

Mid-Atlantic Koi

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ZNA Judging Seminar - KOHAKU

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



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 first 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 in this magazine (page 9). 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 Kohaku!

Each of these Kohaku has something to admire in the areas of conformation, color, pattern, and skin quality. And although these Kohaku are basic two colored fish, they each show different levels of accomplishment in skin, color and pattern. And these subtleties required some serious study.

Kohaku A is a very simple two-step pattern, but almost immediately we saw this fish as having the very best *hi* (red coloring) of the group. For *hi* to be excellent, it must be uniform, even and give the appearance of deepness without being heavy. The *hi* or *beni* must also contain luster in order to really set the red color off in a three dimensional way. The secret to this that three dimensional look also lies in the white ground skin or *shiroji* and this fish has excellent soft glowing skin! This impression of soft transparent porcelain skin is also a sign of high quality genetics. So this fish scored very high makes in the area of color and skin quality.



The pattern on this fish is a simple form as a two-step design. But the break at the tail and the slanting line at the back end of the first step help to refine an otherwise average pattern.

Finally, this fish has a very solid frame and nice body shape for its size and age and second only to Kohaku E in strong conformation.

In today's competition Kohaku A was our first place winning fish.

Kohaku B has an attractive and well-balanced pattern. And this is an important thing in show Koi. But although the shape is generally good, this Koi could do with a little more structure and thickness in the tail area (note the belly which is normal but shows as full due to the tail line).

The *hi* is a nice coloring but neither as thick or uniform as some of the other fish in the competition. All and all, a Koi fish meeting head to head with stronger competition. Kohaku B was

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our 4th place fish with its pattern being its best feature and its body being its most problematic feature.

Kohaku C is another two-step patterned fish. The body is good and the *hi* is very bright and attractive. The bodyline is generally good, but the *hi* pattern has two issues – one is the line of the leading edge of the pattern formed between and just behind the level of the other. And the other issue is the overall size of the second step on the rear of the fish. Being a bit small this second step has difficulty balancing against the large first step pattern. The red in the pectoral fin is a slight negative. This Kohaku became our 3rd place fish.

Kohaku D also has a nice deep color and skin quality. The body conformation is normal. But the very heavy pattern, especially in the front of this fish, tends to weigh the fish down. The excess red in the face that covers the eye, mouth and nose really take away from the refined look we seek in a show quality Koi of this size. Kohaku D is our 5th place fish.

Kohaku E was a very lovely Koi! The shape and the conformation were good and second only to Kohaku A. The *beni* was also very lustrous and therefore very attractive. And the white skin was excellent. The details of the *hi* pattern were a bit weak as they seemed to need more time to resolve themselves. And finally, stray *hi* off the main pattern made this the 2nd place fish.

Winning Kohaku

First Place: Kohaku A

Second Place: Kohaku E

Third Place: Kohaku C

Fourth Place: Kohaku B

Fifth Place: Kohaku D



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