

Beneath the Surface

Find us on Facebook as: Eastern Iowa Pond Society

www.EIPS.org

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FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR!

WELCOME BACK.

So, Let's Start Off With a **Pot Luck**

As we still need a place inside, the Thompson's have again offered up their great sun room to get us started.

They're centrally located and face it, it's a **WHOLE** lot nicer than paying for a room someplace and having no awesome view of fish and wildlife.

Thursday, March 24th @ 6:30

131 Rosedale Rd. C.R.

Can You Feel It Coming?

Spring is in the air even though Ol'Man Winter is still here on the ground. Is there anyone not ready for the new ponding season? We hope you had a nice Winter, but let's get Spring going now. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon for the first Spring meeting!

March, April, and May are the prime times to clean your pond. After months of being hands-off with our ponds, after months of winter weather, a few storms, and not so great conditions, does your pond need some sprucing and are your fish and plants ready?

This is the time of year that we will start to see our fish get a little more active, but it is not time to feed them just yet in our area; so let's give it a few more weeks to be sure our Winter weather has left us. Water temperatures, not air temperatures, are what will help us decide when to feed our fish. Once water temperatures stay above 52F we are good to start feeding our fish.

Any day now we will begin seeing some of the early plant growth. Water iris will be popping up soon and giving us those beautiful blooms soon after. Early growth in our water lilies can be seen below the water as begin their stretch up to the surface of the pond. And the ever cheerful Marsh Marigold will be putting out lots of beautiful yellow flowers with the next couple of weeks!

Spring is a great time to stock up for the season too. If you need fish food, water treatments, or other things, this is the time to get them ordered. Or better yet, get that pencil out and start sketching that new pond design!! As I write this, it's supposed to get 60 this weekend. And, I've already seen my first robin. Whoop — whoop!!! I can feel it, can you?

We Need to Talk

Please try to make our first meeting of the year. Not only do we need to plan out the whole year, but we need to talk about officers, pond tours, meeting dates and well about everything!

Dues are due. All dues are due at the beginning of the new meeting year.

Our very own, Larry and Erma Thompson's pond, will be featured on the front cover of Koi Magazine.

Hope you read the Gazette article on it also.

The Eastern Iowa Aquarium Assoc. will be holding its annual Fish Show at Noelridge Park on March 27th. (Easter Sunday) Try to make time to go out and see the tanks and the Easter display in the greenhouse. It's a great way to ring in Spring!



Not endorsing any kind of food here, just found this an interesting article about the size of pellets.

Yoshikigoi Koifood 3mm pellet – tested at the farm

Why we (Yoshikigoi) chose a 3 mm pellet.



We needed to know what the evolution of our Koi would be on different sizes of koifood. If there would be any difference and what that difference would be, If any at all. We also needed to know because being a Koi farm we need to generate optimum results with our Koi. There is a very simple and honest reasoning behind this. As a farm we have to make the most profit on our product, our product is Koi and the better they develop the more profit we can make with lesser costs. So in order to find out we needed to test it on a large scale under controlled a controlled environment. Also the test needed to be for a longer period of time to generate valid and accurate results. So we decided to do a test for 6 months in different basins to give the best overview.

The tests were carried out in 4 basins with 25.000 litre of water. We then divided the basins again in two with a net in the middle. That way we had 8 separate systems but with 2 of each on the same water and filter system. So the pressure on the water quality was the same on each basin. We kept the temperature at 22-23 Celsius for four months.

The koifood was weighed each day to ensure the same amount of koifood was put in each basin

The koifood pellets we tested were 3, 4 and 6 mm. On one size of each basin we placed 10 Koi between 30/31 cm from the same parents. On the other side we placed 6 big Koi of 68/70 cm (4 years old), also from the same parents. This we did in all four basins. This way we had only Koi of about the same size and more important, each group was of the same year and day of birth. The reason for that was very simple, we wanted to know what the difference was after 4 and 6 month feeding with the pellet size.



For a good test we found it

very important that the base for the test was as fair and equal as it could be. What I mean is that the outcomes can be very different if you were to mix Koi of different ages as we all know not every Koi will develop in the same way which would be a big problem for a serious test. We even went to the extent of ensuring each fish in the test had a very similar body and attributes. We used different varieties to ensure the results were reflected across different classes, one group was Showa, one Beni Kumonryu, four Chagoi, one Asagi and one Yamabuki. We measured all the Koi and started the test.

In basin 1 we tested 3 and 4 mm. 3 mm were given to the 30 cm Koi and the 4 mm to the 70 cm Koi.

In basin 2 we tested 3 and 6 mm. 3 mm were given to the 70 cm Koi and the 6 mm to the 30 cm Koi.

In basin 3 we tested 4 and 6 mm. 4 mm were given to the 70 cm Koi and the 6 mm to the 30 cm Koi.

In basin 4 we tested 6 and 4 mm. 4 mm were given to the 30 cm Koi and the 6 mm to the 70 cm Koi.

What we wanted to know two things

1: How the development was of the Koi and

2: If there was a difference in development after this 4 to 6 month period.

What we also tested how long it took for the pellets to get fully saturated. With the small 3 mm pellet it takes about 8 seconds shorter than the 4 mm pellet and about 15 seconds shorter than the 6 mm pellet.

All Koi got the same amount of food and they were fed by hand 8 times a day. The time the Koi needed to eat all the food was longest with the 3 mm pellet, then the 4 mm and fastest was the 6 mm. So we already know that the time for the food to get soaked in water was optimum with the 3 mm pellet. This is important because the Koi were hungry and they directly start to eat when the food hits the water. So when the food hits the water the Koi were on top of it. That means the small pellet had the advantage of being able to absorb the most water in volume in the shortest time. Would this have any effect on growth and development of the Koi? We had to wait and see.

In week 6 we found one Chagoi of 34 cm dead in one of the basins. We then decided to take one Chagoi out of the other 2 ponds at the same size to keep the test updated and fair. In basin 3 we also had a slight issue with Costia. We treated all the basins on the same day with Potassium, again so we could keep the test in the same conditions and to ensure nothing developed in the other basins.

After 4 months we did the first check. We started at a average weight from the Koi:

30/31 cm at 526 gram.

68/70 cm at 5817 gram.

After 4 months the Koi from 30/31 cm were: 42/45 cm at average 1468 gram.

After 4 months the Koi from 68/70 cm were: 72/73.5 cm at average 6669 gram.



This article to be
continued....

But this was average weight. The weight and length after 4 months in the separate basins was.

Basin 1 with the 30 cm Koi and 3 mm pellet were after 4 months average 43.5 cm and 1536 gram.

Basin 2 with the 30 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 4 months average 42.5 cm and 1410 gram.

Basin 3 with the 30 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 4 months average 43 cm and 1478 gram.

Basin 4 with the 30 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 4 months average 42.5 cm and 1448 gram.

Basin 1 with the 70 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 4 months average 72.5 cm and 6620 gram.

Basin 2 with the 70 cm Koi and 3 mm pellet were after 4 months average 72.5 cm and 6795 gram.

Basin 3 with the 70 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 4 months average 72.5 cm and 6646 gram.

Basin 4 with the 70 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 4 months average 72 cm and 6625 gram.

After this 4 months we increased and kept the temperature at 24 Celsius. 6 month we measured and weight again.

Basin 1 with the 30 cm Koi and 3 mm pellet were after 6 months average 46.5 cm and 1942 gram.

Basin 2 with the 30 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 6 months average 44.5 cm and 1635 gram.

Basin 3 with the 30 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 6 months average 45.5 cm and 1798 gram.

Basin 4 with the 30 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 6 months average 45 cm and 1732 gram.

Basin 1 with the 70 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 6 months average 73 cm and 6920 gram.

Basin 2 with the 70 cm Koi and 3 mm pellet were after 6 months average 73.5 cm and 7095 gram.

Basin 3 with the 70 cm Koi and 4 mm pellet were after 6 months average 73 cm and 6846 gram.

Basin 4 with the 70 cm Koi and 6 mm pellet were after 6 months average 72.5 cm and 6785 gram.

After 6 months of testing we clearly concluded that the 3 mm Koifood pellet has the better results over the 4 and 6 mm pellet both in length and body mass. Over a year the difference can be up to 3-5cm but over 4 years it could be up to 13-15cm difference and this is huge! This is why we believe pellet size is so important and why Yoshikigo koifood is only produced in 3mm, to get the most out of your Koi. This simple change of pellet size now ensures we can optimize the growth of our Koi and realize their true potential.

We're back on Facebook!!!

Our Facebook page is back up and running!!! Be sure to go find us at "Eastern Iowa Pond Society".

"LIKE" us so you get all the notices!

"POST" your pictures of your pond!

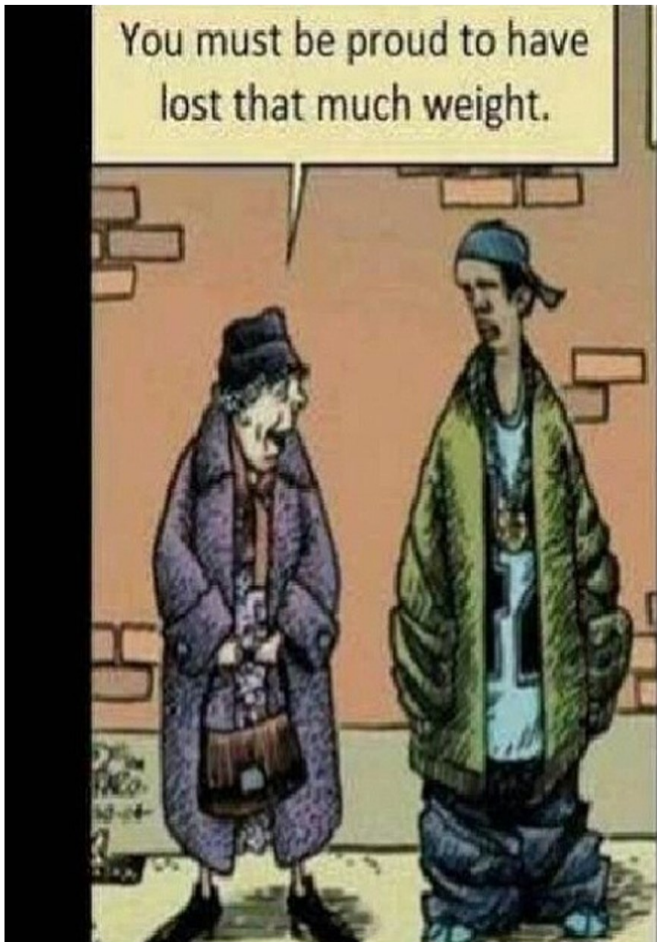
"COMMENT" - we want to hear from you!!

"SHARE" EIPS with everyone you know!!

Promote the club so that other's can find us!!

It's Spring!

**Don't forget the Pond Club
owns a Pond Vacuum. If you
would like to use it for your
cleanouts, simply make
arrangements with Pam Moore
to come and get it.**



Eastern Iowa Pond Society, Inc.

Membership Application

To become a member of the Eastern Iowa Pond Society, Complete this form and mail along with your dues to:

Eastern Iowa Pond Society

% Pam Moore

2010 Spoon Creek Ct. SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

New Membership Renew Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year per family. Make checks payable to Eastern Iowa Pond Society, Inc. **ALL newsletters can now be found on line at [www. EIPS.org](http://www.EIPS.org)**

Eastern Iowa Pond Society

Our Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Association shall be to create, promote and enlarge the hobbies of ponds, aquatic gardening, and keeping, breeding, appreciating, and exhibiting the wonderful world of fish.

The Association shall disseminate information about the above to the membership to engage in educational and social activities related to our purposes; and to acquire and own such property as may be necessary for any or all of the foregoing purposes.

Eastern Iowa Pond Society

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