

JANUARY 2018

KHA Korner – Show Time

We are so close to the annual show I thought I would give it some of my personal thoughts for this month's article. You know it is the one thing our club does each year to advance the hobby amongst ourselves and the general public, which is where our membership comes from. It is the major KCSD event that each member should consider giving a little of their time to help complete this really fun event, for your time is truly needed in sharing the multitude of tasks that have to be completed. As in most types of clubs a few members carry the majority of the load and from time to time some key members can just get burned out. Our annual koi show is that kind of event, but with the help of a larger part of the general membership it's just more koi fun for everyone. You do not need to be a koi expert to assist in many of the tasks and it's downright enjoyable and hobby educational for all KCSD members. I get to look at hundreds of koi (show entrants and vendor), talk koi stuff (koi and pond) **non-stop** for three and a half days – just a piece of heaven for me HA HA. And, I always go away very tired but thankfully smarter about koi hobby related stuff. So call the show chairman/see him at the February club meeting and pick a few hours or a day or the entire weekend and come have some koi fun with your fellow KCSD members. If you are a koi hobbyist you owe it to yourself, so see ya at our 31st Annual KCSD Koi Show. Oh, and maybe take in the Spring Home Garden Show or Gem Faire Show that's there at the fairgrounds the same weekend.

I always like to encourage KCSD members to consider entering their koi in the show and what an experience it is; it's just another way to support the club and the hobby. Most of us are not competing for the major awards (13 Champions) but there are lots of awards for Best in Size (18 total) and Best in Class (20 total) to be had by anybody and don't forget the Novice category awards for first time show entrants – you can even buy koi from the vendors and add them to your show tank on Friday evening. I know a club member who got a show tank and just put 7 small koi (under 12 inches) all bought from the show floor vendors and six of the seven won awards. Time after time I hear our and other koi club members say how much they enjoyed bringing their koi for the first time to a koi show – me included.

It's NOT all that hard. So, go look at your koi, think of the few you would bring if you decided to register for the show. Look up the registration form on our club web page. Estimate the size of your koi on the fish load work sheet, if you don't know the koi classification there is a 'not classified' block at the bottom and do the simple math at the bottom – if your total is less than a 100 points then you only need one show tank, and you may have room to buy a koi at the show. Complete the cover sheet and I can speak from experience that the awards banquet is just a lot of fun and koi-items raffle – not the stuffy event you might expect.

Yes, you will need to net your koi and put them in a bag or transfer tank and transport them to the show on Friday afternoon or evening. Get help from friends or other koi club members and if only a couple koi from each member share a tank at the show that is OK if you are alright with that idea.

Some general ideas to think about:

If you don't have plastic bags – you can buy them at the February meeting.

Don't forget you need good heavy rubber bands, included if you buy your bags from the club.

I suggest one koi over 16 inches per bag.

I suggest 2 koi for 10 to 15 inches per large bag.

I suggest 4 to 5 per large bag for 6 to 9 inch koi. No Koi under 6 inches.

This is with oxygen added to each bag, but if you don't have oxygen then not so many koi per bag and DO NOT blow air from your mouth; just quickly close the bag to get some air trapped in the bag and transport the koi covered in the dark. I've been known to add a little (couple caps full) of whatever de-chlor you're using for your water changes to the bag to bind the ammonia expressed by the koi on the way to the show. Should be fine for up to a couple hours with our expected cooler water temps for that time of year and when you arrive at the show advise the check-in desk that your koi do not have oxygen in the bag.

Don't feed your koi for 4 or 5 days before the show.

There have been several articles written in the Koi USA magazine about prepping and taking koi to a show and are all well worth reading. As always more left unsaid on this subject than provided here, but hope to give you some things to consider and SEE YA AT THE SHOW!!

Yes, this is mostly a repeat article from a year ago.

r/koi jack