

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 13 issue 4

July 2021

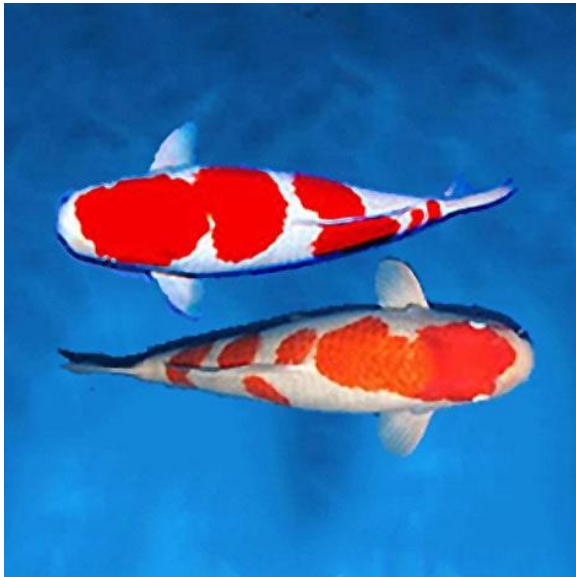
HOTWGPS Events

What a fantastically mild summer we have had so far! Quite an improvement over the nasty weather we had in January & February!

Our July meeting will be at John & Susan Peitsmeyer's home on July 20th at 6:30 PM.



The following is from The Pond Guy



How can I tell if I have male or female koi?

A: If only koi were as easy to sex as a pair of peacocks! Like those fanciful birds, koi are sexually dimorphic – meaning the males and females look and behave differently – but it's not an easy distinction to discern. They grow to roughly the same size and they both have colorful scales, yet there are subtle differences if you know where to look. With these clues, you'll know whether to name your finned friends Fred or Frieda.

Clue #1: Age

Koi are easier to tell apart when they're mature, and so your first clue will be age – which is related to their length. They're considered mature (3 years old) when they're about 10 inches long. If they're between 3 and 10 inches, they're still juveniles and may be difficult to sex.

Clue #2: Body Shape

Immobilize your koi by capturing it in your **pond net** and take a look at it from above. A mature male koi will have a slender looking body, while a female koi will have a rounded body, particularly when it's spawning season and she's carrying a nest full of eggs!

Clue #3: Fin Shape

Next, examine your koi's fins. A male koi's pectoral fins, the ones near his head, will appear pointed and solid in color. In addition, the first ray of his pectoral fin may be more substantial when compared to his female counterpart, which will display rounder fins.

Clue #4: Tubercles

During breeding season, you may see little white growths, called tubercles, on male koi's heads and pectoral fins. They're perfectly natural and will disappear once the fish have finished getting frisky. Females don't develop these protrusions.

Clue #5: Behavior

One final – and obvious! – clue: amorous behavior. When they're not mating, they behave very similarly, but during mating season, the male koi will chase the female, encouraging her (sometimes enthusiastically) to release her eggs so he can fertilize them. After all that frolicking, the happy pair will benefit from some [The Pond Guy Stress Reducer Plus](#), which will help heal any damaged tissue.

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It's not easy to distinguish the male and female koi, but with these tips and clues, you'll know your Freds from your Friedas in no time!



AquaNooga tip of the week

May 25 2021

Summer is just around the corner (already feels like it is here for some of us) and that means mosquito season. This often becomes a concern for pond keepers or more frequently the neighbors of a pond keeper. By knowing the facts and control methods, you can better control the mosquito population and reduce the concerns of neighbors.

June 1 2021

One of the most common mistakes water gardeners make is to over-clean your biological filters. The media in your filter is home for beneficial bacteria. Cleaning too well (especially if using chlorinated water) removes much of the bacteria and it has to reestablish for the filter to operate at its maximum efficiency. To clean a filter, all you need do is lightly rinse the media. You just want to remove any debris that is restricting the flow. A good way to clean many types of media is to slosh it in a tub of pond water or rain water. Fiber media can also be knocked against a surface to remove some debris. If you have multiple types or layers of media, you also rotate which get cleaned to help ensure strong bacterial colonies.

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The best ways to prevent an outbreak of any fish disease are to maintain optimum water quality and to quarantine new fish arrivals before introducing new fish and possible disease along with them. Good water quality starts with a well-balanced pond that includes good filtration and not too many fish.



Points to Ponder

"A little lie is like a little pregnancy. It doesn't take long before everyone knows." *CS. Lewis*

"The obscure we see eventually. The completely obvious, it seems, takes longer." *Edward R. Murrow*

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple." *Dr Seuss*

"Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble." *George Washington*

"Wise men learn from the experience of others; most men learn from their own experience; and fools learn not at all." *Proverb*

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." *Albert Einstein*

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to

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succeed." *Booker T. Washington*

Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of the people."
Giordano Bruno



On The Lighter Side

Ole went into the doctor's office, all bent over and hobbling like an old man. Within minutes he came back out into the waiting room, miraculously standing up as straight as could be.

A man in the waiting room who had been watching him said in amazement, "My goodness, what happened? It looks like you're cured!"

Ole said, "Veil, da doctor yust gave me a longer cane!"

Lena won first prize at the local supermarket which was a free oil portrait by a well-known local artist.

As the painter was in the final stages of the portrait, Lena requested that a large diamond necklace he painted on the picture. The artist was puzzled until Lena confided, "In case Ole should live longer den me, I vant his next wife to go crazy looking for da diamonds."

Ole got caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40 and a photo of his car.

Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40.

Several days later, he received a letter from the police that contained another picture, this time of handcuffs.

Ole immediately mailed in his \$40.



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Steve Kainer
Owner/General Manager



HILL COUNTRY
WATER GARDENS
& NURSERY

Phone 512-260-5050
Fax 512-260-5060
steve@hillcountrywatergardens.com

1407 N. Bell Blvd (Hwy 183 N)
Cedar Park, TX 78613
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