

Mid-Atlantic Koi

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ZNA Judging Seminar - Showa

by Jim Reilly, Art Lembke, and Nicole Lembke, ZNA Judges



This is a continuation from last issue of the MAKC-ZNA Style Judging Seminar

In August, MAKC hosted a ZNA Style Judging Seminar with the help of Mat McCann and Quality Koi. This seminar was free to our ZNA Members and open to our other members for a fee. The judges for this seminar were three of our MAKC members who are local certified ZNA Judges: Jim Reilly, Art Lembke and Nicole Lembke. This is the second of three articles sharing what was learned that day. Our sincere thanks go to Mat for providing the Koi for this seminar. Thanks also to all of the people who attended, and to Jim and Art for joining me as Judges for this event.

You will see a membership form for ZNA on the mail wrap of this magazine. It is time to renew your membership or join for the first time for the 2010-2011 year. Please sign up, and plan to join us for another of these judging seminars in 2010.

Nicole Lembke
MAKC ZNA Representative

Today we judged five very nice, albeit very different Showa!

Judging the five Showa that Mat gave us at Quality Koi was very difficult for most of the participants. All the fish were from the same parents, so they all had similar genetics. For the Showa we



asked the participants to list the fish with the best *hi* and the worst *hi*. We also had them select the best *sumi* and the worst *sumi*. Then they had to place the fish in judging order for today from 1 to 5.

The judges looked at the fish together before the participants. Judging the best *hi* was very difficult because all the Showas' except Koi D had a very similar *hi* plate. For us, and the majority of the participants, we chose Koi A. Koi A seemed to have the thickest, smoothest texture and most uniform *hi*. We also chose the same fish to have the best *sumi*. The *sumi* had a shine to it and was the most organized and thick. Koi B had the worst *sumi*. As you can even see in the photo the *sumi* was all faded and spotty. The worst *hi* was on Koi E. You cannot see it in the picture but the *hi* was a different color on the front half of the fish than on the back half of the fish. Again this was very difficult as the fish all had the same parents.

For our final order most people agreed that were there. We selected **Koi A as number one**. It had the best *hi*, had the best

sumi and had the best pattern. It was a very nice little fish, which had good quality skin. It also has a good body with growth potential, for the size.

Our **Second Place Koi** was Koi C. We all noticed it had a slight curve in the spine, but compared to the rest it had the next best quality skin. It had more white showing, which showed off the colors better and had good edge to its colors.

Our **Third Place Koi** was the Kindai Koi D. It had a different *hi* than the rest, but it was very uniform from front to back. Body shape was good and had a good pattern for *hi*. We all wanted to see this fish in a few years when the *sumi* is more finished and organized.

Next for the **Fourth Place Koi** we chose Koi B. It had the next best pattern but the colors for today were not very tight and organized. If the *sumi* can come together this may be a better fish in the future.

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The last place fish, the **Fifth Place Koi**, was Koi E. You may ask why looking at the pictures but in person it was obvious to the trained eye and Mat said he put it in, to see if everyone would notice and learn. It had a severe head defect. The mouth is off center and points to the left. The forehead of the fish is concave and misshaped, and the eyes are not even on the head. Because of these conformation problems, this fish was not considered for placement. In all, the Showa brought some good discussion.

Winning Showa

First Place: Showa A

Second Place: Showa C

Third Place: Showa D

Fourth Place: Showa B

Fifth Place: Showa E ❖