

Northern Midwest ZNA Newsletter



Summer / Fall 2003

Friendship Through Scales

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Northern Midwest ZNA 2003 Koi Show By Nick Leschuck – Koi Show Chairman

Rizzi's Flower Garden and Aquatic Center in Plainfield Illinois was host to the Second Annual Northern Midwest ZNA Koi Show. This year the Koi show was in dedication to an original member and loved by everyone, Millie Brudd. The show was again held outdoors with 22 show tanks and a total of 87 fish entries. The day held a crystal blue sky and temperatures comfortably in the 70's. We had 5 new people that brought their fish for display this year. Members from all over the Midwest including Indiana, Illinois, Mike Pfeffer from Kentucky, and even Charlie and Brenda Atwell from Atlanta, Georgia traveled to participate in the festivities.

The club was honored by having nationally known Brett Rowley as guest speaker for our seminars. WE were fortunate to also attract Gary Wittstock, Jeff Rugg, Dr. Chris Sharkey, as speakers for additional seminars. We were also honored this year to have Art Lembke as our head judge and Robert Johnson as a certified judge. The show was held in the English style format with Adam Stryzik doing water quality and being assisted by Dr. Robert Passavoy.

The Grand Champion was a splendid size six Kohaku owned by Dick and Brenda Thomas. The Reserve Grand Champion was a stunning size 6 Showa Sanshoku owned by Bryan and Bay Bateman. Our Mature Grand Champion was another beautiful size 5 Kohaku owned by Robert Brudd. Also this year a special award "The Millie" was given in honor of Millie Brudd who loved Gin Rin "a fish that sparkles".

This award was given to a size 4 Saragoi owned by Nick and Debbie Leschuck. The AKCA award went to a size 6 Hikari Moyomono is owned by Robert Brudd.

The trade show was chaired by Robert Brudd and was even larger then last year with all 15 booths occupied in a 40 X 80 tent. The awards banquet was held on the grounds of Rizzi's that evening. The food was delicious and a good time was had by all who attended.

In closing I would personally like to thank the Koi Show Co-Chairman Debbie Leschuck, my wife, for all the assistance, tolerance, and help that she gave me. A special thank you to Nicole Lembke for her participation in our show. Also let me thank all of the different committee chairmen for their assistance in making our second show the success it was. Lastly, to all of the Northern Midwest ZNA members who participated and helped out when needed I would like to thank personally for their contributions.

(This article is also reprinted in Koi USA)

Tales from the Dry Side By Bob Brudd

Tale #1: Lunch, Spring, 2003

This past spring, I and Kevin Clark, who was organizing a huge trade show for the Illiana Club at the time, joined Frank Kane (Chris isn't always allowed out) and J.R. Rizzi for lunch out in Plainfield. It was at this time that we decided to gamble and expand the trade show from a 40 x 60 foot tent to a larger 40 x 80 structure. On the one hand it provided the potential for more revenue, but only if we filled it. If we didn't, it was a deficit making decision. At the time, it looked like a breeze because Kevin's other show was filling up fast and the vendors couldn't get their money in fast enough.

Then, the economy continued its downward spiral and suddenly our potential vendors were suffering from a cash flow crunch. The same held true as we tried to coerce and cajole raffle donations from manufacturers who were experiencing difficulties. Ergo, it took triple the usual number of phone calls and written contacts to pull things off. Luckily, the club, thanks to Kevin's countless phone calls, managed to fill every booth with the last space being taken by

Pond Supplies of America during Friday set-up. And, raffle donations trickled in right up to the show deadline as well.

Tale #2: Ron, Kevin and Bob Get Busted

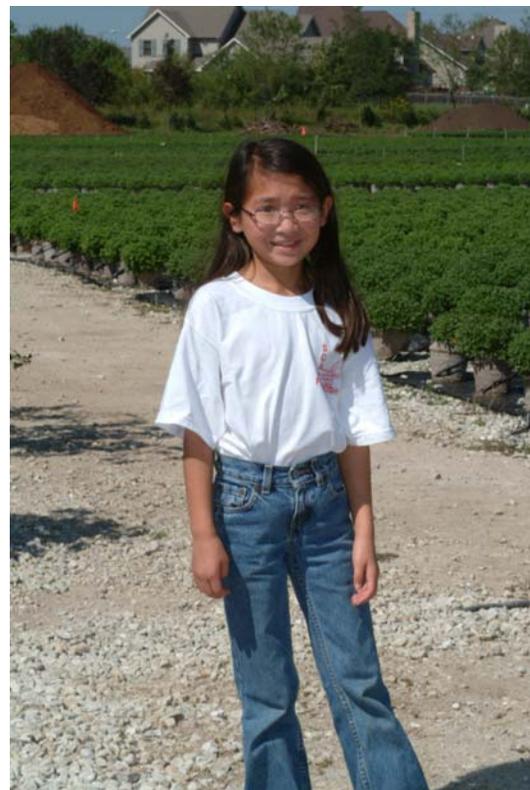
In a new ploy to drum up show attendees, we decided to print up 50 signs to be stuck in the ground or nailed to a telephone pole. After spending almost two hours placing signs up and down Route 59, the dividing line between Naperville and Aurora, we pulled into a gas station parking area in order to place a sign on a telephone pole. As I held the sign, Ron Weynschenk took his huge hammer and started to pound in at least 30 old nail and staples so that our show announcement would have a nice clean surface to rest on.

Just as he was about to make his final hit on the final nail, a pleasant woman in plain clothes got out of an unmarked car and issued us tickets that specified a court appearance and possible \$500 fine for defacing the streets of Naperville. Only after we told the lady that we were working for a non-for-profit organization did she agree to tear up the tickets later that night. The catch was taking another two hours to remove the signs we'd put up earlier!



Tale #3: Kaylee Clark Voted Best New Volunteer

If you were fortunate enough to attend the show, then you probably met the girl who was most certainly the most energetic volunteer of the entire show. Her name was, and still is, Kaylee Clark, Kevin and Gail's delightful daughter. Moving about the show site with the speed and energy possessed only by the very young, Kaylee was everywhere. She pulled raffle tickets, helped sell and deliver food and drinks, assisted her dad, ran errands for the koi show staff, did everything asked of her, and NEVER complained. I think we need to clone her asap.



Tale # 4: The Ladies Teach Dick to Raffle

The club ended up needing to use three tables on both Saturday and Sunday to hold and display all the raffle donations that came in. Luckily, the raffle was well coordinated because there were virtually no men involved. Taking charge were Brenda Thomas, Linda Adamovich, Gail Nolen, and Jane Weynschenk. They displayed the items beautifully, coordinated the selling of tickets, instructed people as to what all those Tupperware containers were for, distributed and

collected questionnaires, kept track of the winners, and contacted those who weren't present when the drawings took place. The only thing they couldn't do was talk loud like Dick, so they enlisted him to shout out the numbers. We were going to get him the microphone and p.a. system, but it was more fun watching him sweat!



Tale #5: The Vendor with the Heart of Gold

Everyone who's ever been to a koi show knows Jack Chang, especially if it's the male half of a couple who's into fish. What most people don't see, however, is the compassionate and helpful side of this quiet and unassuming man. When I was trying to assist a certain young man in getting a job on a Japanese koi farm, it was Jack who came to the rescue and made it happen. When the Batemans were worried about their showa, it was Jack who passed up a reservation at a Japanese restaurant to go help out. When we were packing up the show, Jack stuck around, got wet, and helped. When he was helping me pack up my best kohaku, we discovered a serious wound on her chest underneath her pectoral. Later that night, Jack helped me lug all of my fish to the pond, float them, and in the case of the kohaku, treat her. Through his tutoring, I learned how to inject Japanese-style, namely in the armpit of the pectoral fin. Later that night, the Weynschenks came over for pizza and beer. A lot of beer.

Tale #6: The other Vendors with Hearts of Gold

Ask a vendor sometime how often they get thanked for making raffle donations. The answer is usually, "Never." Or, "Seldom." Therefore, some thank yous are in order. Sue Miller Enterprises donated a really nice kujaku to the raffle that got a lot of attention. Southwest Koi

and Goldfish donated two toisai that also garnered a rash of raffle tickets.

Finally, in the realm of fish, Kaz Takeda, a show veteran who's been around forever, donated a really pretty ginrin butterfly. Kevin Clark and Keith Vander Woude provided us with a huge, beautiful skimmer box that attracted bunches of \$5 tickets, and Jack Chang was the highlight of the evening raffle with his donation of a pair of gold earrings. Koi Pond Supply of Japan provided some high quality koi food that also helped out a bunch. Finally, there were some bittersweet offerings from Dan and Sammie Ellinghausen, dear friends and members of the club who've chosen to take a respite from the hobby.

Thanks to their generosity, there were test kits, a huge roll of bio-ribbon, and all kinds of pond related items on the tables. There were other items donated by businesses who were unable to participate in the trade show and they'll be recognized on a special page of our club newsletter for the upcoming year.

Tale #7: It Can't Happen without Volunteers

I know I use this analogy to death, but bear with me one more time. A bicycle wheel can hold a great deal of weight because the load is divided and supported by a relatively small number of rather thin spokes. Thus it is with trade shows and koi shows and clubs and goodness knows what. At some point in the weekend, everyone helped out on/in the tent side of things. Whether it was moving chairs, running airlines for the vendor tanks, setting up tables, draining and folding vats, helping to hang the club banner or string lights for the banquet, your help, your "spokeness" made it all possible. And, lastly, there were those brown shirted volunteers from Rizzi's who literally worked their tushies off for days, clearing, cleaning and grooming the show site. For three days, we truly did live in a garden. Thank you all. Thank you all very much.

Charlie's (and Brenda's) Angels By Bob Brudd

At the 2003 AKCA Seminar, the expression, "Friendship through Scales," took on new meaning for both Brenda and Charlie Atwell and a small group of hobbyists who all came together at a time of stressful loss and anguish. As most folks in the hobby know, Brenda and Charlie have been keeping koi in the Atlanta area forever. They're also devoted members of their club, and as volunteers for the seminar, had spent very little time at home choosing to stay close to their obligations at the Hilton instead.

What no one knew except they and Dr. Eric Johnson knew at the time was that their pond had been hit hard by KHV. In a gesture of good will, they had loaned four of their egg laden females to a local dealer for breeding; however, instead of receiving four healthy koi, they got four infected fish instead. Assuming that the fish had been kept in quarantine-like conditions, which they hadn't, they put them back into the general population of their pond. Soon thereafter, disaster struck, and their koi, one of which was forty years old, started to expire in large numbers. Within less than ten days, Brenda and Charlie lost close to fifty fish including a number of former grand champions.

On Friday night at the seminar, Tom Graham overheard Dr. Johnson express his condolences to Brenda and Charlie. Upon hearing that there were survivors and that it might be possible to save them by raising the water temperature to 86 degrees, Tom decided to round up volunteers and head over to Brenda and Charlie's home to rescue the survivors. Within half an hour, there were three carloads of people from all over the country headed to the rescue site. I rode with Larry Cristensen and Charlie, and we stopped at Lowe's to pick up foil insulation, Styrofoam, pvc fittings and pipe, plastic sheeting and other assorted supplies. In the meantime, David Mariner and his partner Jay dropped off a six foot show vat and set it up in the driveway. As we pulled into the driveway, Tom Graham and Larry Leverett were transferring the last of the fish into the tank as the other volunteers, Jack Marrin, Bob Walters, Nick Milfeld, Peter Enfield, Norm Call, Mihoko Takeda and Larry Sheets started rummaging about for the materials needed to complete a functioning quarantine system.

Foil insulation was wrapped around the tank's exterior while Larry and others built a one inch pvc framework over the top of it to support a plastic cover, all of it intended to help hold in heat. Those scrounging for usable materials came up with an old Ultima II filter that needed a good cleaning and a new Lim pump with a broken fitting. Luckily, Bob Walters, who took over the task of master plumber, jury rigged a glue/clamp joint that ended up working beautifully. When we couldn't find a suitable strainer for the pipe feeding the pump, Larry made one from a scrap length of pvc and a cap, using a circular saw to cut grooves into the pipe. As he bent over the tank to screw it into the bulkhead fitting, those of us in the judging program evaluated his overall conformation, which, as we were sad to observe, was rather lacking. Although he got good points for overall quality, he definitely lost out in the conformation area. We all felt badly for wife Pat.

Finally, after two hours or so, the fish were moved, the pump and filter were working, heaters were acquired and installed, the aeration system was functioning, and just as we were posing in the now darkening driveway for photos, it started to rain. Luckily, Mihoko and her husband, Larry, were locals who knew the location of a terrific Chinese restaurant that served Peking Duck without having to reserve it a day ahead of time, which is the usual practice. Once we settled in, Mihoko regaled us with great stories of just how this special dish is prepared. One of them involved blowing the duck up, but perhaps it's best to save that one for another time.





In Memory of Millie.....

Calendar of Events

November 1st ZNA Meeting at
Bob Brudd's house

December 6th ZNA Xmas
Party at Kevin Clark's house

2003 Koi Show Winners

**Supreme Grand Champion Kohaku
Dick and Brenda Thomas**



**Mature Grand Champion Kohaku
Robert Brudd**



**Reserve Grand Champion Showa Sanshoku
Bryan & Bay Bateman**



**Junior Grand Champion Kohaku
Kevin & Sheila Karstens**



**Baby Grand Champion Kohaku
Kevin & Sheila Karstens**



**“The Mille Award” Best Overall Gin Rin
Nick & Debbie Leschuck**



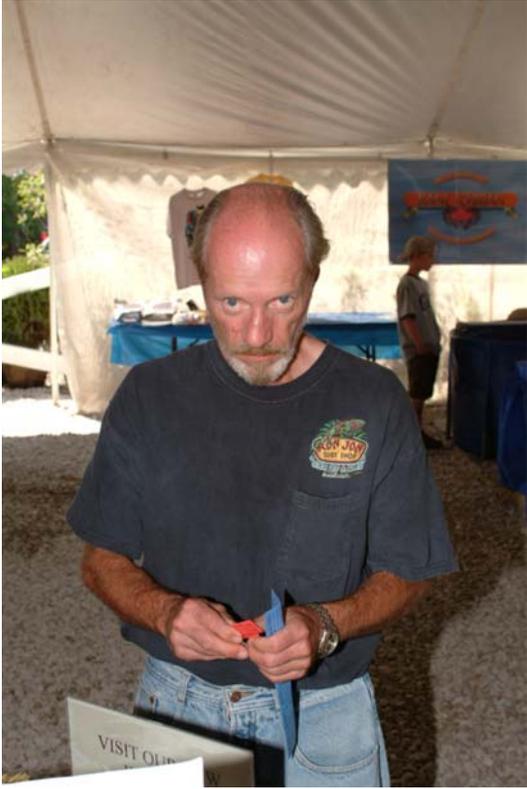
*(This space is also available for
advertising)*

**AKCA Award H. Moyomono
Robert Brudd**



2003 Koi Show Photo Album







Please keep in mind these are just a few of many pictures available for your viewing. Please feel free to ask Bob Brudd or myself Debbie Leschuck for copies.

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