Filtration: Options and Fallacies

Bob and Anne have not always been ponders. Anne is a retired computer geek who knits and stalks books online. Bob is a physician, desperately looking for that perfect window to retire. They used to be sharecroppers and unsuccessful vegetable gardeners. Bob even was a model railroader (HO scale).

Disaster struck in July, 1994 at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Anne saw a pink water lily at one of the booths that she absolutely had to have. Sadly, it was already sold, but the booth owners promised her one if she’d visit their place of business the next day. They trudged happily homeward with two water lilies, pausing only at a Meier’s to pick up two huge muck buckets.

Arriving home, they put the buckets on the patio next to the unsuccessful vegetable garden, put water in the buckets, the lilies in the water and waited for… pink. What grew was white and mosquitoes. Off to the local Petco for feeder golds to eat the bugs. What happened next was the Three Laws of Ponding, which apply to any backyard adventurer who combines water, plants and wildlife in the same container.

1) There is always a better fish
2) There is always a better filter
3) There is never enough water

You all know the process. First, the 50 gallon horse trough, then the 100 gallon preformed pondlet. (Can you say MacRaccoonald’s? I knew you could!) Then the 1200 gallon “training pond” that the contractor swore contained 2400 gallons (he lied). The final attempt was dug in 1997 and has been upgraded steadily since. The current filtration array includes 10 cubic feet of bead, 8 cubic feet of Kaldenes, an ancient, cranky Turbovortex, an Iludium Q-235 Pond ‘Modulator’ and a flux capacitor.

Anne still knits and stalks books, but during the summer, at the pond’s edge. Bob has wonderful brass locomotives and not an inch of roadbed. Instead, he is President of the Midwest Pond and Koi Society, a Koi Health Advisor (now largely inactive—not enough time!) , the chief water quality manager for the MPKS Koi Show and auctioneer for the club. Occasionally, he remembers to sleep, eat and breathe.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Filtration: Options & Fallacies
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden
CBEC Building
4651 Shaw Blvd, Rooms 126/127
Corner of Kingshighway and Shaw
When: Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Dr. Bob Passavoy from MPKS
Hi, I’m Bob Temper, the lucky winner of a one-week stay in the Bokamper’s condo in Breckenridge, Colorado. They have generously donated the use of their condo via a raffle as a fund-raising event at the SLWGS annual Koi Auction for several years. As a 2016 winner of the raffle, my family and I wish to thank them for this wonderful opportunity.

The three bedroom, three bath condo comfortably accommodated my entire family. Eleven of us spent a week in June enjoying the town of Breckenridge and the surrounding area. We are an adventurous family, so we did something different every day. There was biking, horseback riding and white water raft rides, plus a train ride and mine tour at the Georgetown Loop. My daughters-in-law enjoyed taking the free gondola ride into downtown Breckenridge for daily shopping and eating adventures. The gondola station is just a short walk from the condo. One evening my son BBQ’d on the gas grills while I joined my grandsons in the adjacent hot tub/whirlpool overlooking the ski runs on Peak 8. When not doing anything else, we enjoyed time in the comfortable family room which is equipped with a large TV (there are also TV’s in each bedroom) and a gas fireplace or on the lovely deck which opens up to the woods on the side of Peak 8. There are no other buildings behind the condo. One morning my son took a video of a moose in the woods! The grandchildren at times enjoyed playing their video games (yes there is wifi) in the separate big community room which overlooks the bottom of the ski run and gondola station. It is hard to believe the condo sits on the edge of the wilderness, yet is only a few minutes from the busy downtown main street with all the shops and good places to eat. If you aren’t interested in all the activities and just want to chill out and enjoy nature's views, the condo is equipped for your comfort and relaxation. All eleven of us, ranging in age from 7 to 73, had a wonderful week and we are quite thankful to Kurt and Deb Bokamper for making this possible.

If you want a lovely getaway in beautiful Colorado, I highly recommend that you purchase plenty of raffle tickets at next year’s Koi Auction. You may be the lucky winner!
Greetings, Folks!

Well, the year is almost over! Only three more meeting dates! For those of you who were unable to attend the annual banquet you missed an interesting talk by koi expert Mike Hernandez. You also missed the announcement of Bob Henson as the Bonnie Alford award winner and Kenny Wamhoff as the Ganim award. winner Bob was selected in recognition of his outstanding job on this year’s Pond-O-Rama and Kenny for his work on last year’s Pond-O-Rama, his continuing work at the Jewel Box, and for being a host for both the 2016 and 2017 Pond-O-Rama tours.

This month we’re bringing “Dr. Bob” Passavoy back to talk about his favorite subject: Filters! He is one of the best qualified around to advise on the subject. In October we’ll have Bryan Prather from “Wild Birds Unlimited” in to talk about “The Birds of Winter.” Don’t miss them!

Budget time is back. We don’t know if we’ll have a surplus this year or not but we need recommendations for contributions if we do. Tower Grove Park has indicated they have a couple of projects that could use support and there is an ongoing effort by other organizations to find a cure for Koi Herpes Virus that could use funding. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member with the information.

In November, we will be voting for Treasurer and Vice President. I believe the current office holders will run again but if anyone else is interested please let the board know. I would also extend an invitation to everyone to consider becoming more involved in the functioning of the group. We have a dedicated group doing a terrific job, but doing the same job for too long can produce burnout. It’s also good for the continued health of an organization to have more than one person who knows how to do a given job. Please consider volunteering to either assist with or assume some of the current functions. Frogs and snakes continue to be objects of interest this month. Sherry is continuing her feud with Reba (the ribbon snake). One day last week we saw a frog jump from the patio, to a plant and then into the pond. Next we saw a movement in the plant. It turned out that Reba had been sitting in the plant, apparently watching Sherry and me (and the frog)! Reba escaped!

In another incident, one night after a rain, Sherry and I were sitting by our pond. On this particular night we heard a very loud frog. I’m taking “bullfrog-level” volume, but treefrog tones! The sound appeared to be coming from the redbud tree next to the pond but no frog was visible. We searched high and low in the tree but could not find the vocal amphibian. Slowly, over a period of about a half hour, we zeroed in on the source of the noise.

As it turned out there was a split in the tree, right where the two main branches connected. A hollow had formed at the split and a treefrog had figured out that by shinnying down into the hollow he had his own, private megaphone! The hollow apparently had the effect of amplifying the little guys tiny voice into a booming mating call. I’m sure any females around were duly impressed! I know that Sherry and I were!

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.

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.

The St. Louis Water Gardening Society is a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA). Visit the association’s website at www.akca.org.
SLWGS Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. There were 80 members and guests in attendance. Everyone strolled the lily pools to see the community service work our club provides to the city and to take in the tranquil beauty of the water lilies and other tropical plants in the reflecting ponds. A delicious buffet dinner by Pasta House was followed by the awards presentations. Robert Henson was given the Bonnie Alford Service Award and Kenny Wamhoff was presented with the Ganim Service Award. Congratulations to both for a job well done!

Our speaker, Michael Hernandez, presented a program on How to Select Championship Koi. His knowledge was only enhanced by his humor in relating stories of his judging experiences and reflections on what he looks for in a prize-winning koi. We thank Michael and his wife, Gleci, from California, for taking the time to attend this event and share information on koi, along with our other guests from Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota.

The evening ended with the lantern table centerpieces being drawn as attendance prizes.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

On behalf of SLWGS, I would like to send a very big THANK YOU to Cindy Williams for her above and beyond efforts in making our out-of-town guests feel most welcomed to our annual Awards Banquet. Her St. Louis product-based goody bags for them and our speaker were wonderful additions to the hospitality shown by all our members. And another thank you to Cindy for the delightful koi soaps she made for each in attendance. Job well done! In sincere gratitude, Pam Jokerst
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:

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Looking for more information about pond building, plants or fish care? Visit our website, www.slwgs.org Check out our “Articles of Interest” section and “Links We Like” for help.
TIKI TOUR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Please see the pull-out page in the mailed edition of Water Word for tour directions or the attachment to the emailed version. Direct any questions to Pam Jokerst, Special Events Coordinator, at 314-276-9461 or pamjokerst@gmail.com. See you there!

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.
**TWO MAJOR KOI SHOWS AND MANY AWARDS**

Since my last article, Pam and I have attended two koi shows in Minnesota and Michigan. Yes, a lot of driving, but a lot of fun as well. In MN, brought home the Reserve Grand Champion Award with a 29” Marudo Sanke and for Best in Show GinRin A with a 21” Showa. In MI, We came away with the Mature Grand Champion Award for a 31” Lemon Hariwaki. This koi also won the People's Choice Award. Another double winner, the Judge's Award and Best in Show Ginrin A went to the same Showa above. Best in Show Doitsu went to a 22” Marudo Kohaku.

As good as it is to bring home these awards, the best thing at a koi show are the friendly and supportive people you meet. We have made many good friends and connections in the hobby all around the country. It is our hope to bring this educational experience of a Koi Show to St. Louis for you to enjoy soon.

*Rick Jokerst, AKCA/KoiUSA Representative.*
Contact at 314-368-2652 or rickjokerst@gmail.com

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**MN Best Doitsu A&B**

**MI Mature Champion & Peoples Choice Award**

**MN Reserve Grand Champion**

**MN Best GinRin A, MI Judge’s Award**

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John C. Saul
636-300-1770
If you want to get one last koi fix for the year before cold weather sets in, attend the 16th Annual Northern Midwest ZNA Koi Show in Carmel, IN (Indianapolis area) on September 16-17. This is a smaller koi show, but the highest quality koi will be in contention for awards. You can go to nmzna.net for more information, or contact Pam Jokerst at 314-276-9461 or pamjokerst@gmail.com. The Jokersts will be showing fish at this show. They would love to see you there! Also, the town of Carmel has some amazing retail and antique shops and restaurants, most within walking distance of the show. Make it a mini-vaca!
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Photo of the Month

New waterlily for the Jewel Box in 2017.
Purple Fantasy, a hardy (perennial) waterlily.