

Mid-Atlantic Koi

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South Chapter Pond Tour

Two Days, Two States, Ten Ponds – Day One

by Floyd and Carolyn Broussard, Virginia



Group shoot taken at Floyd & Carolyn Broussard's home

On Saturday, July 8th, five Virginia ponds were visited via a car caravan which started at our house and pond, where snacks and beverages were available. Twenty two members signed in (not counting us and the youngsters) and we gathered others as we moved through the day. We have a 4,300 gal., two filter system that houses 25 koi. A group photo was taken on the pond's back viewing deck and we hit the road.



Susan Boland and Wayne Orchard's Pond

Our first stop was the home of Wayne Orchard and Susan Boland. Their formal 13,000 gal pond with 25 koi is on a large private wooded lot in Montclair. They have recently extended their landscaping to the back of their property with newly established walkways and seating areas. A large deck surrounds the pond which also provides a home to a water garden and a place for 'water front' dining. Susan gave a tour of the basement 'Filter Room' and everyone marveled at (and was envious of) the removable winter cover artfully stored on an upper deck walkway.

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Filter room



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The third pond was at the home of David DeMember and Kathy Wulf located in the secluded Lake Jackson community. David has just completed expanding his existing pond from 2,500 gal to beautiful 7,000 gal pond housing 29 koi. He incorporated the crescent shaped pond into the hilly topography alongside a walkway leading to the back deck. Where the land drops away, he has constructed a curved concrete wall inset with decorative stone. The pond filters are tucked away under a deck between the pond and the house. And by the way, David did all of the work by himself!





After a stop for lunch at Arby's, the caravan drove to South Riding for the final two ponds. First, we stopped at the newly constructed home of Suresh and SK Narasimhan. In less than one year, they have fully landscaped the front and back of their property. Suresh discovered on his property a treasure trove of large to huge boulders excavated from nearby farmland. He has incorporated these 'treasures' into his pond building (designed by Blue Ribbon Koi) and landscaping. He has an 8,000 gal pond with a stunning waterfall which supports 36 koi. Even though they are new MAKC members who have just built their 'first' pond they have already got a quarantine tank up and running in the far corner of their property!

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Our final pond of the day was in a more established part of South Riding at the home of George & Laura Hughes. They were out of town for the weekend, but graciously allowed us to tour their back garden wooded oasis. John Bianchi of Blue Ribbon Koi was on hand to explain the working of this 3,000 gal pond and waterfall installed by BRK last year. The garden paths, trees and viewing areas gave the adults a restful end to our tour while our youngest tour participant got up close and personal with the pond's inhabitants. However the complete surprise was the extensive model train complex built at eye level throughout the Hughes's basement. John was given permission to also allow us to tour this amazing creation. I cannot begin to describe it!

At the end of the day, many of us gathered at Damon's Grill in Chantilly for dinner and to discuss the day's koi events.

To be continued next issue – Day Two ❖





Wilber & Ellie Wiggleworth's Pond

South Chapter Pond Tour

Two Days, Two States, Ten Ponds – Day Two

by Floyd and Carolyn Broussard, Virginia

On July 9th five Maryland ponds were visited using a different approach from a car caravan. In two MAKC magazines preceding the date of the tour, the pond owner's names and addresses were published as well as the hours the ponds would be 'Open to View'. Members were instructed to plot their own routes using a map/driving directions search engine, such as Map Quest, for directions from their home to the first pond, then from that location to the second and so forth. We recommended that they end the day at or near Annapolis because dinner was again on the agenda.

We started our tour at the 'Estate' of Wilber & Ellie Wigglesworth in Ellicott City, gracious hosts for a prior year's Holiday Party. They have a 22,000 gallon pond (and approximately 100 koi) with overlooking decks and patios along with an intimate viewing platform.

A stone path and wooden bridge leading to their Gazebo provides a demarcation between the koi pond on one side and their water garden on the other side. All filters were either tucked away in a landscaped berm behind the pond, in a screened area to the back of the property or in a room in their basement. Their six acres of manicured Maryland countryside also contains a natural pond (with more koi and other fish). When we arrived, Wilber was grilling hamburgers in his outdoor kitchen by the pond, which is next to his outdoor fireplace patio.

We then headed south to the Adelphi home of Charles Nixon and Varinia Paige. In the ten years they have lived in their home, they have transformed their builder landscaped property into a 'Shangri-La'. The koi pond is surrounded by multiple seating/viewing areas; a tiered deck with a Wisteria covered Gazebo, and artfully arranged trees, fencing and Leland Cypresses that have added shade and privacy. A very large Cork-Screw Willow tree was Carolyn's personal favorite. Varinia graciously shared a sizable cutting with us. (An old



Charles Nixon and Varinia Page's Pond

gardener's saying comes to mind: 'Admire to acquire!') Charles is responsible for the gin-clear water. Their original pond has been expanded to the present 3,700 gallons housing 40 koi. He plans to expand one 'last' time. Right! Varinia provided a delicious luncheon spread. Floyd thought the salmon was the best! They have volunteered to host an upcoming South Chapter event. Watch this publication for a future announcement.

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Art and Nicole Lembke's Pond

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Traveling further south, we arrived at a unique 'House of Koi'. Living with koi has been raised to a new high standard. Art & Nicole Lembke (both of whom are Koi Show Judges) designed and built their new home with an indoor 18,000 gallon koi pond housing 20 LARGE koi. There is, of course, an adjacent indoor immaculate filter room. Sliding glass doors open up to the pond from the family room, the master bedroom and the patio. The pond room is both heated and air conditioned with multiple sky lights to provide natural lighting. The Lembkes have an exceptional collection of Japanese koi which have earned their keepers numerous championships and awards at various shows in many categories. Art & Nicole also keep Discus and Goldfish and have recently expanded their interest to Siamese Fighting Fish (AKA Bettas).



Captain Eric Nelson's Pond

We then drove to Annapolis and the home of one of our senior members, retired Navy Captain Eric Nelson. The accompanying picture says it all: 'A man and his pond'. Situated at the back of his 1/2 acre property was a 14,000 gallon swimming pool in the shape of a figure eight. When his children were grown and gone, Eric realized that no one was using the swimming pool. He decided to change that. He had always been interested in koi...ergo: instant koi pond! Of course, different filters were necessary, as well as additional skimmers, pumps, nets, bio media, plumbing...we all know the list. Eric designed, built and installed all of the above. He now has a collection of 25 koi as well as 75 red goldfish. As visitors arrived, Eric showed them two glasses of water; one from the koi pond and one from the tap. No one would take up his challenge to tell them apart! Word has gotten out about Eric and his pool/pond. He is often called by koi keepers who have too many koi, who are leaving the area, or who have fish that have grown too large for their ponds. Eric rescues them all.



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Eric and Jan Wilson's Pond



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On the other side of Annapolis we found the home of our new MAKC President and his wife, Eric and Jan Wilson. Eric is a Navy Captain and with the prospect of remaining in Annapolis for another tour they recently (within the last two years) completed an extensive pond construction and landscaping plan. They have an expansive fenced back garden bordered by large trees and lush foliage. The pond and complementing new landscaping consists of two large berms which fill in the center of the back garden, both of which face the house and patio. The pond has 2,500 gallons with 20 koi. It can be enjoyed from the patio and more closely, from the retaining wall/seating area. A hidden up flow filter delivers crystal clear water via a waterfall which is filled with Water Hyacinths. Extensive plantings on the back of the pond berm hide the pond filters and complimented the plantings on the adjacent berm.