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

**September 2025**

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## **PREPARING YOUR POND FOR WINTER**

### **SEPTEMBER 11TH**

**We will also be electing Board Members for 2026, and ironing FREE PPKWGS patches on clothing you bring.**

**This meeting will be held at the Mountain View Church of Christ**

**Start time: 7:00pm**



## **LET'S GET READY TO IRON!!!**

We have purchased several 3", 5", and 9" heat transfers of our Logo, which we will help our members iron onto items they bring to our September meeting by using a heat press.

This is being offered **BEFORE** our regular meeting.

**From 6:00 – 7:00 pm.**

So bring in your T-shirts, Polo-Shirts, Hats, etc., and start displaying your club spirit. Limit 2 transfers per member.

## President's Ponderings

### The End of Summer Doldrums for Koi and Pond Keepers

As August fades into September, many of us koi keepers may notice a subtle change in both our ponds and our own enthusiasm. Back in spring, everything was new and exciting—fresh plants were going in or beginning to emerge, and the koi darted to the surface at feeding time. But by mid-September, both we and our fish tend to slow down a bit.



As the days shorten, the water begins to cool down, and the vigor of our plants and the liveliness of our Koi begin to drop. Feeding time can feel less like a splashy frenzy and more like a slow snack. That's normal—it's just their way of adjusting to the season.

On our side, the excitement of spring projects has long passed. We've cleaned the pond, tinkered with the filter, planted, fed, and fussed all summer long. By now, routine chores like cleaning mats or skimming leaves can feel more like work than fun. Some folks even find themselves looking at their pond and thinking, "It's nice...but kind of quiet."

This slowdown is the end of summer doldrums. But the truth is, it can be a very useful time if we make the most of it. Late summer is perfect for just sitting back and watching your koi closely. Which fish are filling out nicely? Which ones have colors that are really shining? Do you see any that might need extra attention, or signs that your pond might be getting a little crowded? Do you have areas where the plants are taking over or areas that need some additional plants? These observations can help guide decisions for fall and next spring.

It's also a good season for light pond housekeeping. Trim back plants that have gone wild, scoop out dead leaves, and give your filter a once-over to make sure it's ready for cooler weather. These small efforts now will pay off big when the leaves start falling.

If you find yourself feeling a little uninspired, remember—you're not alone! Most koi keepers feel this way at the tail end of summer. One of the best cures is to connect with fellow hobbyists. Visiting another member's pond or taking part in a late-summer club event can give you new ideas and remind you why we all love this hobby so much.

So, if you find yourself staring at your pond and feeling less inspired, know that it's normal. Every koi and pond keeper goes through the end-of-summer slowdown. Take it as a chance to breathe, tidy up, and enjoy the quiet before fall brings us back into the swing of things with a fresh wave of chores.

Bob Oatman, PPKWGS President



### Forgot to Buy Enough Food to Last the Year???

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)



# The Importance of Feeding During Winter

By: [Karen Pattist from Koi Organization International](#)

There are many myths about Koi Nutrition, so here are some scientific facts behind K.O.I.'s feeding recommendations. Let's look at the myth that Koi should not be fed when water temperatures are below 50 degrees F.



Koi have evolved over millions of years to need a period of fasting, and even the top Japanese breeders who want to maximize growth are fasting their Koi for at least a month over the winter. The duration of the fast varies, depending on whom you talk with, but all seem to agree that 1 to 3 months is ideal.

Remember that Koi are Poikilothermic (or cold-blooded), which means that their body temperature is completely controlled by their environment. So their metabolism is slower when the water is cold and faster when the water is warmer.

Koi also live in an oxygen-poor environment. Air holds 21% oxygen, while water holds only 0.0009% at 70 degrees F. Koi have no stomach (just a long gut). These facts influence their ability to digest food. And finally, Koi need more protein in their diet than most mammals. Humans require 10-15 percent protein, dogs require 15-27%, cats require 30%, Catfish require 32%, but Carp require 35%! (R. Strange, 2006).

In one study, Koi were offered a variety of protein feeds at different water temperatures, and they never selected low-protein food, even in the coldest water. Koi have evolved to prefer high-protein food at all water temperatures.

Koi food produced from plant sources contains some protein, but not enough of the essential amino acids required by Koi. Plant-based foods such as wheat germ should not be included in the Koi diet, ever. Fish meal – specifically from high-quality Capelin, Anchovy, Herring, and Menhaden should be the first ingredient of Koi food. Fish Meal is different from White Fish Meal, which is a byproduct, and has a higher ash content and lower protein content, making it less digestible by Carp. White Fish Meal also increases the waste in the pond.

Based on the above scientific evidence, K.O.I. recommends that Koi be fed the same high-protein feed year-round, and only the quantity should be changed depending on water temperature. Koi food does not rot in the Koi's gut at low water temperatures – Koi will simply not eat what they can't digest, but uneaten food will foul the water unless quickly removed.

Thus it is ideal to offer our Koi one or two (really – one or two!) pellets each, if and only if they are swimming near the surface, and are actively looking to feed, when water temperatures are below 50 degrees. Feeding in cold water should only be done in extremely low quantities (one to two pellets each, remember?), and never more often than once a week. This does not disturb their fast, but will substantially improve their health as they are coming out of winter, and has been shown to help them start eating earlier in the spring.

## Union Printer's and Humane Society Workshops are coming this month!

### Union Printer's Workshop: September 6th, 2025 at 9AM

Like last year, this workshop had to be rescheduled from September 13<sup>th</sup> due to [Pawtoberfest](#) 2025 being held on the Union Printer's grounds. September always feels like a busy month, so many fun events get scheduled in early fall!



As a community service project, the Pikes Peak Water Garden Society has a demonstration pond at the Union Printers Home. The pond is located at 101 South Union Blvd, in Colorado Springs. This is on the southeast corner of Union Blvd and Pikes Peak across from Memorial Park. We will be lifting the water lilies out of the pond, clipping the dead leaves, and generally cleaning up the pond for [Pawtoberfest](#). It is pretty simple and easy work but there are a lot of lilies so the more volunteers who come, the quicker it will be done!

### Humane Society Workshop: September 27th, 2025 at 9AM



As a community service project, the Pikes Peak Koi & Water Garden Society has also volunteered to help the Pikes Peak Humane Society maintain their pond. This pond and the surrounding gardens were installed so the Humane Society and the El Paso County Division of Animal Law Enforcement have a secure place to walk their dogs.

Please come and join us for these workshops. It really is a fun time to be together, talk about our ponds, and do some community service for others in need. Bring some scissors, garden gloves, buckets, and a garden cart or wheelbarrow if you can. We would love to see you there!

Please sign up for these workshops from each workshop page on our website calendar. (You must log into the website to sign up)

**Rocky Mountain Koi Show** This weekend the Rocky Mountain Koi Club held their annual koi show. More information to come on the winners in our next issue of Peak at Ponds, but for now here are some pictures of it!





## 2025 Evening Soiree



Our Evening Soirée was a delightful and relaxed gathering, bringing together fellow pond and koi enthusiasts who share the same passion for this wonderful hobby. About twenty-five members enjoyed light libations and tasty snacks while taking in the beautiful setting of Ray Armstrong's home and pond.

A heartfelt thank you to Ray and Nikko for graciously opening your home and sharing

your stunning pond with us. It is truly a magical place—peaceful, inspiring, and an absolute joy to visit and explore.

Put it on your calendar for next year - it's a great chance to mingle and get to know other members better in a relaxed and purely social environment.

## Board Member Elections

At our September meeting, we will be electing board members for 2026.

Cathy Bluf, Phil Goulding, and Brenda Walth have one more year left on their 2-year commitment.

Bob Oatman, Allen Burbidge, Nicholas Simco, and Robbin Robins were nominated at the last club meeting. But, we still have one open position for Rachel Lentz, who has withdrawn from the board for next year due to her moving.

So, if you know of someone you think would be great at leading our club next year, nominate them. Or, you can certainly nominate yourself.

Once the board has been elected, the board will decide who will fill which officer positions for 2026.

## Highlighted Plant of the Month



### Zephyr Lily

*Zephyranthes candida*

Tropical Marginal

White blooms in summer to fall in full sun to partial shade. Spreads 6-12" with a height of 6-12". Delicate white lily-like blooms atop grassy leaves. Blooms after rain.

Allow to dry slightly between watering.

Attracts bees and is best kept at a water depth of moist soil or shallow (0-2")

# PPWGS Important Dates for 2025

Board Meetings are held on the Thursday after club meetings.  
You are welcome to join us. Ask any board member for more information.

Special Dates are highlighted and linked to the website

[11 Sept - 7th Club Meeting - Preparing Your Pond for Winter](#)

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

[27 Sept - Humane Society Fall Workshop](#)

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

Board Meetings are held virtually on Thursdays, one week after the regular monthly meeting.

If you are thinking of joining the Board keep this in mind as you will need to attend each meeting.

Everyone is welcome at the board meetings. Ask a board member for more information.

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)

## Why Do We Love Our Koi and Water Gardens?

### The Joy of Pond Plants: A Meditative Practice

Tending to pond plants fosters mindfulness. Whether you're dividing an overgrown clump of water iris, gently placing a lily tuber into a planting basket, or simply clearing fallen leaves from the water's surface, the act becomes a kind of meditation. The water mirrors your pace—calm, deliberate, and present.

Unlike fast-paced gardening tasks, managing a pond requires patience. Plants take time to establish, and their growth patterns are influenced by water temperature, light, and balance. This slower rhythm invites pond keepers to slow down too, finding peace in observation and small acts of care.

### The Joy of Keeping Koi: A Gateway to Stillness

Koi have a calming presence that invites reflection. Just sitting by the pond and watching them move can ease stress and inspire a sense of peace. Their unhurried pace contrasts beautifully with the speed of modern life, reminding us that there's value in stillness, in being rooted, in simply floating through the moment.

For many, a koi pond becomes a sanctuary, a place for quiet thought, gentle conversation, or simply listening to the sounds of water and wind.

# Club News



## Discover the Convenience of Our Club-Owned Pond Vac

As proud owners of a powerful Oase PondoVac 5 vacuum, we're excited to offer it exclusively to our paid club members. If you're planning to clean out your pond and don't have your own pond vac, worry not! Borrow one of ours, and simplify your pond maintenance. These professional-grade vacuums make the task a breeze.

To reserve the Oase PondoVac 5, reach out to Allen at 719-574-5176.

Let's keep our ponds pristine together!

Once again, this year we will be having a **Midget Market Table** at our meetings. This is simply a table where members can place pond or gardening-related items for sale, trade, or free!! Members are encouraged to bring in items they no longer need, but other members might be able to use. All negotiations are between the buyer and seller. PPWGS is not liable in any way. Please take your un-traded items home with you.



## Door Prize Rule

As you know, anyone who brings a guest gets two door prize tickets for themselves.

And if you just bring yourself, you still get your own ticket for the chance to win one of the fun, useful, thoughtful prizes hand selected for the club by Allen and Linda Burbidge.

PPKWGS is still looking for someone who can help us debug and develop our website. The website is written in Laravel. If you or someone you know would like to help us make our website an even better experience for our members, please contact Bob Oatman. 719-465-6731

## Website Spotlight

Do you ever find yourself trying to remember who is holding which officer position, or do you want to send them an email?

Simply click "About Us" in the header and then select "Current Officers"

This listing also lists PPWGS Officers all the way back to 1990.



New Membership Applications and Membership Dues can be submitted via our website at [PPKWGS.ORG](http://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 this 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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@ppkwgs.org](mailto:membership@ppkwgs.org) WEB: [www.ppkwgs.org](http://www.ppkwgs.org)
- For PPWGS Use: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Card Y N



# Peak at Ponds

Is published monthly during the summer months 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 Bulf

[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 & 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

Happy September, my friends! Oh, the summer is coming to a close. I always feel a little sad about that, even though I love the cooler days and getting to pull out my sweaters again. I guess life is always about starts and endings, isn't it?

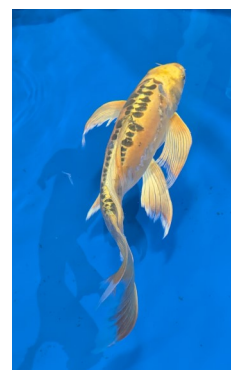


I wanted to share with you some of the pictures of my favorite fish from the Rocky Mountain Koi Show this past weekend. There were so many, this is definitely only the pictures I could fit into this From the Editor letter. There were so many gorgeous fish, from little babies to gigantic beasts!

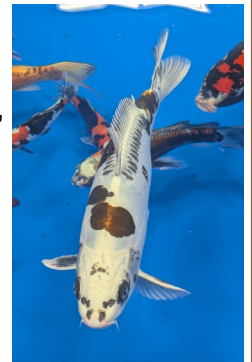
I am always a sucker for the Showa.

I think that is my favorite color combination. Second is the Bekko, with its simple black and white colors. But the yellows, reds, golds, blues, and of course the pure whites, are amazing!

The show was a great chance to



meet with other koi enthusiasts, breeders, food vendors, and even Dr Q—the fish vet who presented at our club earlier this year—was there! There were a lot of people who came up to our club's table with questions and just to share their love of koi.



If you have pictures from the Rocky Mountain show, share them with me so I can add them to next month's newsletter!

As always, I hope to see you all at this month's club meeting, and I hope you and yours are healthy and happy!

- Rachel

