Michael has been fascinated with Koi from the time he first encountered them as a child, and in the early 1990s he became completely bound by their spell. Together with his wife, Gleci, they began a retail facility in the Philippines in 1993 and named it Kois & Ponds.

The company that Michael established was the first of its kind in the Philippines. It exclusively sold only imported Japanese Koi and Koi pond products that were personally hand-picked by the young couple. In addition to that, Michael brought in some of the latest, cutting edge technology in Koi pond filtration design that put together the best that Japan, Europe and America had to offer.

Michael has dedicated his life to learning as much as he can about Koi and he has been quite fortunate in having some of the greatest Koi breeders in Japan as his mentors. When asked how many times he has been to Japan, he simply smiled and said, “I stopped counting after the 300th trip.”

Michael is recognized as the leading authority of Koi in the Philippines, even hosting his own segment about keeping Koi on a national Philippine television program entitled “Animal X” from 2004 – 2005. He is currently reprising his role with the same production company hosting a new show for Philippine television entitled “Agri TV”

In 1998, Michael was the first Filipino to be invited by the Governor of Niigata, Japan to be a Koi judge in the prestigious All-Japan Shinkokai Nishikigoi Show which is considered to be the biggest and best Koi show in the world. Since then, he has judged that show a total of nine times: 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013 and most recently in 2017.

In 2005 Michael, Gleci and their son Tom, began formulating a Koi food product that would later on be known as Tomigai Koi Food. They researched extensively and went back and forth to and from Japan to gain a deeper insight on the best way to nourish a Koi so that its best potential may be brought out. With the top Koi breeders in the world as his mentors and advisers on what makes a great Koi food, the team slowly and deliberately made progress in creating the ideal Koi diet. The new product line was met with great success by the Philippine market and six years later they decided to introduce the product to the United States market. Since then, Tomigai Koi food has similarly received a warm reception from American hobbyists, judges and Koi professionals.
Sojourn to Japan--Encore Presentation

The LLWGKS (Land of Lincoln Water Gardening & Koi Society) of Springfield, Illinois will be hosting Rick and Pam Jokerst on Thursday, August 24, as they tell of their adventures in Japan in Fall 2016 to club members and a guest club from Peoria, Illinois, the Prairieland Koi & Pond Society. If you missed the January 2017 meeting of SLWGS when this Power Point presentation was first given, you now have the opportunity to see the amazing koi, beautiful scenery and a glimpse of the koi industry the Jokersts had the pleasure of visiting. Springfield is less than 2 hours from St. Louis. They meet at the Douglas Avenue Methodist Church at 501 S. Douglas Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Pam Jokerst at pam-jokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461 to get complete details and R.S.V.P.

Winner, Winner...Chicken Dinner?

No! Something much better! See the smiles in the photos of the raffle winners at the June general meeting of SLWGS. Don and Kathy Zundel won the pair of Diamond Box Cardinals Tickets donated by Rick Jokerst. Kent and Joanie Jarus won the week stay at the Breckenridge, Colorado condo donated by Kurt and Deb Bokamper.

Congratulations to all!

Annual Awards Banquet Guest Speaker, Mike Hernandez (Continued from page 1)

Since a move to California, Michael has had the privilege of judging several shows in the United States, including the Midwest Pond and Koi Society Koi Show in Chicago, the Spokane Koi Show in Washington, the Dallas Koi Kichi Show in Texas and the Bakersfield Koi Show in California to name a few.

With operations of *Kois & Ponds* in the Philippines still going strong, Michael is constantly on the move, visiting and managing operations both in the Philippines and in California. He is most honored to be invited to speak at the St. Louis Water Gardening Society this year and is looking forward to meeting all the wonderful club members!
Greetings, Folks!

Well, things are rolling along! Pond-O-Rama is done and now it’s time for our annual awards banquet. Where does the year go?

This year’s speaker will be Mike Hernandez. You may recall that his daughter Mikki and son-in-law Devon Swanson spoke to us last year. Mike is very well known in the koi world and is the inventor of Tomigai fish food. He'll be speaking on “How to Select Champion Koi!” It should be great!

Last month we had Ned Siegel from the Master Gardeners in to talk about “Rain Gardens,” a very interesting and informative presentation.

In September we will be bringing Dr. Bob Passovoy back, this time to talk about a subject near and dear to his heart: Filtration. There is perhaps no one better qualified to speak on the subject. If you saw his program in May you got a peek at the impressive system that he has built for himself!

The end of year will be upon us soon. I’m hoping some of you will be interested in becoming more active in the group. We have a dedicated core of people but many have been working for many years at their positions and could use either help or relief. One is Joan Ziskind. Joan has been handling proofreading and Pond-O-Rama route planning for many years and has decided that it’s time to move on. Joan has indicated that she’d be glad to mentor a replacement but that it will be good for the group to have someone else qualified to perform the task. Our thanks to Joan!

Please be thinking of water gardening related community or educational programs that could benefit from a portion of any budget surplus we might generate. Last year we gave Tower Grove Park an assist with their plant growing equipment which helped them greatly increase their water plant production. We may (or may not) have a surplus. We won’t know until sometime next month when we start our budget process.

This month I have to tell you a funny story. Early in the history of the pond that Sherry and I maintain the plumbing was exposed and a little primitive. Sherry and I were getting ready to leave for the airport to catch a plane to Seattle when I decided to make a “minor” adjustment to the pond. Somehow in the process I managed to disconnect the pump from the piping! The fix was going to require me to get into the pond and we were getting pressed for time. To change into a swim suit, fix the problem, dry off and then get dressed again was going to take more time than I could afford to take. I pondered (pun intended) the situation and decided that skinny dipping (or in my case chunky dunking) was the only reasonable solution.

Quickly changing into my birthday suit I got into the pond and made the necessary repair. That accomplished I got out and “squeegeed” myself to a reasonable state of dryness and reapplied clothing. I have to admit that during the operation the famous cartoon “The Happy Fisherman” (google it!) came to mind. Fortunately the water was relatively cold and so it was not a large problem!

Dave Stahre
Membership meetings in 2017 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Meetings will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room, on the third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

August 15 — Annual Banquet, Mike Hernandez—Inventor of “Tomigai” Fish Food, will be discussing how he chooses championship koi.

September 19 — Filtration-Options and Pitfalls, by Dr. Bob Pasovoy

September 30 — 13th Annual Tiki Tour

October 17 — Birds of Fall and Winter
Bryan Layton Prather of Wild Birds Unlimited

November 14 — Annual Potluck and Elections
Potluck dinner and election of officers. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of vice president and treasurer to serve two-year terms beginning in January 2018.
Tiki Tour--Saturday, September 30, 6:30 p.m.

This year will be an outstanding tour since YOU could be a host! We are looking for 3-5 ponds to showcase on this evening progressive tour. The only requirement is that you have some form of lighting to enhance the viewing of your pond and gardens at night and for the safety of guests. We would like to have ponds on tour from Illinois, but the route is dependent upon the geographic locations of the hosts signing up. So Missouri members, you're still in the running. Beverages and snacks will be available during the tour. This is a free event. Contact Pam Jokerst to register your pond at pamjokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461. Deadline is August 16. Tour ticket with directions will be included in the September Water Word.

Banquet at the Jewel Box--Tuesday, August 15, 6-9 p.m.

Make your reservations TODAY for the annual dinner and volunteer awards evening with special guest speaker, Michael Hernandez, of Tomigai Koi Food and International Koi Show Judge. Enjoy great food, wonderful conversations with members, an interesting speaker, beautiful lilies & water plants and lovely attendance prizes along with the annual awards presentation. Ticket cost is $25 per person for the Pasta House Company catered buffet. Please bring cash or a check payable to SLWGS to Pam Jokerst the night of the banquet at the registration table. It is too late to mail the payment. Reservations are required. Deadline is August 11. Call Pam A.S.A.P. at 314-276-9461 or email pamjokerst@gmail.com.
Water Word is published by the St. Louis Water Gardening Society 10 times annually, and is distributed to all members. The newsletter contains information about water gardening and fish-keeping, as well as information about SLWGS meetings and activities. Contributions of articles and photos are welcome and should be sent to the Water Word editor listed below. Documents should be in common text formats, and photos should be in high resolution (300 dpi or higher) jpeg format. The deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

Information about the Society, including how to join, can be found at our website, www.slwgs.org or from any of the officers and board members listed:

**2017 SLWGS Officers and Board Members**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Position</th>
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NATIONAL KOI SHOW AND POND TOUR CALENDAR

These are just a few of the many shows and tours held around the country. Contact Pam Jokerst with any questions at pamjokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461. Please visit the calendar at koiusa.com for additional cities and listings.

Aug. 24-26 6th Michigan Koi & Pond Club Show--Milford, MI (Detroit area) --mkpc-se.com
Aug. 26 Idaho Water Gardening & Koi Society Koi Show--Boise, ID--iwgks.org
Sept. 8-10 23nd ZNA Potomac Koi Show--Vienna, VA (Washington, D.C. area) --znapotomac.org
Sept. 16-17 16th Northern Midwest ZNA Koi Show--Carmel, IN (Indianapolis area) --nmzna.net

Out on a Limb and need some help? Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

NOTE From Editor

***Looking for articles. We’d love to have articles from members about their ponds or what we should be doing in our dirt gardens. Do not be afraid to write. Sharing your knowledge is what this club is all about. We learn from others who have the same interests. We are looking for a new person to proofread Water Word next year. Please, someone step up. I can do the typing but my grammar and punctuation are bad.

Library and Learning Center

The Library and Learning Center would like to remind anybody that may have interesting photos or articles about Koi, pond care or pond construction to please bring them to the next meeting. Photos can be reclaimed at the end of the meeting or donated to the library. As mentioned last year, the library has bought a digital photo frame. So if you have a favorite photo of your fish or pond bring it in on a jump drive and it can be added to the photo frame. You can also email them to Katie at beezey696@hotmail.com and she can upload them.
On June 23-25, SLWGS members Rick & Pam Jokerst, Don & Kathy Zundel and Steve Metzler attended the MPKS 25th Annual Koi Show in Chicago. This is now one of four clubs in the country to achieve the quarter-century status. Eighteen judges from across the country judged the show and attended a conference. Usually there are only three judges required. Nearly 40 show tanks were on display and over 220 koi were entered. SLWGS brought home more winners, including both the Judges' Award and Best in Size 6 for a 26-inch Sakai Sanke named Kathryn. Three other koi won Best Doitsu with a Kohaku, Best Koromo/Goshiki with a Tancho Koromo and Best Asagi/Shusui with a Hi Shusui. SLWGS member and first-time shower, Dan Barbatti, took a First Place and a Second Place with a Gin Rin Showa and an Ochiba.

The judges held free seminars on Saturday. The following is a summary of a talk by Steve Childers on "How to Achieve Clean Water". We hope to have him as a future SLWGS speaker.

**Turn Over Rate**-----Your pump(s) should turn over your water volume at least once per hour. If you have a 5000 gallon pond, the pump needs to turn over 5000 gallons per hour. You will need to consider the head pressure on your pond to calculate this number.

**Water Changes**-----Surprise, surprise! How often have we talked about water changes? There is nothing better than fresh water. Change at least 10% of your pond volume per week. Remember, our fish live in a closed system that needs flushing on a regular basis.

**Stocking Density**-----The number of fish in your pond affects water quality. There are many variables here. The size of your koi, whether they are males or females, feeding regimes, filtration and husbandry practices.

**Plants**-----Generally speaking, many higher-end koi keepers do not have plants in their ponds. This avoids possible harboring of parasites. If you introduce new plants into your pond, make sure you wash them thoroughly, do a potassium permanganate dip and rinse well.

**Dwell Time**-----For those that have koi ponds, this refers to the time it takes your pond water to pass through your filter system. Proper dwell time maximizes the mechanical and biological processes. The slower the better.

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**1st Place Gin Snake**

**2nd Place Ochiba**

---

**Rick Jokerst, AKCA/Koi USA Representative**

Email: rickjokerst@gmail.com or 314-368-2652
TEXT THE REP

Question--Hi, Rick. Are you still feeding your koi during the extreme heat?

Answer--Yes. I am feeding my normal 6 to 8 times per day, but not during the heat of the day. Each pond is different and the behavior of your fish will let you know if you should back off or not. Remember, don't feed more than they can consume in five minutes. More important than your feeding regime during hot weather is to have plenty of aeration. Warm water holds less oxygen than cooler water. You will notice your koi seeking shade and more highly aerated areas of your pond with the excessive heat.

Happy pondering, Rick Jokerst
AKCA/KoiUSA Repesentative
Send your koi question to rickjokerst@gmail.com or text to 314-368-2652

FIELD TRIP TO SACHS RAIN

SLWGS members will meet at 1pm on Saturday, August 19, to explore the Jai Nagarkatti Monsanto Company Reading Garden at the Samuel C. Sachs Library. This 1.25 acre garden features native plantings, a pollinator garden, a rain garden, seating, a shade structure and a foot bridge. There is a large area for programs such as concerts, gardening instruction and story time. There are also quiet nooks for individuals, families or for small groups to use and enjoy. It opened in 2015. The address is 16400 Burkhardt Place, Chesterfield, MO 63017, which is located west of Chesterfield Mall.

This is a follow-up to the presentation given on rain gardens by Ned Siegel at the July general meeting. Please R.S.V.P. to pamjokerst@gmail.com or call or text 314-276-9461. We hope you can join us!
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Photo of the Month

Unwanted visitor captured at the Jewel Box by Jim Bear.