

NCKWS Koi Person of the Year

We are delighted to announce that NCKWS members have voted Bryan Connelly as the club's American Koi Club Association "Koi Person of the Year" for 2008.

Bryan has been a member of NCKWS for several years and is a popular, enthusiastic and active member of NCKWS. Bryan caught the koi bug and was introduced to the club via President Rich Eitel's wife Vicky who at the time was a work colleague. Bryan quickly jumped in with both feet and began construction of his beautiful pond in North Raleigh. It quickly became apparent that "McScratchit" (as he is very affectionately known) was not content to accept commercial filter design or inclined to pay the prices asked by the vendors. Bryan is the consummate do-it-yourselfer and started work on a variety of home made filter systems for his ponds. Fellow NCKWS members were quickly impressed not only with the quality of Bryan's workmanship (no thrown together jobs here!) but also with the level of his technical and engineering expertise, his quest for knowledge and his constant questioning of existing mechanical filtration systems and bioconverters and how they might be improved.

His projects have included a large fibreglassed vortex, numerous pressurized bead filters, his "Lexus Nexus Easy Breezy" Kaldness barrel systems and his "Black Dragon" foam fractionator. What has really endeared Bryan to NCKWS members is his willingness to build filters for club members, troubleshoot and fix existing systems, help with pond planning and construction and so on. He also happily helps non-members to improve their ponds and all while holding down a job that takes up a huge amount of his time! Bryan's "happy to help" attitude is appreciated by all.

Not content with being the club's filter expert and resident handyman, Bryan's knowledge of koi and fish husbandry has also grown considerably over the past few years. He is now upgrading the quality of his fish collection and an active participant in the club mud pond growouts. In 2007 Bryan took the plunge and entered his first AKCA show in Charlotte and was rewarded with several prizes.

Congratulations Bryan!

Roger Lias, Vice President