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*The Newsletter of the  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Pikes Peak Koi & Water Garden Society*

## Peak at Ponds

Inside the Aug 2025 Issue:  
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From the Editor

Join Us for Our [Sixth PPKWGS Club Meeting](#) on 14 August 2025.

The topic will be...

### *Filtration!!!*

From DIY to High End  
there are lots of ways to filter your water, and they  
all do the same thing.

We will share the basics of filtration and several  
options for obtaining clean, clear, and healthy  
water for your Koi.



*(Only a pond owner will truly understand  
the excitement and thrill of listening to a lecture  
on different strategies for achieving proper pond filtration to maximize Koi health.*

*Can I get a Yeeeeaaah-Hoooo!!!)*

The meeting starts at 7:00pm, and will be chock full of useful information,  
friendly people, and tasty snacks. See you there!

### PPKWGS 2025 Pond Tour

This year's Pond Tour featured eight remarkable ponds, with sizes ranging from 950 gallons to an impressive 16,000 gallons. Some of these ponds have been lovingly cultivated over decades, while others were freshly completed just days before the event. This diversity is what truly makes the PPKWGS Pond Tour so special! Each pond is unique, a reflection of its owner's passion and vision, with most having been crafted by the hands of those who take great pride in their work.

A special thank you is due to each of our incredible exhibitors, whose dedication made the event even more memorable. They generously opened their yards to us, patiently answering hundreds of questions and sharing their invaluable expertise. This spirit of knowledge-sharing is at the heart of our club's mission, and our exhibitors truly embodied that commitment, making us all proud of the community we've built together.

## Scavenger Hunt Time!!!

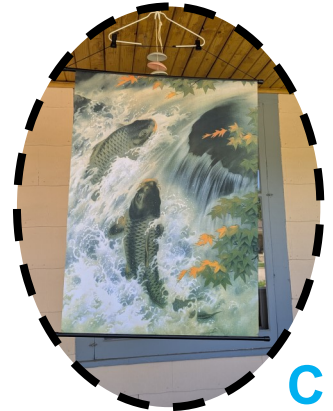
For those of you who have been with us for a while, you will be familiar with this Post-Pond Tour Challenge. For all your newcomers, you are in for a treat. Below are photos of 8 special touches that were found on the 2025 pond tour, one from each pond on the tour. See how many of these images you can correctly pair with the pond they came from...answers can be found at the end of the newsletter. No cheating!!!



A



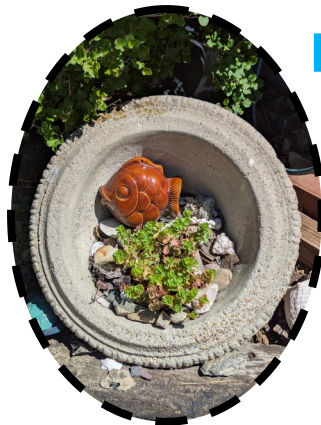
B



C



D



E



F



G



H



## President's Ponderings

### Presidents Pondering

Having just completed the pond tour, I am sitting here and pondering how beneficial the merger between PPWGS and SOCOKOI has been for both clubs. When we first discussed the merger two years ago, I was concerned about how the members of each club would react. At the time, as the President of PPWGS, I feared that SOCOKOI might dominate and use our club to simply expand their own ranks. I also worried that some SOCOKOI members might choose to leave, seeking a club solely dedicated to koi enthusiasts.

However, as I now look at the flourishing state of our merged club, PPKWGS, I must admit that my initial concerns were entirely unfounded. Not only have our membership numbers grown, but participation, activities, and overall engagement have all surged. Every conversation I have with our members is filled with enthusiasm and satisfaction for the direction we're heading.



It's truly astounding how smoothly the two clubs integrated and how it seems like ages ago that we even had two separate clubs. Today, both clubs are undeniably stronger, and the services and resources we provide our members have expanded in ways I had never anticipated.

I am deeply honored to serve as your president and immensely proud of the journey we've taken together. The future is bright, and our trajectory is nothing short of upward!

- Bob Oatman



### Koi Auction & Pizza Party



What a fantastic turnout we had for the Koi Auction and Pizza Party this year! The event was a resounding success, with every last slice of pizza enjoyed and each Koi finding a new home.

The excitement was palpable, especially during the Koi Raffle, where Katie Worley emerged as the lucky winner, taking home a stunning 10" Dragon Fin Doitsu

Showa. The bidding on several of the koi was lively and spirited, adding to the enjoyment of the evening.

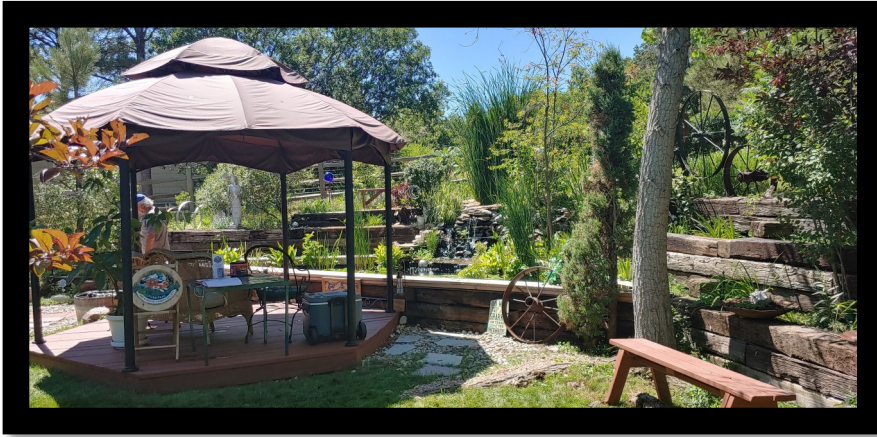
In the end, the event proved not only to be a delightful gathering but also a successful fundraiser, netting the club a profit of \$446.06.

Thanks to everyone who came out and participated. And to those of you who missed it—like yours truly—make sure to put it on the calendar for next year.



# One Last Huzzah!

## One Last Huzzah!



The Burbridge Pond



The Goulding Pond



The Riemer Pond



The Villa Pond



The Griesinger Pond



The Jardeleza Pond







The Alcorn Pond

The Radzanowski Pond





## Koi Pond Concerns

Summer presents a unique set of challenges and considerations for Koi pond owners, especially in places like Colorado with its summers which can be both hot and dry. Things to keep in your mind as we go into the hot month of August and even September include:

Warm weather can significantly elevate pond temperatures, impacting the well-being of Koi. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures (above 85°F) can weaken Koi's immune systems, making them more susceptible to diseases and parasites. Keeping your pond thermometers in easy to access areas for checking water temperature is important, but keep in mind that you never want to create a rapid temperature change. Koi can adapt to slow increases in temperature, but they will not respond well to a sudden change. If water does get too hot—above 85-90 degrees—you can gradually introduce cooler water over the course of a day to bring it down. Additionally, it can be both useful and beautiful to provide shade for the pond using aquatic plants like water lilies or lotus, a shade sail, or strategically planted trees or shrubs.

Oxygen depletion: Hotter water holds less dissolved oxygen, and fish metabolic rates increase, increasing oxygen demand, which can lead to stress and even death for Koi. If you are worried about fish swimming up to the surface to breathe or suddenly spending time by the waterfall, you can increase oxygen levels by adding an air pump and diffuser or installing a pond aerator. There are also test kits that will let you know how much oxygen is in the water.

Water evaporation: Higher temperatures in Colorado can lead to significant water loss due to evaporation, sometimes as much as 1 to 3 inches per week. This necessitates regular monitoring and topping off of the pond with dechlorinated water to maintain proper water levels. Having your pond linked to your sprinkler system can help maintain a consistent water level.

Outside of the pond, there are predators to consider. Warm weather encourages Colorado predators like bears, herons, and raccoons to seek out food sources, making Koi ponds a target. Even neighborhood cats can prove a threat to a Koi! Koi, bred for vibrant colors rather than camouflage, can become easy prey for these animals.

Some general summer recommendations for maintaining Koi health and wellbeing in the hot summer months include good water quality management. Regularly test water parameters (pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate) and perform regular partial water changes to maintain optimal water quality. If ammonia or nitrate levels rise, you can do up to a 50% water change with dechlorinated water to reduce toxic levels of those substances. You can also consider feeding your fish less to reduce food sinking to the bottom, decomposing, and contributing to dangerous water conditions.

In general, monitor monitor monitor! Vigilantly observe your Koi for any unusual behavior that may be a sign of stress, illness, or parasite infestation. The sooner you recognize a problem, the easier it will be to treat, address, and resolve the problem!

Why did the fish get bad grades?  
He was below sea level at “school”



## Do your lilies have lots of leaves, but no blooms?

Although having lots of lily pads is great for providing your Koi security and blocking sunlight, we also want to see those beautiful blossoms. If your water lilies aren't blooming, check for these possible issues.

*Nutrient Deficiency:* Yellowing or curling leaves and a lack of blooms may indicate your lilies are starved for key nutrients like nitrogen, iron, or magnesium. When was the last time you fed them? A gentle boost may be all they need. Slow-release fertilizer like the Pond Tabs + that we sell as a fundraiser will give them that extra boost for a little over a month and encourage healthy, vibrant growth.

*Inadequate Sunlight:* Water lilies need a generous six to eight hours of direct or partial sunlight each day. If they're situated under a tree canopy or in a shady corner of the pond, they may appear weak or underdeveloped. Consider relocating them to a brighter spot where they can bask in the sun's energy.

*Overcrowding:* Like all plants, water lilies require space to expand and thrive. If they're confined to a small planter or competing for room with too many neighbors, growth can become stunted. Gently remove your plant and divide the lilies tubers into individual containers. While this process is best done in the spring, it can be done midsummer.

*Imbalanced pH Levels:* Water lilies flourish in a pH range of 6.2 to 7.4. Deviations outside this range can disrupt nutrient absorption and overall health. Regularly test your pond's water with a reliable pH Test Kit to ensure your pH stays within a safe range for your plants and fish.

Just like roses in a flower bed, water lilies benefit from consistent care. Prune back any yellowing or browning leaves and spent blooms. This simple maintenance encourages fresh growth, and with it the return of those beautiful blossoms you've been missing.

Bob Oatman

## Highlighted Plant of the Month



### Water Celery - Variegated

Oenanthe javanica 'Flamingo'

Hardy Marginal Pink/Green/White. Shallow water plant features unusual pink, green and white foliage. Pink is outstanding in spring and fall.

Invasive in natural ponds.

Hardy to Zone 5. Plant 0-1" depth, Full Sun/Full Shade, 6-12" height.



# Why Do We Love Our Koi and Water Gardens?

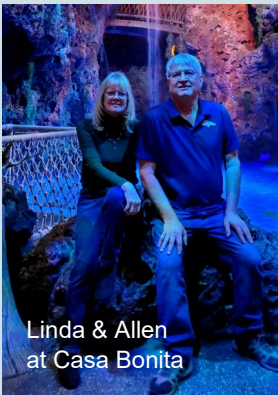
## The Joy of Pond Plants: A Symphony of Life

Pond plants are more than visual delights—they are the heartbeat of the aquatic ecosystem. They purify the water by absorbing excess nutrients, helping to prevent algae blooms. Their roots provide shelter for tadpoles, snails, and beneficial insects. Frogs, dragonflies, and birds visit regularly, drawn by the habitat these plants create.

For the gardener, this means more than just an attractive display. It means participation in a living system. There's a special kind of joy in witnessing dragonfly nymphs emerge from the water onto a lily pad, or in spotting a frog camouflaged among reeds. These moments feel like secret gifts from the natural world.

## The Joy of Keeping Koi: A Gentle Bond

One of the most unexpected joys of keeping koi is the bond that can develop between fish and keeper. With patience and consistency, koi can learn to recognize their caretakers, coming to the surface at feeding time or even eating gently from your hand. These moments of interaction are small, but powerful—a reminder that connection doesn't always require words or gestures. Sometimes, it's enough to share space, to offer food, and to move in harmony with another living being.



Linda & Allen  
at Casa Bonita

## Member Spotlight—Allen and Linda Burbidge

This month, we get to know the Burbidge's a little better. Linda hails from Minnesota, while Allen calls North Dakota home. They met in college, and Allen reported they "hit it off" immediately. 48 years of marriage, a daughter, a son, two granddaughters, and another grandchild on the way..."hit it off" sounds like an understatement!

They moved to Colorado in 1981 for Allen's job with Texas Instruments. In 1991, he left TI and worked with Apple Computer, then spent 18 years at Synthes, a medical device manufacturing company. After their kids reached school age, Linda worked for 27 years as a school bus driver for special needs children. They both enjoy the outdoors, camping, and hiking. Allen recalled accompanying his son and daughter on a high school trip to hike the Continental Divide. That was a 100-mile hike that took 10 days, and each person had to carry a 40-pound rucksack of their supplies. Quite an exhausting experience!

People may not be aware that the Burbidge's spent years volunteering at the Haunted Mines Haunted House! They created and built props and developed scary scenarios for the Haunted House. As part of this work, they traveled to St Louis to attend an annual Haunted House convention. Anyone who has visited their pond on a tour or around the holidays knows how much effort they put into decorating their yard! Another unique activity they enjoy is pinball. Linda bought a pinball machine for Allen's birthday years ago, and at last count they have a total of 7! Allen says there is a lot of luck involved in the game, but even so, timing and reflexes are a big help.

Allen and Linda are active in the PPKWGS—they have many roles behind the scenes that are vital in keeping the club running smoothly. They have participated in the Pond Tour multiple times, and even made it in this year's tour in spite of their gazebo and part of their pond burning down last summer!

They are both enjoying retirement, relaxing by the pond, watching their fish, and listening to their waterfall, as well as traveling, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

# PPKWGS Important Dates for 2025

Events are highlighted and linked to the website for more information

[14 Aug - 6th Club Meeting](#)

[23 Aug - Evening Soiree](#)

[11 Sept - 7th Club Meeting](#)

[13 Sept - Union Printer Home Fall Workshop](#)

[27 Sept Humane Society Fall Workshop](#)

[09 Oct - 8th & Final Club Meeting - Annual BBQ](#)

## Dates of the virtual Board Meetings:

**21 Aug, 18 Sept, 16 Oct.**

Only a few of these meetings are left in 2025. We are planning the End of the Year BBQ, topics to address in future meetings, how to improve upon the annual events and parties, and how to spend club funds for the betterment of the club members. If you have ideas to suggest, feel free to join us at any of these virtual meetings. We are a pretty relaxed group, even though we do take our responsibilities seriously. As an example of this, I thought I'd share an idea that I'll bring up at the next meeting:

**Why can't a fish's toe be an inch long? Because it doesn't have one!**

**Print out this page and post it somewhere so you can keep track of our events!**  
(Paid members will receive a personal, pre-printed copy of this in the mail)

## Scavenger Hunt Answers How many did you get correct?

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Ward & Kris Alcorn        | E. Allen & Linda Burbidge   |
| B. Doug & Denise Radzanowski | F. Dolora & Bill Griesinger |
| C. Phil & Ellen Goulding     | G. Tim & Jen Jardeleza      |
| D. Harry & Sariena Riemer    | H. Lori & Ron Willa         |

**Anyone who got 8/8, let us know at the next meeting.  
That's an eye to detail that ought to be celebrated!**



# Club News

The club has many useful items that club members can borrow. Some of these items include: an Oase PondoVac 5; an air pump; a heavy duty koi transport tank & two rescue tanks.

Details can be found on the [website](#)

Additionally, if there is an emergency with your fish and you need medication, there are limited amounts of medicines available for your use from our Medicine Cabinet.

For information contact Andrew Beaver at [memberatlarge@ppwgs.org](mailto:memberatlarge@ppwgs.org)

When PPWGS and SOCOKOI merged, both clubs brought with them a variety of valuable equipment—much of which ended up scattered across multiple members' garages. Over time, it became difficult to keep track of exactly what we owned or where it was being stored.



To solve this, the PPKWGS Board approved the construction of a dedicated storage shed. The goal was to consolidate all club-owned items in one centralized location—not only to relieve our members of the burden of storing them but also to ensure these resources are organized, accounted for, and readily accessible to everyone in the club.

We're pleased to share that Bob Oatman has completed construction of the new storage shed, and it's now ready to be filled.

If you have any items that belong to the club, please contact Bob at (719) 465-6731 so he can include them in the shed. This simple step will help clear your space, streamline our inventory, and make these resources available for the benefit of all our members.



## Koi Food Sale!

We have purchased a large quantity of high-quality koi food and repackaged it into 3 lb. bags.

**Blackwater Creek Gold-N Professional Diet for only \$15**

**Contact Allen Burbidge if you would like to purchase some.**

At (719) 574-5176 or [allenburbidge@comcast.net](mailto:allenburbidge@comcast.net)



## Door Prize Rule

Anyone who brings a guest gets two door prize tickets for themselves.

If you have any ideas for articles, suggestions for good jokes, or questions you would like addressed in a future club meeting or newsletter, please reach out to Rachel @ [Editor@ppwgs.org](mailto:Editor@ppwgs.org)

## Website Spotlight

Did you miss the Pond Tour, or do you now have a craving for more ponds?

Check out the Pond Tour Albums that are listed at the bottom of the Pond Tour calendar page.

There are now 25 years' worth of amazing pond pictures.



New Membership Applications and Membership Dues can be submitted via our new website at [www.PPKWGS.org](http://www.PPKWGS.org). Or, you can fill out the Application/Renewal form below and mail it and your payment to the address listed.

Memberships are considered inactive if dues are not paid by May of the current year. (Remember, if you purchased your membership after the pond tour, your membership includes the rest of that year and all of next year.)

We are meeting in person again, so it should be a great year. Please continue supporting your club by continuing to pay your membership dues.

### Pikes Peak Koi & Water Garden Society 2025 Membership Application / Renewal

- DATE \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write legibly)
- NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_
- EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_
- HOME PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_
- MOBILE PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_
- MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
- CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_
- LIST PROGRAMS that would be of interest to you \_\_\_\_\_
- YES! I would like to help with PLANT SALE \_\_\_\_\_ POND TOUR \_\_\_\_\_ TOUR EXHIBITOR \_\_\_\_\_  
CLUB MEETINGS \_\_\_\_\_ WORKSHOPS \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- ANNUAL DUES INDIVIDUAL \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
B&W USPS Paper Newsletter \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ FREE Full Color Electronic Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_
- PAY TO: PIKES PEAK KOI & WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
- **MAIL TO:** PPKWGS Membership - c/o Allen Burbidge, 4314 Meadowview Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80918
- Phone: 719-574-5176 Email: [membership@ppwgs.org](mailto:membership@ppwgs.org) WEB: [www.ppwgs.org](http://www.ppwgs.org)
- For PPKWGS Use: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Card Y N

# Peak at Ponds

Is published monthly during the summer months of the year and is the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Koi & Water Garden Society (PPKWGS)

## PPKWGS Board of Directors for 2025

**President:**

Bob Oatman

[President@ppwgs.org](mailto:President@ppwgs.org)**Vice President:**

Cathy Bluff

[VicePresident@ppwgs.org](mailto:VicePresident@ppwgs.org)**Treasurer:**

Phil Goulding

[Treasurer@ppwgs.org](mailto:Treasurer@ppwgs.org)**Secretary:**

Brenda Walth

[Secretary@ppwgs.org](mailto:Secretary@ppwgs.org)**Member at Large:**

Allen Burbidge

[Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org](mailto:Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org)

Rachel Lentz

[Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org](mailto:Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org)

Nicholas Simco

[Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org](mailto:Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org)

Andrew Beaver

[Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org](mailto:Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org)

## PPKWGS Coordinators

**Fund Raiser:**

Allen Burbidge

**Refreshments:**

Linda Burbidge

**Membership:**

Allen Burbidge

**Door Prizes:**

Allen &amp; Linda Burbidge

**Koi Food Buy:**

Phil Goulding

**Plant Sale:**

Bob Oatman

**Rehoming Auction:**

Nicholas Simco

**Koi Auction:**

Bob Oatman

**Pond Tour:**

Bob Oatman

**Webmaster:**

Bob Oatman / Chris Rigdon

**Newsletter Editor**

Rachel Lentz

**Social Media Coordinator:** Jonah Macaspac

## Peak at Ponds Submissions

The deadline for contributions to the Newsletter is the **20th day of the month prior** to distribution. Please submit all articles for publication in the newsletter via email to:

[Editor@ppwgs.org](mailto:Editor@ppwgs.org)

Your contributions are always welcome and encouraged. Editing of your submission may occur as content is reviewed and as space permits.



## *From the Editor*

Well, it's August again! How on earth did that happen? I know it's not just me who feels like every year the months fly by faster and faster. I hope you all are doing well and your ponds are thriving in the warm weather!

I have been thinking about synchronicity a lot lately...that phenomenon when seemingly random events line up just so, and they interact to create a new, positive experience that was unplanned and wonderful!

So, speaking of synchronicity, did you see the wonderful article written up about the club in the Gazette recently? A friend I met at Cottonwood Center for the Arts Literary Open Mic (did you see that shameless plug there? This Open Mic is a fantastic opportunity to write, present and listen to amazing writing. You should come check it out!) happens to write for the Gazette, and I was talking with her about our club. She thought it would be a good piece for the Gazette, so I hooked her up with Bob for an interview. She interviewed both Bob and Phil, and wrote up a really nice article about our club that was published in the Gazette! Synchronicity!

Again, speaking of synchronicity, Kevin and I were on the Pond Tour with a friend of ours, who mentioned that another mutual friend had a pond and some fish. I had no idea this mutual friend even had a pond, and he had no idea there was a pond/koi club to join. We texted the mutual friend about the club, and his next text back was that he had signed up for a membership and wanted to know when the next meeting would be held.

Synchronicity! And if you see me at the next meeting, I'll be happy to introduce you to my friend and your new PPKWGS fellow club member.

There are so many beautiful things that happen in this world. I think when we cultivate a sense of curiosity and optimism, and look for synchronicity, we find what we are looking for. So here's to wishing you a lovely month full of synchronicity and beautiful days by your ponds.

(Also, my water lettuce is going crazy and is taking over my pond. Anyone who wants to do me a favor and pick some up, email me at [Editor@ppwgs.org](mailto:Editor@ppwgs.org)!)

-Rachel