

Splash



***Santa Clara Valley Koi
& Water Garden Club***

***February 15th
2008***

- 2008 Club Calender PDF now available on sckoi.com
- San Mateo Home & Garden Show
- Upcoming Articles in Splash this Year
- February Presentation - Upgrading a Kit Pond

Upgrading Your Kit Pond

**The perfect weekend project!
[NOT!]**

Visit our Web Site at www.sckoi.com

January Meeting Minutes

Unfortunately, since we don't yet have a volunteer for Club Secretary, we do not have a complete set of minutes for the January meeting. I'll try to fill in from memory as best as possible.

We had a small turnout for this first meeting of 2008, but this has usually been the case. Most members are still in their winter hibernation.

Barbara Jackson was not available to take over as club president, so Vice President Barbara Snarr led the meeting discussion.

After a quick introduction of new members and visitors, the new (attending) Executive Committee members and Board of Directors members was sworn in with the usual club blood ritual.

Then we had a review of any members' pond or Koi problems, with recommendations for help from some of our more experienced members.

After breaking for pizza and dessert, we had a great presentation by Master Gardener Bob Weissman on low-flow irrigation systems.

Bob Weissman - Master Gardener



POND TOUR PONDS NEEDED!

Signup sheets were passed around for the upcoming San Mateo Home & Garden Show, the yearly Pond Socials, and also brought up the subject of this year's Pond Tour and our need to get a complete lineup of ponds for the tour. We already have a couple of tentative participants, **but still need four more ponds.**

We did finally get a full compliment of volunteers for the January Santa Home & Garden Show, and the show turned out to be quite good for attracting people interested in ponds.



Meetings & Events

Monthly Club Meetings - 7:30pm

Willow Glen American Legion Hall
1504 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

- February 15th, 2008
- March 21st, 2008
- April 18th, 2008
- May 16th, 2008
- June 20th, 2008
- July 18th, 2008

February Meeting

Presentation: Upgrading a Kit Pond:
By Larry Templeton (Owner) and Ken Snarr (Pond Specialist)
Pizza Fest for refreshment break!

Board of Directors Meetings

Each month on the Thursday following the monthly club meeting

Peninsula Home and Garden Show

San Mateo Event Center
February 22nd through 24th



"I am myself and what is around me, and if I do not save it, it shall not save me."

~ José Ortega y Gasset, ~

February Presentation

Upgrading a Kit Pond

By Larry Templeton & Ken Snarr

Many homeowners have taken their first step as owners of a fish pond or water feature by purchasing a Kit Pond from one of the many landscaping providers in the area. These ponds often appear in Home & Garden shows and their serene beauty captures hearts and wallets of an uninformed public.

Unfortunately, after the glow wears off, the not-so-hidden design faults of these ponds start to appear, and it is time to think about how to fix them. Larry and Ken will go through the process used to upgrade Larry's pond, with photos of the finished product to boot! Don't miss it.

2008 Club Calendar Available

For the past few months, Carole Bruch has been working on a 2008 Club Calendar to distribute to all of our members. A PDF of this calendar is now available on the club web site, so you can download this yourself and print out a beautiful color copy of this handy list of club activities.



Koi Growout Contest

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

During January's general meeting, I proposed an idea for the club. It's called a koi grow-out contest. It was received with an overwhelmingly positive response. So, we want to make sure everyone who may SERIOUSLY be interested in this fun event has an opportunity to participate (in case you weren't present at the meeting).

Here's how it works:

The fish will be tosai (one year olds) and will be provided to the club for a very good price from Peters and Sons Koi and Pond Supply in Martinez. The fish will come from probably the most famous breeder in the history of Nishikigoi, Mr Toshio Sakai. He is better known as Matsunosuke. There is an option for individuals to purchase one or two fish for the contest. We will have Showas and Sankes so you can pick whichever you desire. The cost will be a mere \$50.00 per fish. These fish normally retail for \$150-\$250 each. Fish will be grown by the entrant in their own pond. Photos will be taken at the end of the contest period and judged based on how well they were taken care of (husbandry) and their inherent overall quality.

The Rules:

Entries for the contest need to be received by me no later than February 15, 2008. The entry **MUST INCLUDE** payment in full for the number of fish you wish to purchase. All entries will have their name entered in a drawing (once per fish). However, all entrants will only be allowed one fish in the first drawing round. e.g. if there are 20 people entered, all 20 will get one pick of their choice before someone gets a second pick (if more than one is purchased). This is the only fair way to equitably distribute the selection process. If there are any fish left after all the selections are made, they will be for sale for \$50.00 each.

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3395 Keaton Loop Tel: (408) 528-0821
San Jose, CA 95121 Tue - Sun: 10 am - 6pm
www.champkoi.com champkoi@champkoi.com

Judging:

Judging will be done in April, 2009. The judging will be done through photographs by a selected pair of individuals from outside the club for impartiality and will be qualified to make a fair judgment of who raised the best fish. This is not merely a size contest, but will be for overall quality brought out by the hobbyist with their own skills.

This contest is solely for fun and education. If any prizes are awarded, they will be determined by the Executive Committee of the club and will be announced at a later date. The entry form can be found on our web site.

Attendance Incentive Drawing WIN JUST FOR SHOWING UP!

\$80

Robert Bemis, WHERE WERE YOU!!!

At the January meeting, we came up empty again when trying to give away all this money. Robert Bemis' name was pulled from the tumbler, but Robert was no where to be found. Now we will up the drawing award to a whopping \$80, so **COME TO THE MEETING!**



Pond Building 101 Series

Fixing Your Kit Pond - Phase 3

By Ken Snarr

The presentation for the February meeting deals with a major upgrade to a typical Kit Pond, belonging to one of our club members and rebuilt by another member. This timely presentation helps to illustrate how one of these ponds can be reworked to create a pond that is both better for the fish, and easier to maintain for the owner.

As part of a series that was started last year on the various phases or options to upgrade one of these ponds, we will now cover what I would like to call Phase 3 in the process. I would suggest checking some of last year's articles on this process, including a general discussion of the problem issues with Kit Ponds in the February 2007 issue, Phase 1 upgrades in the March 2007 issue, and Phase 2 upgrades in the June 2007 issue.

As a quick review of the first 2 phases:

Phase 1

- Drain and clean pond
- Remove the rock in the bottom of the pond
- Install Retro Bottom Drain
- Option: Replace Lava Rock "filter" with layers of Japanese Mat

Phase 2a

- Add 3-Way valve in supply line to allow draining of waterfall box

Phase 2b

- Replace submersible pump with standard Koi pond pump
- Option: Circulation Jet

Our Phase 3 modification will add the all important item in maintaining water quality for Koi, a proper filter with the option of a UV sterilizer.

As I mentioned in the first article, these kit ponds always look great just after they're built, but the typical filter elements they use, several bags of lava rock and a layer or two of foam mat, work for a short time before they become completely plugged with debris and bacteria. Since the manufacturer claims the pond only requires cleaning on a yearly basis, things start going bad rather quickly.

One of the reasons for this lack of a regular cleaning regimen is the unpleasant nature of the cleaning process. Cleaning the pond properly requires using a sump pump to drain the pond (once you've figured out where to keep the fish during this all), and removing the lava rock and pads. These last two items should be cleaned in pond water to avoid killing the bacteria which help keep the water clean.

Once you've done up to Phase 2b of the upgrade list, it is relatively easy to add the Phase 3 upgrades. This upgrade includes the following suggested components:

Aqua Ultraviolet Brand bead filter - or -
Lim gravel filter
Option: UV Sterilizer

NOTE: I have included specific brand recommendations based on my experience with these products. I have found them to be of high quality and very reliable. Obviously, other brands are available, but you get what you pay for.

First, we'll give a little description of each of these items and then provide the details on putting them together with your Phase 2 mods.

Adding one of the filters mentioned accomplishes two things. First, it provides much better water quality for your fish. Second, it makes maintenance of the filter (i.e. cleaning) much easier. When a filter is easier to clean, it will get cleaned more often.

Aqua Bead Filter

This comes from a well known supplier of fish pond equipment. Although the filters look similar to those used for swimming pools, they include elements which are specifically designed for filtration of water from Koi ponds.

Calling this a bead filter is a holdover from older style pressurized filters, which used beads similar to those found in your bean bag chair. This company has developed a new type of filter medium. The media are little plastic tubes with ribs on the outside and the inside is divided into three chambers. This design is supposed to provide

maximum surface area for the growth of beneficial bacteria, while the shape reduces the tendency for the media to clump together, reducing the filtering capability.



Aqua Ultraviolet Filter

Cleaning can't be simpler. Just turn off the pump and rotate the valve handle on the top. A simple procedure alternating between the Backwash and Rinse settings gets the filter clean in a matter of minutes, and you keep your hands clean on top of it all.

So, what is the downside to this option? Cost. These filters are typically expensive, costing between \$1000 and \$2500 depending on size, plus the cost of installation. The advantages: Compact design, meaning easier to conceal in your yard, and easy to clean, meaning you'll do it more often.

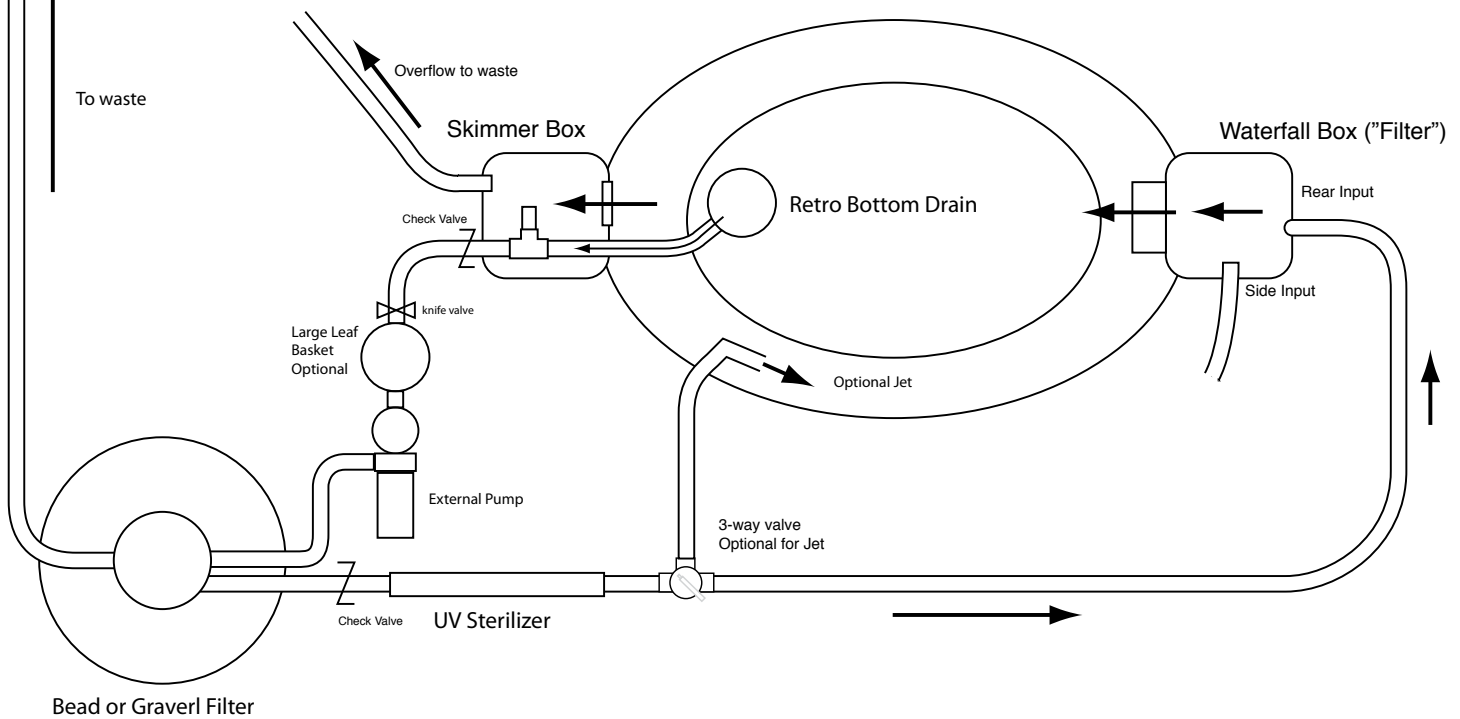
Gravel Filter

The second option for filtration is a Lim gravel filter. This filter consists of a large plastic tub, filled with layers of different types of gravel, large gravel on the bottom ending in fine aquarium gravel on top. The water flows up through the layers and comes out very clear and clean on top. Debris is trapped in the lower layers and bacteria grows on the surface of the gravel.

Cleaning involves the use of a standard spa blower to churn up the gravel and mix the debris into the water, where it can be flushed away. Again, almost a white glove type of process.

Phase 3 Modification

- Phase 1 - Remove rock in bottom, add Retro Bottom Drain, replace lava rock with Japanese Mat
- Phase 2 - Add external pump with large leaf basket, drain for cleaning waterfall box, optional return Jet
- Phase 3 - Add external bead or gravel filter, optional UV sterilizer



The pros for this addition are easy cleaning and very clear, clean water for your pond. The cons are size and placement. The filter is about four feet in diameter and about four and a half feet tall, so concealment is



Lim Gravel Filter

more difficult. Also, this is a gravity return flow system, so the filter has to be located to have the output as high or higher than your waterfall, reducing placement options.

Optional UV Sterilizer

Have you ever seen a pond with water that looked like pea soup - bright green

and thick? This is caused by a type of Algae which floats free in the water. The fish may love it, but the pond owner doesn't, since it makes viewing his expensive Koi a bit problematic.

The easiest way to solve this problem is the use of a UV sterilizer. This is a device installed in the plumbing system of the pond, usually after the filter. The water flows through the UV sterilizer and the algae are killed in the process. Within days, the water is crystal clear again.



Aqua UV Sterilizer

The pros: Clear water. The cons: Cost, both initial equipment and operating costs. Typical 40W units are about \$400, plus the cost of electricity, as these are run 24 hours a day.

Installation

Basically, the filter gets attached to the output of the pump you installed in Phase 2. The output of the filter goes first to the optional UV sterilizer, then, through a 3-way valve, gets split between a circulation jet and the waterfall box.

The waste line from the filter should be either connected to your landscape drainage system, or can be used to irrigate your landscape during cleaning.

You'll find that these additions will not only improve your water quality, making your fish much happier, but also make the cleaning process much easier for you, and making pond ownership what it was really meant to be; a pleasure instead of a burden.

The next step in this series will show the ULTIMATE upgrade to this pond; a complete rebuild. But then, if you'd built it right in the first place, you wouldn't be doing it twice! ☺



Santa Clara 2008 Home & Garden Show



New member Wayne Kuhfahl volunteers to help promote our club

Bad weather doesn't keep the crowds from coming to the show



Barbara & Ken Swarr can always be counted on to sign up for booth duty



Avoid an Unpleasant Surprise. Winterize!

Bob and Barry Akins of the pond department located within Concord Feed in Pleasant Hill, California are among the most well-informed and experienced Koi authorities in northern California.

They know everything you'll ever need to know about caring for your Koi, including what it takes to keep your Koi happy and healthy during the colder months. It's called winterization and it should be something you do every autumn just like clockwork.

Sludge Happens

Sludge can cause major problems and become a real issue for you and your Koi pond during the wintertime. It will build up and make your Koi ill if you don't take measures to eliminate it.

Avoid sludge before it happens with Microbe Lift Autumn Winter Prep. It's a specially designed four-month treatment program that needs to be applied to your pond once a month, starting in October. Microbe Lift contains beneficial bacteria that breaks down sludge during the winter and it won't adversely affect your Koi.

Don't Buy Fishy Food. Go with the Very Best

When the cold months come, it's time to change the menu for your Koi. The new winter cuisine should be a recipe that contains a lower percentage of protein. It's easier for your fish to digest when they're in a more mellow mode and aren't burning as many calories.

Hikari Wheat Germ and Multi-Season foods come in both floating and sinking pellet form. They're the very best, highest quality Koi formulas on the market. Your Koi deserve the very best. So, why not give them Hikari?

Koi to the World...All Winter Long

Hikari offers some additional tips on keeping your Koi happy and healthy during the winter:

"Always control the amount fed so there is no leftover food. If you find leftovers, remove them immediately to avoid water quality problems."

"For new environments, reduce the feeding amount until your filtration system has completely cycled and developed adequate bacteria levels."

"If something unusual happens (a sudden water temperature change, unstable water quality) stop feeding completely or reduce the amount fed until the condition is corrected."



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A cinder block water feature Jeff Dunkel sprayed with polyurea in Southern California



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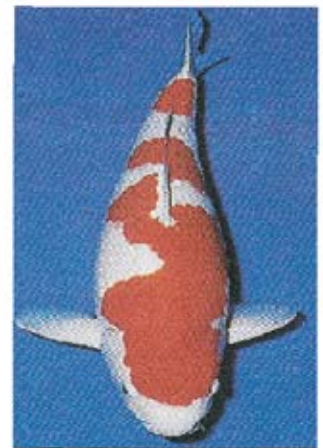
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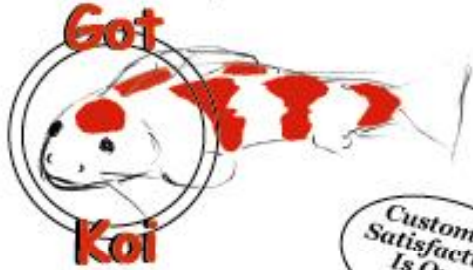
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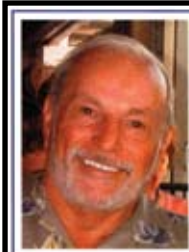
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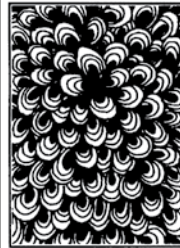


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Club Resources

The following items are available from the club on loan.

Videos (DVD)

- 2003 Year in Review - Photos and Videos of Club Activities
- Japan Koi Buying Trip- 2002

Videos (VHS)

- Koi Care and Disease (UK)
- Koi Classification (Finnegan)
- Koi Classification (Spindola)
- Breeding Koi in Japan
- Koi Handling
- Health Care for Koi (Galen Hansen) (copy)
- Building Koi Ponds (William Lim)
- Medication and Their Uses (UK)
- First Annual Santa Clara Koi & Water Garden Koi Show
- Patio Ponds (Equipment)
- English Koi Show (1990)
- Building a Fiberglass Filter & Concrete Pond
- English Ponds, Filters & Gardens (missing)
- Tetra Successful Koi Keeping
- Building a Filter, Walton Pond & Christopher Pond (missing)
- Part 1 - Japan
- Patio Ponds (Equipment)
- Tetra Successful Koi Keeping (Spindola)
- Living Jewels / English Ponds & Filters
- Create a Paradise
- Health Care for Koi (Galen Hansen) (original)
- Koi Health and Disease (Erik Johnson)
- Koi Health and Disease (Erik Johnson)
- Kokugyo
- History of Koi (Kaz)
- History of Niigata Nishikigoi

VHS tapes from the 1995 AKCA Koi Seminar - SJ:

- Q&A 1995 Seminar
- BQ&A 1995 Seminar
- 1995 AKCA Ecology (Ben Plonski)
- Koi Nutrition (William Sadler)
- Control of Algae (Kelly Rusch)
- Koi Husbandry (Sanchez)
- 1995 Lunch and Exhibitors
- Recirculation Fundamentals (Malone)
- Tategoi Koi (Megumi Yoshida)
- Alternative Materials for Koi Ponds

- (Cowley)
- Ulcerative Disease (Hedrick)
- Filtration for Koi (missing)
- Koi Treatment (Galen Hansen)
- Selecting Tategoi (Spindola)
- How To Select Quality Koi (Norihiro Nagata)
- AKCA Seminar Pond Tour, June 25th 1995

Books/Publications

- Aquariology, Tetra Press Master Volume
- Pond Care (Aquarium Pharmaceuticals)
- Aquascaping Your Landscape (Wemco)
- Koi Keeping (Fujita)
- Kokugyo (Kodama)
- AKCA Practical Koi Keeping Vol.1
- AKCA Practical Koi Keeping Vol.2
- AKCA Practical Koi Keeping Vol.3
- Basic Koi Ponds, Filters & Water (Koi USA)
- AKCA Guide to Koi Nutrition II

Equipment:

- Oxygen Tank
- Aquarist Master Test Kit
- Dissolved Oxygen Test Kit
- 1/6 HP Teel Pump
- 1 HP Vacuum Pump
- 2 Speed Self Priming Pump
- Water Meter
- Enviroshade Gazebo
- 1 Microscope
- 1 Small pump
- 1 Cyprio (green)

30 Day Loan Limit on the following tanks:

- 4-6' Portable Show Tanks
- 12' Diameter x 3' Steel Tank
- 2-24" Diameter x 11" Blue Handling Tubs
- 1-12' pool

Contact Terry Denevan for Videos and Books, Contact Ken Snarr for Equipment loans.



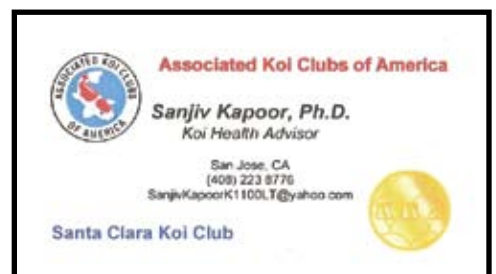
Club Officers - 2008

President	Barbara Jackson 408-446-9382
Vice President	Babara Snarr 650-969-0715
Secretary	Open (Must be named Barbara)
Treasurer	Julaine Mullaney 408-266-1791
Program Director	Open

Committees - 2008

Koi Person of the Year for 2007	Ken Snarr
Pond Tour	Open
AKCA Rep	Open
Koi Health Advisor	Sanjiv Kapoor 408-242-7929
Annual Banquet	Open
Club Equipment	Ken Snarr 650-969-0715
Librarian/Videos	Terry Denevan 408-279-4567
Hakone Gardens	Open
Friendship Gardens	Jim Gate 408-867-4738
Guadalupe Gardens	Open
Membership/Host	Carole Bruch
Cherry Blossom Festival	2008 Open
Refreshments	Bill & Marifran Mundy
Pond Emergency Contacts	Ken Snarr 650-969-0715 Mike Perret 408-226-7802
Webmaster/Newsletter	N/A

Les Inanchy resigns from all Koi Club duties due to harassment from CIGNA insurance company.



Newsletter Advertising Rates

Business Card	12 Issues @ \$35.00
Quarter Page	12 Issues @ \$95.00
Half Page	12 Issues @ \$175.00
Full Page	12 Issues @ \$325.00

ADVERTISING POLICY & RATES

Now all ads will appear in both the club Newsletter and on our web site! You will get the increased exposure that our web site offers, with no increase in price.

Advertising copy must be received by the editor on or before the 20th of each month. Copy should be in the form of either JPEG (preferred), or PDF files. Ads will run for the specified number of issues unless other arrangements have been made with the Club's Treasurer. Checks are payable to: **SCVK-WGC** and send to:

SCVKWGC
P.O. Box 9006
San Jose, CA 95157

Membership Dues

Membership Dues are \$100.00 per household if you don't come to meetings, and \$30.00 if you do. (Just Kidding) Dues are tax deductible. Make checks payable to SCVKWGC and send to:

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P.O. Box 9006
San Jose, CA 95157

As per by-laws dues are from July to July. They become delinquent after 08/31. If they are not paid by 08/31 your name will be taken off the roster unless some other arrangements have been made. Anyone joining the club in mid-year will be asked to pay \$2.00 per month until the next July then they will be put on an annual renewal basis.

Meeting Hall Map



Directions: 1504 Minnesota Ave. San Jose. From 280 Take Meridian Ave. exit going south. Go about 1.5 miles down Meridian to Minnesota Ave and turn left. The American Legion Hall is in the first block on your right. Parking in the rear.



Membership Application form

Name(s) _____		
Street Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Phone _____		
eMail _____		
Pond Details (If applicable) _____		
Speciality _____		