

# HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 11 issue 8

August 2019

## Meeting

Come to our next pond meeting **Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30 PM** prepared to have some fun and a good meal! For logistic reasons, we had to change the location of our August meeting, but it is all good because we will be at Luigi's in McGregor for some great Italian food. The address is 319 S Main St.

Our topic this month is on using recycled items for new purposes in our outdoor spaces. In lieu of a speaker we plan to have a small craft project and an exciting group trivia game with questions about recycling facts along with some pond and plant topics too. So bring all your knowledge, an empty stomach, and your best ideas about incorporating recycled items into your pond or garden to share! Recycled materials will be supplied for the bird feeder craft.

Please RSVP to [drbeckysue@gmail.com](mailto:drbeckysue@gmail.com) by August 14th so that I can give the restaurant a final count and make sure to have enough supplies.

Thanks everybody! Take care, Becky

Our field trip on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> to Keith & Margi's was great! They have a wonderful pond and beautiful home. They provided a great lunch for all of us. A BIG THANK YOU to Keith & Margi!!



From IWGS Summer Water Garden Journal Expert Corner

## Gin Rin Koi, A Real Eye-Catcher by Mike Gannon

If there is a koi that could have “jazz hands,” the Gin Rin koi would have to be the one. It’s flashy and glitzy. Some Gin Rin have more sparkle than Michael Jackson’s famous left-hand glove. The Gin Rin variety is a star among the koi world. But koi cannot have jazz hands, and I don’t think that anything is more sparkly than Michael Jackson’s glove; so I hope you get the point I’m trying to make. The Gin Rin type of koi is easily recognizable because of its characteristic sparkling scales, and it is easy to remember because of its easy name Gin Rin, which is actually pronounced “geen deen”. Gin Rin characteristics can happen in many varieties of koi. This sparkling effect is strongest on young koi and will often fade away as the koi ages because of the way the scales of the fish age. Scales get thicker on older and larger koi and the sparkling effect becomes less visible. The name Gin Rin means “silver scale” and it is easy to understand why because of how this scale type reflects sunlight. Like many characteristics of koi and ornamental fish, the Gin Rin scale type is actually a deformity of the fish scale that has been bred into the fish. There are four sub-types of Gin Rin scale patterns with some more desirable than others.

The Gin Rin koi was developed by Mr. Eizaburo Hoshino. Mr. Hoshino was a well-

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known Japanese koi breeder in the early 1900s. It's said that in 1929, Mr. Hoshino came across a fisherman who had caught a wild magoi that had many glittering scales. That fish was used as the genesis in the development of what we now know as the Gin Rin trait. Intense work by several early koi breeders in Hiroshima and Niigata Japan fixed this trait into Gin Rin koi and also developed the four different sub-types of scalation by around 1950. These days just about every variety of koi has a Gin Rin type and there are even official judging standards for this trait. To be considered a Gin Rin koi, the koi must have at least three complete rows of Gin Rin scales. The fish, which has the Gin Rin trait, must first specifically qualify as its base variety. For example, a Kohaku must show all the characteristics of a show quality Kohaku before the Gin Rin trait is judged. As far as keeping a Gin Rin koi there are no special requirements. They can be treated just like any other koi type as far as feeding, temperament, and longevity. Many hobbyists report that they do not grow as large as other koi, but truly large koi size is not very common in a typical backyard koi pond, so the average hobbyist will not even notice! The Gin Rin koi is a lot of fun to have as part of a koi collection and adds that sparkle that really catches the eye. They are widely available from breeders and dealers. So pick your favorite variety of koi and look around for them with that classic Gin Rin sparkle and your pond will shine!

About the Author Mike Gannon is owner of Full Service Aquatics located in Summit, NJ. Mike is an award-winning pond, water garden, and water feature builder. Mike is the creator of "The Pond Hunter" video series seen on YouTube and has made several television appearances on networks such as HGTV and the DIY Network. He also hosts the Pond Hunter Radio Broadcast. You can contact Mike at the LOVEYOURPOND blog at <http://fullserviceaquatics.com>.

This from the Hill Country Water Gardens Newsletter

## Summertime Fish Safety

June 27, 2019|WATER GARDENS

Summer temperatures can be dangerous for our Koi and Goldfish friends. The following suggestions were put together to help them out as temperatures in Central Texas are reaching the triple digits.



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1.) **Keep a floating thermometer handy.** As the water temps increase the oxygen holding capacity decreases! Ideally, we want the water temperature to stay below 80°F. If you find your water is over 80°, it's time to add more shade with water lilies or an umbrella.

2.) **Keep your pump(s) running 24/7!!!** Your pump is moving the water, disturbing the surface which allows oxygen to move into the water!

3.) **Have a backup pump handy** if your main pump(s) fails! Summer is the WORST time a pond pump can fail. By being a little prepared you'll be able to avoid disaster. A backup pump doesn't have to be as large as the main pump; it's only going to be used for a short time while the main pump is being repaired or replaced.

4.) **Double up your Dechlorinator to be safe!** We never know what's being pumped through the city lines at any given time. **Doubling** the recommended dose is recommended by the manufacturer during the heat of the summer.

5.) **Test your water!** We want to make sure the ammonia, nitrites and phosphates are not creeping up on us. These chemicals, products of the fish waste or over feeding, can be deadly. Then add lower oxygen levels, and you have a recipe for disaster! HCWG provides free water testing!

6.) **Use extreme caution when treating your pond for algae!** Follow the directions

closely or discontinue use when water temperatures approach 90 degrees!!! Overdosing algacides can deplete oxygen levels in the water.

7.) **Use a hose timer!** Digital or mechanical, these devices can save the day. As the evaporation rates increase we are all adding a little bit more water this time of year. Being the busy people we are, a hose timer will shut off the water for us when we forget! You can also set the timer on your iPhone. Don't forget to double up on the dechlorinator!

Contact us at 512-260-5050 or [info@hillcountrywatergardens.com](mailto:info@hillcountrywatergardens.com) with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your fish.



## AquaNooga Tips of the Week

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Part of the cycle of water lilies and other aquatic plants includes foliage turning brown and then rotting off. This is normal as long as new foliage is also emerging. To help reduce the amount of sludge build-up in your pond, remove dying foliage, including spent flowers, from plants before it has a chance to fall into the water and decay. Basic routine maintenance like this goes a long way towards keeping a healthy pond.

And another one

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Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Hot water is stressful to goldfish and koi. If your water temperature rises above 90F it is best to reduce or even stop feeding until the water can cool back down. This will help reduce the stress the fish must endure. If the water is staying hot for prolonged periods you may also want to consider cooling it by floating bottles of frozen water in the pond. (editor's note: that would take a LOT of bottles to have any effect on my pond!!)

And another

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Keeping non-native species of plants and fish warrants a certain level of responsibility to the pond keeper. Many are familiar with the way Water Hyacinth is a nuisance in a lot of southern waterways, and is thus illegal in many states. This same risk applies with other species. You can help by ensuring that plants and fish you keep do not have any opportunities to enter open or natural water systems.



## Did you know?

There are more than 9 million dairy cows in the United States and the vast majority of them are Holsteins. When researchers at Pennsylvania State University looked

closely at the male genes a few years ago, they discovered that more than 99 percent of them can be traced back to two bulls both born in the 1960's. Females aren't much better. Researchers say there is so much genetic similarity among Holsteins that the effective population size is less than 50. If they were wild animals, they would be categorized as an endangered species.

(From the article "From Two Bulls, 9 Million Dairy Cows" at [www.undark.com](http://www.undark.com))



## Points to Ponder

- "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." *Steven R. Covey*
- "Truth is the most valuable thing we have, so I try to conserve it." *Mark Twain*
- "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt." *Abraham Lincoln*
- "The truth is more important than the facts." *Frank Lloyd Wright*
- "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." *Benjamin Franklin*
- "Security is mostly a superstition. It does

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not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." *Helen Keller*

•“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” — Albert Einstein

•Blessed are the cracked for they are the ones who let in the light.

•“The cure for anything is salt water - tears, sweat, or the sea. Isak Dinesen [Karen Blixen] (1885-1962)



I gave my best friend Ace a mint before taking a selfie with him. Just as I clicked the camera he made this face all on his own!



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STACY BOOTH  
Billings, Montana



## Words of Wisdom

We are here to see one another through, not see through one another.

No matter how steep the hill, it levels out as you come to it.

What is the most rigorous law of our being?  
**GROWTH!**  
Mark Twain.



## Blow Your House Down

My brother Doug shared the story of the three little pigs and the big bad wolf with our two great-nephews, ages 6 and 2. Afterward, Doug asked Josiah, the older brother, if he could make a noise like a wolf. Josiah proceeded with quite an impressive wolf call.

When Doug asked Kieran, the 2-year-old, if he could talk like a wolf, he promptly replied, "Let me in, let me in."

CYNTHIA LIBBY  
East Waterboro, Maine



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## Pond Vac

As a reminder, this is a “Members Only” benefit. You can rent this super-duper pond cleaning machine very reasonably! John Enders is the “official pond Vac keeper”. Call him 254-848-9596 or send him an email at [jnenders@aol.com](mailto:jnenders@aol.com) to schedule your time with the machine. One note of caution when using the pond Vac, watch how much water you are removing from your pond!! It works so well sucking up the “yuk” that one can easily forget how much water is also being removed! That is the voice of experience talking!!



## The Rowdy Rooster

There once was a man named Farmer Jake who had an old rooster that kept him awake.

Those long, sleepless nights were too much to take so his wife solved the problem, for goodness' sake, and soon had a chicken ready to bake.

CAROLYN BOLZ  
Riverside, California



Ole was interviewing for a sales job. The manager talking to him suddenly handed Ole his laptop computer and said, "I want you to try to sell this to me."

Ole immediately stood up, put the laptop under his arm, and went home. It wasn't long before the manager called and he was

angry.

"What do you think you're doing? Bring that laptop right back here!" he said.

Ole replied, "Vell, yew give me \$500 and yew can have it!"



Little Sven's school assignment was to ask a veteran about World War II. Since his grandfather Ole had served in the Pacific during the war, Sven chose him. After a few basic questions, Sven asked, "Grandpa Ole, did yew ever kill anyone when yew ver in da service?"

Ole became very solemn and said, "Ya, I tink I did. I vas a cook, ya know."



Ole was feeling poorly so he went to see the doctor, but the doctor could find nothing wrong with him.

"It must just be the effects of drinking too much," the doctor said.

"VeIl den," said Ole, "I tink I'll come back when yew are sober."



Ole had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months. Yet Lena stayed by his bedside every single day.

When he woke up one morning he motioned for her to come near. He whispered, eyes full of tears, "Yew know vat Lena? Yew

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have been vit me tru all da bad times. When I got fired, yew vere dere to support me. When my business failed, yew vere dere. When I got shot, yew stayed by my side. When ve lost da house, you didn't leave me. Now dat my health is failing, here yew are every day. Yew know vhat Lena?"

"Vhat dear?" asked Lena gently, moved beyond tears. "I'm beginning to tink yew're bad luck."

**Please support these businesses who have agreed to give our members a discount at their stores**



**Bonnie's Greenhouse**  
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