

NEW CLUB ORGANIZATION

Suggested Agenda for Club Meetings

Opening 30 Minutes - Pond viewing or Social (can be before or after the meeting)

Meeting Agenda

- Greetings
- Introduction of guests and new members
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Raffle (koi or other articles)
- Program
- Question & Answer Period
- Refreshments (usually with a host or co-hosts*)

** For a small club, often members take turns providing the refreshments; in larger clubs, the club often picks up certain specific costs (soda, coffee & cookies) or a specific amount per meeting or per person at each meeting; sometimes everyone brings something - potluck.*

Suggested Program Topics

Small group meetings or round robin discussion

1. Personal introduction of each member, i.e., occupation, interests.
2. Where are you now in the Koi spectrum, i.e., beginner, advanced? Do you have a pond or are you thinking of building one? How large? How many and what type do you have? What kind of filter do you have? What size and type of pump?
3. Have you had any particular problems with Koi keeping? Were you able to solve them? If so, how? Where did you go for information and help?
4. What Koi related topics would you like to have covered in future meetings?

Programs can be presented by the more experienced local club members, Koi dealers and or breeders, other Koi enthusiasts in you area, AKCA members, AKCA Certified Judges, businessmen in fields related to Koi i.e. pond construction, landscaping, irrigation.

Programs for Koi Club Meetings

Koi Classification*

Koi Handling*

Shows and Exhibits*

Pond Construction*

Filtration: Theory and Construction

Koi Diseases and Treatment

Koi Breeding

Making Artificial Rocks

Other - programs by dealers, nurseries,
water departments, book discussions.

Koi Judging

How to Purchase/Select Koi

Koi Nutrition and Feeding

Preparing Koi & Pond for Winter

Easing into Spring

Plants in the Koi Pond

Water Quality/Testing

*Video tape available from AKCA Bookstore

Field Trips - Can be in addition to or in lieu of regular meetings

Koi Breeding establishments

Ponds of Particular Merit

Koi shows

Visit a restaurant with Koi ponds

Aquariums or Zoos with Koi

Koi Dealers

Project to revamp or build a new pond

Public or private Japanese gardens

Water reclamation areas

Combination meeting with another club

We strongly recommend some type of program at each meeting.

Social Meetings

Most clubs have a Christmas Party or Holiday Party at a local restaurant or a member's home. Other ideas for social events are Octoberfest Celebration, Barbecue, Picnic, a Potluck Affair, Christmas in July or a club birthday party.

A Koi club is a dynamic organization. So you will need to balance the needs of your veteran members with the need to attract new people with new ideas and enthusiasm for your organization.

Suggested Meeting Places

Most clubs report that their meetings are held in a member's home at least in the summer months. This gives you something obvious to discuss - the members' pond, filter and Koi. In the winter months, clubs in inclement climates often have meetings at a public university, or civic meeting room or even a local restaurant.

How to Find New Members

Word of mouth

Pond Tours, exhibits and shows

Newspapers

Through dealers

A Good Newsletter

Phoning Committee

Invited guests at meetings

Posters in pet shops & local nurseries

KOI USA Magazine

It is important to not only contact potential members, but to find individuals who want to actively contribute and have the energy and ambition to accomplish tasks and goals for the club.

Sources of Income

Raffles - Most clubs have a raffle at each meeting or, at least, several times during the year at club meetings. A raffle can be a lot of fun and can be a highlight of a monthly meeting! Some clubs have a committee who buys two items (usually fish related) to be raffled at each meeting. Often, raffle items are donated by members or dealers. Raffles are FUN and can build your treasury too.

Auctions - Most clubs have a Koi or other type of auction once or twice a year. Usually members bring items for the auction and/or items are donated by dealers. In a few clubs, the entire amount of the sold items is donated to the club. In other clubs, a percentage of the auction price is donated to the club. In clubs that hold an exhibit or show, an auction is a very popular method used to raise money and/or to defray the costs of the event.

Pond Tours - Charge Admissions; sales of club items, or refreshments etc. at tour stops.

Other - Books, hats, T shirts; selling items at swap meets, recycling.

Tips for a Successful Organization

(from a few AKCA Affiliated clubs)

To what do you attribute the success of your club?.....

Good warm social attitude combined with cooperative educational premise. We do not compete with shows, but we do compete with categories of food at the Christmas party, i.e., appetizers, vegetables, salads, and dessert. The prize is unimportant; a gourmet feast for all is the result! - **Ikiru Hoseki Koi Club**

Good programs and phone committees. The meeting must offer each person some benefit; the open forum allows a person to ask for information to solve a problem or find material. A monthly drawing for a fish brings out members every time! - **Canada Koi Club of British Columbia**

The warm, friendly, caring people in the club who share knowledge, fish, and plants and go out of their way to assist each other in any way possible. There's a very non-intimidating atmosphere where people can learn and promote projects without encountering criticism or disagreements - **Tucson Koi Society**

Relaxed atmosphere, camaraderie of members - **Midwest Pond and Koi Society**

Pond tours, socials and shared experiences - **Piedmont Koi & Water Garden Society**

A core of really dedicated, hard working individuals - **SoCal Koi Club**

A timely hobby with a good location for Koi and water gardens ... many places selling water garden supplies. We don't have a highly structured organization or meetings... we do have a relaxed atmosphere. - **Central Florida Koi Club**

A good variety in our meetings - some lectures - some picnics - Koi shows - pond tours - auction - something for everyone - **Southern Arizona Koi Association**

A fun atmosphere and a program at most meetings. A successful Koi show and Lecture Series each year. Lots of information sharing among members at meetings and informally at other times. A good newsletter - **Mid-Atlantic Koi Club**

Keep the business portion of the meeting short or have the business meeting before the regular meeting - **ZNA Orange County**

Suggested Organizational Chart

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Club AKCA Director* & Alternate*

Board of Directors/Executive Committee

Committee Chairpersons (as needed)

Programs/Speakers**

Raffle

Koi Show

Finance/Fund Raising

Nominating

Newsletter

Membership

Koi Health

Historian

Sergeant at Arms

Pond Tour

Publicity

...others as desired

The organizational structure should only be as large as needed to conduct club business - i.e., only a large club or perhaps a non-profit education corporation would need a Board of Directors.

** AKCA By-laws (Article X) applies, not allowing a koi or koi product dealer or representative to hold this position. The Club AKCA Director is an official member of the AKCA Board of Directors.*

*** Since the program is a vital part of a successful club, it is suggested that the Vice-President or another involved member assume this responsibility depending on the number of other duties assigned to him or her.*