, the St Lawrence Seaway and all the major river systems in Eastern and Western Canada would have had to have the same treatment over the years. You had better include both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans too, as we are talking Salmon an ocean going species here. No, the fact of the matter is, no host, no virus. As a recent article in your magazine has said, a virus needs a particular cell to replicate with. That cell is very species dependant; it also requires that cell to be in a particularly receptive state, e.g. stressed. This fact is not only the explanation for how the virus replicates but also the explanation for how some fish survive and others don't.

Back in the mid 70's there was a popular misconception in the Canadian fish farms that other species spread bacterial and viral problems between the farms. An early culprit was seen to be a species of minnow that thrived around the farms feeding off the food that escaped from the pens. Various methods were used to try and control them, until somebody pointed out that the deep water pens floating in the middle of the lake were equally vulner-

able and yet there were no minnows out there as they only favoured the shore and shallow water. The next suspected culprits were the predatory pike and bass that hunted around the pens picking off any escapees. I guess its human nature to try and blame something outside of your control, rather than consider that you are doing something wrong. But eventually, thanks to some extensive, but not totally conclusive research by the scientific agencies of the Fisheries Commission a number of best practices were introduced that have reduced the occurrences of the various viruses that beset the Canadian fish industry.

One such practise was the cessation of the practise of feeding chum-salmon to food fish. Chum-salmon is basically dead salmon minced up. Nobody actually proved at the time that this was the cause of the outbreaks but recent data from the Foot & Mouth outbreaks back it up. Another practise was the regular sterilisation of nets. Nets were believed to be one of the major causes in the transmission of these viruses.

The nets in question are far more rugged than the ones we use for our koi, full of knots and made of a thick, robust, synthetic twine, which is actually quite abrasive. Fish coming into contact with it got an unintentional mucus scrape that could intermingle with that of another fish. If you've ever seen the feeding frenzy in some of these pens its quite easy to see how fish could pass a virus from one to another by such close physical contact. This brings me back to the chum-salmon. Most salmon die after spawning and those carcasses were once used by farmers as a cheap source of food on their farms. Spawning involves close physical contact too. If viruses were present they had an ideal opportunity to find new hosts.

Those nets I mention are still in use, but the population density in the pens has been reduced to combat the stress of close confinement and the incidents of contact.

Back in 1983 I was vacationing with my folks, the last big long vacation on the farms before starting college and then eventually working for a living. At the time there were still outbreaks of a Trout plague troubling one of the lakes I was working on with an ancient great uncle. I expressed concern that the trouble could be coming back to which he replied "No - it's going away, it's in the hands of Mother Nature and she'll always win-out".

He then explained how these things occurred showing a great understanding of the fishes of the lake and how their lives intertwined with the fish farmers, something that I'd never seen written down in any the papers written at the time. His reaction to me suggesting that he did so was met with a curt brush off -

“What for? – It’s just common sense. Everybody on the lake knows that”.

Unc’s explanation about the way the disease got spread contradicted a lot of popular theories at the time. But from observations made since over a heck of time, they stand the test of time. Once such theory was that escaped fish spread the disease to the wild population. Unc blew this one out of the water by pointing out that escaped fish never go far from the pens. Instead of rushing off to enjoy their freedom they hang around the nets where the only source of food they know appears on time every day. The wild population pick up the contamination because they come to the pens to scavenge on the escaped food. If as to prove a point I saw a large wild rainbow push against the net of the pen to get at the food fed to the salmon. Trout and Salmon are closely related species, whether or not they were close enough to pass the virus on wasn’t known, but it was immaterial. That same wild rainbow could have easily chosen pens containing farmed trout. Who was spreading what to who was still up for debate, but Unc was certain it was the farmed fish that were the culprits. He based his theory on his observations that the plagues in the wild fish waxed and waned, while in the farmed fish it was constant. Occasionally wipe outs of

lake fish would be found, generally around spawning time (stress and close contact) but otherwise they’d be fine. Unc’s explanation was that sick fish die and take the disease with them. As more fish get sick and die the survivors have more room and become isolated. The more isolated the population the less the likelihood of cross infection. The isolated populations with the disease will die out, and those without it will thrive. Things will get back to normal as nature takes a hand, until such times as the population exceeds its critical mass and then nature will intervene. Before the fish farms this would take the guise of hunger as the fish outstrip their food source, or an increase in predators etc. With the coming of the farms, un-natural sources of food come readily available and thereby increases the sequence of these events. “Would the plagues one day kill off all the trout?” I asked, “No boy” came his reply, “Nature is about survival, and Nature will always win”.

This is borne out today when a viral outbreak occurs and there are always survivors.

Are they immune? – no one knows yet. How did they survive? – Their cells weren’t receptive to the virus. If stress is a major cause could this be why varieties like Chagoi sometimes survive, you don’t get more placid fish than them. Does this make them carriers? – possibly, there is always the risk that a survivor could be a carrier, but there is an equal chance that the virus has died with the last mortality and your system is clear, as

yet nobody know what those odds are.

But before anyone runs off with the idea that killing off Chagois will rid the world of potential virus carriers remember that you’d be better off eliminating stress. And that at the end of the day is what good koi-keeping is all about.

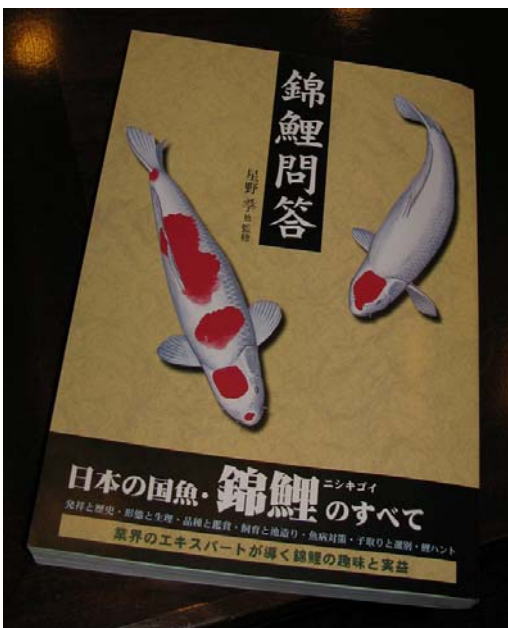
The only certainty is that the only guaranteed virus free koi is a dead one because at the moment the only way to determine the presence of this virus is by PCR test during an autopsy. Does this recent outbreak in Japan mean the end of our hobby? - No. Nature is the side of good koi keeping practises.

Happy koi keeping to you all. Looking forward to your 2004 koi show, the best all round in my opinion.

PCR Testing.

At the time of this article being written the only known test for KHV was the PCR test. Since then the ELISA test has appeared which can be carried out on live fish.

Nishikigoi Mondo



This book, currently only available in Japanese is the work of Fujita San of Rinko fame.

It is currently being translated into English by the **INPC** (International Nishikigoi Promotion Centre) in Niigata where Mark Gardner (**NTV**) is assisting with the validation of the literal translation being undertaken by translator Aika Watanabe.

Nishikigoi Mondo = Questions & Answers is divided into 12 chapters and each chapter further divided into sections where each is a recording of a q&a session.

The information covers the origin of Nishikigoi, up to the development of the hobby and includes many fascinating facts from Japan’s history as well as dates.

Chapters currently nearing translation completion are titled :-

Chapter 1 - Keeping Nishikigoi

Chapter 2 - The roots of Nishikigoi

Chapter 3 - Morphology & Physiology of Nishikigoi.

Chapter 4 - Ecology & Lifecycle in a year of Nishikigoi.

When complete, distribution will be through **INPC**

www.japan-nishikigoi.org

I predict a certain Mrs Jordan will have no problem choosing a birthday present for husband Ray this year !

英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

Do not be bowed by the crowd. Belief and Endeavour are the best companions for a boy from nowhere. Micheal Coogan. 1966

To understand the story of 'Matsunosuke the horse' we must go back many years to the first time I met Toshio Sakai. I had arranged to meet Peter Waddington and some of his clients at the 'Isawa Nishikigoi Centre, then travel back to Yamakoshi with them. It was my first ever visit to Japan.

The walk from the railway station, to the Isawa Nishikigoi Centre will always remain in my memory. Swimming in the drains that carry the run-off water from the springs and mountains contained some of the best Koi I had ever seen, Sanke's, Showa, Yamabuki, Kigoi, Aka Matsuba, it seemed that every variety one could think of were just swimming in a few inches of water.



Koi in the ditches.

I was totally baffled that Koi of this standard would just be left in the drains, I could not fathom why these koi had not been retrieved, either sold or added to some enthusiasts collection.

The answer lay within the confines of the Isawa Nishikigoi Centre. A few moments after entering that Koi shrine, I realised that everything I knew about Koi could be balanced on a pinhead. You have never seen an Elephant till you have stood beside one.

All the pictures in all the books cannot prepare you for the impact, magnificent real life high grade 90 centimetre plus Koi, posing in a bowl can have.

This diminutive Japanese figure with a shuffling gait, who I later learned was Toshio Sakai, was ferrying these enormous Kohaku in

transparent bags backwards and forwards from concrete pond to bowl for inspection by a contingent of Japanese buyers. Huge Sanke's of nearly a metre started to be bowled, he must have lifted over 25 Koi in a show that by any standards was astonishing. The Japanese concluded their Business and left.

There I was alone with the great koi guru, he started to lift smaller Koi into bowls and so started the first of countless teaching sessions I have enjoyed with the master. Peter Waddington the walking encyclopaedia of Koi breeders arrived with some clients, I spent the rest of the day and the next morning in a wonderland where all the large koi were better than any I had ever seen, in the company of two icons, two men who at the end of life's bumpy road could look back for a final glance and truly say, "I made a difference." We travelled to Yamagoshi in the bongo, a beat up people carrier that Peter had been using for years, and what the bongo lacked in refinements was more than compensated by the warmth and hilarity of its occupants.

In Yamagoshi I was a starving man invited to a feast. I simply could not satisfy my hunger, and although I had never seen them before, I felt an instant affinity for the mountains. For some strange reason a part of me felt I was coming home.

Later in the week Toshio Sakai was returning to his home village of Mushigame to harvest some tategoi nissai. He met us by the side of the mud pond, in his hands he had some waders, he gave them to me to put on. He took me into the mud pond, showed me how to pull the net, how to walk in the presence of Koi and how to lift Koi from the water. To date I have harvested thousands of Koi from his mud ponds, I have been honoured to have lifted some of the best Koi ever to have been produced. He is a remarkable man and one who would have succeeded in any sphere, he is a trained and very accomplished chef, the culinary worlds loss is our gain.

I always felt a sense of disappointment as the light faded and we had to leave the mountains for the hotel, so you can imagine my delight when Shintaro invited us to stay with his family in Mushigame, the centre of the Koi world. It meant I could be up at first light, out and into the Koi houses. It is also the best time to progress along the journey, with many breeders' having time to talk and teach. None more so than Toshio Sakai. I have often been with him, in his brother's house, sat

cross-legged on the floor at quarter to seven in the morning, with pencil and paper discussing various attributes of koi or in his Koi facility beside the Mushitaki valley, with Koi of various ages bowled in order for me to witness the development of great koi.

Peter Waddington said to me that it was eight years before the great man would speak to him and 12 years before he would ever let him touch a fish and yet he had led me into that mud pond on my first ever visit to Japan. I like to think that in me he saw a kindred spirit, someone who had suffered for his chosen profession, he wasn't always the international Koi superstar he is today, many berated him for changing the shape of nishikigoi.

At 17 I had jumped down off a difficult horse and began leading him towards the furthest point from his home, in order that when I turned him round he was more likely to gallop towards the stable than away from it. In those days this was seen as the utmost act of cowardice, cowardice in the face of the enemy, had I been in the army I would have been shot.

Despite numerous calls from the trainer and head lad to get back on and fight the horse like a man. I continued to walk towards the edge of Newmarket. The horse was in a cycle of violence, each day he would stop and refuse to go any further, each day he was beaten into submission, each week, as his tolerance to the pain increased he had to have more of a hiding to get him to co-operate, it was an era when the cane ruled at school, the belt ruled the house and the whip ruled the horse. "Spare the rod and spoil the child." awful sayings that thank God are rarely heard today.

Almost every trainer had a savage horse in his stable, an animal that given the chance would kneel on you and try to rip open your stomach, many had two chains to tether them to the wall, often they would have to be exercised with a net around their mouths to protect the grooms. Pain and violence were often the only tools to encourage compliance. I often look back and wonder what might have happened if my theory had not worked and the horse not flown back down



The old guard had difficulty speaking to me for months, they were confused and unsure. The horse: his character changed, violence never played a part in his life after that, he went on to win major races, bringing prosperity to the stable. The last 40 years has seen many more difficult horses come my way. I have been lucky and had some remarkable success. It gives me great satisfaction that techniques and products developed by me are used universally and that no longer do we see violence used as a method of control. Savage horses, mouth nets, and double chains tethers, are confined to racing's history book of the dark ages.

I take great pleasure in empowering others, giving them encouragement and space to grow. I have taught my son Ryan from an infant to spot racehorses with potential, he likes nothing more than to sit amongst the bidders at Newmarket Tattersalls Sales, looking for unfashionable gems. There is no relationship between price and ability. He used to cut an amusing figure as a young boy bidding a few hundred pounds for horses that would often end up selling for hundreds of thousands, but every now and again he would bid for one that the experts had written off, he would phone me from the sales to come and pick the horse up. To date he has bought several diamonds for coppers, proving that if you're talented enough you are old enough.

Several years ago he bought an in-foal mare for £800, she gave birth the following spring to a colt, he galloped and frolicked in the paddocks, I thought he would make up into a fine racehorse.

Toshio Sakai came to visit me and was captivated by the foal, spending quiet moments staring across the paddock watching the foal play. He was smitten by the bay colt. I decided that for all the time he'd spent teaching and patiently leading me along the journey, for all the Koi he'd given me, for the kindness he showed me and for letting me handle some of the best Koi ever to have been born. I named the horse 'Matsunosuke' in his honour.

Today the rags to riches story continues, he has won eight races, over £60,000 in prize money, he has given us and his army of adoring Koi fans, both here and Japan immense pleasure, in true 'Matsunosuke' style as time goes by he appears to be getting better.

One of Toshio Sakai's favourite English phrases is "Never give up." an attitude which has seen him become the King of Koi.

Matsunosuke the horse never gives up, with his mother they cost less than two weeks lodgings for many of his rivals, he is the horse from nowhere, a diamond from the dirt, he is a champion for the ordinary man. All most of his rivals see of him as they flashed past the winning post..... is his Tail.



Matsunosuke (with Mum) at 2 days old.

Two melons, and an orange....

Syd Mitchell

Two Honeydew melons and an Orange added to One Cherry and two more Oranges is the same as two Honeydew melons, one Cherry and three Oranges. It's true, count them. Don't worry where I am going with this yet. For the moment just play along. Read the first sentence again and count

the fruit.




PLUS EQUALS

I'll make it a little easier and use abbreviations. H stands for Honeydew melon, O stands for Orange, C stands for Cherry.

Two H's and an O added to a C and two more O's equals two H's a C and three O's

I'll make it even easier by leaving out some of the unnecessary words: -

2 H and O plus C and 2 O = 2 H and C and 3 O



PLUS EQUALS

If you don't understand, read it again. You only need to be able to count. If you are sure you did understand, then read on.

If you have got this far, then congratulations! You are now ready to take the next step towards realising that chemistry is not complicated. Understanding chemical equations is just as simple as adding up different types of fruit.


But why did I choose such a devious way to get you to read this far? With respectful apologies to those who already have some knowledge of chemistry, a great many Koi keepers think that what I do for a living is complicated. When I am asked questions about water chemistry, it is often difficult to give the answer because many will "switch off" at the first mention of chemical equations. By substituting letters as abbreviations for fruit, I have used a simple example to show what happens when fish respire and "breathe" Carbon Dioxide into pond water. Well almost. Bear with me just a moment longer.

Two Oranges, 2O, looks very much like the number 20. So to avoid confusion, chemists like to put the numbers after the abbreviation and also make them slightly smaller. So, 2 H's would become H₂, and 2 O's becomes O₂ and so on.

Also H doesn't only stand for Honeydew melon. In chemistry it is Hydrogen. O is Oxygen and C is Carbon.

So, to explain what happens when fish "breathe" Carbon Dioxide into water, we would say: -

H₂O + CO₂ = H₂CO₃



PLUS EQUALS

(WATER) (CARBON DIOXIDE) (CARBONIC ACID)

Nothing has vanished, nothing has been magically created, we have just shuffled the original atoms from one group into another.

So now I have shown that chemistry is as simple as counting different types of fruit and then shuffling them around, I can get to the point of the question that I was asked, and if you keep in mind that we are doing nothing more complicated than shuffling 2 Honeydew melons a Cherry and 3 Oranges then you can easily understand the answer.

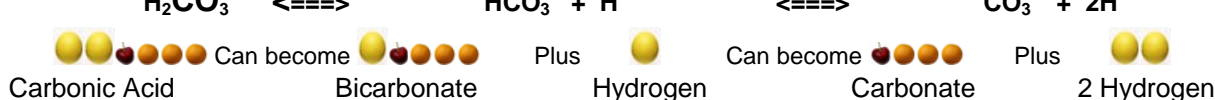
Sodium Bicarbonate has the chemical formula NaHCO₃. To keep it nice and simple, we can forget about the Na, (it's only a bit of Sodium and it is not relevant in this case). We will just concentrate on the Bicarbonate part of it, HCO₃. (A Honeydew melon, a Cherry and 3 Oranges which we will combine with another Honeydew melon).

The symbol <====> is just a Chemist's way of saying "can change into or change back again" and also you can ignore the little + and - signs after the letters, that's too complicated for now.

And now the question. How does Sodium Bicarbonate prevent sudden changes in the pH of pond water?

Carbonates have a tendency to form different compounds with Hydrogen, and, dependent on the pH, the proportions of these compounds compared to each other will change.

H₂CO₃ <====> HCO₃⁻ + H⁺ <====> CO₃⁻⁻ + 2H⁺⁺



Can become Plus Can become Plus

Carbonic Acid Bicarbonate Hydrogen Carbonate 2 Hydrogen

Remember, this is not complicated, just count the fruit, and follow how the H⁺'s move back and forth.

In the equation above, as the pH tries to rise, Carbonic Acid (on the left) will dissociate, first into Bicarbonate and one H⁺ ion (in the middle), or further into Carbonate and two H⁺ ions (on the right). Dissociate is just a Chemist's way of saying, split up. As it dissociates towards the right, it releases, first one, then a second H⁺ ion. Since pH is the ratio between H⁺ and OH⁻ ions, what is happening is that as the pH tries to rise, more and more H⁺ ions are released into the water. These will reduce the value of the pH back to what it was before it began to rise.

If the pH begins to fall, the reverse happens. Carbonate (on the right) will grab hold of, first one, then a second H⁺ ion as it changes to Bicarbonate then to Carbonic Acid (on the left). This reduces the number of H⁺ ions and so will increase the value of the pH back to what it was before it began to fall.

Chemicals that try to keep the pH at a particular value are called "buffers". There is a natural "balance point" on the pH scale where Sodium Bicarbonate does not release any H⁺ ions nor does it absorb any. This is approximately 8.4 pH and so Sodium Bicarbonate is called a buffer with a preferred value of 8.4.

So, how does this stabilise the pH?

When we add Bicarbonate to our ponds, we are starting this equation in the middle. It can go either to the left and resist a fall in pH or it can go to the right and resist a rise in pH.

If we add Bicarbonate when the pond is below 8.4 pH, the equation moves to the left and H⁺ ions are absorbed. This makes the water more alkaline. If there is sufficient Bicarbonate, it will continue to do this until the pH is 8.4 when the process will stop.

If we add Bicarbonate when the pond is above 8.4 pH, the equation moves to the right, and H⁺ ions are released. This makes the water more acidic. As above, if there is sufficient Bicarbonate, it will continue to do this until the pH is 8.4 when the process will stop.

Why bother?

To give a complete answer to this would involve chemical equations far more complex than the ones above, and they could not be simplified by imagining shuffling around just six pieces of fruit. But briefly, Koi will adapt to any reasonable value of pH provided it is fairly stable. The best value is in the range of 7.0 to 8.5 and it should not vary by more than 0.5 per day. The most common pH problem that Koi have to face is a "pH crash". Biological filtration has a tendency to reduce the pH, and a pH crash will be caused if there is not sufficient Carbonate in the water. Keeping the value of Carbonates (KH) at between 90 and 150 p.p.m. is a sure way of avoiding this situation. Sodium Bicarbonate is cheap, easily available and you cannot "overdose" a pond and shift the pH out of the acceptable range. Just ensure that you add it a little at a time so that the pH does not change too quickly. Small amounts will shift the pH towards 8.4. A larger amount will shift the pH to 8.4 and will keep it there.



Syd Mitchell ISPE

Syd, a member of the Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers designs and installs equipment to control water quality in swimming pools. A hobbyist for many years but a recent recruit to the South East Section, Syd is often found on the Koi forums discussing water chemistry. He freely admits "it turns him on".

www.theyamakoshiyear.com

Follow the progress of Mark Gardner (NTV) as he records the trials and tribulations of his year in the Yamakoshi heartland of Nishikigoi production via his specially commissioned website

www.theyamakoshiyear.com From his base in an apartment in Ojiya City, Mark is documenting the life and times of the Nishikigoi breeders throughout the duration of his stay. Mark departed the UK on the 27th December 2007 and apart from a short holiday home during our summer he will remain out there until Dec 23rd 2008.

His daily blog has so far acquainted readers with the reality of a gaign setting up in this region, as well as a regular weather spot. We all learn very early on that this region is famed for it's snow but now we are aquatinted with how much, how often and what kind! Mark admits that the Koi content is very sparse at the moment but that is about to change. As I am composing

the final paragraphs of this month's issue of Hotspot, Mark is heading for Tokyo for the All Japan Combined Show. We look forward to his excellent photos very shortly.



Congratulations.



The South East Section have a long, ongoing connection with a UK dealership called **Koi Water Barn**. A company that was started by one of our early members John Pitham. On his demise his Son Tony took over the business and shortly after the Section struck up a partnership with the KwaZuluNatal chapter of SAKKS, Tony expanded his business interests in the same area. Obviously, we were destined to share the same set of friends and when Tony decided to get married out there, our contacts were there to record the happy event proving that there is no escape from

the clutches of this Section.

"Tony and Saya Pitham, of Koi Waterbarn recently tied the knot in a beautiful setting amongst the indigenous forest of the Zimbali Country Club, just north of Durban, South Africa. Sharing their special moment were many family and friends from the UK, Canada and South Africa. In fact, as one would have expected from someone so intimately involved in the world of koi, Tony's best men were his friend and koi pond builder from the UK, Darren Metalli and another friend and business partner, Allen Roets of Edeni Koi Farm in South Africa. There were also many local South African Koi Dealers and hobbyists there to wish the couple well. Tony and Saya are currently building a house, and of course a large koi pond, in Zimbali and will be spending a few months a year enjoying the South African sunshine when their new home is completed in mid 2008. "

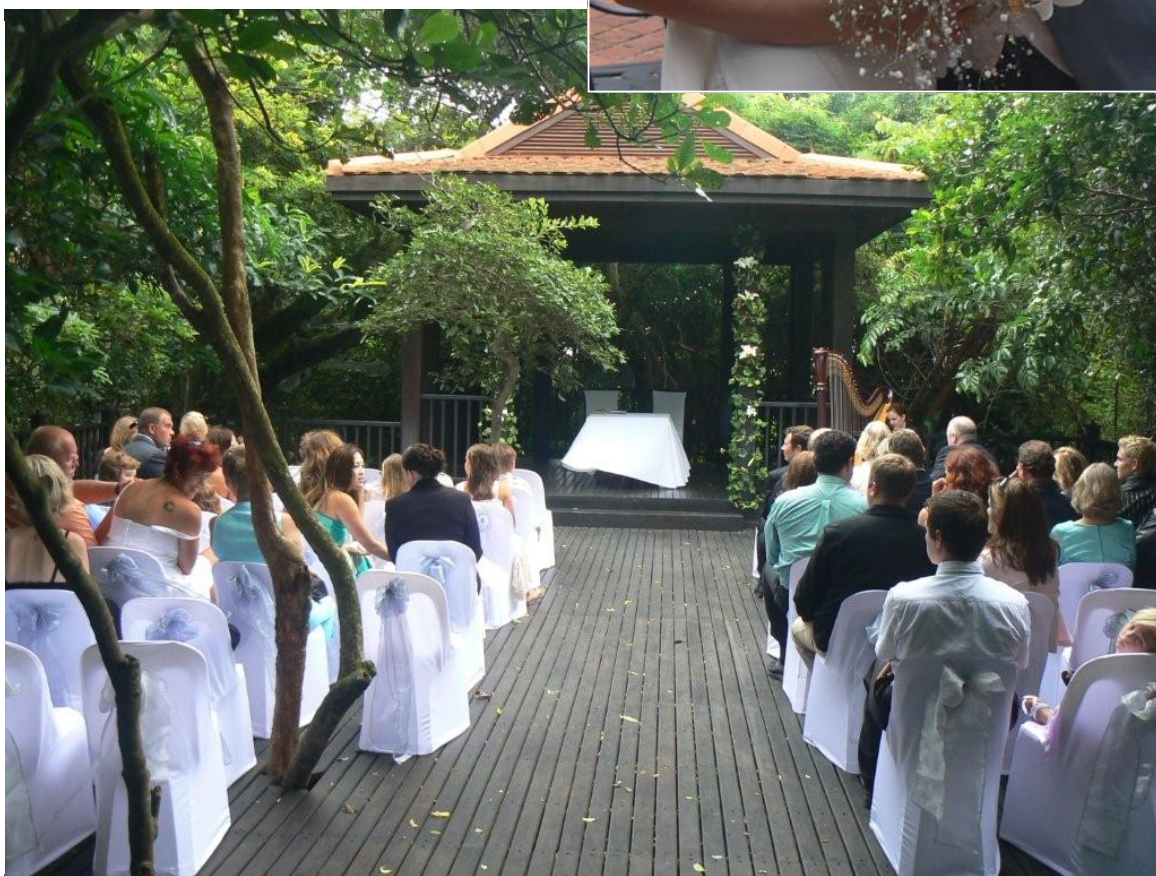
Mike Harvey



Just in case anybody thought we gone overly sentimental - there are other Koi connections.

Best Man Darren Metalli was the owner of the South East's Grand Champion in 2002 with an Ogawa Sanke that was supplied by non other than the Koi Water Barn.

The 'John Pitham Trophy' is awarded annually to a South East member for services to the section.



A KISS from Syd Mitchell.

Syd's articles have proved popular with the Section and will soon be a feature of the South East's web-site.

Under the title of "Keeping It Simple with Syd" he will supply other water quality articles in similar formats to the one on P8 & 9.

There will also be more intense articles either written by or recommended by Syd.



For a hobby that prides itself on the saying "Koi keepers are water keepers first and fish keepers second" we feel there isn't enough readily available information in this field. KISS' aim is to begin to redress that.

Ladies (?) welcome....



Koi Carp has a new Assistant Editor

Introducing David Lewis.



"As a youngster I remember sitting by the pond and watching koi for hours on end. I was totally fascinated by the way they glided through the water, their size and the amazing colours and patterns that they displayed.

"I have always wanted to take a hobby, something I am really passionate about, and turn it into a career." Sparsholt College was a natural choice for David and after two years studying for his National Diploma in Ornamental Fish Management, and work experience at Koi Water Barn and Cuttlebrook Koi Farm, he knew that he had made the right choice; koi was going to be his future.

After Sparsholt, David was determined to work on a Japanese koi farm. "I sent a few

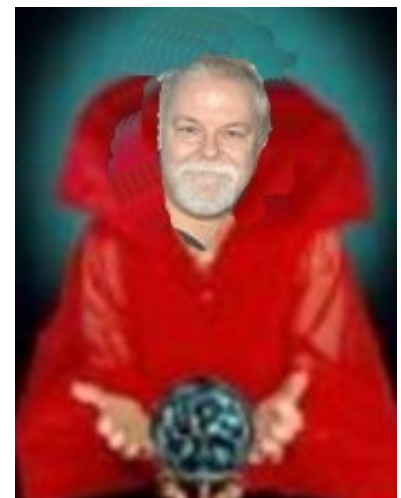
emails to Japanese koi breeders not really expecting too much. A couple of days later I had a voice mail from Kentaro Sakai of Sakai Fish Farm, Hiroshima, arguably the world's leading producer of high grade koi carp.

"I learnt more about koi in the year I spent working with Kentaro Sakai at Sakai Fish Farm, than I had ever done in previous years. It was an experience I will never forget and one that I am truly grateful to have been given.

"I am filled with excitement as I look forward to the new challenge that lies ahead. Koi Carp is a great magazine that has inspired thousands of hobbyists and I hope that through the magazine I will be able to continue to inspire hobbyists in the UK, meet some of you and look forward to the new experiences to come."



Mystic Jim's 2008 prediction.



My prediction? In the year 2008, a Japanese breeder of little known reputation will create a purple and yellow koi ! And in classic Japanese translation to English will try and market the new variety as grapon peepongoi which translates roughly to 'grapes of pee'. You heard it here first!

James P Reilly
Stolen from the NI board.

Free PC wallpapers

NTV
Nishikigoi.TV



Visit
www.theyamakoshiyear.com/desktops/
to download.

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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英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部