

# ZEN NIPPON AIRINKAI

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



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### NEWSLETTER

**Day:** Sunday August 21, 2016

**Time:** 10am to noon

**Place:** **Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden**  
270 Arlington Drive  
Pasadena, California 91105  
626 399-1721

**Program:** Pond Assessment

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Our meeting this past month at Murray Siegle's was just a delight. As always Murray and Doris were the consummate hosts making everyone feel so at home. Yes our club is a means about learning how to care for our beloved koi but it is also about the friendships that are kindled by the common interest. This meeting was a perfect reflection of that element. This pond is an example of how club members are there for each other.

Murray shared with us how in his attempt to keep the raccoons from feasting on his koi he had put us a charged fence around his pond. A wind event caused a piece of nearby chicken wire to fall across the wire and into the pond....and yes that was the end of Murray's koi collection. The word went out and one of our club members contacted Murray and restocked his pond with koi that needed a new home.....thank you Jeff! And while delivering the koi Jeff, our consummate pond equipment construction guy discussed how a trickle tower could be modified to be added to Murray's pond without impinging on the sight lines of the pond. So while we were all chatting Jeff and his helpers were checking return flow rates and taking measurements by the pond waterfall.

But Jeff isn't the only member who turns to club members first. Dan Miller arrived at Murray's with a beautiful Goshiki. I was rather surprised to see this great fish bagged and waiting for release into its new home at Murray's. Turns out that this particular fish had become 'aggressive' towards Dan's other koi at feeding time and was causing stress amongst this koi. Having seen this happen once before Dan decided that the fish had to go NOW, not at the auction in November. Knowing that the meeting was in a couple of days Dan contacted Murray and the adoption was a done deal. What a win win for all involved, including the Goshiki!

To me these are examples of the benefits we all receive from being members of ZNA SoCAL!!

Our swim around was a great exchange of more technical information. Jeff and Nori took advantage of the new fish for Murray's pond to demonstrate a fish introduction procedure that was established a long time ago in Japan....high salt concentration dip. This is a hybrid of the use of salt as a 'medication'. We all gasped as Jeff poured what was about 4+ cups of salt into a tub with 15 or so gal of pond water, a litter stir and then in went the Goshiki. As you can guess the koi didn't stay in there long, in fact he was unhappy enough that we all insisted Jeff take him out before he thrashed himself into a real injury. The fish was placed into a second tub of plain pond water and after a couple of minutes he was calm and ready for release into the main pond. Yes in case you're wondering we all watched the fish for the rest of the meeting and he was just fine.

So the theory behind this you may ask?? The high salt concentration will 'strip' the slim coat from the fish and any parasites, parasite eggs/cysts or bacteria living in that slim coat will be removed. The trick is you have to be oh so very careful. The 'old masters' will say you leave the koi in the salt until they roll on their side and then remove them to plain water. Yes the salt gets rid of the slim but it also burns the gills. Too long and the gill damage may be too great, and you can lose the koi.

So you now have the concept of the treatment. Is it an approach that you want to use??? I'll leave that up to you. As a KHA myself I will say that this can be effective for what it is designed to do....remove external parasites. Does it take an advanced level of skill in handling koi.....YOU BET.? This is definitely not for the novice pond owner.

A really interesting piece of information about equipment was shared with the group by Alan. He told us about an automatic feeder that he had gotten which is more cost effective (<\$100) than most we all know about. The manufacturer is Moultrie. The company makes feeders for wildlife and commercial fish farms. I've taken a look and their offerings are good, even solar! Alan told us they are get folks to work with so if you are considering an auto feeder definitely check these folks out.

We also had some kick-off discussions about our koi show for next March 18 and 19 (yes please mark your calendar for those dates they are official). The action items developed are being managed by our fearless Show Chair Alan so I will let him handle all the communications lest things get scrambled.

Our last topic brought to the swim around was very interesting and exciting and has lead to the location and topic for our August meeting. Through Vergil Hettick and his position with the Cal State Long Beach Japanese Garden he made us aware of a request that had been received there. The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden of Pasadena had reached out to EBMJG requesting assistance with their koi pond. This is a private garden but of significant historical standing (check it out on the internet). The garden has been suffering with loss of fish and need help in understanding what they can do to improve the situation.

We all talked it over and those present felt that this is a great opportunity for our club to give back to the community. So I have been in contact with the garden and we will be holding our August meeting at their site. This is definitely going to be a working meeting. Our goal is to assess the physical plant-the pond and its filtration, the water quality (through testing) and the koi health. These are the steps that one should take any time your pond or a friend's pond is being evaluated for a 'problem'. So we'll split up into teams to gather 'data' and then come back together to discuss findings. The final step will be to distill our findings and make recommendations back to the Storrier Stearns team.

Because this garden is in a residential area the parking is VERY limited. There are two driveways on either side of the property but the first person in will be the last person out. I will see if I can locate parking opportunities nearby that we might take advantage of, so watch for more info there. Meanwhile talk to club members around you and set up your car pools now. The fewer vehicles the better.

You're not going to want to miss this meeting. This is a great opportunity to use your koi keeping skills, give back to the community and see a beautiful private Japanese garden.

See everyone on the 21<sup>st</sup>.