



Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

March Newsletter



It's Spring!

Welcome to 2021, fellow “ponders”! We hope you were able to stay safe and healthy over the winter. With the increasing availability of vaccines and COVID-19 numbers falling, we look forward to a more normal 2021 summer season.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 pm, at Desert Water Gardens, 5911 S. 1300 East in Murray (just west of Cottonwood High School). Shada will preview a few new water plants for us, and we can visit and enjoy one another’s company.

And some more great news – thanks to Lewis Wayman’s skillful lining up of sponsors, and the fact that we will not meet until May, our dues this year will be \$30 per couple or \$20 per person. A real bargain! And, speaking of sponsors, we love and acknowledge them. If you have a chance to patronize any of their businesses, please do so and let them know we appreciate their support of our club and community water gardening.

So . . . we hope to see you on May 20th. We’ll have refreshments and announce more of our summer plans there.

Happy Spring!

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Dates of interest

- Our first meeting is May 20 at Utah Water Gardens
- The first day of spring is Sunday, March 21
- The first day of summer is Monday, June 21
- The 2021 Pond Tour will be August 14-15
- The annual banquet is on October 21

Know Your Koi!

This Month – Asagi

Asagi are fully-scaled, nonmetallic fish with a long history. But because they closely resemble Magoi (the wild black carp), some hobbyists see them as unrefined, dull, and not proper Koi at all. Certainly they are an acquired taste, far removed from the brilliantly tricolored modern Showa or the flashy Koi grouped in Hikariutsuri. But their quiet elegance serves as a counterpart to their more exotic pond-mates, and they also have the potential to grow very large.

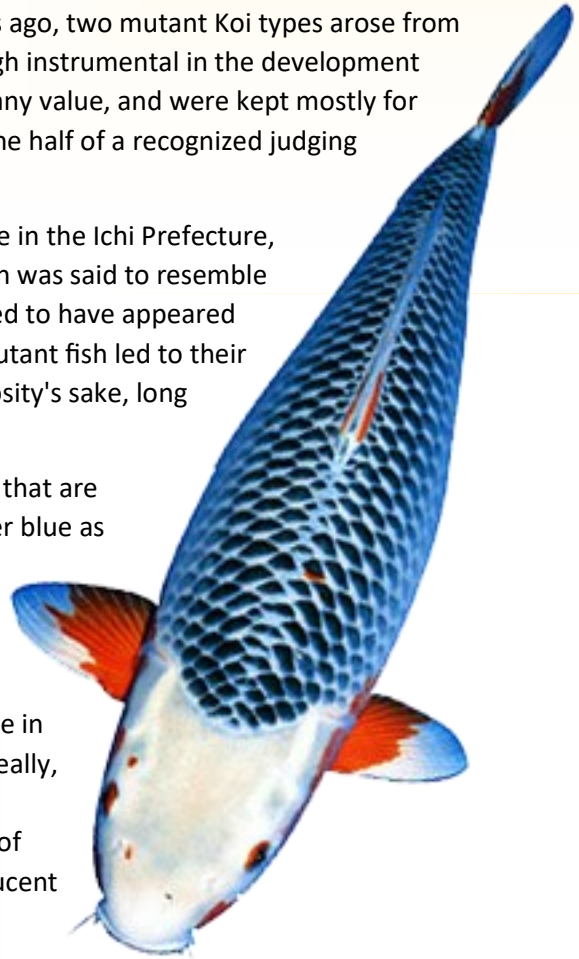
Asagi have a long, yet simple history. The Asagi Magoi, one of the three recognized types of Magoi, is said to be the forerunner of all modern Koi breeds. About 160 years ago, two mutant Koi types arose from this proto-Koi, namely the Konjo and the Narumi Asagi. Although instrumental in the development of Matsuba Koi, the dark Konjo Asagi were not seen as having any value, and were kept mostly for food stock. However, Narumi Asagi have gone on to become one half of a recognized judging variety – the other being their Doitsu counterparts, or Shusui.

The prefix "Narumi" is derived from the town of the same name in the Ichi Prefecture, where a locally-made fabric can be found, whose weave pattern was said to resemble the pattern on the backs of these Koi. At this time, Asagi seemed to have appeared all over Japan, not just in Niigata and this is when interest in mutant fish led to their being kept back from the food crop and bred together for curiosity's sake, long before Koi were seen as a commercial proposition.

Ideally, the back of an Asagi should be evenly covered in scales that are pale blue at the spot where they enter the skin, but are a darker blue as they grow out. The sharper the definition between these two shades, the more impressive the Koi will look. Because the scales are so well defined in this variety, any missing or damaged scales will stand out, seriously devaluing an otherwise good Asagi. The head coloring is an important feature in Asagi that is rarely seen in perfect or near perfect condition. Ideally, it should be a uniform clear white but more often takes on an undesirable blue or grayish tint. In young examples, the bones of the skull show through, but this effect disappears as the translucent skin thickens.

Asagi hi, more often than not, shows as a rusty red than the bright scarlet associated with the Kohaku and other Go Sanke varieties. Typically, it runs up from the belly to the lateral line or slightly beyond, in some cases also covering the jaw, cheeks, and some or all of the fins. On the pectorals it can be configured like the motoguro of Showa, or else spread out over the entire area of the fins. Wherever hi appears in this variety it should be symmetrical. Some Asagi have a greater than usual percentage of red patterning, which can extend almost up to the dorsal fin. These are known as Hi Asagi. Others - Taki Asagi - have a white line dividing the areas of red and blue on the flanks. Both these sub varieties are still grouped in Asagi.

You can find a one-minute video of some Asagi koi [here](#).



Know Your Koi - Asagi



Spring is almost here!

Getting your pond ready for summer

Spring is upon us, and another pond season will quickly be here. Start spring in your pond off right this year!

Throughout the process remember to be gentle – fish immune systems are still low from the harsh winter. Everything will increase gradually, including fish activity, water temperatures, and the amount you should feed. Follow these 6 tips in chronological order to properly open your pond for the season while causing the least stress to your fish and other pond inhabitants.

1. Clean Out Debris From Pond

This is very important.

Cleaning up is sometimes messy, and if not done properly at the end of last season, you could be dealing with a toxic mess.

The two most important preparatory steps for spring are cleaning out any debris in the pond and ensuring properly functioning filtration.

When cleaning, make sure you vacuum the bottom, take care of leaves, pull out the decaying plants, and give your pots a scrub. While cleaning out the pots, this is a great time to add lily and plant fertilizing tabs to stimulate their growth.

Using pond plants for algae control is a great natural approach, but too many plants and debris can lead to extra nuisance algae.

2. Begin Water Filtration and Re-Install Pump or Skimmer

When starting to cycle your pond, check if pond aerators are 100% open and functioning. Check that all the mechanics are working with proper flow. If you turned your pump off for the winter, double check that nothing is stuck in the impeller.

3. Add Nitrifying Bacteria to Improve Your Biological Filter

Get that bio filter churning by adding nitrifying bacteria to your pond. 65 degrees is the optimal temperature for the bacteria to help your bio filter come back to life. Don't add in algacides as they can add more toxins that are dangerous to your inhabitants. Remember mother nature needs time to balance your water and patience will be your best friend.

2021 Meeting Schedule

- **May 20** - 7:00 pm
at Utah Water Gardens, 5911 S. 1300 East
- **June 17** - 7:00 pm
- **July 15** - 7:00 pm
- **August 19**
Summer Barbeque
7:00 pm
- **September 16** -
7:00 pm
- **October 21** -
Annual Banquet

Interested (or even just willing) to host a club meeting? It's a great chance to show off your pond and get advice. Give us a call!



We're on line!

Check our website at
utahwatergardenclub.org

We're also on Facebook
[Utah Water Garden & Koi Club](#)

Calling all ponds . . .

We're planning an in-person pond tour this year, on August 14-15. After a year of quarantine, we're all excited to get out and visit ponds. If you're interested in being on this year's tour, contact our club president — Daniel Peel — or any club officer.



Spring (continued)

4. Evaluate Koi and Other Fish Health

Overfeeding and feeding too early in the season are two of the most common and costly mistakes made by hobbyists!

The health of your fish contribute to the overall health of your pond. Make sure your fish are clear of any ulcers or white/cloudy eyes/patches of skin. Don't stress if they seem unhealthy, adding medication to your pond this early will not be the quick fix you're expecting.

When evaluating your fish, do not net and put in a bowl. Their immune systems are still low until they've eaten for three weeks or

You need to restart the nitrogen cycle each spring.

the water hits 68 degrees. While cleaning/evaluating try not to jar the fish they won't move around much at first and are delicate.

Remember to let the pond cycle naturally rather than adding a lot of chemicals. If it's later in the season and you are still having sludge, add in digesting bacteria. Fish will be picking around and could eat your other bacteria, so wait until later.

5. Test Your Parameters Consistently

Temperature: 65 degrees Fahrenheit is the ideal temperature for your biological filter to flourish. Generally, keep your pond temperature as consistent as possible. Waterfalls, aerators, and additional shading will help keep your pond cool heading into Spring and Summer.

pH: Keep your pH as close to the ideal 7.3-7.7 range as possible, depending on what type of fish you're keeping in your pond. Monitoring your pH levels will tell you when to feed (adds ammonia), add nitrates (decreases ammonia), or add salt (decreases nitrates). For more information on how ammonia affects your pond visit this [informational guide](#) from the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center.

kH: Aim to keep your kH (Carbonate Hardness) levels as high as possible. Having high kH levels will significantly increase the effectiveness of your filter, and is a very necessary quality of your pond during this initial cycling period. Many recommend using air stones, which drive off CO2 and increase your water hardness.

In general, if any of these levels are not working out to your

Spring *(continued)*

satisfaction, it may be worth your time to try a 25% water change to cycle out the water. Be sure that the water you are adding is of equal or very similar temperature to the water currently in your pond. If the water is coming from your home faucet, remember to de-chlorinate before adding.

6. Add Floating Plants and Enjoy Your Pond

Wait until 69 degrees to add in your tropical plants. At this point your pots will now be flourishing from the pellets you added and the water will now be completing it's cycle. The lilies will come back on their own and now it is your

time to get a drink while watching those Koi circle the pond.

As with any hobby it is important to remember why you are involved in the first place. Doing maintenance on your pond is directly tied to a zen lifestyle that is reinforced by ancient cultures in Japan.

If you do not smile while working in your beautiful backyard sanctuary, than it is about time to hire a pond maintenance company or teach your children to clean the water this time of year. If only dogs had opposable thumbs...

For more tips on spring cleaning and restarting your ponds, check out our website at utahwatergardenclub.org

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society

Did you know . . .

IWGS, or the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society, is a great resource for water gardeners. The organization is dedicated to advancing the hobby of water gardening. Each year it sponsors a water lily contest and grows new water lilies sent by hybridizers from around the world. There are several categories: hardy lilies (they tolerate freezing water in the winter), tropical



day blooming lilies (these can die if the water temperatures drop into the 50s) tropical night blooming lilies, and a new category called ISG (crosses between the tropical and hardy lilies).

We will feature more on this organization in coming newsletters and some of the winners from the 2020 competition. Stay tuned.



“N. Wareelarp”

The 2020 Best New Night Blooming Waterlily
Photo credit: Naples Botanical Garden staff

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September 2020 Meeting

We held our last meeting of the 2020 season on September 17 in Daniel Peel's and Lewis Wayman's back yard. Join us for our first 2021 meeting on May 20 - 7:00 pm at Utah Water Gardens, 5911 S. 1300 East



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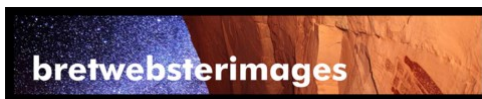
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the Heart*



Who we are

The Utah Water Garden and Koi Club is a non-profit organization serving the greater Wasatch Front. We strive to foster an appreciation for and interest in the use of water in the landscape, through monthly meetings, educational programs, an annual pond tour, and sharing our water gardening experiences. We are a group of volunteers dedicated to water gardening, pond keeping, and koi. Our members range from novices to commercial professionals.

Our annual Water Garden Tour is a self-guided tour of out-standing local gardens. Due to the pandemic, we held a "virtual" tour in 2020. You can view it on the Club's website at

UtahWaterGardenClub.org



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