



NORTHERN MIDWEST ZNA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 10, 2008

2008 SEMINAR IN THE BOOKS

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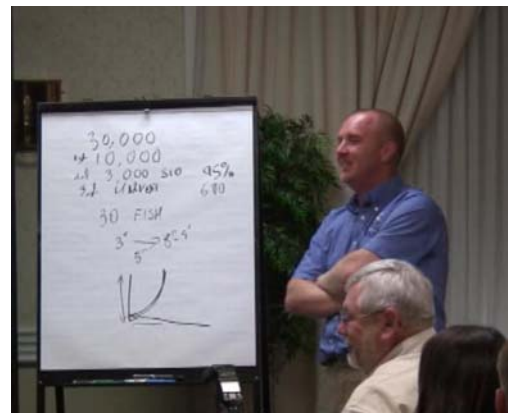
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Wow! What a great seminar. The NMZNA, together with the MPKS, held a combined seminar on Saturday April 19, 2008 at the Oaks Hotel in Burr Ridge, IL, a suburb of Chicago, located on the south side. The seminar featured Mat McCann of Quality Koi, who gave a lecture of about 2-1/2 hours on selecting koi.

After Mat's seminar, Dr. Myron Kebus conducted a wet lab which emphasized identification of diseases, fish scraping, microscope work, and hands-out treatment techniques. Myron was ably assisted by Dr. Chris Serpico, who announced that his practice can provide assistance with disease identification and treatment.

Approximately 60 members of the clubs attended the seminar and training event.

Dick Thomas recorded a DVD of the event, which is available to club members for the price of \$25. The DVD is an excellent value, and covers selection of koi, and comments by Mat regarding the methods used by Quality Koi, Nisei Fish Farm to grade, select, and price koi for sale. If you're interested in obtaining a copy of the DVD, go to the club website at www.nmzna.net, or contact Dick Thomas at: 765-447-3070. All pictures contained in this newsletter are from the DVD.

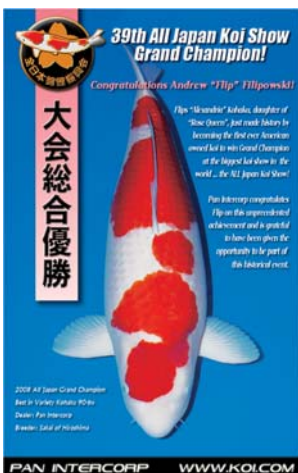


Mat's lecture was aimed at helping members to understand how koi are graded, raised, and priced, as well as to understanding how to select koi having a certain quality level.

The first part of the lecture was concerned with how fish are spawned, sorted and priced. As Mat explained a typical spawning and culling operation is as follows:

Days	Size	Number
Spawn		30,000
45 days later	1/2" - 2"	10,000
75 days later	3" - 4"	3,000
Harvest (to wholesale)	5" - 6"	2,800
To sale as To-sai	5" - 6"	170
To mud ponds	5" - 6"	30

The table shows the drastic reduction in the number of fish spawned to the number of fish kept for sale or growth as Tosai. Of the 30,000 fish initially



Congratulations, Flip! A Chicago boy wins the All-Japan show.



- Quality Koi Company strives to produce consistently high grade koi for both the retail and wholesale markets.
- Quality Koi Company distributes healthy, parasite and virus screened



spawned, only 200 make it for sale as Tosai. The economics of raising, sorting, culling and further growing-out account for the prices paid for top quality fish. Of the 2,800 or so fish that are sold to wholesalers, the average selling price is (hopefully) \$10 apiece.

Mat brought 10 Showa to evaluate at the seminar, and emphasized the fact that the grading of Showas is done based on the quality of the Beni, or red of the fish. While most people associate Showas with a black fish, Mat emphasized that the black will often come and go, but that the red is “what you get.” In other words, the red is there and will either maintain its quality or have its quality deteriorate over the life of the fish.

Mat also spoke at length about the type of red that fish possess. There is a soft, undeveloped type of red that looks “unfinished.” This type of red usually lasts for a long time, and takes time to develop. There is a second type of red that appears “hard” or brittle and looks finished, or complete. This type of red, especially on a young fish, is probably at its peak, and will only deteriorate over time. Generally speaking (and there are exceptions to this point), female fish possess the “soft” type of red, while male fish possess the “hard” red.

The red color in koi actually comes with a tone: that tone can be red, orange or a yellowish type. There is also a “thickness” to the red, which is analogous to the “thickness” of a layer of paint. If an object is given one coat of paint, it will appear less dense than an object with several coats of paint. This is similar to the thickness of red in koi: the thicker the red, the higher the quality and the more the fish appears to have a deeper shade of red than a lower quality fish.

Mat demonstrated the thickness of the red by bending several of the fish at their midsection. If the fish shows the red through to the skin, the red is considered to be of high quality. If the skin under the red of the scale appears white, then the red is considered to be of an inferior quality.

During the discussion, Mat also talked about the quality of sumi, or black on the fish he brought. Originally, sumi in Showas tended to be somewhat dull or matte in appearance. Koi breeders attempted to improve on the sumi by making it more lustrous, similar to the black seen on Sanke. In fact, breeders attempted to introduce Sanke bloodlines, as well as magoi bloodlines, into Showas, so that the sumi would improve. Mat’s breeding stock includes a 3rd generation female Showa, known as “Big Mama” that has Sanke bloodlines to enhance the quality of the sumi. The male fish used to breed Showas includes second generation stock with Sanke bloodlines. The result of this breeding program is a Showa line with “irushi” or lacquer-like sumi.

Mat mentioned that the quality of sumi can be seen if a fish is allowed to remain in a show bowl for 15 to 20 minutes. If, during that time period, the sumi begins to fade, it is a good indication that the sumi is of less quality than the best fish seen at shows. While the placement and thickness of sumi may change with time, the quality never does—it is either there, or it is not.



Mat indicated that the fish he brought to the seminar would ordinarily not be offered for sale, and definitely not at the price the members paid for the fish. He explained that in fish this size, we would normally see about 80% of how the fish would develop. At 6" - 8", you would normally expect to see about 85% of the expected development of the fish, while at 18", you would see approximately 95% of the fish's potential.



As Mat brought each fish to the bowl, he discussed the relative merits and demerits of each fish, pointing out the quality of the red, black and white of each fish, and commenting on the future potential and likely development of each fish. After the commentary, each person who purchased a fish, was given their new Tategoi to bring home.



The seminar finished with Mat donating an excellent Showa to the club, with the fish being purchased by Marc & Tamara Skaggs after intense bidding.

The second part of the seminar was held by Dr. Myron Kebus. Myron, using a combination of video screens and hands-on work with the microscope, walked participants through disease identification, fish scraping, minor surgical repairs, and fish dissection. Myron was aided Dr. Chris Serpico, who walked through the audience, helping people master the technique of fish scraping, slide preparations, and anesthesia.



Although the seminar took over 4 tries and a year to pull-off, a good time seemed to be had by all attendees.



AH! THE GLAMOR OF A KOI SHOW! STORY AND PICTURES BY BOB BRUDD

With this year's show only weeks away, the Skaggs, Mark Hare and Bob Brudd joined Dick and Brenda Thomas at their home in Lafayette on Saturday, May 17th, to scrub out all of the vats. They were last cleaned at the show site, and in a few instances, put away slightly damp which in turn caused a few minor mildew problems. Actually, this turned out to be a good thing because as Dick wielded his power brush wand, the water turned white with soap foam from residual Simple Green that still lingered in the pores and crevices of the vinyl.

The day started off chilly and rainy, but fortunately the skies cleared, temperatures rose, and ideal conditions for cleaning and drying ensued. Having cleaned vats numerous times, it was great to not have get down on hands and knees to dry them off with tons of towels; instead, the sun got 90% of the water that remained. That enabled everyone to take a break and enjoy a great lunch while overlooking the Thomas' new "mud pond," which turned out to be their pool. We all thought it was the pool, but the water was so green that it was hard to tell. And then there were those meter long koi surfacing for pellets every so often !



7TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MIDWEST ZNA KOI SHOW

JUNE 21ST - JUNE 22ND 2008

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

ALSO FEATURING
THE AMERICAN GOLDFISH ASSOCIATION SHOW AND POND EXPO

Show Chairman:

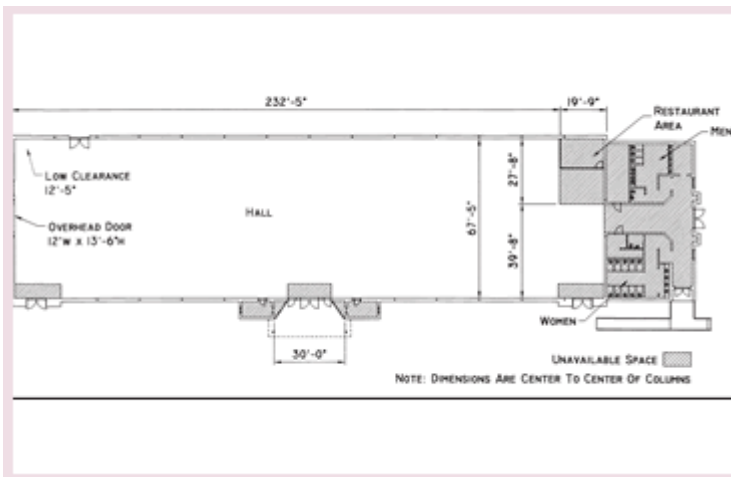
Dick Thomas
 1548 Tanglewood Drive,
 Lafayette, IN 47905
rdthomas@verizon.net

Vendor Co-Chairman:

Marc & Tamara Skaggs
 6500 E Coal Bluff Court,
 Camby, IN 46113
mr.skaggs@sbcglobal.net

Goldfish Show Co-Chairman:

Bryan & Bay Bateman
 245 Middaugh Road
 Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
bryzkoi@aol.com



The Pioneer Our Land Pavilion is the perfect place for your trade show or meeting. Built in 1924, this facility offers an open and clear span flexible space. The exhibit space can accommodate up to 1,000 people for your big banquets and business meetings, trade shows with towering exhibits, auctions, dances/parties and collectors events. The Pioneer Our Land Pavilion also has the ability to have a stage put in for concerts. Heating and air-conditioning, a concrete floor, office space, load-in area, overhead door, concessions space and wheelchair accessible rest-rooms are added features of this building.

Clientele: Stewart's Indiana Flea Market, Coin Operated Game Auction, Martial Arts

MEET OUR JUDGES FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL KOI SHOW

Goldfish Judge - Vicki Knill

Vicki is an AGA Board Member and lives with her husband Carl in Marietta, Georgia. She works as a Registered Nurse in her hospital's Surgical Services area. She has been raising fancy goldfish for over 40 years in both aquariums and ponds. In 1993, she moved from Canada to Georgia where she became a member of the Atlanta Koi Club and has served as Secretary, Pond Tour, Raffle, and Goldfish Show Chairperson. She was Goldfish Chairperson for 2007 SKE Goldfish Show. Vicki actively shows both goldfish and koi and has won Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and AGA Awards with her goldfish.

In her native Canada, Vicki bred and exhibited dogs for over 20 years, having bred a 3 time Westminster winner for her Affenpinscher breed. She was founder, President and Newsletter Editor of Affenpinscher Canada. Vicki is also an avid gardener and runs marathons in the Grand Masters Division.

Vicki has completed her candidacy program, and is now qualified as a certified judge.



Koi Judge - Jim Reilly

Name: James P. Reilly
 Address: 61 Bailey Hollow Road, Morris Township, NJ 07960
 Phone/Fax: 973- 984 5451
 E-mail: thekoiguy@aol.com
 Profession: Financial Advisor/ fixed Income portfolio manager.

Size of Pond: 7,000 US gallons

Year Certified as Judge 1998

Year entering program: 1995

Years in Hobby: 18

Affiliated Club and how many years: MAKC (1989)

Positions held in club: VP, AKCA rep, ZNA rep, show chairman, author/magazine contributor, MAKC health hot line volunteer and activist.

Other koi related Activities: Articles for numerous koi publications, contributing writer of AKCA health guide. Speaker for local club events and panel discussions on koi health and filtration. As a serious student of all things koi, a Frequent visitor to Japan over the past decade. Numerous AKCA and ZNA judging seminars over the past several years.

Accomplishments: Have helped many club members with pond design problems and helped introduce UV lighting, common use of the microscope and an organized approach to antibiotic therapy to the local ponds in the NJ area. MAKC chapter koi person of the year 1995, 1997 MAKC koi person of the year 1999. AKCA koi person of the year 1999. AKCA Koi Health Advisor 2003. Assisted in the formation of the MAKC ZNA chapter under the guidance of past MAKC presidents, Art Lembke and Betty Roamer. Have been fortunate enough to exhibit several Grand Champions over the early and mid-nineties including MAKC's first ALL AMERICAN champion at KOI AMERICA 1996. Most recent koi show win- first place 60 Bu Ai Goromo All Japan show 2001 Judged in USA, England, Holland, Taiwan, and Japan



13TH ANNUAL GREATER LOUISVILLE KOI & GOLDFISH SHOW

The 13th Annual Greater Louisville Koi & Goldfish Society show was held on Memorial Day weekend at the home of Charles & Carolyn Phelps. Each year, the Phelps' open up their house and garden for the show, and this year was no exception. A number of NMZNA members were on hand to judge, help, act as vendors, and show fish.



Among the major award winners from NMZNA were the following:

Name	Award
Scott & Joni Kendall	Most Unique
Scott & Joni Kendall	AKCA Award
Scott & Joni Kendall	MAKC Friendship
Steve Childress	MPKS Friendship
Kevin & Sheila Karstens	Judges Award
Marc & Tamara Skaggs	NMZNA Friendship
Troy & Sherrie Head	Young Champion
Charles & Carolyn Phelps	Baby Champion

