

May 2023

Celebrating the Life of our Friend, Mentor and Leader

Spike Cover

Spike kept fish; Spike was a Koi Keeper. First in an aquarium and then, he discovered his enduring love of Koi. He then found his enduring love for his friends who kept koi around the world. But if you knew Spike, you knew that he had to build onto what he loved and what he knew. Using his solid business experience, he started to think about all the things a Koi Keeper needed to know to be truly successful and what information he and his friends were sharing. He envisioned a set of courses to provide that information for others in the hobby. With the Associated Koi Clubs Of America in 2000 he started the Koi Health Advisor (KHA) program and designed the classes. His goal was simple; get at least one Koi Keeper trained in every club. Once they learned, they could mentor other club members.



In the first KHA program a lady named Karen Pattist learned and she saw the vision of the training program. Together they joined forces to build and grow the training program. In pursuit of reaching more and more students throughout the world, Spike and Karen left the AKCA in 2009 and started the Certified Koi Keeper (CKK) program. As of 2022, Spike had personally helped train over 300 Koi keepers all over the world. Many of those he trained are now training others.

Spike's Koi philosophy

"It's a hobby and has nothing worth going to war over. Let's get on with the business of having fun."

Spike has constantly maintained the focus on science, but being ever mindful of what keeping koi is all about; he never lost track of his goal - having FUN in the hobby; a goal that has become the motto of Koi Organization International. He never took himself or Koi Organization International too seriously, and his favorite picture of himself had a goofy apple on his head.



Spike Cover was born in 1940. He married his best friend and love Ginger in 1962. Spike's professional vocation was a mechanical engineer and entrepreneur. He developed products from initial conception to sale, including ammunitions, missiles, and aircraft hydraulic controls. Then he moved on to dialysis equipment, extracorporeal products (heart bypass surgery) ophthalmic products, peripheral IV catheters. His roles in the corporate world include consultant, engineer, project engineer, chief engineer, VP of R&D, and President & CEO. But his favorite title was entrepreneur. His background was firmly rooted in science and math. He learned to manage all aspects of business from setting goals, to manufacturing, accounting, sales, and analysis.



While Spike was an intensely private person, he always willingly shared his wealth of knowledge with other Koi Keepers no matter if they had been keepers for years or just starting. All the marvelous skills he had and gained in his professional life, he freely gave to the development of Koi Organization International and the people who crossed his path in the hobby. Spike passed away, April 3, 2023. We will all miss his humor, engineering precision, and experience. Rest in peace Spike.

Spike and Ginger
60th Wedding Anniversary

