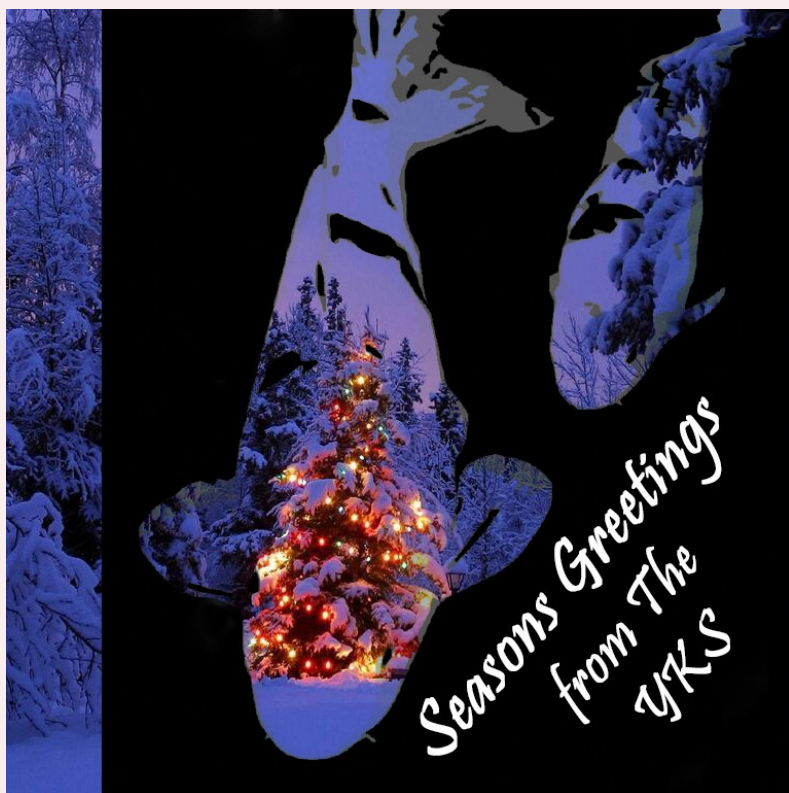


The Yorkshire Koi Society



Christmas Edition

NEWSLETTER



I interviewed Chris of Koimasters.net about his recent Japan trip.

There is the Pond of the month to get your teeth into, a recap of the return visit to the Liverpool Koi Club.

Also featured is the talk about Japanese Maples from Larchfield Trees, and a focus on another pesky parasite.

Lets not forget the Christmas dinner and raffle either, the grand finale of the year.

Where has the year gone?! This Newsletter is a recap from September to the present month.

Firstly though I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support through 2017, you continue to help us keep the club running. May your businesses continue to thrive into the coming new year.

Secondly I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Koi Keeping Year, may 2018 bring you all the best in life and koi.

Upcoming Events 2018

- **Sunday 18th February** - Talk by Chris Thomas, Kitsu Koi.
- **Sunday 15th April** - The AGM.
- **Sunday 20th May** - First Supper & BBQ at Kitsu Koi.
- More dates will be announced in due course.



At the end of November I went to see Chris Masters after he had returned from his Japan koi hunting trip. He spent 2 weeks in Japan selecting koi. As Chris knows the ropes pretty well he doesn't use an agent, he receives his shipments direct and quarantines all his koi himself using strict procedures. He has his first DEFRA compliance assessment coming up.



His first stop was Munakata City. He spent a week with the breeder Suetsugu and his family who Chris has built a good friendship with over the last 15 years. Suetsugu specialise in Sanke. The beauty of his relationship with them means he is allowed free reign on the ponds, bowling and netting whichever koi takes his fancy. It also allows him a few days to think about potential purchases and revisit them. He also spent time visiting Ueno who deal with Showa, Sanke, Kohaku and Gin Rin types. Marachiku was another breeder where Kohaku, Showa, Sanke and Shiro's can be found.

While Chris was in Japan he was treated to a Japanese Spa Hotel, he found this was a bit too hot.



The second week Chris travelled to Ogata who have "a bit of everything" to choose from. Chris was also asked to be a judge at the Kitakyushu Koi Show, a one day event where all koi are shown in bags and laid out on the floor. The biggest koi were up to 55cm.

In the spring harvest Chris usually selects 400-500 to sai, in the Autumn he tends to choose 10-20 nisai/sansai and often leaves some to grow on in the mud ponds for another year before importing them back to the UK.

Suetsugu are Chris's favourite breeder as they are a small farm but are able to spend time with him and answer any questions. He doesn't feel rushed or pressured and as mentioned previously, they have become very good friends. He stayed a walking distance away from the farm.



What is your favourite Koi variety?

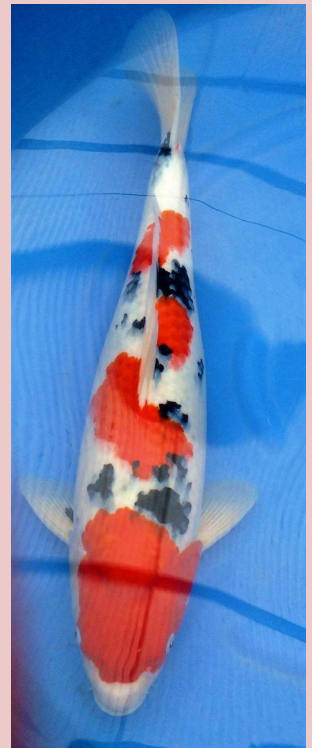
Sanke, as they are difficult to produce and get right.

What was the flight like?

Appalling! Its 10.5 hours with a stop at Seoul, South Korea then a few more hours onto Osaka.

What do you look for when selecting koi?

Firstly the body shape, it needs to have the curves in the right places, no deformities and a thick tail tube. Knowing what to look for gets better with practice. A common Showa problem is that their heads can be bent to one side, this can be difficult to spot initially. Secondly is the skin quality. It needs to be clean with a good lustre and depth of colour. Finally the pattern, the placement is subjective to the viewer, some make like the pattern placement some may not.



Do you get many koi losses during shipping?

Last time I had a Dead on Arrival was 1995. last year I unfortunately got a showa that was dying in the bag, Ogata gave me credit for this but it was not a nice experience.

Do you go sightseeing while in Japan?

Not this time, previously I have been to Dazaifu Shrine and the Himeji Castle in March. I did take advantage of visiting a dentist while in japan, I needed a couple of fillings, the service was much better than in the UK and much cheaper too!

What are the Hotels like?

The ones I have stayed in are always spotless and can be under £40.00 per night. The emperor and his wife were visiting the area this time so there were no spare rooms. The breakfast isn't something I am a fan of, smoked fish and eggs, I usually take my own porridge. They do have lots of tea though, PG tips is no problem. I don't sleep well either.

What do you like about Japan?

I love going to Japan. Everyone is very friendly, polite and generous. Everything works. There is no graffiti and no hooligans. Everywhere is so clean and tidy, they take pride in their surroundings. I have never seen an accident either.

Please give Chris a call and go see what little gems he has brought back. There are some lovely koi on offer at great prices. Thank you Chris for your time and sharing your experience with us.



Members Pond of the Month: "Lofty" Paul Loftus



Paul has been a member of the YKS for numerous years, he has a lovely 8000 gallon indoor pond built by himself. His pond has two bottom drains, one going to a Profidrum 55 pumped to a 2 metre Bakki Shower with 150kg of Bakki House Media (BHM) and 100 litres of Siporax; pumps are a Blue Eco 320 and Superfish 20000 going to two 4 inch spray bars. The second BD runs a similar path via another Profidrum 55 pumped via a Badu Eco pump to a 1 metre Bakki Shower containing 80kg BHM. The Drum has two outlets, one goes to a bio chamber with 150 litres K1 and 50 litres of Hel-X 13 media then is returned to the pond. A protein

skimmer sits on the edge of the pond and tucked away there is an ozone system, and a boiler to keep the koi warm. Lofty also has a little quarantine tank and system at the back of the pond house.



How did you get into keeping koi?

I was doing a job for Jimmy Shaw's pond, he got me to join the YKS and I've been here ever since.

What would you change?

I have changed so many things I don't think I could do any more.



What is your favourite Koi?

Chagoi, they are so friendly.

What has been your best koi keeping experience?

Winning grand champion at the YKS photo show with a koi I picked in Japan.



What has been your worst koi keeping experience?

Getting bacterial problems and losing very expensive koi.



What do you feed the koi?

Saki Hikari.

What varieties do you have?

I have most varieties but I do like Sanke's

How Many koi are in your collection?

I have 20 in my collection.



Larchfield Trees: Japanese Maples

Based near Coventry, Neil and Cath Kenney have over 20 years experience in growing Japanese maples and many horticultural show awards to back up their growing success.

They were kind enough to give us a talk on the basic care of Japanese maples and handy hints and tips on what to look out for. It was surprising to find out that as with any living thing, our maples are as much at risk as our koi are. Like them, when weak or their environment is not the best, they can fall ill to disease which may lead to their unfortunate demise.



Firstly Neil explained the process of propagation, how grafting is the best way by using stronger plants for the root system gives the more delicate species a better chance than when growing from seed or cuttings. He makes this method sound and look much easier for beginners; he also explained that when shoots start forming below the graft they need to be removed. This allows the grafted plant to gain more nutrients from the root.

Neil explained that when the leaves of a maple go brown and crispy, this is not wind burn or sun scorch, it is in fact dehydration. Maples come from moist mountainous well drained areas in Japan so should be kept well watered but don't allow them to become water logged. Terracotta pots are not recommended as they draw moisture away from the roots and can dry the plant out.

He also talked about a disease that looks like a black rot which can kill a tree if left untreated. Neil showed us the process of identifying and removing affected areas. The best way was to remove the affected roots/branches by cutting them away and scraping the affected wood out. This type of rot can go unnoticed in the roots and trunk but is easily spotted in the higher branches. If a blackened band forms around the tree trunk then it is unfortunately doomed and will not recover.

Repotting was another subject discussed. Neil said that when repotting a Maple you only need to have a fingers width space at the corners of the new pot. Then put this in a larger pot with the cavity filled with gravel to allow easy drainage.





Maples don't need repotting every year, bi or tri annually can often be ample. The use of sugar was discussed. Sugar is very good at encouraging new root growth when a tree has been dug up or re-potted. It is a carbohydrate that the tree can use to help rebuild its root system and produce new growth.



Pruning maples is best done in winter (November to January) when it is dormant or it may bleed sap from the cuts. Try to keep it to a minimum. When relocating a tree, again try to do it when dormant.

There are many varieties of Japanese Maples, all requiring different things in terms of light and shade. Neil and Cath have a book published to guide beginners through the care of Japanese Maples which can be ordered from Amazon £11.69.

Neil and Cath don't sell directly from their nursery, instead they attend shows where purchases can be made. They have attended many RHS and Gardeners world shows where they have won sought after prizes.

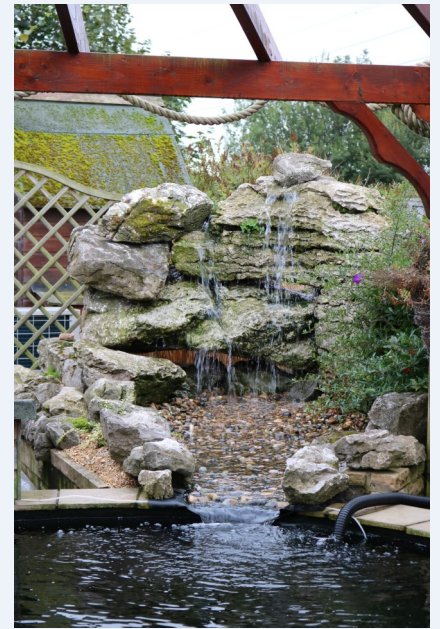
On display were some lovely rare and unusual type of Fir tree called "spreading star". A very glossy evergreen tree which is slow growing and difficult to come by. It can take many years to get to a substantial size. These plants had been propagated using cuttings, this however reduces the growth of the host plant the cuttings are taken from.



I think it is safe to say that all who attended learnt a great deal about Japanese Maples, we had a good turn out for the talk including some members from the Yorkshire section BKKS.

Many Thanks to Neil and Cath for travelling all the way in order to provide a very informative and interesting presentation for us.

Liverpool Koi Club: return visit September



First up was Stan and Sandra Singleton who kindly provided a very appreciated breakfast of bacon and sausage butties Their pond had a lovely pergola over it and had recently been fibre glassed. There was a lovely waterfall to the back which had a pebble stream returning the water to the pond. What pond would be complete without a friendly Chagoi? This ponds filtration consisted of a sieve and a bead filter.



Jimmy as always was making friends with the resident pooch. The gardens were immaculately kept and colour was everywhere we looked. A truly lovely pond and garden.



The next pond belonged to Dennis and Christine McGlynn. This had its filtration hidden behind the pond and consisted of a sieve, bead and Evolution Aqua UV as well as an ASHP. Their garden was huge with so much potential. There was a pergola hidden away and an old pond with water feature. One of the koi that caught my eye was a lovely ochiba.

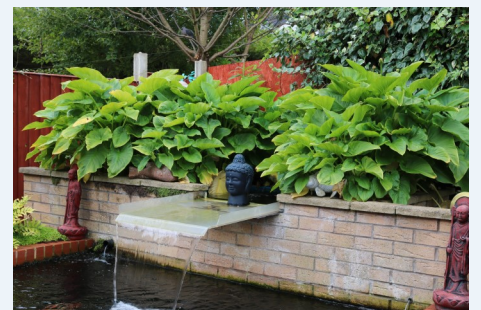




The third pond belonged to Dave and Leanna Barratt. This was a new build in traditional stone. The filtration was a sieve and biofilter box. There was plenty of space for the koi to move around in. The garden was a sea side theme and they even had a swimming pool with probably more gallonage than the pond itself! The hospitality was again exceptional. The rain didn't put us off at this stage.



The fourth pond we visited was Les and Sue Kay. This had a anoxic type filter planted to the brim with arum lillies. There were some lovely koi on display which were feeding well. It was starting to rain a little more now and someone managed to get first dibs on the cosy summer house! One more pond to go.....



The final pond, Peter Barton's but he was away and it was throwing it down by this point! We braved the elements but only managed a quick look then it was off for to the pub to dry off and warm up!





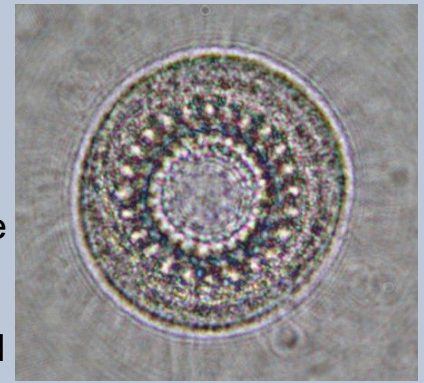
YKS Christmas Dinner

This years Christmas dinner was a great time to all get together and catch up. There was a fantastic turn out. It was lovely to see existing members but also to welcome new ones too. There were lots of lucky winners for the raffle prizes, the treasure chest was a tough one and the quiz had something for everyone.

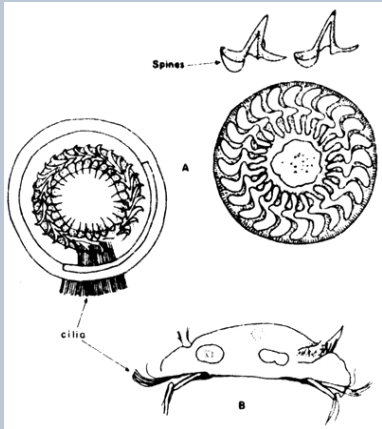
Thank you to all the sponsors who provided prizes, to Paul & Sue for organising it and well done to the members who won. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



FOCUS ON..... Trichodina



This pesky little critter is one of the most common ciliate parasites. Usually when you see your pride and joy bouncing off every surface they can find, usually has something to do with Trichodina or Trich for short. Due to this it means your koi can damage themselves and succumb to secondary problems like raised scales and ulcers which can weaken them so other parasites can become prevalent. To make matters worse there are approximately 200 strains of Trich but a positive fact is that it is relatively easy to treat. Trich can be found in marine fish as well as their freshwater cousins. Trich does not feed off the koi itself so therefore is not a true parasite. It likes dirty areas too; such as the places where muck gathers; filters, dirty pond bottoms and creases in liners. It can survive without a host and be transported from other places on frogs and toads etc. Heavy infestations are generally due to poor pond hygiene and water quality.



Symptoms

Vigorous Flashing, redness, excess mucous production, loss of appetite and sluggishness. Respiratory difficulty and damaged fins in koi with heavy infestations in the gills.

Identification

As usual a mucous skin scrape needs to be performed in order to positively identify any parasite. Trichodina is easily identifiable at the lower magnification. Trich is disc shaped and 50microns in size, it looks very much like a little flying saucer when it zooms around. Underneath there are numerous teeth called “denticles” which point downwards and it uses to secure itself to a koi’s skin. Around the edge of the parasite there are many fine cilia that Trichodina uses to swim with, when looking at it through a microscope you can see it spinning around.



Lifecycle.

Trichodina reproduces by binary fission or division. This makes treating easier as it kills all stages of the parasite in one go.

Treatments

Trichodina has various options of treatment. They are in order of the best method.

Potassium Permanganate (PP)

1.5 grams per 220 gallons or 1.5ppm.

Keeping the water purple for a minimum of 2 hours should effectively kill Trich, the general rule is to keep it purple for 4 hours, additional 1/4 or 1/2 doses may be required in ponds with heavy bio load. When water starts to go brown the PP is spent and not doing anything else. To neutralise PP either Hydrogen Peroxide (HP) or Sodium Thiosulphate (ST) can be used. Always add lots of extra air to a pond when treating with PP as it is an oxidising agent. Where possible avoid feeding for 24 hours prior to using PP. it is usually a good idea to do a deep clean of the filters and system to avoid having more organic matter in the pond for the PP to consume.

Malachite Green (MG) and Forlamin (F).

Not to be used below 13°C

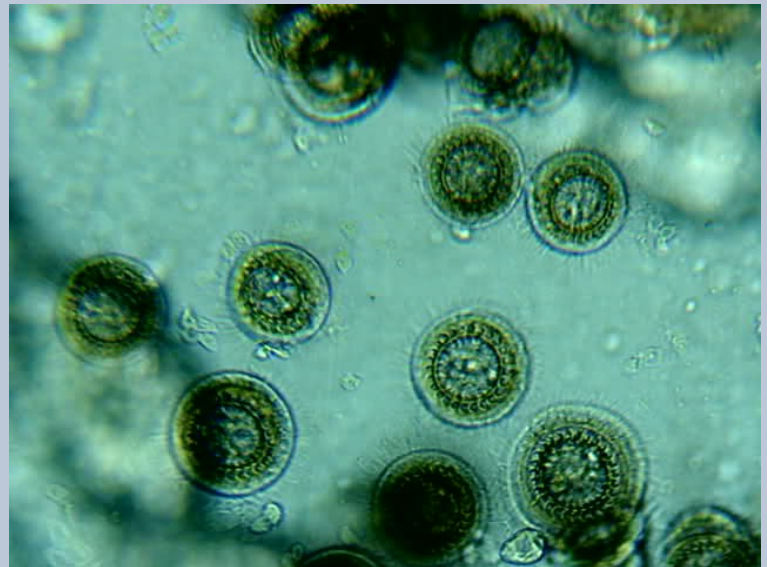
MG 2% 10ml per 176 UK gallons

F 30% at 10ml per 140/150 UK gallons

Chloramine T. *Kusuri*

15-20 grams per 1000 gallons for 4 doses.

Not effective in temps below 11°C.



Salt.

Remember NOT to use salt if Formalin or PP is in the pond already. Use an accurate salt meter to ensure the percentage or ppm is safe.

0.3% starting dose to slowly increase to 0.6% over 24 hours. Any further salt increases should be done slowly. Bare in mind that Trichodina also thrives in marine environments.

Keeping on top of pond and filter maintenance will help reduce the occurrences of Trichodina.

WARNING: Any treatments are done at your own risk, always test your water before and know your volume. Use protective clothing and equipment when handling chemicals.