

March 2008 Edition

MARCH MEETING

Saturday, March 15^h at 6pm
 Malley Senior Recreation Center
 3380 South Lincoln Street, Englewood 80113

MEETING AGENDA:

6:00pm – Setup, sign-in
 6:30pm – Potluck Dinner
 A-M please bring a Salad, Side Dish or Dessert,
 N-Z please bring a Main Dish.
 Please bring a dish to feed at least 12 people.
 7:00 pm –Main Program

PROGRAM: “Koi Nations Magazine” By Michael Cox, Editor & Publisher

*Here is what Michael Cox says about Koi Nations on
 KoiNations.com:*

I launched KOI Nations with the goal of bringing readers solid information from around the world condensed in one place.

With each issue, we hope to bring you objective news clarifying both sides of the story, breathtaking images that embody our love of Koi, and relevant opinions from within our community.

This is an idea whose time has come. Leading-industry hobbyists and pros alike believe in KOI Nations and with their help and your support, it's hard to believe we won't reach our goals.

The koi community has never had geographical boundaries, and neither will KOI Nations. With this new outlet to the world, we can only learn and grow.

Michael D. Cox,
 Publisher

The Pond President's Message

When you have the opportunity please tell Jennifer Trueblood “THANKS” for all of her hard work in converting our great newsletter to the online format. This has been no small task. Jennifer has lost lots of sleep to get this accomplished. THANK YOU, JENNIFER!!

Regarding this subject, we realize there will be problems. We are here to address these issues but we need your input. So please inform us of your concerns/issues with the new format.

Time marches on and Spring is upon us. It can be a very critical time for your koi. As your pond water temperature rises many challenges are present. Review what steps should be taken and stay on top of things.

The month of May will bring our annual auction. Again this year it will be held at Koi Boy Pond Supplies in the north metro area. It's a great location and I want to thank Koi Boy for hosting again. Bring donation items early so we can get them registered for the auction. Also, don't forget your checkbook!

Once again I'm asking all of you to consider being a board member come October. We will need your support on this matter.

John Flowers

2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 15th Michael Cox - Publisher of
 Koi Nations Magazine
 April 19th..... Kent Wallace - Pond Building
 May 17th Annual Auction
 July 19th-20th Annual Pond Tour
 August 15th-17th ... Annual Koi Show
 September 20th..... Regular Meeting & Pot
 Luck
 October 18th Election of 2009 Board
 December 6th..... Holiday Party

2008 RMKC BOARD MEMBERS

President-John Flowers

303-283-9113

bfnjbf@yahoo.com

Vice President-Wayne Harris

303-932-9921

wkharris@msn.com

Secretary-Shannon Langeberg

303-470-8491

piperpunkn@aol.com

Treasurer-Jeff Langeberg

303-470-8491

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Sgt of Arms- Katie Harris

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Webmaster-Steve Johnson

Stevej46@comcast.net

MAP TO MALLEYS CENTER



Malley Senior Recreation Center
3380 South Lincoln Street, Englewood 80113

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
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AKCA Representative:	Barb Flowers	303-283-9113	bfnjbf@yahoo.com
Education:	Juergen Schreiber	303-337-2455	intokoi@aol.com
Membership:	Mark Bussinger	303-893-0019	MBussinger@hotmail.com
Expos:	Katie Harris	303-932-9921	wkharris@msn.com
Auction:	RMKC Board (John Flowers)	303-283-9113	bfnjbf@yahoo.com
Pond Tour:	Wayne Harris Juergen Schreiber	303-932-9921 303-337-2455	wkharris@msn.com intokoi@aol.com
Show:	Jan Thompson Bob Pollock	719-547-4747	iamjant@hotmail.com showakoi@msn.com
Koi Rescue:	Larry Hutchinson	303-781-4511	klhutch@mac.com

Please email or call to volunteer your time. Thank you!!

2008 POND TOUR

Although it's not until July now is the time for us to start planning our annual pond tour.

The most important feature is of course the ponds that are on the tour. Therefore we are asking the members to volunteer their pond for inclusion in the tour. All ponds, regardless of size, will be considered. Now is the chance for you to show off your beautiful garden spot. The only requirements are that you be available to welcome visitors to your pond for one day and furnish information about your pond regarding how many gallons, type of filtration, etc.

We are interested in ponds mainly in the West & East sections of the metro area. It will be a two day tour but your pond will only be on one of these days.

Please consider this as an opportunity to share your wonderful koi pond with your fellow RMKC members. If you are interested in being a part of our 2008 pond tour please contact Juergen Schreiber at 303-726-6360 or John Flowers at 303-283-9113.



KOI AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER MAY 17TH

May 17th is the date to remember!! Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend the Rocky Mountain Koi Club's annual auction at Koi Boy Pond Supplies, 1619 E. 136th Ave., Brighton, CO 80206. This should be another great auction year. The May newsletter will have complete details and times.

BIDDING NUMBER

All Bidders\$5

This year bidding numbers are \$5 for both RMKC members and non-members.

Don't forget to renew your membership at the auction. Or better yet, renew before the auction by logging onto www.RMKC.org and paying for your membership through PayPal or with a credit card. Membership renewal is only \$35.00

HELP NEEDED FOR THE AUCTION

The auction is the most critical event of the year for the Rocky Mountain Koi Club because it is our only fundraiser for the year. Everything we plan on doing or want to do is based on how much money we raise at the auction. We need volunteers to help out with the auction. Help is needed with both set up and tear down, as well as volunteers to help out with running of the various events (check in, check out, silent auction, baggers, runners, etc.). If you want to volunteer, please sign up at the meeting or call/email any of your board members.

DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION

As in years past if you have something you would like to donate to the club for the auction, please contact Juergen Schreiber (303-337-2455). This is a great time to go through all the extra koi and pond stuff you have shoved away in storage and don't use anymore. Most koi keepers have lots of extra stuff laying around... so do some spring-cleaning and free up some space to help out your Rocky Mountain Koi Club.

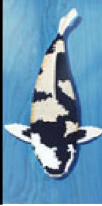
PRE-AUCTION RAFFLE

The club will be selling raffle tickets this year for 3 koi prior to auction. The raffle tickets are \$5 each and will be sold at the March and April meetings and the morning of the auction. Before the auction begins, 3 numbers will be selected and the winners will be able to pick one koi from the Rocky Mountain Koi Club auction tank. You must be present to win!



KHA Korner

By Mike Anger



This winter has had quite a number of very cold stretches, and if your pond is like mine, you have not seen your Koi for weeks. The ice is now inches thick still with a pile of snow on top. Even with this thick amount of ice, several feet down, water will remain at about 39 degrees.

Though there is not much Koi or plant maintenance that can be done now, it is important to remember to try to maintain an opening in the pond water. This allows toxic gases that may build up to escape and not remain dissolved in the water. Do not smash the ice, to avoid the potential harm that the percussion may cause. Standing a pan of hot water on the ice may be used to melt a hole, or obtain a floating pond deicer. These electrical units are fairly efficient and are inexpensive to run. Another option is to have an area of continuous water flow. I have used a small submersible pump with an air line tube attached. The water bubbles provide enough movement to keep an area devoid of ice.

If you have bottom drains, it is best to have these turned off to prevent the denser, warmer water from the bottom to mix with colder water closer to the surface. If you have midlevel drains, these can keep running as can skimmer boxes (unless they freeze). Waterfalls can flow unless they freeze, and can be

quite beautiful with the ice that forms on the sides. These too may need to be shut off if they freeze over (and are not usually needed for oxygenation in the winter due to the higher level of dissolved oxygen in colder water-the exception being ponds heavily stocked with submerged plants). If the weather warms a little, take advantage of some of the nicer winter days to clean out any pond debris that may have accumulated on the bottom in the fall. You may also consider taking advantage of this time to clean out your filter media so that it is ready for the spring.

Even if the temperatures are such that you see some fish activity, do not yet begin to feed your Koi. Wait until water temperatures are well in the high 50's or even low 60's and that chances of frost have past.

Keep in mind that some parasites (such as Costia) will survive even very cold temperatures. Because most are salt sensitive, it is prudent to consider beginning the spring season with salting the pond (to 0.3%) at about the time you begin feeding.

Before you know it, the warm weather will be here, and your pond will come to life and provide you with much enjoyment. These few winter precautions will help the spring arrive with your fish and plants as healthy as can be.

If you want to contact Mike Anger regarding advice on Koi health, water quality, pond building, etc. or if you would like him to write an article on a specific topic; you can email him at **MAnger4963@aol.com**.



ASK THE VET



► *How do you properly transport and quarantine fish?*

So your koi keeping friend is moving and has offered to give you all their fish, lucky you! But how to properly get those handsome new finds safely from their pond to yours. Even if this is not exactly the case, there may come a time when you need to move fish, such as because they are newly purchased, or are going to a show, therefore it is good to do a review of proper fish handling and transport.

First of all, fish that have been in a pond for many years are often not kept in the most optimal conditions. They have often long outgrown the appropriate size for their environment.

Overcrowding equates to poor water quality and a depressed immune system. Although they may appear perfectly healthy now due to the fish's amazing ability to acclimate to most any gradual changes, the stress of moving is often all that it takes to push the fish over the edge and allow them to suffer from all manner of illness's and parasites. Even fish that are being transferred from presumptively "disease free" sources can potentially be carriers of disease. Some diseases can be difficult to detect in carrier fish, and some pathogens may go undetected if they have not produced clinical signs in any of the fish. Do not believe it when the store says the fish have already been quarantined!

To minimize spreading of these potential diseases' to your own pond; first acquire the services of a fish knowledgeable veterinarian. If possible have the fish's health and environment evaluated before the move. This can be scheduled while the isolation or quarantine tank(s) are being established, since of course you do NOT want to move the new fish directly into your pond on the first day. If it is not possible to have the fish evaluated BEFORE the move, then plan to have them evaluated within the first week or two in your quarantine facility. This will ensure minimizing the possible spread of pathogens into your pond.

Ideally fish should be fasted for about 3 days before any move. Some report fasting for up to a week, but this tends to add to the stress of the fish and is

not recommended. Fasting the fish will help minimize waste during transport which will maintain water quality, which becomes more significant with the farther distance traveled. Caution must be used to minimize stressing the fish during capture and restraint. Latex gloves should be worn when handling the fish to protect their delicate skin and to protect you from potential pathogens. No jewelry should be worn. Fish should be gently guided head first into catch bowls in the water; fish should NOT be lifted out of the water with nets if at all possible. Any nets used should be of the type which will minimize damage to the sensitive skin of the fish. Nets are primarily used just to guide the movement of the fish. The fish should be lifted out of the water in either a catch bowl or a fish sock (fine mesh bag), which is then picked up on both ends and from there the fish is moved into what it will travel in.

The safest way to transport fish is in a plastic bag with just enough water to cover the fish, and the rest of the bag filled up with pure oxygen. Fish of any considerable size should be placed in two bags as their dorsal fins as well as hooks near the anal fins have been known to cut plastic bags. The plastic bag(s) should then be placed in cardboard boxes and padded with newspaper to minimize their rolling around. For trips of less than 30 minutes fish can be transported in buckets, plastic-lined regular or Styrofoam coolers with about 1 liter of water for every centimeter of fish if supplemental oxygen is not provided. Any container fish are transported in must be covered to protect the fish from injuring themselves by jumping out. Noniodized salt can be added to the transport water, but must be carefully measured to equal one teaspoonful for gallon.

Once at the new locale, plastic bags should be floated in the quarantine tank for around 30 minutes to acclimate to the new water temperature before the fish are released. The quarantine tank, in addition to having a separate fully cycled filter sponge or other type of effective nitrification system, should have salt added to it to a level of 0.3% in order to reduce the osmoregulatory effort of the fish. This level of salinity should be maintained throughout the quarantine period of at least 2 but preferably 4-6 weeks. While in quarantine the water should be checked daily to ensure ammonia (should be 0), nitrate, nitrite, and Ph levels. Use partial water changes to maintain good water quality, and be prepared for a Ph crash.

Other treatments that can be done during the

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quarantine period are to feed the fish medicated food. It is important to ensure the new fish are eating well, tempt them to eat with such things as tropical fish flakes, bloodworms, and crushed freeze dried krill. Random treatment with antiparasitic agents is NOT recommended unless the tests performed by your veterinarian confirm and warrant such treatment. Monitor all the fish closely every day to ensure they are eating and swimming well without obvious lesions or frayed fins. Use separate nets and equipment for the quarantine fish to prevent cross contamination, and at the end of the quarantine period thoroughly disinfect all such equipment with diluted chlorhexidine solution.

At the end of the quarantine period, release the new fish in the pond to join the current residents, and enjoy the freedom of knowing you have done everything possible to ensure the best possible outcome for your new additions!

Dr. Jena Questen is a highly qualified koi vet in Colorado. She invites RMKC members to email questions to her regarding koi diseases, conditions, something you heard through the grapevine or saw in your pond. You can email your questions to jena@rman.com

The Lotus: Know It and Grow It by Kelly Billing & Paula Biles

Paula Biles and Kelly Billing of Maryland Aquatic Nurseries, Inc. are pleased to announce a new publication written for the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS). The booklet is titled The Lotus, Know It and Grow It. They would like to offer this to RMKC members and combine orders to qualify for the best possible pricing. It is a comprehensive guide intended to inspire and educate everyone about the captivating beauty, culture and history of lotus as well as a gardeners guide and information on how anyone can include lotus in their garden, with or without a water garden.

It has been their personal goal to increase the education and use of lotus. It is easy to grow, largely misunderstood and amazing.

Unit Prices	Unit Prices
1	\$14
2-5	\$12
6-20	\$9
20 +	\$8

If you are interested in having a copy of this book, please email Katie Harris at wknkharris@msn.com.

KOOKING FOR KOI

BY CHEF ROBERTO & FRIENDS



FRUITS

Think of vitamins as the spark plug for an engine, and fruits provide an excellent source of certain vitamins. The most common is vitamin C. Koi use vitamin C especially under stress, but interestingly enough do not store vitamin C. We must then ensure that our Koi get enough Vitamin C to ensure good health. Most commercial Koi foods have Vitamin C and other vitamins added to them but vitamins tend to degenerate in food within months. Feeding your Koi fresh fruits is an excellent way to ensure that they are getting enough of these essential vitamins.

My favorite fruits to feed Koi are orange or grapefruit slices, watermelon wedges and bananas. The rind can be left on the fruit slice, but your Koi will appreciate it if you peel the banana.

CHEF ROBERTO'S PINK LIPS ON A STRING

- 1 PINK GRAPEFRUIT QUARTERED
- STRING
- RUN STRING THRU GRAPEFRUIT QUARTERS AND THROW IN WATER. STAKE OR TIE THE STRING OFF.

The Koi will eat the grapefruit down to the rind and then all you have to do is pull in the string and your cleanup is complete.

Why do we call this pink lips on a string? I was feeding my Koi pink grapefruit 3 times a week and they loved it. One particular Koi couldn't seem to get enough. After a week I noticed the lips on the Koi were turning pink: I found out that this is not dangerous and quickly goes away if you stop feeding them the grapefruit. Needless to say the kids named him "Hot Lips".

Beware the Ides of March

March 15th means something more to some than others. One month before income taxes are due. And a mere 2 days before it is socially acceptable to drink too much green beer in honor of an Irish saint! But it is an even more important date to Roman emperors and koi keepers!

Whether you housed your koi under ice, indoors or under cover in a heated or unheated outdoor pond, that season is quickly drawing to an end by March 15th. And it is the earliest time for a spring ritual here in the northeast and other northern climes in the USA and England. March 20th, the official Spring vernal equinox, is defined by the movement of the sun in a position that creates an angle directly over the equator and shifts longer nights and short days to equal lengths (actually longer days and shorter nights by a fraction initially).

Our koi are HIGHLY sensitive to changes in their environment. Slight shifts in light and temperature are translated via hormonal pathways into messages for the brain, endocrine system and reproductive organs. This, of course, should not surprise the student of nature. As we are all familiar with the expressions of survival of the fittest and the concept of natural selection, we can all appreciate then, that koi MUST be aware of the changes in their environment if they are to adapt and survive. It is these changes that have crafted their physiology to meet their seasonally changing environment.

But the operative words here are 'fittest' and 'natural selection'. Obviously this implies loss of some individuals. So as we review the gradation of wintering techniques I mentioned above, we see fish are coming out of winter into the 'ides of march' at several different levels of stress. Some fish will be exhausted and highly stressed from cold water and changing water conditions. Mother nature will naturally want to select out some in this group. Other koi, in other ponds, will be indoors and kept relatively warm. But their stress might be in the form of excess bacteria count and general overcrowding for the past 4 months. Maybe exposure to a bout or two with ammonia or nitrites. And finally, we will have the fish that experienced a mild artificial winter with a physiological sense of 'winter spent' but none of negatives associated with a 'testing winter'. These are the lucky ones and nature will have a difficult time at getting at them as they will be too hardy for opportunistic infection agents or parasites.

As koi rouse from any of the three scenarios I mentioned, the keeper should appreciate and be sensitive to the fact that koi are in some type of transition. Even in health wintered koi, the biological clock and spring physiology will direct all energy into reproduction preparation as growth takes place in the reproductive organs. This demand leaves the weak koi even weaker and the healthy koi low on additional energy. So a little TLC is important over the next few weeks following the spring equinox. Protection from early spring rains, discipline about early spring feeding and a meticulously clean pond setting are key. Water changes are good but they should be small and frequent as opposed to large and infrequent ones. And please- NO 50% water changes this early. Hopefully the practice of getting into a pond and scrubbing down the walls and do a 70% water change are a thing of the past in the koi pond hobby!

In many cases, a twice daily dumping of the sump might be enough to strike a balance between freshening water and not shifting parameters of temperature, ph and hardness.

A koi that has fasted has a digestive tract that is not functioning like it does in summer or autumn. Yet the koi might be hungry and willing to eat all that it can consume. Do not give into this. Wait until the koi has passed a few white stools (normal parastolis beginning again) and then normal stools before feeding on a regular basis. Many infections start inside a fish's gut and many cases of early spring dropsy can be traced to this time period. So go slow and think of how anyone would respond to a large meal after being through a long fast. Remember, fish diarrhea is not characterize by 'loose stools' but rather white or clear mucous coated floating stools. This is due to heavy gut mucous and gaseous materials being passed with indigestible , or partially digested food. Not good. Give the gut time to come on line.

I'm a fan of vitamins and small amounts of fresh protein once a koi has regained it's ability to digest and assimilate what it ingests/ digests. The simplest vitamin therapy technique is to feed wheatgerm pellets soaked in orange juice and/or liquid vitamins. Earthworms are great if you can get some mail order.

Besides 'Brutus' lurking in the shadows during this time, we also have 'Murphy' possibly paying a visit. Murphy's law says that if something can happen then it likely will happen. So check your pond

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equipment following winter. Spring thaws can reveal leaks at the worst possible time. Have spare PVC

pipe/fittings and glue. Always have a spare motor and stock the meds now (just in case). Salt, PP, Dimilin, flukicides, Mal Green products etc- all good to have. And check the expiration dates on your injectables. Make sure you have new insulin needles. If your fish have grown you need proper 3 cc syringes.

If you've done your preparation, perform your maintenance routines and done 'winter stasis technique' well, The Ides of March should be a relaxing time when you sit back and sip grape wine in anticipation of even better koi times immediately ahead. If not, don't be surprised if you feel a shape pain in the neck! JR

This post has been edited by JR: Feb 17 2008, 01:36 PM on <http://koishack.com/forums/index.php?s=52365ee5ba14d49daa20096e8a59319f&showto pic=14227&st=0>

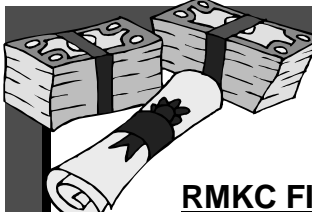
Disclosure statement: These are my personal opinions and in no way reflect the recommendations or advise of any organization I may be a member of. These opinions are based on my personal experience and the conversations with others that I consider advanced keepers in the KOI hobby.



Greetings from the Colorado Aquarium Society,

My name is Chris Fells. I am the Auctions Chairperson and Vice President of the Colorado Aquarium Society. The reason I am writing today, is to invite your members to our upcoming 2008 Spring Auction which will be held on **April 19th**. We expect this to be our biggest auction ever. Information about our auctions and club can be found at www.coloradoaquarium.org

Our Spring Auction flyer is available here: <http://www.coloradoaquarium.org/pics/AuctionPics/SpringAuction2008c.jpg>



RMKC FINANCIAL REPORT

**Beginning Balance
as of 1/31/08:**
\$4,841.32


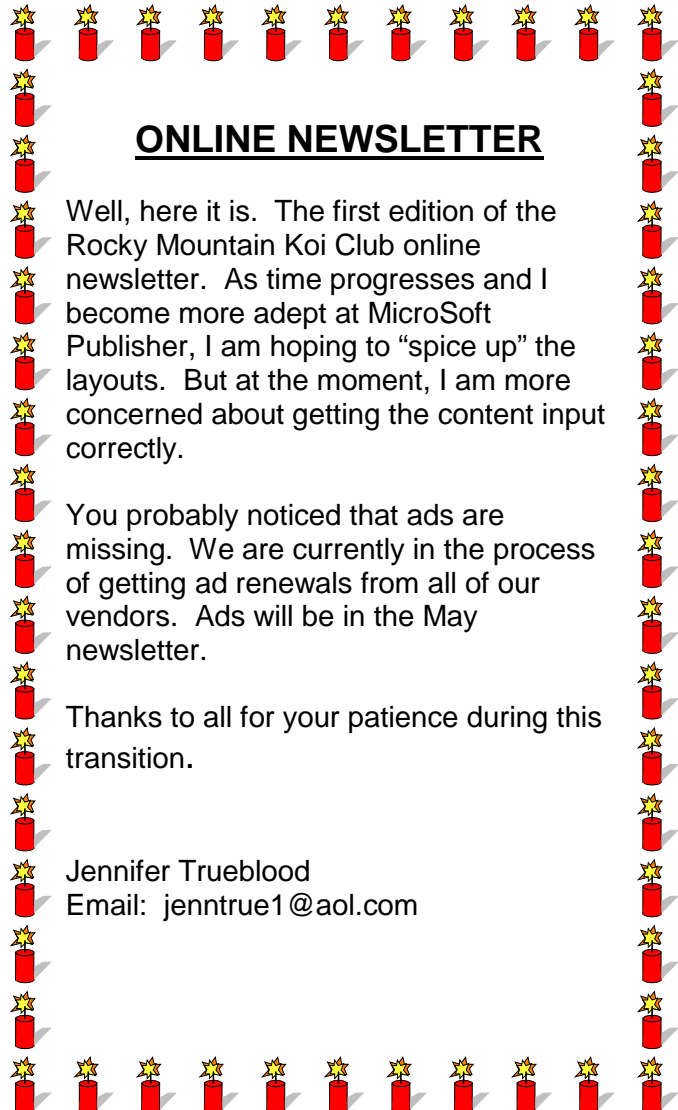
Deposits:
\$172.36

Withdrawals:
\$1,057.21

**Ending Balance as of
2/29/08:**
\$3,956.47

A detailed report is available upon request.

Jeff Langeberg
RMKC Treasurer

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Well, here it is. The first edition of the Rocky Mountain Koi Club online newsletter. As time progresses and I become more adept at MicroSoft Publisher, I am hoping to "spice up" the layouts. But at the moment, I am more concerned about getting the content input correctly.

You probably noticed that ads are missing. We are currently in the process of getting ad renewals from all of our vendors. Ads will be in the May newsletter.

Thanks to all for your patience during this transition.

Jennifer Trueblood
Email: jenntrue1@aol.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Due.....\$ 35.00
Company\$ 90.00
(includes a business card listing in newsletter)

Please accept my payment for \$ _____
for the Rocky Mountain Koi Club for 1 year and receive
all the benefits and 10 newsletters.



Please print:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE:(H) _____

PHONE:(W) _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Introduced to the Koi Club by: _____

New Member

Renewal

Send your check to: Rocky Mountain Koi Club, P.O.Box 0461, Englewood, CO 80151