

# Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society



December 2008

## CHICKEN STEW, HOT DOGS AND S'MORES OH, MY

November gathering was blessed with nice weather after a dreary start to the day. Ron and Mary had a roaring campfire going and plenty of food to eat. As usual, Mary's Chicken Stew was the hit of the day. Of course, cooking hot dogs on sticks over a campfire had a lot of us reminiscing. And what's a campfire without marshmallows. Add chocolate bars and graham crackers — well, it just doesn't get any better than that. Sorry if you missed it. We did not hold a meeting at this social, we just ATE!!!!



## CHRISTMAS TREAT

**For those of you who didn't attend the last Christmas social at Tracy and Tanya McCorkle's, you are going to get another chance.**

**McCorkleville will be open to all club members on December 13th at 6:00 p.m. Address is 6848 Melody Lane and if you need further help with finding their house - 704-536-5931**

**Directions are on next page. Hope to see you there. We will be voting on new officers at this meeting. We need your votes.**

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Can't remember if your membership is DUE?  
Check address label on newsletter. Date above

2008

## MCCORKLEVILLE

DECEMBER 13 - 6:00 pm Christmas Party - Tanya & Tracy McCorkle's  
6848 Melody Lane, Charlotte 28215

**DIRECTIONS:**

**FROM I-85:** Take WT Harris Boulevard exit toward the University area.

Go approximately 3 miles and turn left on Plaza Road Extension (between BP and Hardees).

Go 1 mile and turn right on Plott Road. Another mile and turn left on Melody Lane.

Follow Melody Lane to the end and turn left onto gravel drive.

Follow it around to

**FROM INDEPENDENCE BLVD:**

Turn right on Harris Blvd. Go approximately 4 miles.

Turn right on Hickory Gove Road (Hickory Grove Baptist Church on left).

Go 1/4 mile and turn left onto Highland Avenue (street is between Church and school). Cross over Robinson Church Road (flashing red light). Melody Lane is the 4th street on right. Go to end of street and turn left onto gravel drive. Our house is second on left.

The vast majority of pond fish (goldfish, koi, comets, shubunkins and orfe) are related to the carp and have been overwintering in our climate very successfully for hundreds of years.

Fish are cold blooded, which means that they take their body temperature from that of the surrounding environment. When it is warm, they are active, feeding, growing and producing the waste to match. The reverse is true as the water temperature drops. As long as the drop in water temperature is gradual as it usually is between summer and winter, lagging slightly behind the reducing air temperature, then our fish should adapt to what for them is a quite natural phenomenon. They have no choice in the matter and respond to cooling water by a drop in activity as their metabolism slows right down.

A carp's physiology is geared to overwintering and this physiology has been inherited by their ornamental cousins. The shortening days as winter approaches causes pond fish to prepare for winter before it arrives, feeding in excess (whenever possible) to store sufficient energy to survive the winter. The onset of cold weather may come as a shock to us, but our pondfish, unbeknown to us, have been preparing for this testing period for months.

As soon as the water temperature drops below 80C, fish become relatively inactive, drop to the bottom of the pond, not to feed again until the temperature rises above 80C in the spring. During this lengthy period of inactivity, we can intervene to ensure that any risks to their health and well being are reduced.

## Overwintering Dos + Don'ts

**Do:** Prevent ice from fully covering the pond. Cover the pond with a fine mesh net to stop leafs entering the pond and settling on the bottom. Treat the pond with a general anti-bacterial treatment in the first warm days of activity in spring.

**Don't** Panic. Provided you have fed your pond fish well over the summer, they will have reserves to overwinter. Research has shown that pond fish can live for 150+ days without food over winter before encountering real problems. Don't smash ice if it forms. Use a hot saucepan or kettle and keep it ice-free with a floating ball or 100w pond heater. Don't leave aeration on as it will mix all water depths causing the water to chill quicker. Don't feed in isolated sunny spells, even when encouraged to by fish activity. Particularly resist feeding in months of November to February, as prolonged cold periods will almost certainly return during these months. Although water quality is likely to be at its best in winter, it can deteriorate if your pond is prone to collecting substantial amounts of leaf matter. Even at low temperatures, leaf matter will decompose, upsetting the balance of the pond. A fine-mesh hand net should be used to remove any leaf matter and debris that has already accumulated. Do not be too concerned if a shallow layer of silt still forms on the pond bottom as fish can benefit from settling in a soft substrate over winter.



**RECIPE**  
**Black Bottom Cheesecake Pie**

- 1/2 (15 oz) package refrigerated piecrusts
  - 1 cup semisweet chocolate morsels
  - 3 Tbsp. Whipping cream
  - 1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, softened
  - 4 large eggs
  - 3/4 cup sugar, divided
  - 2 tsp. Vanilla extract, divided
  - 1/4 tsp salt
  - 1 cup light corn syrup
  - 3 tbsp. Butter or margarine, melted
  - 1 1/2 cup pecan halves
  - Chocolate syrup (optional)
1. Preheat oven to 350.
  2. Unroll piecrust; fit into a 9-inch pie plate. Fold edges under and crimp.
  3. Microwave chocolate morsels and whipping cream in a small glass bowl at medium power for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until chocolate begins to melt. Whisk until smooth. Set aside.
  4. Beat cream cheese, 1 egg, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. Vanilla and salt at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Pour Chocolate mixture into piecrust, spreading evenly. Pour cream cheese mixture over chocolate layer.
  5. Whisk together corn syrup, melted butter, remaining 3 eggs, remaining 1/4 cup sugar and remaining 1 tsp vanilla. Stir in pecans, pour over cream cheese layer. Pie plate will be very full so be careful transferring to oven.
  6. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes or until set, shielding pie after 45 minutes to prevent excessive browning. Cool completely on a wire rack. Drizzle each slice with chocolate syrup, if desired. (Trust me – you won't need the syrup.)

**PKWS 2008**  
**OFFICERS**

- President -  
 Geoffrey Huntley  
 704-510-1594
- Vice Pres.-  
 Tracy McCorkle  
 704-536-5931
- Secretary – Carol Mathis 704  
 -455-8587
- Treasurer – Darlene Shotts  
 704-784-1066
- Membership – Dawn Mize  
 980-235-9414
- Newsletter – Carol Mathis  
 704-455-8587
- Property Manager – Darrell  
 Mauldin 704-573-3663
- Webmaster – Mike Long 704  
 -947-6141

- Tentative 2009 Calendar of Events**
- ..January – restaurant to be announced
  - ..February – open
  - ..March – Plant Division Swap
  - ..April – Spring Cull Auction
  - ..Spring Visit to Lotus Land Koi Farm
  - ..May – open
  - ..June – open
  - Watch for further updates.

**BALLOT OF OFFICERS FOR 2009**

**PRESIDENT**

\_\_\_Mike Long

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**First Order of Business for  
December Meeting**

Please make your vote count. Attend the  
Christmas Meeting at Tracy and Tanya  
McCorkle's.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

\_\_\_Rebecca Trull

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**SECRETARY**

\_\_\_Mary Ann Pennix

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**TREASURER**

\_\_\_Terri Havey

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**PKWS**

Carol Mathis  
1284 Biltmore Drive  
Concord, NC 28025

Phone: 704-455-8587

Email: caomah@aol.com



**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

The Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society (PKWS) is a not for profit organization. The membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Annual Membership Dues for a family for the first year are \$49.00 AND INCLUDES A NAME BADGE. For renewing members the dues are \$24.00 Additional nametags may be purchased at a cost of \$7.00 each. Please complete the following form and return it with your membership dues to:

**Dawn Mize  
6918 Carriageway Lane  
Charlotte NC 28227**

Please print clearly (this information will only be used for club records). Please print your names) as you would like them to appear on your name tag(s).

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues(New member) \$49.00  
Membership Dues(Renewing) \$24.00 (Circle One)