

The Prairieland Splash

MARCH 9 AT 9:00 AM

LUTHY'S BOTANICAL GARDENS

Speakers Bob Streitmater and Lisa Kuhl

Directions

From Peoria and War Memorial Drive and Prospect, take Prospect South about .9 mile and follow the signs. If you get to the Peoria Zoo you have gone too far.

Prairieland Koi &
Pond Society

March 9 2019
Volume 23 Issue 3

**You can pay your dues anytime
now, they are still only \$20**

Please give cash/check to our treasurer:

Or Send To: Letriana Cantrell

311 Arnold Rd.

East Peoria, IL 61611



**Trying again
for a pond**



Ron and Patty Kramer's pond

Oh, the things we can do this year!

Last Month I Talked about the pond tour we would love to have this July. As yet, we still need a few more ponds to show the public. It will be easier for the owners this year as it will be held only 1 day on Saturday July 13. Your pond doesn't have to be big, we just want to show how little or big a pond can be and still be enjoyable. Some people may be intimidated thinking the only ponds that count are big ponds. I started with 50 gallons and I loved it as much as the one I have now. (It was a lot less work)

If you would consider being on the tour, please let any of us on the board know. We would love to have you.

Also, we are planning to be at the Peoria Zoo on Earth Day on April 28. It is only for 3 hours and we need to have volunteers for this also.

Because our May meeting at Kull Scape and Doug Holmes from the zoo is the speaker, I think it would be nice to repay the favor and help them clean out their pond. We would be helping them with the chore and benefiting the community as well. No date has been set as yet.

For any of these projects, it would be fun to get together and do something that counts. Just think about it!

This following article is from Aquascape.

How often or how much should I feed my Koi and Pond Fish?

When, Where, and What Works Best

By Dr. Erik Johnson

There are notable differences between the way koi and goldfish tend to eat. Of course, there are a lot of similarities too. Either way, there are many useful things for you to know about how, when, and where to feed koi and goldfish!

An Appetite for Foraging

Koi and goldfish eat a lot, but goldfish are better foragers. If you took two identical ponds and you neglected to feed both ponds equally, the population in the koi pond would die out faster than the population in the goldfish pond. Part of the reason is that koi eat more, so they starve faster. Part of the reason is that goldfish will find food anywhere, including swimming prey like rotifers, fish fry, and insect larva. Koi, on the other hand, tend not to identify or attack small prey like that. Their usual foraging method is bottom sifting, and if the pond has no aggregate or mud on the bottom, there will be no natural forage. Most people would be very surprised by the amount of live fish food that can be found living in the gravel of a properly maintained gravel-bottom pond.

Overfeeding

The most common feeding mistake is overfeeding. This is because the feeding process is arguably the most fun you can have with your fish. At feeding time, koi come up to eat so you can see them and interact with them. Anyone with a maternal instinct will be thrilled to watch their favorite fish engulf food with such koi-ish zeal.

Overfeeding occurs anytime the fish are eating more than they need. This can make your fish sick, and excessive amounts of waste that strains the limits of what can be biologically reduced, results in a decline of water quality. Fish that are overfed in typical ornamental pond facilities will eventually develop large bellies and begin to look a little bit like tadpoles, with the big body and the wispy tail. That will not usually kill the fish, but the impact on the liver and other internal organs can and will be severe. So How Much is Just Right?

Fish should be fed no more than three times per day. In cooler water (65-70) they should only be fed once per day, if that. In much warmer water (76-82), three times per day is not "crazy," however, you have to be wary of bacterial blooms (cloudy water and low oxygen levels) if you feed heavy and there's a lot of waste.

Fish should be fed for about five minutes per feeding. If they don't come up and eat voraciously, they are telling you that they are too cold, too warm or, for some other reason, are not hungry. So feed light. If they are eating like crazy, you can sprinkle food on the water for five minutes as long as there are fish there to carry it off and eat it. Pretend it's a game – never feed so much that there is excess food left to float into the skimmer or filter.

Underfeeding

Sometimes a person is very busy and they may neglect to feed the fish every day. This impacts the very large fish, which in summer, will rapidly lose weight as their metabolism is working without enough calories for their big bodies. It also affects very small fish, which will be stunted or, in extreme cases, die. Fish in ponds with natural forage and some plant material will help themselves to nature's bounty and are less dependent on their human owners for nourishment.

If your fish are growing about a ½ to 1 inch per month, you're feeding enough. If not, you are either underfeeding, keeping them in too small facilities, or the food is not adequate to push growth. Signs of underfeeding include, heads that are wider than bodies, slightly sunken eyes, a kink at the base of the tail, poor color, thinness, trailing white stools, and inactivity.

Feeding in Cold Water

Fish will feel hungry in cold water, even down to the mid 40's, however the enzymes needed for the digestion of most koi food will be lacking. The fish will eat, sometimes fully, and then languor in the cold water as their metabolism slogs the food through. In very cold water, fish simply don't eat.

If the food is going to be processed by cold fish with impaired metabolism, it makes sense to offer foods that are easily and quickly digestible and contain minimal residue to stall their gut. Over the years, soluble plant proteins like wheat germ were found to be effective, and so were Cheerios. Fish love Cheerios, especially the Honey Nut Cheerios. Try it, you will see they go for the darker, tastier(?) Honey Nut Cheerios over the plain ones. And they can tell when you buy generic Cheerios. But it's okay.

The point of Cheerios is that they supply some useful energy, with minimal nitrogen to strain a cold biological filtration system, and the fish like 'em. A lot. In my own pond, I've noticed that Cheerios are sort of fattening when offered with regular food year round, so if you want to put some weight on a big female fish, especially through her face, give her some Cheerios with her regular diet through the year.

In cold water I recommend that you:

Reduce feeding drastically in water under 70 but above 64 Fahrenheit. Feed sparingly once per day or every other day. Watch for elevations in Ammonia because of a stalled bio filtration.

Feed Cheerios once, every other day in water under 64 but above 53 DF.

Stop feeding when water temps are consistently under 55 - 53 DF

Resume feeding Cheerios in the Spring when water temps are consistently at or above 55 - 53 DF

The first 2019 meeting of PKPS was held on Feb. 9 at ICC. 26 members were present.

Dave Brown from ICC talked about projects in the arboretum - building a moon gate and walkway in conjunction with the Japanese garden. Other projects include reworking the flower beds in the All American garden and relabeling all of the hosts and replacing missing labels on other plants.

Jeanne talked about the plan for a pond tour this year. She needs everyone to let her know if they are in favor or not. We must have at least 10 ponds on the tour. Reasons for having a tour are to get new members for the club and to educate people about pond problems and solutions.

Earth Day is April 28 at Glen Oak Zoo. The pond club will have a booth and pass out club brochures. Volunteers please let Jeanne know if you can help. We could possibly pass out small bags of fish food for kids to feed the fish.

The May meeting will be at Kull Scape. Dave Holmes, a herpetologist, will be a speaker. He is in charge of the pond at the zoo and may need our help to clean it out this spring and net it in the fall.

There was also discussion of cold weather pond problems.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

For the Month of February

Steve Depew

Nadine Sauer

Vince Smith

Barb Luick

Tim Harper

PKPS 2019 MEETING SCHEDULES &
GENERAL MEETINGS 2019

Date	Location	Speaker
Board Meetings 2019		
March 9	Luthys Botanical garden	Bob Streitmater & Lisa Kuhl
April 13	Rick Kolowski, Hanna City	
May 11	Kull Scape	Doug Holmes
July 13	Pond Tour	
August 10	Allen Kruger-possibly Todd Bong	Allen and Todd
September 14	Jim and Margy Simmons , Peor	TBA
October 12	ICC	Genny Gibbs
November 9	Banquet	

PKPS 2019 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES

February 23	Todd Bong
March 30	Jim and Margy Simmons
April 27	Jeannie Clarke
May 25	TBA
June 22	Greg and Letriana Cantrell
July 27	Deb Palmquist
Aug 23	Rick Moreland
Sep 28	Lisa Carter
Oct 26	Jeannie Clarke
Nov 23	Rick Moreland

Prairieland Koi & Pond Society

JEAN CLARKE

President/Editor

6934 N. St. Mary's Rd.

Peoria, IL 61614

309-370-0460

E-mail: Clarke.jl@comcast.net

Officers

Jean Clarke President/Editor

309-370-0460

Lisa Carter Vice President

309-694-9801

Allen Kruger

Web Master

217-737-3646

Letriana Cantrell Treasurer

309-645-7163

Margy Simmons

Secretary

309-678-5363

Directors

Greg Cantrell

Product Mgr. of Ways and Means

309-645-7161

Rick Moreland

Food And Beverage

309-694-5057

Todd Bong

309-256-9582

Jim Simmons

309-678-5363

Chairpersons

Lisa Carter

Raffles/Door Prizes/Special

AKCA

Koi Fish Health Advisors

Jean Clarke

309-370-0460

Karen Hofstetter

309-699-5155

Stacey Schadewalt

