



# The Water Spout

## Deep South Koi and Pond Society Newsletter September, 2005

**Deep South Koi and Pond Society, Founded June 1993**

Best website on the web... [www.capwgs.org](http://www.capwgs.org) ... go there!

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

You are cordially invited to the September meeting of the Deep South Koi and Pond Society.

**Who:** Deep South Koi and Pond Society Members

**Date:** September 25, 2005

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Place:** Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Margaret Mercier  
(225) 751-2293 (h) (225) 266-3590 (cell)  
(800) 878-4848 (fax)  
[mmercier@louisiana.com](mailto:mmercier@louisiana.com)

**Secretary:** Sandi Bordelon  
(225) 774-9342

**Vice-President:** James Carter  
(225) 664-3487 (h & w)  
No email

**Treasurer:** Lance Beecher  
(225) 769-0253 (h)  
[lancebeecher@bellsouth.net](mailto:lancebeecher@bellsouth.net)

## Deep South Koi and Pond Society

### August Meeting

The August Meeting scheduled for August 28 was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina.

## ARTICLE FOR SEPTEMBER

### Hand Taming Fish - by Sandee Hennessy

As far as hand taming fish. Hm-m-m.



It helps to have at least **one** in the tank that likes people, but it is not necessary if you are patient. My sister's fish were really wild when she got them and would dash around and slam into the end of the tank if you even walked in the room. At feeding time, they would huddle at the other end of the tank and wait till you left the room before they would eat.

I watched them for a while. I told her to let them get a little hungry (not ravenous) and then just put one or two pellets in the end away from them and step back a couple of feet. Eventually one becomes brave enough to come for the food. Let him get it and swim away. Then do the whole process again.

Next go ahead and feed them normally. --- They do have little pea brains you know. Within a few days the other fish figure out that the guy who goes to the person gets fed first and you are on your way.

I personally feel it's very important not to let them get so hungry that they frenzy, because then they aren't thinking. Think about **yourself**. It is really hard to enjoy some little gourmet delight if you are so hungry you could eat the wall paper.

She now has a fish that will take food from her mouth.--- are we nuts or what?

Once they are comfortable in coming to you for food, put a few pellets in and trail your hand in the water. At first they may be a little afraid to come for food with your hand there, but again, one will be brave and take a chance. **Don't even think about touching them yet.**

More time passes and you put your hand in with no food. They aren't afraid of the hand now and associate it with food. When they approach the hand really closely give them a pellet or two. Eventually they will pluck at your hand, when they do that give them a little food.

I make the little koi give me "fishy kisses" before they get food. Sometimes they feel like they are going to tear off my hide, but as they get bigger their mouths get softer and they are lots less aggressive.

Once you get fishy kisses it's an easy matter to just lightly brush your hand along them while they are eating --- pretend it's an accident. They may kind of quiver at first --- like you do when a bug is crawling on you. Over time you will be able to cradle them in your hand or stroke them gently. I try to avoid touching along the

lateral line. I just feel this is a really sensitive area. Tummies and backs and mouths seem fine.

I don't put my fist in the water with food in it . I have seen people do this and the fish come up and suck it out, but again I feel when they do that the fish are not really thinking they are just frenzied. I would rather have them come to me of their own accord with the hopes that they will get food. It's sort of like training a mammal with food rewards and gradually removing the food until they forget about it.

Not all fish will respond to this. For example, Savannah will not come to me. It's just her nature and she probably never forgave me for Ernst. Just kidding. She just never has been a **people** fish. She likes to look at me through her magnifying glass that hangs on the tank, but touching and hand feeding is out.

Then on rare occasions you run into one like Ernst and Little Ernie who just crave touching with no food reward at all. Those are both ends of the spectrum and most fish fall somewhere in the middle.

Because Ernst and Little Ernie are so exceptional I hadn't really thought much about all the others in this regard, but the vast majority of my fish will allow some touching and will approach to nibble at me or brush against me. It has one draw back. When I am cleaning tanks I have to be careful that I don't accidentally smack one when I am concentration on the siphon.

Smaller groups of fish are easier to work with than say a couple of dozen in a tank. No more than six at a time seems pretty ideal. That way you can observe and evaluate each fish's response and behavior. Younger is better, but older is not impossible.

When you move them to a new location, sometimes they sort of freak out for a while, but then they settle down again.

That's all I have been able to figure out on the subject. Do I get in the Guinness Book of Records as fish trainer? Maybe I'll teach them to swim through hoops.

Sandee H.

"You should begin to be able to tame some fish within a few days of introduction." ~ Doc Johnson

**Note From Doc Johnson:** "The only problem with hand tame fish is that any movement at pond side will bring them to the edge. Therefore, a heron might have an easier time eating your smalls if they crowd up at his presence. An article on Herons." Doc Johnson

**Please visit the following new, useful & informative web sites!**

[KoiLab.com](http://KoiLab.com) - Research facilities for Koivet.com's Dr. Erik Johnson

[Koinews.com](http://Koinews.com) - News from the Koi World, updated as it happens!

[KoiClassifieds.com](http://KoiClassifieds.com) - Don't store that old pump. Sell it! Low listing costs!

[Koivet.com](http://Koivet.com) - Dr. Johnson's mega health site, 24 hours a day.

## The Water Garden Tip of the Week

For your fish to be healthy and also to help with the control of algae, the pH of pond water should be between 6.6 and 7.8 with the ideal being 7 to 7.2. However, unless the pH is below 6.5 or above 8.4 then it is usually best to not try and adjust it with additives.

From [WaterGarden.com](http://WaterGarden.com)

## Pond Liquidation Sale

Well fellow ponders I hope to make someone happy by offering these unbelievable deals. This is my own pond liquidation sale. Most of these items are new and some slightly used, but everything is in great shape. If you are considering updating a few things on your pond or building a pond from scratch, I have a deal for you. If you have any questions please call 769-0253 or 205-4904. As always, advice is free and prices are negotiable.

Thanks.  
Lance

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>
Back Pack Chemical Sprayer, Hand Pump (5 gallon capacity) (Used)	\$ 50.00
3 ft aluminum rake (Used)	\$ 20.00
50 ft 1-1/2 Flexible PVC Pipe (New)	\$ 65.00
Mag Drive (Inline or submersible) Water Pump (5000 GPH) (Used)	\$ 125.00
Small Skimmer Box (New)	\$ 100.00
Pond Fertilizer (1 acre Pond)	\$ 20.00
18 watt Emperor Aquatics UV Light (New)	\$ 100.00
10 watt Pond Master Submersible UV Light (New)	\$ 125.00
Pump Sock (Small) (New)	\$ 8.00
Pump Sock (Large) (New)	\$ 12.00
Pond Works Water Fall Pump-Submersible (4100 GPH) (New)	\$ 125.00
Egg Light Submersible Light Kit- 3 Pack (New)	\$ 100.00
Inline SuperFalls Water Pump (3600 GPH) (Used)	\$ 120.00
Automatic Water Refill (Large) (New)	\$ 12.00

### **Natural Stone:**

Flagstone 1 Pallet

River Rock 1 Pallet

Moss Rock (Flat Pieces 3" thick) 1 Pallet

Moss Rock (Large Boulders) 1 Pallet

All for \$ 1,200.00

Liner Material (At Least 20x20)      \$ 0.15 ft<sup>2</sup>

### **Pond Kit Special/Everything for a complete pond (11' x 16'):**

**All stone listed above, small skimmer box, inline or submersible pump, liner material, bead filter, Flex PVC pipe, and 3-pack egg light kit.**

**Special Price: \$ 1,800.00 Call me to talk about size specifics.**

## Internet Interests...

**Best Website on the web. GO THERE!**  
Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society  
<http://www.capwgs.org/>

Here are a few of our members favorites...

- Pond keeper Magazine <http://www.pondkeeper.com>
- Water Gardening Magazine Info on disease topics for aquatic animals <http://www.koivet.com>
- National Pond Society <http://www.bandd.net/nps/index.htm>
- Austin Pond Society <http://www.austinpondsociety.org/>
- Stokes Tropicals in New Iberia <http://www.stokestropicals.com/>
- Rare and Exotic Seeds <http://www.seedman.com>
- Big Cat Sanctuary <http://www.yogieandfriends.org>
- Miami Valley Water Garden Society Web Page <http://www.mvwgs.org>
- Pond Pals Tour <http://members.aol.com/marylady/pondpals/pindex.htm>
- Water Gardening Magazine <http://www.watergardening.com>
- Master Garden Products <http://www.mastergardenproducts.com/watergar.htm>
- <http://www.ponddoc.com/>
- [www.gardenlink.com](http://www.gardenlink.com)
- St. Joseph Water Garden Society: [www.sjwatergarden.com](http://www.sjwatergarden.com)

Go to the CAPWGS website for more favorites. If you have a favorite that will benefit other society members, please let us know. Thanks!

To purchase a business card ad space, contact Bridget Hayes 225-275-4698 or [lilypads@capwgs.org](mailto:lilypads@capwgs.org)

### **JIMSTONE Co.**

Custom Supplier of Natural  
Landscape & Building Stone

Phone: (337) 261-5707	Phone: (225) 272-5707
Fax: (337) 261-5330	Fax: (225) 272-5793
1823 Jefferson St.	13751 Florida Blvd.
Lafayette, LA 70501	Baton Rouge, LA 70819
1-888-600-Rock(7625)	Toll Free 1-888-272-9790

[www.jimstoneco.com](http://www.jimstoneco.com)

*Just-A-Swinging*



**Cypress Outdoor Furniture**  
James Carter

37200 Highway 16 • Denham Springs, LA 70706 • (225) 664-3487

**Landscaping & Garden Centers**      CREATIVE & PERSONAL SERVICE  
DESIGN & INSTALLATION

SINCE 1979



**Harb's Oasis**

SPECIALIZING IN  
RENOVATION LANDSCAPING &  
WATER GARDENS

**Charbel L. Harb, B.L.A.**  
13827 Coursey Blvd.      38480 Hwy. 42  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817      Prairieville, LA 70768  
(225) 758-2720      (225) 744-4813

**Note from the Editor:** I look forward to serving as your Newsletter editor for this year. Your ideas or any information you would like to add to the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact me at 225 755 2449 or