



PKWS January 2019 Issue

Editor: Carol Mathis

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



The Penix Pond and gardens

So, the story behind my selecting this picture to hopefully generate a warm feeling on a cold winter's day, comes out of the holiday party at Gina Navarette's and Ken Rambo's home (special thanks here, to our gracious hosts for a wonderful evening). Upon arriving at the party, Mary Ann Penix, pulled me aside and with a stern voice but a twinkle in her eyes, said, "I've got a bone to pick with you." She then gently took me to task for the fact that an article that appeared in the December issue of KoiUSA magazine had pictures of all of the ponds that were on our pond tour last

June, except for theirs.

In truth, I had drafted the article and submitted photos to the magazine, but had not been responsible for the page layouts or for final editing and picture selection. This then is my "make-good" to Mary Ann and Don. Enjoy this lovely picture of their pond and since they have volunteered to host our meeting in May, it is not too early to look forward to seeing the Penix Pond up close and personal. For newer members who have not yet had that pleasure, the date of the May meeting, the 11th, is one you will want to circle on your new 2019 calendars.

Speaking of the meeting schedule, we are all set for hosts for this coming year, with the exception of three months: March, November and December. Just call or send me an e-mail if you can volunteer to host one of those meetings. Admittedly, March and November are a bit riskier as to weather than other months, but we have been pretty lucky with the weather the past couple of years.

Our January meeting will be at The Park Place Restaurant on January 12th, but before then, you will be receiving a short survey via e-mail. This survey is a follow-up to a wide-ranging discussion we had at our meeting in November. After the sharing of opinions and ideas on a number of subjects pertaining to finances, operating matters, and possible projects for our club, we tabled further discussion in order to focus on specific issues and ideas at our meetings early in the new year. Since not everyone can be at every meeting, the survey is an attempt to get a broad sense of members' feelings on several matters. The survey should take no more than about five minutes and I hope that you will complete it and send it back prior to the January meeting, if possible.

Very best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

Myles

PKWS 2018 OFFICERS

President: Myles Weiner 440-537-4094
VP/ Ray Bell 803-415-2310

Treasurer: Cecelia Smith 704-365-3803
Secretary: LeAnn Swieczkowski 704-560-4322

APPOINTED OFFICES:

Membership: Cecelia Smith Pritchett
Newsletter: Carol Mathis 704-455-8587

Property Manager: Leo Bollinger 704-614-0737
Webmaster: Brannon Raines 704-576-9479

**A REMINDER, IF YOU HAVENT PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2019,
ITS TIME TO DO SO. SEND TO CECELIA SMITH.**

2019 Social Calendar

January SOCIAL MEETING

Saturday, January 12 , 2019

START TIME IS 5:00

Park Place Restaurant

10517 Park Road

Charlotte, NC

Directions: Located on Park Road extension on opposite side of road from Pineville CMS Hospital, directly opposite McEwen Funeral Services. If traveling on I485, get off on Johnston Road exit, and/or Carolina Mall exit.

How to Keep Koi Fish in a Pond During Freezing Weather



Ice by itself is not dangerous to koi, as long as your pond is deep enough not to freeze completely (3-5 feet or more). The danger to fish comes with the reduced oxygen and increased toxic gases caused by the sealed over water surface.

While you could move your fish and plants to a temporary indoor tank for the winter, or install pond heaters that use a lot of energy, in many cases you can overwinter your fish outdoors with a little care. Keep in mind these tips:

- **Aeration:** Have an aerator running in your pond at all times to keep the water stirred and promote the exchange of gases. An aerator is a lot more economical than a pond heater, and it will oxygenate the water while reducing ice build up.
- **Ventilation:** If you're aerating the water, all you need is a small hole or two for the bubbles to escape. You don't need to remove the rest of the ice from the surface.
- **Balance:** Koi (and many other fish) go into a sort of dormancy in the winter, using less oxygen and naturally settling to the bottom of the pond where the water is warmer. Your aerator should gently stir the water without upsetting this natural balance. Go for a steady stream of bubbles, not a rolling "boil" or strong current. If your pond is 4-5 feet or deeper, put the diffuser at the middle of the depth range (not the deepest part) so that the fish can retreat to less-disturbed deeper waters if needed.
- **Ice:** Don't break the ice in your pond by hitting it, since the force can cause shock waves that may hurt the fish. Keep an eye on your ventilation hole and remove any thin ice before it becomes thick and hard. If necessary, you can sit a full, hot teakettle on top of the ice until it melts a hole. Otherwise, let it snow! The snow, ice, and surrounding earth will help insulate your pond from the frigid air.
- **De-Icer:** If your pond threatens to freeze completely, you may need to install a de-icer to keep at least part of the water above freezing. Your fish will need a few feet of liquid water in the pond throughout the winter

PIEDMONT KOI AND WATERGARDEN SOCIETY

Christmas Meeting 2018

Our last meeting of 2018 was well attended at the home of Ken Rambo and Gina Navarrete. President Myles Weiner thanked the couple for hosting the event. Gina mentioned the event almost did not happen as her mother had a heart issue earlier in that week that almost required a cancelation but, thankfully her health did improve. Again, good cooks as they are, Gina and Ken roasted a turkey and a ham. Plus, they provided a beautiful decorated tree and home décor so that we all felt quite festive.

Myles passed around a Koi Magazine for interested members to review. In addition, he mentioned the passing of our newly joined member Pat Perrelli, and that the club sent flowers to his wife Linda.

Myles mentioned that the November meeting at the Rankin home, there were lively discussions which he hoped to have discussed in a more organized way. He planned to have a future meeting with club officers to prepare some planning.

Myles provided the New Slate of officers, and the election became official for this slate. Myles Weiner: President, Ray Bell: Vice President, Cecelia Smith: Treasurer, LeAnn Swieczkowski: Secretary.

An announcement was made for 2019 Dues, \$24 is due. Cecelia could collect that night or members could mail their payment to her.

Our January and February 2019 meetings would be held at restaurants. January 12th meeting would be at the Park Place Restaurant in Pineville area at 5 pm on second Saturday of the month. February meeting will be at Jimmy's Restaurant in Mint Hill, Matthews's area, also at 5 pm.

Good of the Body: Mary Ellen McClain mentioned that Terry McClain's brother died the day after Thanksgiving in his sleep of a heart attack at age 58 years old. Gina mentioned she traveled to Cuba on a diplomatic mission and insisted her teenage son join her. In that he had been reluctant to go, but post travel expressed to his mother how pleased he was to have been on the trip. Eileen Scholl mentioned she was recovering from three knee replacements. Kathy Goodrich said her back was fused and she still could not bend. Gina Navarrete said her 88 year old mother was recovering from a heart attack a week earlier.

Leo Bollinger motioned the meeting to be adjourned and Gary Karpovich seconded the motion.

After the formal meeting the group participated in a white elephant gift exchange. The Rodin monkey (The Thinker) did not show up this Christmas. A few contested gifts were: a milk glass mermaid figurine, a chihuly glass paper weight, a portable wood fireplace, reindeer ears and a red nose for a car decoration, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen McClain, Secretary



The following form and return it with your membership dues to:

Cecelia Smith, 11079 Caroline Acres Rd, Ft Mill, SC 29707

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). You can also find an electronic copy of this form on our website.

Name(Last): _____

PKWS 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 is \$55.00 AND INCLUDES UP TO TWO (2) NAME BADGES. Additional nametags may be purchased at a cost of \$15.00 each. For renewing members the dues are \$24.00 Please complete

First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone # _____ Membership Dues: (New member) \$55.00 or (Renewal)

\$24.00(Circle One) Additional Name tags (\$15.00) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

