



"The Pondhoppers"

The Gainesville Koi Club Newsletter

February 2008, Volume 11, No. 2



President's Message Views from the Hot Seat

Don Hellard

Wow where did January go? It seems that we started out the New Year with our 2nd full Koi show, hoping that we would have a fair weekend to hold it because the last time we did a show at Kanapaha, we had torrential rains on Friday night and it left the show area a mud pit. So this year we opted to hold it in January instead of February. Usually January can be good or bad but we had to pick the weekend that rained (again). I want to acknowledge the setup and breakdown crews that braved the weather to make this show successful.

Our thanks go to the members of the Rainbow River Koi Club who came over to help in the setup. Pictured to the right are just a few who helped. More photos appear later in this newsletter.

We began setup on Thursday (when the Gardens were closed to the public). It was a gloomy day but we managed to get it all prepared. On Friday morning we continued to set up the show and by noon we were able to begin the benching process of the fish that were there. Hobbyist and club members continued to arrive bringing their entries and the crew benched them. By 5 pm we had about 80% of the entries in the tanks and began the process of netting them over and turning the area over to our security team, young David Hardcastle and Jason, both of whom did an outstanding job keeping the fish safe from the garden critters.



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President's Message continued

Saturday morning we had a few entries that we benched and the total fish count was 106, not bad for a small show.

Judging began about 10:30am. Thanks to our judge team. Head judge Chuck Poppe and Assistant judge Dick Thomas, who had to decide who would walk away with the awards, and thanks to our benching and bowling teams and thanks to Sherri White and her crew for doing such an outstanding job of data entry and printing of the results; without them we would not know who's who.

Saturday after the judging and finalizing all the results, we managed to beat the rain storm and get the awards banquet going. Our thanks to the cooks, John and David, who cook the best BBQ in Gainesville. A list of the winners will be made available to anyone that wants. Please email me or call if you didn't get one at the show.

On Sunday we began to let some of the out-of-towners leave early as they had the most driving to do. Most of the rest were able to get home by 5 pm. Monday morning the task of emptying and cleaning and loading the tanks began at 9 am. Our breakdown crew of 10 members did a great and timely job of accomplishing this task. My thanks to Bruce Yancey, Dave and Dori Pereyra, Joyce Nichols, Art Manaker, Nate Glazer, David and Karen Hardcastle, Joe and Sherri White and their grandson. If I missed anyone who helped in the setup/breakdown, please forgive me as my memory isn't what it use to be.

The next meeting Sunday, February 3rd will be at my house and for those that can attend I will try to have a slideshow presentation of the show. *Thanks to Tina Gasson who ran the raffle with Shirley Stone and Marty Marshall. A great job done by all and my thanks to all the folks who attended. A big thank you to Brandi who tirelessly ran the hospitality tent



NEXT MEETING

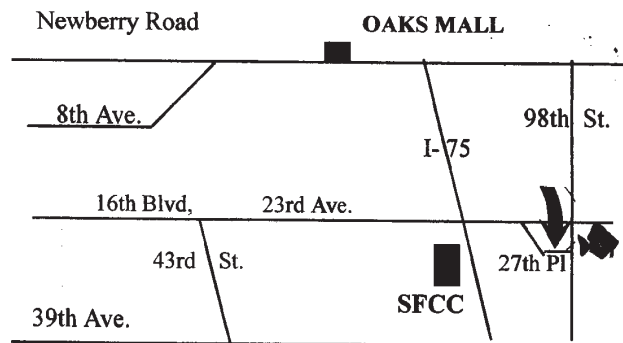
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3rd

2 PM

DON HELLARD'S HOME

9735 NW 27th PLACE

352-331-1268 or 352-262-1571



BRING CHAIRS

**If any member in good standing would like a DVD of the show please contact Don. The club will charge \$5.00 to cover disc and time to reproduce*

Show Chairman's Report

by Karen Hardcastle

Wow are we just a wild and koi kichi bunch of folks or what? Let's face it; the weather gods were testing each one of us who attended this show. If you paid attention to what the weatherman said you definitely would not have come out to Kanapaha Gardens. I believe Johnny & Martha Foster expressed it best when they said if David & Karen could make an effort through all the obstacles that they encountered to come to their show, then by golly, they were going to do the same for our show. In addition, let me tell you how appreciative we are for such dedication.

Our beloved Don had to start setting up on Wednesday by unloading the tanks from the trailer, accompanied by Bruce and Nate. Then Thursday comes along and we have folks from the Rainbow River Koi Club (Joe, Sonya, Jeff and Gordon), Larry, Art, Bruce, Nate, Joyce, Don, Dave, Dori, David & I. That is right we had good weather and an awesome crew. Heck Larry is not even a member of our club at this time; he's Don's neighbor. What a neighbor! Tents were erected; tanks were put in their designated places, as well as tables and chairs distributed throughout the area. Banners were displayed and of course filling of the tanks via the fire hose. Nate you did a great job despite your pretending that you wet me by accident, not once, not twice but three times! I hold no ill will towards you; I generally just get even with you when you least expect it. Did I just say that? All is fun in love and war, eh! That one is for you Joyce.

Of course, I forgot to bring the refreshments so Don got us all pizza (sorry Art) and drinks. By 5:00pm, we were done for the day. Friday morning rolls around and it is drizzling some and cloudy all day. The final stage of preparation for registration is complete so that we can proceed with benching at 12:00pm. This time we have added Joe & Sherri to the crew. Tanks are numbered, grills are in place, concession stand in place and the registration table is ready. We have people coming in from Naples, Orlando, Old Town, Dunnellon, Port Orange, Starke and of course Gainesville.

Our photographer Joe had a shaky start with the camera at first, but was able to master it in no time at all. David, John, Joe, Dave were busy benching the fish that came in already. By 5:30pm, we only had three tanks to photograph and bench on Saturday morning. We had to stop ourselves, so that we could go to the Friday night get together at Carrabbas.

On a little personal note here...YUMMIE! Was it the 2 for 1 drink, the company, the food or all of the above? ALL OF THE ABOVE, hands down. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Doris Poppe is a delightful woman as well as her husband Chuck. Dick Thomas is very charming and personable; they are all very easy to speak with and down to earth kinda folks. These folks are extremely knowledgeable in the art of koi. Just ask David how he picked their brains regarding AKCA vs. ZNA judging and what constitutes a champion koi. Moreover, Brady must bring Lee along with him from now on. They are such a sweet couple. Speaking of couples, when you meet up with Henry next time you must ask him to tell you the story of his going COMMANDO! Where is my suitcase???? John will you be sleeping in my room tonight?? Oops, I say too much.

Saturday morning starting at around 1:30am the torrential rains began but stopped by 7:00am. Once again, early morning rains left the grounds nice and muddy. Then again, in the afternoon around 4:30pm the heavens opened up and did not quit until the wee hours of the morning. Again, our security guys got wet. Of course, the koi did not care. In fact, by Sunday they were downright frisky...if you know what I mean. David had to separate the males from the females due to a bit of love in the air. One would have thought it was Valentine's Day.

Back to the show, Sherri and helpers were able to get the Judges set up and ready to go by 10:00am. Despite the overcast day and the number of koi entries (106), they completed their judging assignment by 3:00pm. Thanks go out to our fish wranglers, Henry, John, Joe and Dave. Dori our recorder did a fantastic job. Joe &

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Don were out giving interviews to I cannot even remember the number of journalists at the Gardens. We could not have asked for more advertisement this year, it was just phenomenal.

Tina worked the raffle table like no other. "Come here, you need to buy this many...would you not want to have a chance to win this?" Of course, Shirley, Marty and Lenora assisted her. Tina you will be our go to for future raffles.

I would like to thank everyone who helped set up the banquet room. Our Saturday night banquet featuring the infamous BBQ and bacon-wrapped shrimp was a success. Lil David and John you guys are the best. Our hospitality extraordinaire, Brandy did a super duper job at the concession tent, and setting up the evening's dinner. Shirley Ann's chocolate fountain was just scrumdillyious. We even got to act like adults and had dessert first before the main meal was ready. David is bringing in the food trays, he is totally soaked and wet and grabs a chocolate marshmallow and keeps on plugging along. What a trooper! Then our friend Johnny, assisted by Art (watch your fingers man) came to Brandy's rescue in cutting up the ribs for Brandy. I guess electric knives are not always the best choice for cutting up meats. Truthfully, I would not really know anything about that since I do not stay in the kitchen for any length of time. Thank god!

Did I mention that I was Show Chair and I had to give out the awards? Don comes up and does his little thing then turns the mike over to me. I announce the award winners and proceed through the entire list ever so quickly. Of course, me being I, I did not even consider asking or allowing any of the sponsors of these awards to come up and say something about the koi that won that award. My humblest apologies go out to every club member and advertiser whom I robbed of their enjoyment and excitement in sharing praise to the recipients of these awards. Speaking of sponsoring of awards...our club had every single award sponsored by its members and by the vendors who attended. Blackwater Creek, Lotus Land, Florida Koi, Pet Containment, Aquatic Eco Systems and Shores Animal Hospital, without your generous

sponsorship and support we could not have had a successful show. Thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart. You see a small club can shine when every- one pitches in. Great team work all!

We had folks from the Orlando Koi Club, Nature's Coast Koi Club, First Coast Koi Club, North Florida Koi Club, Tampa Bay Koi Club, Rainbow River Koi Club and Florida West Coast Koi Club come to visit. Technically, some of us belong to other Florida clubs and we can represent them as well. Therefore, overall, there are 10 clubs listed in the State of Florida and we had representatives from all of these clubs. Wow what a sense of camaraderie amongst the koi hobbyist. It is way cool.

On Sunday, our judges do a quick walk around and discuss with the folks about why they picked the winning koi. Of course, if anyone had any questions about any of their koi the judges were more than willing to give their opinion. Especially the recipient of the unique award (Kanoko Asagi) owned by Dave & Dori. Then it was time for people to start loading their living jewels and take them home.

In addition, the breakdown commences. Shirley Ann & Tony gather up the tank numbers, pictures and hooks. Tank covers distributed into their containers, air pipes dismantled and stacked, and chairs stacked, things like that. It is getting late; we put things up as much as we can just to turn around to come back on Monday to finish.

Morning all, the crew Joe & Sherri and their grandson Ryan, Bruce, Nate, Don, David, Joyce, Dave, Dori and myself take on the task of shutting down and moving everything out of the Gardens. Oops, tank runaway hitting Joe's truck. Quick David go and get a big Band-Aid to cover the scratch! Why is it that tents when placing them back into their packing sleeves just never quite fit the same way as it came out? It is as if when I pack my suitcase I just sit on it, then everything fits okey dokey. I am hoping that we have some pictures of the guys putting the tanks onto the trailer. How funny it was! Bruce was portraying the Ride'Em Cowboy on top of the tanks. Yahoo!!!! Betcha Joe did not realize he had a low rider for

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wheels. It only looked that way because of the wet grounds. Once he got onto the highway things went well.

Overall, I had a good experience putting on this show with all the supporters mentioned above. Just in case y'all did not know this, my number one go to is David, my second is Don. Without the help and assistance of these two guys, I could never have pulled this off. So with all that said **ARE WE READY TO DO THIS AGAIN NEXT YEAR????** Awe come on Dave you know you love this hobby and Dr. Tepperberg (chiropractor) is just a phone call away!!

2008 OFFICERS	
President-	Don Hellard, 352-331-1268 e-mail: dhellard@bellsouth.net
Vice-President-	Shirley Stone, 904-264-7633
Alt. Vice-Pres.-	David Hardcastle, 904-964-7394 e-mail: wavenbye@embarqmail.com
Treasurer-	Don Hellard, 352-331-1268 e-mail: dhellard@bellsouth.net
Secretary-	Karen Hardcastle, 904-964-7394 cell no. 352-359-3368 e-mail: wavenbye@embarqmail.com
Newsletter Editor-	Helen Rothschild, 338-0875 e-mail: helenrothschild@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	Joe White, e-mail: jwkoi@aol.com

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

SHARI ELLISON oops I mean BURGIN 2/22



Gainesville Koi Club 2008 Show Results
www.pondhoppers.org

Grand Champion - Omosako Shiro Utsuri 28", owner Henry Culpepper | Award presented by Don Hellard



Reserve Champion - Kohaku 28", owners David & Karen Hardcastle | Award presented by Don Hellard



Gainesville Koi Club 2008 Show Results
www.pondhoppers.org

Mature Champion - Kujaku 31", owners David & Karen Hardcastle | Award presented by Henry Culpepper

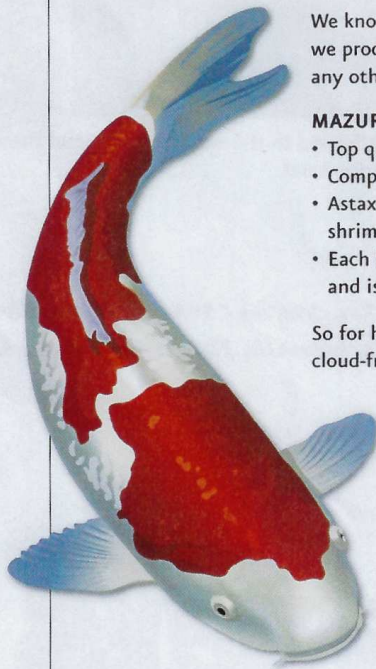


Young Champion - Showa 15", owner John Sprinkle | Award presented by David Hardcastle



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Gainesville Koi Club
Helen Rothschild
5005 NW 29th Place
Gainesville, FL 32606

**Next Meeting, February 3rd
Don's Home**