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

October 2026

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Final Club Meeting of 2026
October 8th
YEAR END BBQ

The club will provide BBQ, Salad, Rolls, and Drinks.
Please bring a dish or dessert to share.
If you can help with this meeting, please contact
Bob Oatman

This meeting begins at
6:30 pm

**Please RSVP so we can ensure we have enough
food for everyone by**

[CLICKING HERE!](#)

President's Ponderings

President's Pondering

Well, here we are... October already! It seems like we just got started, and now we're getting ready for our last meeting of the year. And what better way to wrap things up than with a BBQ, good food, and good friends?

As I look back over the past year, one thing stands out more than anything else: **this club works because of the people in it.** There are a lot of moving parts behind the scenes that most folks never see. Tables don't set themselves up, events don't organize themselves, and the drinks, food, newsletters, meeting presentations, and all the other things that make our club what it is don't just magically happen!

So, before we put another year in the books, I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers and to our board members. Whether you spent hours planning, helped at an event, took on a job when somebody needed a hand, or simply showed up and pitched in, you helped make this club work. Every bit of it is appreciated.

Most of all, I appreciate the friendships and good times we've shared along the way. That's really what makes all the work worthwhile.

So come hungry, come ready to relax, and come ready to visit at the October BBQ. Let's enjoy one more get-together before we call it a year.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this a great year. I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year!

See you at the BBQ and have a relaxing winter!

Bob



Humane Society Fall Workshop

What a beautiful morning to get our hands dirty, play in the water and mud, and enjoy some good time with friends!

A big **thank you** to everyone who came out to help trim back the lilies and give the bog filter a much-needed cleaning. It was definitely a little messy, but a lot more fun with good company!

Thanks to Bob Oatman, Samantha Poole, William, Dolora and Gina Griesinger, Allen and Linda Burbidge, Christine Legend, Scott Snyder, and Mary Ann Keating for pitching in and helping get the pond ready for winter!

We couldn't do it without our wonderful members who are always willing to lend a hand.



Rocky Mountain Koi Club Koi Show & Aquatic Expo

PPKWGS sponsored two awards for the show and picked the Koi that won the Friendship Award provided by K.O.I. We had a table at the show and had lots of fun talking about our club and Koi during the 3-day event.

Thanks to Bob Oatman, Phil Goulding, Cathy Bulf, Nicholas Simco, Ellen Simco, Susan Baron, and Katie O'Sullivan for helping man—and woman—our table!



Board Member Elections

At our September meeting, we elected the following members, and they all accepted a board position:

Bill Griesinger, Brenda Walth, Cathy Bulf, and Gigi Greer

They will be joining:

Bob Oatman, Allen Burbidge, Nicholas Simco, and Robbin Robins

to complete our executive board for 2027.



Now that all the positions have been filled, the board will decide who will fill which officer positions for 2027. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated, and thanks for your time and effort!

We are still STILL looking for a Newsletter Editor for 2027!

I realize it's late in the season...well, the season for editing the newsletter is actually over by the time you are reading this. Which is a good thing! It will give everyone the winter to mull over the awesomeness of the opportunity to take over as Newsletter Editor!

I know there is someone in the club who is harboring a love of writing, who wants to be more involved in the club but doesn't want too much responsibility, who is willing to step up and help out so the newsletter doesn't fall into disarray next year.

If that person is you, please contact Bob at President@ppwgs.org. He can fill you in on the details and get you in contact with the current one-foot-out-the-door editor who would love to talk with you!

What Does Your Pond Tell You? Learning to Listen as Autumn Arrives

Your koi probably have you pretty well trained. Walk toward the pond, and they come running, mouths opening and closing, looking for dinner. But as October arrives and the water begins to cool, perhaps it's time to turn the tables: What are your koi and your pond trying to tell you?

The first clue is movement. As water temperatures fall, koi naturally become less active. They may spend more time lower in the pond, move more slowly, and show less enthusiasm at feeding time. That's not necessarily a problem. Their metabolism is slowing along with the water temperature.

And here's where our Colorado weather can fool us. A sunny October afternoon can feel almost like summer, while the pond water remains considerably cooler. The fish don't read the calendar, and they certainly don't check the weather forecast. The thermometer in your pond is a much better storyteller.

That makes October a good time to pay attention to patterns rather than individual observations. Is the water temperature steadily falling? Are the koi becoming less active? Are they still eagerly eating? Is the water staying clear? Is your filter behaving the same way it did in August?

Each of those observations is a little piece of information.

Watch the feeding response. Koi are remarkably good at convincing us that they're hungry. They'll often come rushing over even when their metabolism has slowed. As water temperatures fall, their ability to digest food changes, so feeding should be guided by water temperature rather than by how enthusiastically they beg.

Watch the water. A pond that looked crystal clear in July may behave differently in October. Falling temperatures affect the biological activity in the filter, while leaves and other organic material begin finding their way into the pond. Changes in clarity, surface activity, or accumulated debris are worth noticing—not necessarily because something is wrong, but because the pond is changing.

Watch the plants. Aquatic plants are another excellent indicator of the season. Some will begin dying back while others continue growing. A little yellowing or declining foliage isn't necessarily a problem; it's simply another sign that the growing season is winding down.

And perhaps the most important thing to watch is change.

A pond keeper who spends a few minutes observing the pond every day—or even every few days—develops a pretty good sense of what is normal. That's valuable information. If something suddenly looks different, you'll notice it much sooner than someone who only looks at the pond when it's time to feed the fish.

So this October, before we get too focused on putting everything away for the winter, spend a few minutes just sitting beside the pond.

Don't feed. Don't clean. Don't adjust anything.

Just watch.

Watch the koi. Watch the water. Listen to the pump. Look at the plants. Notice what's different from a month ago.

Your pond may be telling you quite a bit. You just have to learn how to listen.

Bob Oatman

PPKWGS Important Dates for 2026

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

[08 Oct - 8th & Final Club Meeting - Annual BBQ \(6:30PM start time\)](#)

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)

Union Printer Fall Workshop

On August 29th, several members showed up to help trim the lilies back so the pads wouldn't die and foul the pond water over the winter. The lilies were blooming like crazy, and it was a little sad cutting off all the flowers. But several of those flowers were taken home by our members, placed in a bowl of water, and allowed to bloom for a few more days.

Thanks to:

Bob Oatman, William Griesinger, Dolora Griesinger, Julia Spring, Cathy Bulf, Allen Burbidge, Linda Burbidge, Miriam Blum, Tony D'Amico, Harry Riemer, Tim Jardeleza, and Carol Hildebrand for helping out.



Highlighted Plant of the Month

Water Hyacinth—Small

Eichhornia Crassipes

Violet floating perennial with a thick, floating stem bearing rosettes of shiny, rounded leaves up to 6 inches across. Purplish green roots hang down 12 inches into the water. May produce a pale blue to violet flower in the summer.



Hardy to Zone 8. Floating plant, Full Sun with running water through roots, 2-12" height.

Water hyacinth is now on the Invasive Species watch list. Do not allow it to infiltrate a river system.

Club News

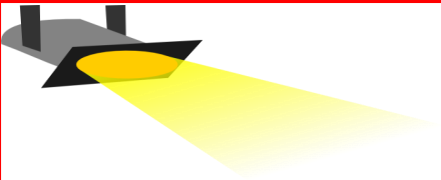


Winter's coming, let's get those ponds cleaned out!

If you're planning to clean out your pond before winter and don't have your own pond vac, worry not! Borrow one of our Oase PondoVac 5s and simplify your pond maintenance. These professional-grade vacuums make the task a breeze.

We have two Oase PondoVac 5s you can borrow
FOR FREE!!

To reserve one, reach out to Allen Burbidge at (719) 574-5176.



Website Spotlight



Website Spotlight

Do you have an event from another club that you would like included on our website calendar?

Just click the "Add Event" button on our calendar page

[+ Add Event](#)

and fill in the information.

After you save the event, the webmaster will have to approve the event before it shows up on our calendar



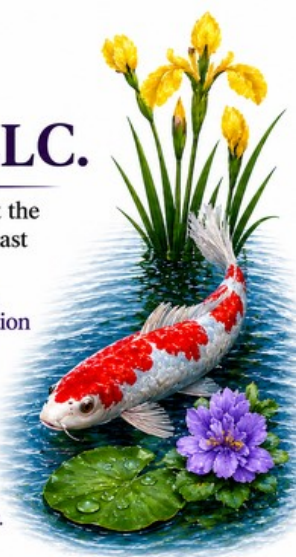
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Please call to confirm open hours.
Appointments always available.
Active PPKWGS members receive 5% discount.





New Membership Applications and Membership Dues can be submitted via our 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 that year and all of the 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 2026 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 2026

President:

Bob Oatman

President@ppwgs.org

Vice President:

Cathy Bulf

VicePresident@ppwgs.org

Treasurer:

Brenda Walth

Treasurer@ppwgs.org

Secretary:

tbd

Secretary@ppwgs.org

Member at Large:

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Robin Robbins

Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

PPKWGS Coordinators

Fund Raiser:

Allen Burbidge

Refreshments:

Robin Robbins

Membership:

Allen Burbidge

Door Prizes:

Allen & Linda Burbidge

Koi Food Buy:

Phil Goulding

Rehoming Auction:

Cathy Bluff

Plant Sale:

Bob Oatman

Koi Auction:

Tim Jardeleza

Pond Tour:

Allen Burbidge

Webmaster:

Bob Oatman

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 again, fellow pond enthusiasts. We had so much going on these past few months—Fall Workshops, the Rocky Mountain Koi Show, now the Annual Club BBQ. It's good to end the year with a bang!

We are going to start building our new greenhouse/koi pond in the next few weeks, and in that process, a funny thing happened. We were looking at different companies to buy the equipment for our pond, and one of the places we heard good things about was Play It Koi. So we called them and spoke with Sam, a lovely woman who was new to the job and at the same time very helpful and knowledgeable. We had a good and informative conversation, and during the call it came up that she was calling from Colorado. That was interesting because the company itself is not based in Colorado. So we said we lived in Colorado Springs, and as it turns out she was in Falcon! We laughed at that in a what-are-the-chances kind of way, and as it also turned out when we brought up the club, she had just come to the September meeting! She wanted to learn more about koi and ponds for her job, so she found our lovely PPKWGS. It was a really cool synchronicity experience. (Of course, I wasn't able to make the Sept meeting, so while many of you have already met Sam, I have yet to meet her face to face. Hopefully this month I'll be at the BBQ meeting and have that pleasure.)

The experience of designing our pond has been a wonderful one. In particular, thanks to Bob, Phil and Tim, members who have taken significant time to share their own experiences building, designing and maintaining their ponds. We are going to definitely get a drum filter, stock our ponds in an intentional way, consider the use of anoxic filtration, and build in a settling tank to help the pumps work optimally. I am so excited to see it when it is finally operating, and my koi get to move from their current tiny backyard pond into a substantially larger home. If we are on the pond tour next year, you are all invited to come out to Florissant to see what we end up with! Until then, happy ponding! -Rachel