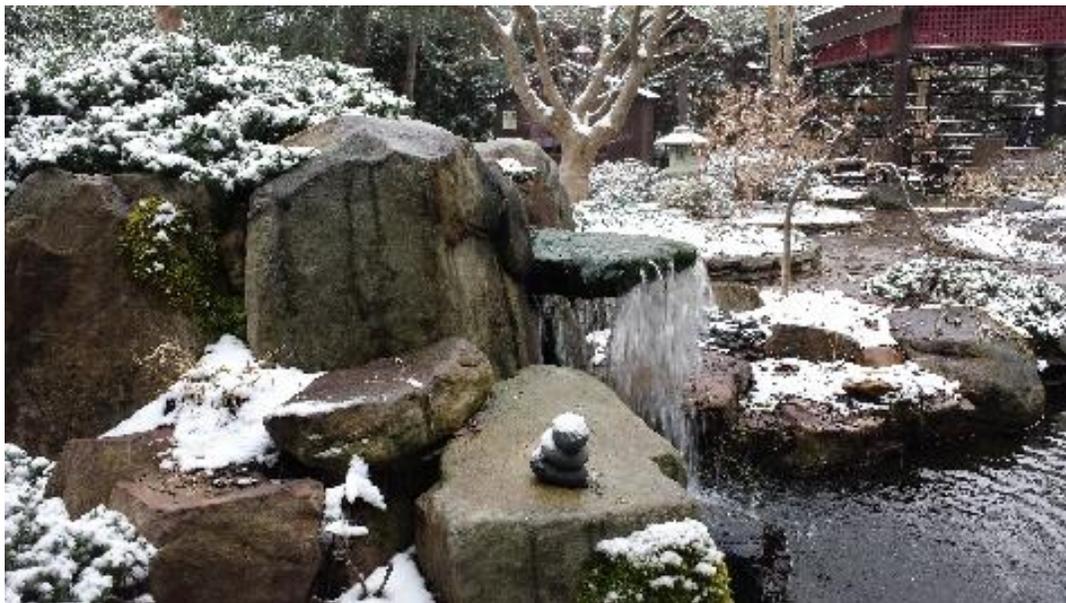




PKWS February 2019 Issue

Editor: Carol Mathis

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



Winter (but not this winter) at Cathy Goodrich's pond

Is it possible that none of us will see backyards that look like this one this year? As I write this in mid-January, I have yet to see even part of my pond freeze up this season and the forecast for the next week or so is for more relatively mild weather without a single day forecast to remain entirely below freezing. As lovely as our ponds can be after a quiet snowfall, I expect that like me, most of you will be quite okay if we can go from our current weather pattern right into spring. I am even willing to accept the prospect of a bothersome mosquito crop next summer which we are told is likely to occur in years following a mild winter.

I want to thank everyone who responded to the survey we sent out prior to the January meeting. We got a very good response and the information is quite useful, including some great ideas for topics and speakers for upcoming meetings. I shared data at the January meeting and elsewhere in this newsletter you can see the survey results if you weren't able to join us that evening. My intent is not to use the data collected from the surveys to directly change such things as meeting timing or frequency. The idea behind gathering this information is to let it serve as a basis for constructive discussion of these and other topics.

We started these discussions at the January meeting where we focused on the meeting frequency, question #1 on the survey. We will come back to the survey topics, not at every meeting, but periodically during the year. Regarding meeting frequency, the survey results showed that 70% of members would be comfortable with or might prefer eliminating one, two, or even more meetings each year, rather than meeting every month. However, after a thoughtful exchange of views, we are leaving the schedule as is, for now. The prevailing view was that there is value in maintaining a consistent schedule and since attendance at all meetings is completely voluntary, people who would be okay with fewer meetings are less impacted by maintaining the monthly schedule than those who want there to be meetings every month would be more impacted by eliminating one or more.

Regarding speakers at our meetings, please plan to attend the next one on February 9th. One of our members, Bobby Wicker, as you may know, serves as a judge at koi shows all over the country, and he is going to share his experiences from his recent trip to Japan where among other things he visited a number of large koi farms there. The meeting will be held at Jimmie's Restaurant in Mint Hill. Please note the special start time of 4:00. We will begin with Bobby Wicker's slide presentation and then relax and talk about it over dinner.

Please note that we are working on plans for a club outing in lieu of our normal March meeting. More info to follow.

Myles

The theme of Bobby's presentation is Japanese Koi Breeding – Up Close and Personal

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

February SOCIAL MEETING

Saturday, February , 2019

START TIME IS 4:00

JIMMIES RESTAURANT

7024 BRIGHTON PARK DRIVE

MINT HILL, NC 28227

Directions : Hwy 51 in Mint Hill. Restaurant is visible from Hwy 51. From Albemarle Road, Turn left onto Blair Road(Hwy 51). Go approximately 4 miles and restaurant will be on the right.

Insect Hotels

Want to have more pollinators and beneficial bugs in your yard this year? Why not make an insect hotel. Keeping a bug hotel in your yard increases the chance that your herbs, veggies, and flowers will have more pollinators. But if you use pesticides to kill mosquitoes you are also killing the beneficial insects and bugs that are natural predators to them.

Beneficial bugs like dragonflies, ladybugs and mantises are some of the hundreds of bugs that are predators of mosquitoes, house flies and cockroaches, yet people are using broad-spectrum insecticides around their properties to kill the mosquitoes which also results in killing the beneficial bugs.

It may sound counterproductive to stop using pesticides in order to control pests around the home, but that's [exactly what organic farmers do](#). By reducing pesticides, you allow populations of beneficial bugs to thrive.

You can create an insect hotel to attract beneficial bugs by using a large wooden box and alternating the types of filler you have inside of it. If you create sections within the box that have wood bark, wood chips, rolled tubes/hollow reeds, drilled wooden blocks, bundles of sticks, and bunches of straw, you may find that a dozen different species will move in.



To build an insect hotel see-<https://inhabitat.com/diy-how-to-build-an-insect-hotel-from-found-materials/>

LeAnn Swieczkowski, CW resident

PIEDMONT KOI AND WATERGARDEN SOCIETY

Club Meeting

President Myles Weiner called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report-Cecelia Smith reported that our balance as of December 2018 is \$15,871.06.

Old Business:

1. Club president, Myles Weiner thanked the incoming office holders for their support and gave a special thank you to outgoing VP, Mary Ellen McClain.
2. Meeting schedule for 2019: Need hosts for March, November and December. During the meeting, Leo Bollinger and Carol Mathis volunteered to host in November. Mary Ellen McClain suggested meeting at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in lieu of our regular March meeting. Other ideas suggested for possible club meetings/activities included a visit to the Sea Life Aquarium in Concord and a visit to the Carolina Raptor Center in Huntersville or a talk given by an expert associated with the Center. Mary Ellen volunteered to research the possibility of arranging for a visit to Daniel Stowe.

New Business:

1. Do fish need aeration in winter? Discussion concluded that they can go long periods of time without aeration in winter, due to their greatly slowed metabolism. So long as there is a good volume of water per Koi, the need for oxygen generated by a pump or a water feature is generally not critical. Goldfish vs. Koi water needs was discussed. It was suggested that oxygen needs have much more to do with the size of the fish than with whether it is a goldfish as opposed to a koi.
2. The Survey Monkey club survey results were passed out and discussed. Responses from both regular and non-regular member attendees to meetings were received. The survey's first question concerning how often to hold meetings was discussed. It was concluded that we continue to hold 12 monthly meetings per year. There were brief discussions concerning meeting times and guest presenters.
3. There was also discussion concerning why the club's treasury has \$15,000 and a long-time member shared that much of the sum was from the club holding Koi Shows. Membership dues is also a factor. The 2018 pond tour was not a fund raiser and is not a factor. We broke even on the event.
4. Discussion included if the club should pay for restaurant meals in January and February and/or events and speakers for the club.

5. Because of the meeting length, Myles suggested we continue our survey discussions at a future meeting.

Announcements:

1. New members, Jim and Elizabeth Wilson were welcomed. Jim shared that he joined the club in order to be able to share his passion for Koi and meet others who have the same passion. He also said that he is a Koi dealer and briefly discussed his ponds and the fish he keeps as pets and to sell.
2. Cecelia Smith announced that the York County Master Gardeners 14th annual symposium will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$70 and includes lunch and speakers. More information and registration are online at www.symposium.yorkmg.org

Our February meeting at Jimmie's Restaurant in Mint Hill will feature a speaker. Bobby Wicker will share experiences from a recent trip to Japan and present slides of Japanese koi farms. For the Good of the Body: Member announcements

Adjournment: 7:15.

Minutes submitted by LeAnn Swieczkowski, Piedmont Koi and Watergarden club secretary



The sounds of a cascading waterfall and birds singing. Not a cloud in the sky. The sun is shining and you're resting by the pond feeding your koi. What could be better than this? How about actually hand feeding them! Follow the few easy steps below and your koi will be eating from the palm of your hand in no time.

First, pick a feeding spot and set a designated time for feeding each day. At first, gently throw the food into the water and observe, making your presence known.

After a few feedings, start outstretching your hand closer and closer each day. Making it known to the fish your hand is present. Eventually, the fish will associate your presence with receiving food.



Over time, set your hand into the water with food and slowly release the food. This will help the fish become complacent with your hand.

It may take several tries but, eventually the fish will become comfortable enough to feed right from your hand!

PKWS Member Survey 1/19

Results summarized below reflect responses from 25 individual members (20 households). Questions 4 to 6 are shown below as a reminder of the entire content of the survey, but the responses to those questions are anecdotal and not conducive to statistical summary.

1. The club meets monthly – at members’ homes during 10 months of the year and at restaurants in January and February. What would you recommend for the future?
 - A. Keep things as they are: continue to meet 12 times a year (28%)
 - B. Meet 11 times a year – eliminating the meeting in Jan. (20%)
 - C. Meet 9 times a year – eliminating the meetings in Jan., March, and Nov. (32%)
 - D. Meet on a different schedule or frequency (If you check this option, please share your suggestion here): (20%)
2 suggested 10, 2 suggested between 4 and 6

2. For many years, our meetings have been on the second Saturday of the month, in the evening, usually at 5:30. What would you recommend for the future?
 - A. Keep things as they are: Saturday evenings, with slightly earlier start times during the winter months when there is no Daylight Savings Time (44%)
 - B. Keep meetings on Saturdays, but schedule them as lunchtime meetings (4%)
 - C. Keep meetings on Saturdays, but leave it to each host to set the start time, based on the time of year and their preference (40%)
 - D. Meet on Sundays (If choosing this option, please also choose a time option): (12%)
 - a. Evenings (1 and 1 late afternoon)
 - b. lunchtime (1)
 - c. timing left to preference of host

3. Regarding content, in addition to discussion topics at our meetings intended to be helpful and timely, do you like to have speakers who have special knowledge/expertise to share?
 - A. Yes and 2 or 3 times a year seems, which has been our pattern in recent years, seems about right (48%)
 - B. Yes, but having speakers more frequently (if available) would be even better (52%)
 - C. Not really – I get what I am seeking from the socializing and exchange of information among members and don’t feel that speakers add that much (0%)

4. If you said that you like having speakers, please let us know if there are topics pertaining to pond health and maintenance, koi, or general gardening that would be of particular interest to you or ones that you would definitely not be interested in:

Topics that I’d be particularly interested in:

Topics that I am not interested in hearing more about:

5. The club has decided that we will not be having a pond tour in 2019. We have our plant exchange in April and holiday party in December. Do you have any suggestions for activities or causes that you think we should consider getting involved in or supporting?

6. If you have any other ideas or thoughts you would like to share about anything pertaining to club meetings or activities please do. _____



PKWS Membership Form

The Piedmont Koi and Watergarden Society (PKWS) is a not-for-profit organization. The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Annual dues for a household for the first year are \$55.00 which includes two name badges. Additional name badges may be purchased for \$15.00 each.

For renewing members, the annual dues are \$24.00 per household.

Please clearly print all information. Please print your names as you would like them to appear on your name tag(s). You can find an electronic copy of this form on our web site.

Member 1	Member 2
First Name	First Name
Last Name	Last Name
E-Mail	E-Mail
Phone	Phone

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Dues – New Member **\$55.00**; Renewal **\$24.00**

Total Enclosed _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to **PKWS** and mail to:

Cecelia Smith
 11079 Caroline Acres Road
 Fort Mill, SC 29707

This information is only used for club records

