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

A Peak at Ponds

October 2025

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Final Club Meeting of 2025 October 9th

YEAR END BBQ

Please [click here](#) to RSVP

The club will provide the BBQ,
(Beef Brisket, Sliced Turkey, and Pulled Pork)
along with salad, rolls, and drinks.
Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

This meeting begins at 6:30 pm



Union Printers Fall Workshop

On September 6th, Allen & Linda Burbidge, Bill & Dolora Griesinger, and Bob Oatman cleaned up the pond and trimmed all the dead, damaged, and dying lily pads, getting the pond ready for Pawtoberfest. There were only small pads left, so Bob Oatman simply sank them for their winter's nap on September 20th.

President's Ponderings

Well, it's official—autumn has arrived. The nights now outlast the days, and our cherished ponding season is gradually drawing to a close. While it's always a little bittersweet, there's beauty in the rhythm of the seasons.

Having grown up in Colorado and later spending several years in San Diego during my Navy days, I've come to appreciate ponds even more because of these seasonal shifts. Spring always brings joy with its first green shoots, the ice receding, and the fish awakening with new energy. Summer fills the yard with vibrant colors, flourishing plants, and fish with seemingly endless appetites. Fall, I'll admit, isn't my favorite—with its extra chores, falling leaves, and fading colors. Yet winter provides its own gifts: a chance to pause, reflect, rest, and finally tackle those household projects I've been putting off. Truth be told, endless sunshine would get dull after a while.



As we close another ponding season, it feels like the right time to reflect on the many blessings we share. This past summer, my pond was healthy and thriving, and my fish brought me endless delight. I know that without this club, I would have faced far more challenges—and might even have lost interest in ponding altogether. Beyond the ponds themselves, it's the camaraderie, the friendships, the shared wisdom, and the laughter that keep our society strong.

Now in retirement, I find myself especially grateful for the community I've discovered in the Pikes Peak Koi &

Water Garden Society. The friendships I've formed and the experiences I've shared here have been nothing short of a blessing. Serving as your President has been both an honor and a genuine joy.

Thank you all for being such an important part of this journey. May your winter be peaceful, restorative, and filled with quiet moments of appreciation.

Bob Oatman

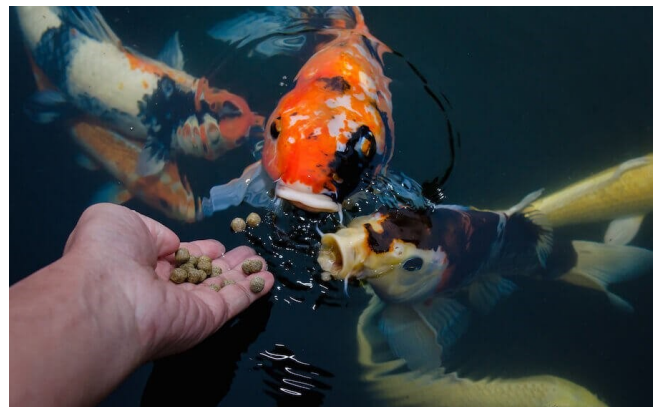
Don't Let Them Starve!!!

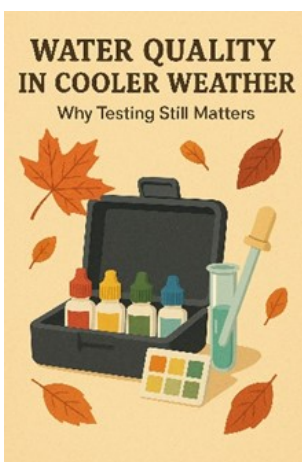
The club still has some Koi Food remaining, just in case you need some to finish out the year.

Contact Allen Burbidge at

[\(719\) 574-5176](tel:(719)574-5176)

if you need some.





As the days grow shorter and the air takes on that crisp autumn chill, many pond keepers assume their water worries are over. After all, algae growth slows, the water looks clearer, and koi and goldfish aren't eating as much. But while fall may seem like an easier season for pond maintenance, testing your water quality in cooler weather is still just as important—if not more so.

When water temperatures drop, fish metabolism slows down. They eat less and produce less waste, but their immune systems also become weaker. This makes them more vulnerable to poor water conditions. A sudden ammonia or nitrite spike in the fall can stress fish at the exact time they need to be building up strength for winter.

Another factor to consider is falling leaves. Even if you net your pond, small amounts of decaying organic matter can still make their way into the water. As these break down, they release nutrients that affect ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels. Regular testing helps you catch these changes early before they harm your pond balance.

pH swings can also become more common in the fall. Cooler weather reduces photosynthesis, meaning plants and algae don't pull as much carbon dioxide from the water. Without that daily "breathing cycle," pH levels can shift more dramatically from day to night. Keeping an eye on your pH readings can prevent unpleasant surprises. Maintaining a proper KH level can help minimize these swings.

Don't forget oxygen levels. While cooler water holds oxygen more easily than warm summer water, heavy leaf loads or stagnant conditions can reduce oxygen at night. If your fish seem sluggish or spend time near the surface, testing for oxygen might reveal a hidden issue.

So, which tests matter most in cooler weather? At minimum, continue checking:

Ammonia – Even a small amount is harmful.

Nitrite – Stresses fish and affects oxygen uptake.

pH – Watch for sudden swings.

Nitrate – High levels can build up over fall and winter.

KH (Carbonate Hardness) – Helps stabilize pH as the seasons change.

Testing doesn't need to be complicated. A quick check once a week—or even every other week—can make all the difference. By keeping your water chemistry stable now, you give your fish the best chance to stay healthy all winter long and greet spring with strength and vitality.

So, while the air may be cooler and the pond may look peaceful, remember: what you can't see in the water is just as important as what you can. Keep those test kits handy, and your pond will thank you when warmer days return.

(continued next page)

Quick Water Quality Reminders for Fall

Skim leaves daily – Decaying leaves release ammonia.

Keep testing – Ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, pH, and KH.

Feed lightly – Don't feed cool-weather food and stop when the fish quit eating.

Watch oxygen levels – Cooler water holds more O₂, but leaf buildup can still cause drops.

Do partial water changes – Small, regular changes help dilute waste before winter.

Log your results – Tracking fall readings helps you spot trends year-to-year.

Tip: Healthy water going into winter = healthier fish coming out in spring!

Bob Oatman

End of Year Annual Club BBQ

As you may have noticed on the first page of this newsletter, our Final Club Meeting and Annual BBQ will be held on **October 9th**.

This is a casual affair where we can all get together for one final time and discuss our adventures during this ponding season. The club will provide the BBQ meat (Beef Brisket, Sliced Turkey, and Pulled Pork) along with salad, potato salad, bread, and drinks.

By asking our members to bring a dish or dessert to share, we end up with a wide variety of food and tasty treats. We give Golden Coral a run for the money!

So, come join us for our final get-together this year and celebrate another successful ponding season. Please [click here](#) to RSVP

Highlighted Plant of the Month



Aquatic Mint

Mentha aquatica

Hardy Marginal Lavendar

The crushed leaves of this plant have a strong mint smell. This plant is one of the first to start growing in the spring. Will grow both in the water and on the shore.

Reaches a height of about eight inches. Full sun to shade. Hardy to zone 5. Aquatic Mint is an edible herbaceous herb that will flower all summer attracting butterflies to the water garden.

Mentha aquatica is a fast grower and will spread to any areas of the pond and even the yard!

It is well suited for stream beds and bog areas. Enjoy the fragrance of mint and an abundance of lilac-pink flowers. Can be used to flavor tea, water or anything needing a sprig of mint.

Plant with caution. Mint is invasive.

Rocky Mountain Koi Show

Here are some of the winners from last month's Koi show in Denver.

Our club sponsored two of the awards and picked the winner of the K.O.I Friendship award.

Phil Goulding also won two awards!

K.O.I. Friendship

Hikari Moyo, 4 - 15" to < 18"

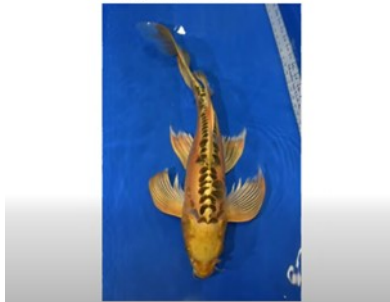


Sponsor: K.O.I

Owner: Shane Hemphill

Long Fin Champion

Long Fin, 3 - 12" to < 15"



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Eric Magnuson

Chelley Klassy

Best in Size 4 B

Goshiki, 4 - 15" to < 18"



RNR Koi

Phil Goulding

Reserve Grand Champion A

Showa, 8 - Over 27"



Sponsor: PPKWGS

Owner: Duc Nguyen

Best in Variety Goshiki

Goshiki, 4 - 15" to < 18"



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Phil Goulding

Board Member Elections

At our September club meeting, we elected the following members to represent us on our Board of Directors for 2026.

Bob Oatman, Cathy Bulf, Phil Goulding, Allen Burbidge, Brenda Walth, Nicholas Simco, Robbin Robins, and Ellen Simco.

The new board will now meet and decide who will fill which officer positions for next year.

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

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

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

If there are any questions about the status of your membership, Allen is the membership coordinator. He is also the fund raising coordinator. He is also the lender-outer of the club's pond vac's. He is also -in conjunction with Linda- the door prize picker-outer.

He's quite the behind the scene guy in our club.

Why Do We Love Our Koi and Water Gardens?

The Joy of Pond Plants: For Every Pond, a Plant

One of the joys of pond plants is their adaptability. Whether you have a grand formal pond, a natural bog, or a small container water garden on a balcony, there's a plant to suit your space. Dwarf water lilies thrive in barrel ponds. Floating plants like water lettuce and duckweed are ideal for beginners and add instant greenery. Even a simple submerged bunch of hornwort can turn a still vessel of water into a vibrant habitat. The diversity of pond plants means there is always something new to try, to learn about, and to admire. Each plant comes with its own character and contribution to the pond community.

The Joy of Keeping Koi: The Joy of Care

Keeping koi is not without effort, but that effort brings its own reward. A healthy koi pond requires attention to water quality, filtration, seasonal changes, and nutrition. But these tasks are not chores—they are acts of stewardship. They offer a sense of purpose and rhythm, anchoring you to the cycles of nature and the quiet dignity of caretaking.

There's a special satisfaction in seeing your koi thrive -in watching them grow stronger, brighter, more confident under your care. When winter approaches and you take measures to protect them, when spring arrives and they stir to life after dormancy, you feel part of something larger, something cyclical and enduring.

Club News



Discover the Convenience of Our Club-Owned Pond Vacs

Introducing the Oase PondoVac 5:

As proud owners of these powerful pond vacuums, we're excited to offer them 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 ours, and simplify your pond maintenance. These professional-grade vacuums make the task a breeze.

Do you need a pond vac to help clean out your pond for winter? We have an Oase PondoVac 5 you can borrow for free. To reserve it, reach out to Allen at (719) 574-5176.

Humane Society Fall Workshop

It was a beautiful morning on September 27th as several of our members descended on the pond at the Humane Society. They gathered to trim the lilies, clean the skimmers, repair pumps, and trim down all the plants in the bog filter.

Thanks to the following members who volunteered to give of their time to help the Humane Society maintain their pond. The pups thank you also!

Cindy Whittier
Katie Patchin

Bob Oatman
Bill Griesinger
Tim Jardeleza

Allen Burbidge
Billy Jo Marsh
Miriam Bloom

Linda Burbidge
Harry Riemer
Jay Perry

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



Have you notice that several members have their smiling face displayed in the Member Directory?

Add a picture of yourself to our website by:

Login, click on your name in the header, select My Account, select Edit Membership, on the Primary Member tab select choose Primary Member Profile Photo, on the Secondary Member tab choose Secondary Member Profile Photo.



New Membership Applications and Membership Dues can be submitted via our new website at 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 WEB: 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

Vice President:

Cathy Bulf

VicePresident@ppwgs.org

Treasurer:

Phil Goulding

Treasurer@ppwgs.org

Secretary:

Brenda Walth

Secretary@ppwgs.org

Member at Large:

Allen Burbidge

Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

Rachel Lentz

Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

Nicholas Simco

Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

Andrew Beaver

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

Rehoming Auction:

Nicholas Simco

Plant Sale:

Bob Oatman

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

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



From the Editor

Hello, friends! Happy October! I hope you are all getting your koi and goldfish ready for Halloween. I hope you're getting a good feel for what they all want to dress up as and are starting your online searches for the cutest costumes. My vet hospital always has a pet-costume contest, and this year I plan on entering my koi. I'm not sure just yet what I will dress them up as...I'm thinking maybe, koi?

On a more serious note...oh never mind. What fun is that? I'd much rather just be happy and have a relaxed end of year letter to you all. I have to say, I was very happy to see the winners of the Rocky Mountain Koi Show included the Showa I absolutely loved! And what is going on with Phil and all his prize winning fish? That was so cool! Congratulations, Phil! Maybe next year we will have more members entering their fish, and winning!

As Bob has mentioned in the club meetings, I am stepping down from my role on the Exec Board since we will be moving out to Divide/Florissant in 2027. The problem with next year is we will be focusing on building our new house, and based on our experiences building other things I will be busy, distracted, stressed, confused and totally obsessed with that project! I'm so excited, I can't wait. I am designing a pond that will be primarily inside the greenhouse, but will also be connected via an underground culvert to an outdoor section of pond. We'll be able to close off the two ponds in the winter, or if there are quarantine issues, or if there are too many bears in the area. It's a huge project but as many of you know, it is a labor of love. I plan to put it on the Pond Tour after it's all done, but of course it will be a ways out there so I'm not anticipating a ton of visitors.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. For now it's October, only 2025. We are getting ready for the end of the year BBQ and I hope to see you all there! Bring your most tasty treats to share, I can't wait to try them! Take care of yourselves until then!

- Rachel