

NISEI NEWS

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July's Feature Koi by Bob Geren

This month's featured koi is one of our showas that was born in 2006.

She is the offspring of our matsunosuke showa, that we have nick named Bertha. Like her mother this fish exhibits some wonderful qualities. As well as a very unique and abstract pattern. The beginning to every good koi is it's base. This koi has beautiful snow white skin with a soft luster. The second trait she possesses is thick persimmon type beni, placed in a very abstract pattern. The final contributor and least developed item on this koi is her sumi. Even though it is early in its development high quality sumi is still evident. All these factors are what makes this koi considered to be tategoi, and will develop and become more beautiful in the years to come.

This 17.5" Female Showa is growing in our Oval Pond which will be harvested during our Main Event Harvest, October 23rd

For more information on our Fall Harvest visit www.qualitykoi.com



Koi Meetings At the farm

MAKC North Chapter

August 9th

11:00 am

TOPIC

Culling Jumbo Showa

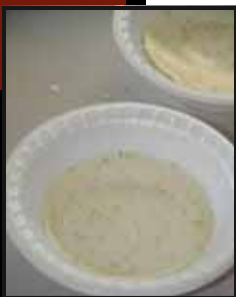
For more information about the meeting visit

www.makc.com

To host your club meeting at the farm

Email

info@qualitykoi.com



Farm News—Culling Black Babies by Tara Morgan

Each breeding season begins with it's familiar, predictable events...prepping the breeding bags and brushes, ordering daphnia and meal for the fry, stringing ponds, and of course, black baby culling! This year, we bred female Matsunosuke Showa "Bertha" (see a 2006 offspring in Feature Koi article above) with two Magoi Showa and a Matsunosuke Hirenaga Showa on Thursday, June 12. On Monday morning our culling team went to work! Each morning, the culling team, consisting of three staff members (Jennifer McCann, Brynn Reilly, and myself) and two volunteers (Linda Nichols and Joyce Spears) received four "scoops" of fry as their work for the day. All of the black babies from that day went into one mud pond together. We did this for three days, so we currently have three ponds of showa to start the season. The number of ponds will most likely become two ponds after the first cull, and possibly down to one pond after their second cull, allowing only the best showa to have optimal room for growing until they are harvested. This system of consolidation also allows our mud ponds to be used multiple times

each season to accommodate as much breeding as possible.

With black baby culling, time is of the essence! With all black-based koi including showa, shiro utsuri, and kumonryu, there is a small window of time that begins just after the eggs hatch that fry are either white or black. The white ones will never become good showa. For a black-based koi, it shows sumi for only a few days before the sumi sinks down. It is only during this window of time when you can successfully cull out the white ones. After that window of time has passed, all of the fry turn white and then begin their color development. It is not until later on that you are able to distinguish which ones are showa. Although black baby culling is a tedious and time-consuming task, we feel that the long-term benefit makes it worth all of the work.



American Breeders Panel at the 2008 AKCA Seminar

By Jennifer McCann

At the 2008 AKCA Seminar in Jacksonville, FL this June, Quality Koi's Mat McCann got the honor to sit down with other highly respected American koi breeders to discuss the similarities and differences in their breeding of American Koi.

On the panel was Brett Rowley of Brett's Koi Farm in TX, Joe Pawlek of Blackwater Creek in FL and Mat McCann of Nisei Koi Farm in NJ. William Todorsky was the moderator for the panel.

The discussion opened with what is the difference between American Koi farms and Japanese Koi farms. All three breeders agreed that with more land space available here in the States versus in Japan the American breeders have more physical space to experiment with koi breeding, compared to many Japanese breeders who only specialize in a few varieties. The breeders all agreed as well, that the benefit of American Farms is that they are able to supply more high quality koi into the American market as all our koi are sold here in the USA.

How is the current economy effecting the farms? The breeders have seen in increase in the production costs, maintenance costs, shipping cost, but all three have kept their koi prices steady. They did project however, that with the current economic trend that customers can

expect a future raise in koi pricing, not only on domestic koi but across the whole koi industry.

This followed by the question of what made each of their farms different from the others farm. This is where the audience began to see how market placing, geography and funding made the farms so different. Brett's Koi Farm

is owned and operated by Brett with help from his friends with the labor and time consuming jobs, like culling. Brett started off by saying with Texas's warm climate he has an extended growing season, however, the winter that he does have can be quit harsh. This down time in the winter is welcomed, Brett says, to catch up on there duties that are put aside during the busy koi season. He describes the benefit of black clay on his farm which is exceptional for sumi development.



Joe Pawlek, is the owner of Blackwater Creek, an established company supplying in high demand. The farm employs staff to run the day to day operations. Joe says he has a long growing season which he takes advantage of by being able to spawn twice in one season. Joe prefers using liner ponds to grow his koi over mud ponds. He feels that they are easier to control. The advantage he feels his farm has is its large size. They are able to breed the required varieties for the market, but then during his second round of spawning they can experiment with their breeding. He feels this keeps things fun and interesting for him and his staff.

Mat, first points out that his first difference from the gentleman that he is sitting with is that he is an *employee*, not owner and the farm is owned by Mr. Joseph Zuritsky. Mat talks about the short growing season that that Nisei koi farm has being located in the North East and how he has to over come the cold winter with keeping

and growing the koi in greenhouse over winter and how the cost of heating the greenhouse for such a long period add to his overhead cost. Mat also points out the Nisei Koi Farm is much younger then the other two farms—only 7th year of breeding. Being consider still a new farm he has not yet found a specific pattern of how the mud ponds behave. The benefit the farm has is that it was built on very fertile land which still yields a high volume of daphnia in the mud ponds which is essential for fry to eat during the first few days of life.

Bio— Security was of main interest. Both Brett and Joe say they do not allow any koi to return to their farm. This policy however does limit what breeders are willing to take to shows. They can't take koi that they may have to sell at cut throat pricing just so they don't have to take it home. And, point out that if you want to see their best, you need

to come to the farm. This also limits the introduction of new parent stock.

Mat took a slightly different view, although he does limit what he takes to shows and does not allow koi to return to the farm, he is open to improving his breeding stock and by doing this he must import. Mat buys from only one breeder in Japan—Tosai Sakai, Matsunosuke. The koi are imported in to a isolated greenhouse and are quarantine for a lengthy time period. The quarantine includes all testing for viruses short of euthanizing.

The breeders are cautious about vaccinating their koi, but to different levels. Joe says he would vaccinate with a proven vaccination. Brett says no, that he's seen to many long term effects from vaccination in aquaculture and Mat says at this time he's watching and seeing what comes of these potential vaccines and will decided what best for the farm when and if the time comes.

Continued...

"The Challenge is being an expert at many varieties"

Joe Pawlek

Farming styles—All the breeders share that they are concerned with line breeding and take efforts to keep this at bay. All three also share the same breeding style by doing natural spawning.

It was culling of the koi that again the farms took on their own methods. Brett said that he first culls his koi at 3-8" inches and welcomes his friends to help him with the time consuming task. Joe, said he too culls at a large size so that his staff can easily see the traits he wants them to cull for.

Mat, however, culls at 30-45 days old and about 1.5" and does most of the culling himself. This difference in culling practice again comes down to ability, market, time and finance.

It was pointed out that all three "American" farm have had interaction with foreign breeders, why is this necessary? Brett says its about sharing techniques and advice. "Someone, somewhere has already experienced what you just experienced and they are always happy to share what they had

"Advice can come in the form of a riddle "

Mat McCann

learned." Mat agreed with the Brett's statement and laughs when he admits calling Brett on number of occasions when a circumstance that he hadn't encountered before. He also says that the advice he receives from Japan isn't

always handed out, that it often comes thru as riddle. He gets pieces of a puzzle and its up to him to find the other pieces and put them together.

Joe expressed his enjoyment of simply sharing the hobby with other that enjoy it the same as he does regardless of where they are from. And thru this interaction they learn from each other.

Should koi farms share eggs and milt as other live stock industries do? The unanimous response was NO! Not that they don't want to share out of competitiveness (partially) and not to mention possible bio-security issues, but expressed that parent stock isn't just aquired. Each breeder has to form a relationship with the breeder of the parents he want to purchase. This is a long term relationship and investment. As well, each felt very strong that their individual choose of parent stock for their individual reasoning was what made each farm unique. A sanke isn't just a sanke.

It was evident and expressed that the men are breeding out of true love and passion for koi, not for the money. Working at Nisei Koi Farm myself and being the wife of Mat, I can vouch for the blood, sweat and tears that go into koi farming. Every breeder has experienced the highs and each has experienced the very lows. Only thru their dedication do they find the strength with in to pick up and carry on.

Watching the men on the panel's body language as the others talked—chuckle

and a nod, there again showed how they understood and appreciated what each other does in a way that only someone who lives day in and day out koi farming can.

Yes, of course they are competitors, business is business, and we must all survive. Their farms may be different,

"Someone has already experienced what you are seeing "

Brett Rowley

their farming styles maybe different. but there was respect for each other and the other American breeders for what they are doing to improve American bred koi.

With gentlemen like these three and others heading the evolution of American Koi we are sure to see more high quality koi and possibly a Grand champion in the future.

American Breeders

2nd Annual

Koi Show

Hosted by the MAKC

September

12,13,14th

Westminster MD

www.makc.com

New Wholesale Pricing

www.niseikofarm.com

**See our new wholesale pricing online
and sign up to receive weekly availability**

Wholesale Availability

DON'T BUY THE LEFT OVERS!

Here, at Quality Koi Co., we continually have new batches of koi coming out of quarantine all thru the year. You will receive the same quality and health in each order.

All of our koi are quarantined to assure you and your customer receive healthy koi!

Cut out the import and middle man cost that is eating into your profit!

Contact us now to receive an updated availability list.

The Nisei Koi farm is the home of

Quality Koi company.

The farm is the facility in which Nisei Koi

(meaning: second generation) are bred and raised. Our koi are

produced from the highest quality Japanese parents available.

By starting with the highest quality

Parents we are able to produce

some of the best koi outside of Japan. By eliminating the importing cost on the koi, we have opened the door to many hobbyists to now be able to own a high quality koi for an affordable price and

purchase Tategoi that would usually stay in Japan.



Find weekly updates, koi for sale and farm events and much more @

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We, at Quality Koi Company, strive to produce and provide each koi hobbyist with an affordable, healthy, high quality koi.

We invite customers to our farm to see our large number of koi for sale and the facility in which these koi are produced.

Customers are welcome to visit the farm

Saturdays 10-3pm

Sundays 12-3pm