

# ZNA Potomac News

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Goshiki

## Presidents Message

Dear ZNA Potomac members:

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your President. I will try to live up to the high standards of this club and will try to have meetings that are informative and educational. We are going to try and get a newsletter out to you by the first of each month, so you can plan for the upcoming activities.

We had a nice and informative meeting in September at Jim and Carolina North's home. We were not able to get the newsletter out, so not many members knew about the meeting. We did post the information to the new web site: [www.znapotomac.org](http://www.znapotomac.org). Jim arranged for Richard Carlson to be the guest speaker on the topic of "Winter and your pond." Mr. Carlson has agreed to do his presentation again at another meeting. We have photos on the new web site, of the meetings, ponds, and koi treatment. Please check out the web site for schedules and photos of activities. Jim North is our web master and

has done an excellent job.

We are beginning to receive emails through the web site, so I will be looking for volunteers to form a committee to help address questions and requests for assistance from potential club members. The web site provides us much greater visibility in the community and will benefit us and other hobbyists with a more diverse exchange of information and lessons learned. Please step up and assist you fellow hobbyists. We need members from Maryland and Virginia.

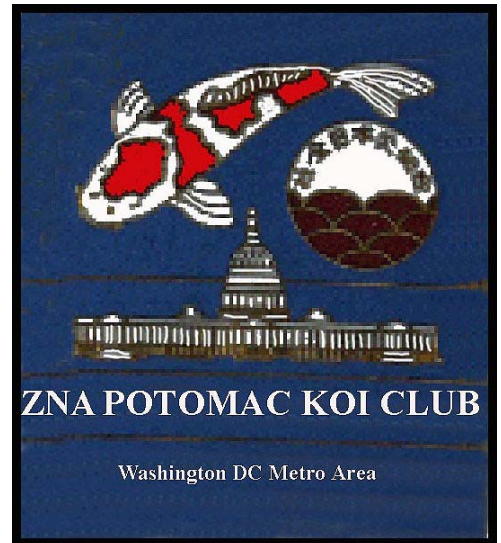
Next meeting is 10/22/06 and will be a Pond Tour hosted by some of our members. We will start the day at 2:00 at Vienna Aquarium. After allowing time to ensure that everyone has arrived we will proceed to the first pond. We will basically caravan to the ponds and end up at Meadowlark

Gardens. We would like everyone to bring their favorite finger food to share at the Gardens. I will provide water and sodas. Meadowlark is one of several places I have been in contact with as possibilities for next years show.

I am currently the Show Chairman, however, this is not and never has been a "One Man Show," I need assistance in the planning and executing of the Show plan. Volunteer now and help where you would like to help.

Together we make a difference,

Mike Frady



**Next Meeting/ Pond Tour October 22!!! See page 6 for more details**

## How to Kill Your Fish With DDT

By Tamsie Pierce

It's not as quick as it sounds. Dereliction, Disease. Toxins.

Dereliction, first. And we all fall into this category. We are in a rush to get the pond in the ground, we cut a few corners, one of which is not coming to the Koi Club meetings before we start the pond. After all, the Koi Club is for people who have fish in a Koi pond, isn't it? Well, not really. The mission of the Koi Club is to educate people about Koi and the hobby of koi keeping. And that means showing off private koi ponds. There are no koi keepers in this hobby who have built their pond and sat back with a sigh and said, "Gee. It's too big." Or, even a couple of years later, "Gee, it's just right." Everyone says, "Darn! It should have been bigger!" Everyone.

So size of the pond falls under dereliction, and right along with size comes the actual design and construction of the pond. We try to cut a few little corners. Using 2 1/2 inch drain pipes instead of 3 inch or, better, 4 inch lines. We use right angled elbows from Home Depot for the pipes instead of the smoothed curves we should have used to make the water flow smoother and with less friction. Those other angled elbows are less easy to find. We got lazy and anxious to be finished.

And filter falls under dereliction, we seldom get a filter large enough to handle the fish load. And by fish load the pond keeper needs to consider the fish load in the middle of summer when everyone is eating four times a day, and the fish load when the same fish are a year or two or five older and have quadrupled in size.

Dereliction also means in the spring when the filter is just starting to awaken from its long winter drowsiness. The fish have woken up first and are filling the water with all sorts of waste products. The filter is not yet ready to deal with all that waste. The water has not warmed enough.

Dereliction continues when that less than perfect water weakens the fish and leads to disease. And there is the biggest part of dereliction- when you see signs of disease, you must treat it immediately. Not on Saturday when time is convenient, but now. On Monday evening. By Saturday your prize kohaku may be too far

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gone and everyone else infected. Don't slip "unprepared" under the Dereliction category. Have your medications on hand so you can treat on Monday evening without a run to the pharmacy.

But on we move to the second D. Disease.

Disease is scary. There are so many different diseases that can affect our koi, it is hard, sometimes to know what is happening. A good microscope and some inquisitiveness can go a long way to helping. So can the dedication to enrolling in the Koi Health Advisory Classes and becoming a certified KHA Advisor.

Aeromonis is one of the most common diseases. Called "Hole in the side", it is a bacteria that literally creates ulcers, holes in the sides of the fish. When you feed your fish be sure to stand and observe the, and by doing so you will catch the first signs of Aeromonis- a reddening on the skin, or a scrape or, particularly on the belly, a literal hole. If the fish is still eating you can feed medicated food. Or you can catch and inject the fish with an antibiotic. When you use antibiotic, however, just remember what the doctor prescribes for you - a two week dose of oral pills, or several days of the shots.

Aeromonis is present in all ponds, manifests on different fish in different ways, and frequently shows up in the spring when the fish are weakest and the filter still least efficient. Outbreaks are common when you introduce new fish, the new fish having a new strain of the aeromonis that the existing collection of koi are already immune to.

Aeromonis does not tend to attack the gills. If you catch your fish and look at their gills, you will see healthy blood red, fresh liver colored gills. For Gill Disease and KHV, however, you will find something quite different.

Gill Disease swept through the koi community almost a decade ago. It manifested by literally rotting out the gills. The fish hung around the waterfall where the oxygen was the richest and then turned belly up with no other signs of disease on them. It was spread fish to fish, and many of our koi keepers who had

**Continued on next page DDT**

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### DDT- Continued

dutifully "inoculated" their ponds against the newer strains of aeromonis by putting a new fish in each year, found they had just doomed their fish.

The newest disease to strike is KHV- Koi Herpes Virus, and it manifests completely differently. Gills are mottled white and pink, loosing their efficiency. The skin literally sloughs off. This is not the slime coat shredding or the scales protruding like pine cone a symptom of internalized aeromonis, but the skin rather shreds off. The fish's eyes are sunken and, of course, it becomes listless, not hungry. At this time there is no cure. If the fish is not too far along, isolating it and raising the temperature to 75 and above will help the fish survive. But the disease is spread fish to fish and an infected fish is always a carrier even if it does not die. Rather like Typhoid Mary or the Europeans who brought Small Pox as a gift to the native Americans when they landed.

Under disease I shall also lump parasites, visible little ineffective critters. Gill flukes. Anchor Worms. A good thick slime coat helps your fish. And a good thick slime coat comes from good nutrition and good water quality. Both of those go back to the D of dereliction. You can treat the pond with some types of bug killers to do in the parasites, but use caution. In California the best of these treatments is banned because the chemical kills invertebrate life. Pesky snails and, when the water is drained from the pond, earthworms and beneficial insects.

Which leads us to Toxins. The chemicals to kill the parasites are toxins. Some can be sued in massive doses without injuring the fish. Others must be carefully measured and handled. There is the classic story of a conscientious koi keeper who wanted to treat his pond with potassium permanganate. He slipped the decimal point one place when he did his figuring of dosage and killed his whole pond. Know your pond gallonage. Know exactly what the dosage ought to be and double check your numbers.

Toxins come from everywhere. From chemicals you deliberately put in your pond to knock down the snail population. From the salt percentage you add to stimulate slime coat and retard the algae growth. From using copper

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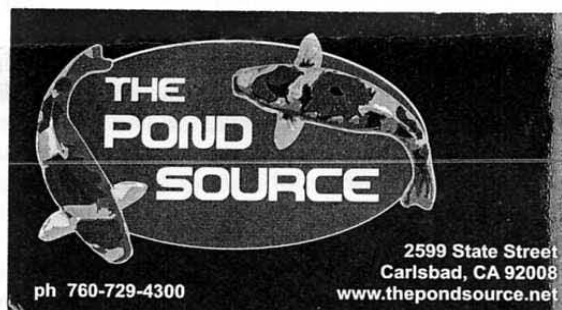
piping in the pond instead of plastic.

And from the things you inadvertently put into the pond or you neighbor does for you.

Everyone tests their pond. Nitrites. Nitrates, pH. Ammonia. Everyone knows what is safe and what is not. Or they should. You should be testing your pond regularly, especially when you stand to observe your fish and someone is not acting quite right. Hanging under the water fall. Lying on the bottom instead of dashing to the surface to grab at the food. But there are things your normal test kits cannot test for, poisons that might drift in when your neighbor sprays his fruit trees. That the heron tracks in from another pond.

Try to be aware of the Toxin potential. And realize that a fish die off is not necessarily due to disease or poor design, but could also be something you have (or have not) protected against.

So remember that it is easy to kill your fish with DDT. Dereliction (carelessness). Disease (illness). Toxins (Poisons).



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## Can Water lilies be more than salad for Koi?

By Tamsie Pierce

We all have a vision of a soothing pond with peaceful koi and lovely blooming water lilies. Most of the koi art work we have seen combines the two. Koi are the pigs of the fish world. They will eat almost anything and love to root in the mud and muck in the bottom of your pond. Like their cousins the goldfish, koi push among the detritus on the bottom of the pond, picking up loose rocks, mouthing them, and spitting them back out. When you add Water lilies you have added the soil around the lily roots for them to investigate in their search for left over food, tasty grubs or just plain exploration. The koi are not trying to eat the roots and shoots, the plant material simply gets in the way.

There are many ways of protecting the tender growth. One is to layer the soil of the lily pot with large smooth river rocks. The plant comes up among the rocks, the rocks are too large for the fish to move. Everyone is happy. Or most of us are happy until the koi grow large enough to move the rocks. And there are large koi in a large pond who determinedly have moved rocks 8-10 inches in diameter.

Another solution is to create a koi barrier by encasing the lily in its own little fence around the pot. This I have seen work very well -- depending on the height of the water and, again, the determination of the koi. The owner confided to me that the koi would chase food through and over the fence and then get trapped within the plastic netting. With a high water level the fish will be fine. If the water level should vary, as mine does, the koi could drown in the air.

Probably the best solution is to create a water lily pond fed by the water in the pond, but with a berm or wall between it and the koi pond. More like a bog garden than a lily pond. The lilies are rooted in soil, have plenty of room to spread their leaves over the wall and into the pond, and the wall of the area keeps the fish out.

Lilies like shallower water than the ideal koi pond. Most lilies are happy in 18" of water.

**Continued on next page- Lilies**

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## Lilies Continued

Deeper and it warms more slowly. If you decide to install water lilies in a deeper pond, you can elevate the plant on a series of concrete blocks (which work as a buffer for the pH) or even use the all plastic milk cases. The storage boxes with the open work of milk cases tend to float with no plants on them. Stood on their side they provide shelter for the koi and protection from predators.

Which brings us to one of the big benefits of water lilies in the pond, which is predator and sun protection. The spread of the leaves shades the water, moderating the temperatures in the summer and providing hiding places for the koi.

Most water lilies prefer still water to moving water, mostly because of the agitation to the leaves and stems in the current. Some lilies tolerate water fall splash, and some do not. As with any plant you often do not know what is going to work until you have bought the plant and planted it in the garden. Water lilies come in two major categories. Hardy and tropicals. Hardy are just what the name implies, hardy. Here in San Diego they will over winter with little or no protection from the cold, simply because we don't get cold enough.

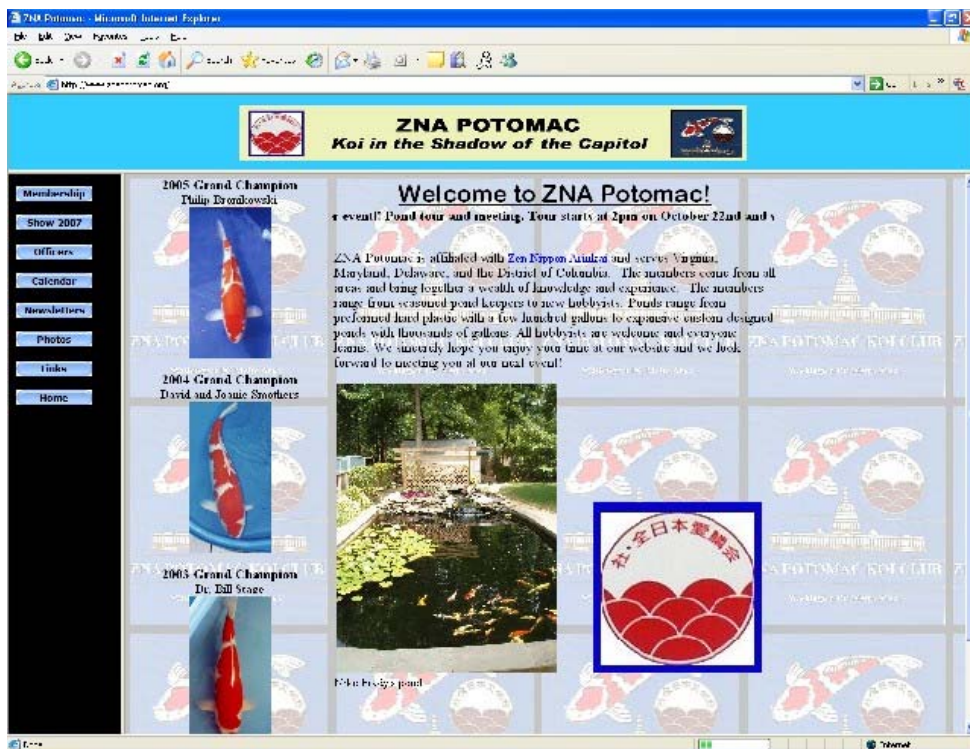
Tropical Lilies, on the other hand, are great candidates for San Diego, but most of them need a winter a little warmer than we have. In the winter hardies die back to the rhizome with a few ratty looking leaves still above the surface. Tropicals die back completely to a hard little corm to sprout out again in the spring. I have found koi and hardies to work well, but the leaves, both new growth and older established leaves, on tropicals are much thinner, more tender and more easily damaged by the koi. If the koi food floats in among the lily leaves, the koi nibble on the leaves searching for the food. Tropical leaves are more easily damaged than hardies.

Water lilies have a reputation of being exotic, beautiful and difficult to maintain. So do koi. You've kept koi successfully, now you can think about water lilies - whether in the pond or in separate tubs.

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## ZNA Potomac Website now online!!!

I am pleased to announce that the club website is now online. It can be found at <http://www.znapotomac.org>. On this you will be able to view the club calendar to see what events are upcoming. We have the officer information listed. Back issues of the newsletter are available in pdf format from the newsletter link. Our links section has links to many of the other important koi related websites as well as link to our websites sponsors. The best part of the site will be our photos section. In this section we will have photos of all our members ponds and koi that wish to participate. This section will feature pictures of all our events including meetings and shows. We already have two members ponds listed and event photos from the last two ZNA Potomac meetings.



I need all of the members help with the photos section. Being new to the club I do not have many photos of past events or photos of members ponds. You can help by emailing photos and descriptions of the past events to me at [jnorth@znapotomac.org](mailto:jnorth@znapotomac.org). If you would like your pond and koi featured please email me the information to the right and several photos of your pond and koi. I will pick 3 photos for our website. One will be of the pond and the other two of the koi. If you have multiple ponds then please fill out the information for each pond and we will use 3 photos per pond. If you would like your pond featured but do not have a digital camera then please email me and I will try to set up a time when I can come over and photograph it for you.

With your help we can make this a fantastic club website!!!

Jim North



**Bio**

**Keeping koi since:**  
**Introduction to koi:**  
**Favorite Variety:**  
**Why:**

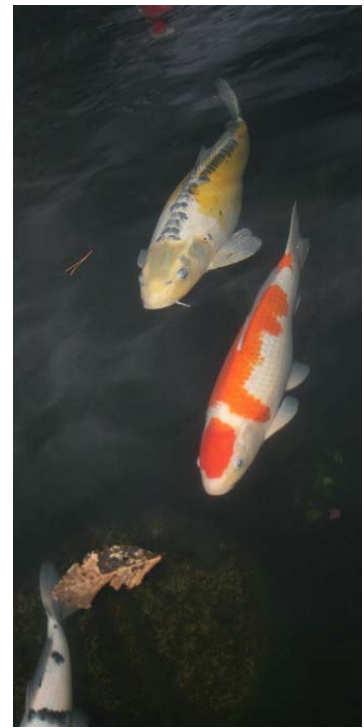
**Pond Info**

**Size:**  
**Number of koi:**  
**Plants:**  
**Liner:**  
**Filtration:**  
**Future Plans:**  
**Personal Koi web page:**  
**Email submissions to [jnorth@znapotomac.org](mailto:jnorth@znapotomac.org)**





Mike Frady's Pond



Ki Shusui and Kohaku

## October Meeting Details!!!!

The next meeting is 10/22/06 and will be a Pond Tour hosted by some of our members. We will start the day at 2:00pm at Vienna Aquarium, 303 Mill St NE, Vienna VA. After allowing time to ensure that everyone has arrived we will proceed to the first pond. We will basically caravan to the ponds and end up at Meadowlark Gardens. We would like everyone to bring their favorite finger food to share at the Gardens. The club president will provide water and sodas. Meadowlark is one of several places with possibilities as a site for next years show. Directions can be found in the Calendar section on our website <http://www.znapotomac.org> or by calling Vienna Aquarium at 703-242-0553.



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