

Happy Holidays Pondhoppers !!



The Gainesville Koi Club Newsletter **December 2009, Volume 14**

Hello Pondhoppers!

Well the end of the year has finally made it and we just have one more thing to do – Party!

We will be holding this year's December Xmas party at 6:00 P.M. Saturday night on Dec 12th at a new member's home – Susan Chelf. We will see her new pond built with help by our own members! The address with directions will be posted on the website party day.

Again as in the past we will have a Chinese gift exchange so if you want to be included please bring an exchange gift. The gifts should be no more than \$15.00.

A few orders of business to take care of will be to vote in the new Officers for next year and figure out how to vote for the "Koi of the Year".

Happy Ponding and Best Fishes in the next year.

Joyce (koigirlfl@yahoo.com)





November's Happenings

October 30 - November 1, was ZNASKA & Tropical's Combined Koi Show. David & I brought a few small babies as we ran out of fish to show. Can you believe it??? Anyways, we did however manage to get The Best Male Award, Best in Variety: Tancho and first & second place ribbons. There were 85 entries with 12 entrants. It is always a pleasure visiting Morikami Gardens. It is a beautiful place to see. I took some pictures but then forgot my camera for the banquet. Go figure. Fellow pondhoppers were sighted, Shirley, Tina, Della & Roy. In addition, Jim & Libby from First Coast was there as well. Keeping in with the spirit of Halloween, David & I arrived at the banquet (fashionably late) due to costume adjustments. That is right I said costume. Ron Bilkis wore his arrow thru the head hat, and we were dressed as dark spirits so to speak, but I believe Carolyn Weiss from Microbe-Lift said it best that we stole the show that night. All I can say is a black fingernail went down the drain if you get my drift and I was not about to go after it. Overall, we had a blast, and I hope you will enjoy the pictures that Carolyn sent me of the banquets activities. Maybe next year ZNASKA would like to combine their show with our club...something for all to contemplate.

Then on November 14, our annual BBQ took place. We had 45 people in attendance with participation from our sister clubs: First Coast, North Florida, Natures Coast and Rainbow River. It was great. The weather was just gorgeous and the food. Now what can I say about it...everything was just scrump-dilly-vicious. Both David & I were just getting over a stomach virus so we had to try things after everyone was long gone. Brandy made us both a plate of samplings from all the savory dishes. YUMMY! Yes we did a lot of socializing but we did at least accomplish one thing...and that was naming our Koi Person Of The Year....drum roll please.....and this years recipient is....can't stand the anticipation any longer.....to our one and only Dave Pereya. Congratulations!

Our raffle brought in \$200. David took my raffle tickets and gave them to Kevin, guess I was winning too much stuff. I think he won an item or two. It was still fun. I got a beautiful lily from the Stroms and a cool koi statue from the Leibs. Again thank you all for the great participation this year. Next meeting will be at Susan Chelf's home on Saturday December 12. This is our Holiday Party, so please bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange game...\$15.00 or less. Last year we did a blanket drive for the less fortunate. To refresh everyone's memory Chris & I had a difficult time in giving these away. Therefore, this year we thought that we could donate personal items to an organization, i.e. Ronald McDonald House. I will mass email a list of items that we can donate by Saturday December 5. We will need to discuss how to vote for Koi of the Year, and we will be voting in our next year's officers.

Susan will be cooking up the turkey, ham and the stuffing. The rest of us need to bring the remainder of the party fixins': Side dishes, salads, chips & dip, desserts, drinks, etc. Let us get a list going here and email to all when stating what you will be bringing. The email address will be gainesvillepondhoppers@yahoo.com. **This is going to be fun, like always.**

See you all soon.



Karen, Secretary



Picture Pages



ZNASKA Koi Show



Annual BBQ @ The Hardcastle's

“Do you think he will miss just one....”



“ Hey you in the green shirt, no skipping, get your own plate”

Let me see, what do I want, this looks good.....



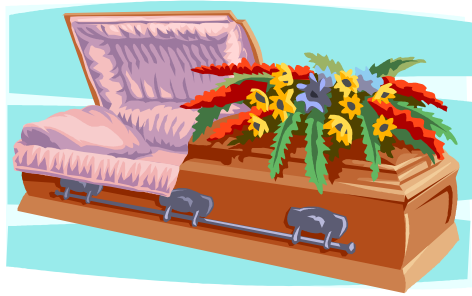
“From the Cook” You guys talk fish, I’ll enjoy my Corona!

Was someone calling me? I heard my name.



Lady take your camera and go, I can only humor you for so long..





Rest in Peace

“The passing of a Koi Pond”

I am deeply sadden of the recent passing of a great Koi pond that has adding great enjoyment and a tremendous learning experience for this owner over the past 24 years. The closing of this pond regrettably ends with all Koi being sent to new homes. This pond although not built as some experts thought would work, has never given any major problem to the owner, in fact this was the learning part of Koi keeping “how to raise up to 40 plus Koi “ some that had won different degree of awards at Koi show competition and not lose one to major disease and most other instances of disasters. Club folks ask “why do you want to close the pond” and my answer to that is simple, things change such as **focus, health issues** and of course the ability to continue maintaining the upkeep, not that maintenance was a issue.



you will be greatly missed.....

Come get your plants.....

David and Karen Hardcastle are once again making a pond change.....

Our large screened in tropical pond area is being renovated and all the plants must come out. If you come dig them up you can have them, if we dig them up you lose out and we keep them. Plants available are Nandina, Australian Ferns, Horserush, Lilies, etc. Plants are available on a first come first serve basis. Contact the Hardcastles to set up a time to retrieve them.

904-964-7394 or wavenbye@embarqmail.com





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Christmas Party
December 12th

Next Meeting
January 10th
at The Bullis'

