



The Prairieland Splash

PKPS MEETING 9:00 AM June 12th, 2010

**Our Hosts: John and Mary Hoehne, located,
312 E. Eller Drive, East Peoria, ILL.**

DIRECTIONS:

Coming from E. Peoria or Peoria, take Metamora exit to Rt 116. Turn left off 116 at access road #15 to Far Hills Dr. Take next possible right on Eller Dr. From Metamora on 116 go through Germantown to access road #15 and turn right onto Far Hills Dr. The house is set back from the street. Park along Eller or Field Drive. If raining it will be held in the basement

PKPS has been asked to have a booth as such at the Heart of Illinois Fair this year. It will be in the Flori-Cultivator building running the entire length of the Fair, from July 9th to the 17th.

For the last two weeks the Board has been designing and building a portable Pond for the event. We have it built in my back yard and going to tear it down, rebuild it at the fair. I'm asking for volunteers to help us.

CLUB DUES WERE DUE IN APRIL,
only \$20.00
Please give cash/check to our Treasure or send to:

JEAN CLARKE
6934 N. St. Mary Rd
PEORIA, IL 61614



**MEMBERS:
IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT PAID THIS MONTH
(DUE IN APRIL)
YOU WILL DROPPED FROM THE ROLES!!!!**

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Special points of interest:

- Always bring your lawn chairs to the meetings.
- Perhaps a pen and paper to jot down notes.
- Membership dues are due
- Tid-Bits of info article.
- Membership Meetings for 2010

Inside this issue:

Pond/water Feature of the month-General Maintenance 2

Through The Fish Eye 3

Tid— Bits of Info Memorial Day and what it means 4

PKPS Meeting Locations 5

Cover 6

7

8

Pond / Water Feature's

GENERAL MAINTENANCE TIPS

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Much of the hassle of pond maintenance can be lessened simply by having appropriate tools and equipment on hand. Here is a brief list:

- Water test kit (ammonia, nitrite, and pH) (chlorine test, if necessary)
- Fish net, for netting out fish
- Fine-meshed leaf skimmer, for removing floating debris or particulate matter from the pond bottom
- Pond vacuum, siphon or battery-operated, for removing sediment from pond bottom
- Five-gallon bucket, for holding fish or plants or dissolving bacteria

- Scrub brush, for cleaning pump and pond as needed
- Bottle brush, for twirling out filamentous algae
- Five–10 gallon aquarium, filter optional, to be used as a hospital or quarantine tank
- Air pump and air stone, for supplying supplemental aeration to pond or hospital tank
- Commercial dechlorinator or sodium thiosulfate, if water is chlorinated
- One pound of non-iodized salt, for fish treatments in the hospital tank
- Ammo Chips™ or zeolite, for emergency treatment of ammonia in pond, filter, or hospital tank
- Mercurochrome, for treating fish wounds
- Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), for killing destructive insect larvae
- Spray bottle, for mixing soap and oil in aphid treatment
- Plant fertilizer, either aquatic plant tablets or liquid
- Floating pellet or stick fish food
- Long-handled snipping or pruning shears, for trimming dying leaves in the pond from the outside
- Pond repair kit, for repairing punctures
- Dry-form nitrifying bacteria, for adding to filter or pond to jump-start, increase, or to replace bacteria as needed
- Strong, adjustable hose nozzle, for cleaning plants and spraying water into the pond
- Plastic bags, for collecting debris from the pond

THROUGH THE FISH EYE

Research By Ron Kramer

The Koi fish belong to the common carp species *Cyprinus Carpio*. The origin of Koi fish is from Caspian and black seas of Eastern Asia. They are very similar to goldfish and also breaded very similarly. Koi fish are grown for ornamental reasons. The breeding of Koi fish first became popular among rice farmers of Japan. Fascinated by the beauty of these species at the exhibition at Tokyo, these species are exported to all the parts of the world. The price of the fish depends on the beauty and the quality.

Koi fish differ in their colors, patterns and scales. They are available in different colors including white, black, blue, red, yellow, and cream and the combinations. New hybrid varieties of Koi fish are developed by Japanese breeders. Based on the color combinations and patterns of scaling, Koi fish have been named as Ghost Koi, Butterfly Koi, Go-shiki, Kohaku, Taisho Sanshoku, and much more.

Koi fish breed well in ponds that are at least 1.5 meters deep as these fish are cold-water fish. The warm climate is very suitable for the fish. During winter, the depth of the pond ensures that the water does not freeze as a solid. The attractive colors of Koi are their disadvantage too as its predators like cats, kingfisher also get attracted to the pond. Hence ponds should be developed in places such that it is difficult for these animals to invade. It is advisable to grow shady trees to block the view of the fish eating animals.

Koi are omnivorous and they eat algae, lettuce, peas and so on. They eat very little in winter. When the temperature is too low, they should not be feed with protein as it may cause digestive problems. The breeders enjoy Koi fish because these species have a special ability

to find the person who is regularly providing food. Koi can live up to 40 years if breaded properly. They can grow up to 39 inches in length.

Koi fish reproduce through the spawning method where the female Koi lays a large number of eggs which are fertilized by one or more male Koi. Even though the parents are carefully chosen by the intelligent breeder, the resulting fry may have unimaginable color combinations. A number of fry may be defective or ugly which are destroyed by the breeder at various stages. With a careful investigation, a breeder with a good knowledge will be able to breed Koi fish of different qualities.

It is a pleasure to breed Koi fish as they are very friendly and relieve stress. Three grades of Koi are popular: Pond grade— they are cheap and are bread by water gardeners, Ornamental grade—they are also inexpensive and they have attractive colors that decorate the place, Show grade— they are expensive and brightly colored and shiny mainly bread for showcasing.

The Koi are priced based on their size. But it cannot be said that the biggest size cost more. Generally, the size of the Koi depends on the size of the pond, food, temperature and oxygen supplies in the pond. The symmetric body also determines the price of the Koi.

Breeding Koi fish is essentially a hobby. They are human friendly and they can even be trained to eat the food from your hands. But you have to take proper care of them. If you don't provide healthy food they will become sick. Most of the health problems are associated with stomach of Koi. You need to watch out the health regularly and seek the advice of the experts to aid your Koi to live long. The

oldest one is about 230 years old. Before buying your favorite Koi check for any infections or parasite disease. If your Koi is healthy, then surely you and your friends will enjoy playing and watching these species.

- The oldest Koi on record was 226 years old. Most Koi live to be around 35.
- They can grow at an optimum rate of 1 inch per month. The bigger the Koi the more it is prized and expensive it is. Some can reach 3 feet in length.
- Many Koi can be hand fed and trained to come to greet their owners.
- Koi raised in cold climates will hibernate during winter and can go months without food.
- As long as the pond is deeper than 2 feet, raccoons can't reach the Koi.
- Koi fish can lay thousands of eggs in a single breeding.
- The survival rate of baby Koi is about 50%.* You can easily tell the sexes apart on most Koi. Females tend to have rounder bodies and smaller fins, while males are sleeker with larger, pointier fins.





TID—BITS OF INFO

QUOTES FROM THE Peoria Journal Star

Research by Ron Kramer

MEMORIAL DAY, WHAT IT MEANS FOR OTHERS:

By Robert link

This year on Memorial Day, I'm honoring my Mom and all moms who had to be both Dad and Mom to their families after their soldier fell.

MEMORIES OF FALLEN SON

By Brenda Desilets

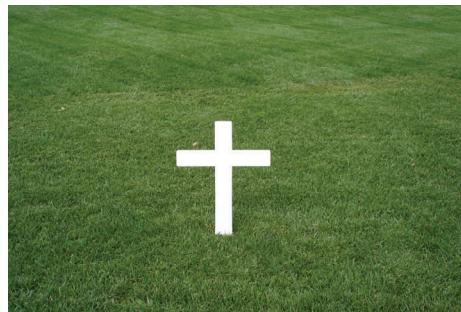
Memorial Day is a day to remember those who have gone before us and those who have given theirs for our freedoms. It is a day that I remember my son, who gave his life in Iraq.

May 22, 2007

My thoughts are: The Men and Women who fell believed in our country as I do. I would never want to live anywhere else on Earth!

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Ron Kramer



MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT

By Joyce Micheletti

Memorial Day to me means honoring and paying due respect to all military servicemen, alive and deceased who have served this great country so we can enjoy the freedoms we have.



REFLECT ON THE TRUE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY

By Joseph Hajny

Over the years, the true meaning of Memorial day has been lost. Memorial day is a day set aside for those soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Male and Female soldiers in war time and in peace time have given their lives so that we may enjoy our freedom.



GREATEST HEROES

By Bridgette Gray Angelo

Flavia has a quote which states, "The world knows little of its greatest heroes." Memorial Day means honoring those "unsung heroes".



PKPS MEETING LOCATIONS AND SPEAKERS**2010 PKPS CLUB MEETINGS**

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC
February 13, 2010	CANCER CENTER	DOUG HOLMES-ZOO	FROGS
March 13, 2010	SUNTERRA	HEATHER HUGHES	LIGHTING
April 10, 2010	KULLSCAPE	LISA	WATER PLANTS
May 08, 2010	STEVE & KATHY WAKEMAN	GARY WARD	BEES
June 12, 2010	HOEHNE	STEVE TORDOFF	BONSAI
July 10, 2010	VINCE & BRENDA SMITH	GINNY GIBBS--ICC	PERENNIALS/FLOWERING SHRUBS
August 14, 2010	SCHATSIEK	LARRY ZEHR	KOI
September 11, 2010	LARRY & KAREN DICKERSON	BUS TRIP????	BUS TRIP????
October 9, 2010	PEORIA CANCER CENTER	YVONNE HALL	ORCHIDS
November 13, 2010	BANQUET	N/A	N/A



Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

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We're on the web!!!

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It's All For the Hobby



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