Don't miss the Silent Plant Auction

Chuck Brust retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in Virginia Beach, Virginia. After retiring from a second career in computer software design, he went through Master Gardener training in Virginia Beach. Shortly after finishing his training, he moved to Saint Louis to be near his children and grandchildren. He started volunteering at the Missouri Botanical Garden and was certified as a St Louis Master Gardener in the spring of 2009.

Chuck volunteers regularly with several different horticultural organizations, including: Gateway Greening Community Gardens; Flora Conservancy of Forest Park greenhouse and flower beds; Missouri Botanical Garden Kemper Center Reference Desk; Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Records. He can also be found most Saturdays helping SLWGS with pond maintenance at the Jewel Box. Since moving to St Louis, Chuck has logged over 4800 volunteer hours with the Master Gardeners.

Sign for Your Pond Area?

Are you interested in a sign for your back yard? There is a committee looking for your input on this topic. They have come up with a couple of sign designs and would like to know which one you prefer before we order any for the club members to buy. The price is around $25. The signs are 11”X 14”. You will have to attach a stake to put it in your yard. Look for the samples of the design at the meeting.

Don’t Miss This!

What:    Don’t Miss the Silent Plant Auction
Where:  Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When:   Tuesday, April 18th, at 7 p.m.
Who:     Chuck Brust, St. Louis Master Garden

*****The First Work Day*****

Please Come to our First work day at the Jewel Box.

**April 29, 2017**

We will be moving the hardy lilies from the mud bottom pond. We need lots of bodies to help. You could even take home a lily or two or four when they get split up.

Please come. It’s lots of FUN.
FIRST KOI SHOW OF THE SEASON...SO SPRING IS NOT FAR

Rick and I always look forward to the Orlando Koi Show to kick off the spring season. We know warmer temperatures are not far behind here in St. Louis. This year we traveled with SLWGS members Don and Kathy Zundel. This was their first koi show. We attended seminars on koi confirmation and koi judging and were able to actually judge a group of five Kohaku from Kodama Koi Farm in Hawaii that were for sale at the show.

In the tanks, we saw many wonderful koi. Some were quite unique and rare. As always, this show brings out the biggest and the best. We also visited with many friends from around the country. After a long winter, koi kichi (crazy) people and ponderer's in general, cannot wait for their first koi fix of the year.

At the banquet, we presented a beautiful hand-painted sake set purchased on our Japan trip last fall as a Friendship Award to Stephen Sargeant for his great little Kikusui on behalf of SLWGS. The Grand Champion was an outstanding Sanke owned by Henry Culpepper. As the pictures show, we had a great time together in Florida!

Pam Jokerst, Special Events Coordinator

Admiring the koi

Presenting the Friendship Award

A lively round of mini golf

The Orlando Koi Show

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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.

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Greetings, Folks!

Well, it’s time for the annual plant auction again! Gather up all those extra plants (land and water) you have left from your Spring pruning, pack them so they won’t leave a mess in the meeting room and show up early (so we can log them in). You might want to bring buckets and/or trash bags to pack up any acquisitions you might make during the evening. We’ve got Chuck Brust (a member and Master Gardener) to provide commentary on the offerings. Should be fun!

I’ve been asked to announce that April 29th will be the first work day at the Jewel Box. We’ll be trimming and moving the hardy lilies from the mud pond to the three display ponds. We need some strong backs to help lift and move them, but a bonus is you can take home left over cuttings from the operation. Come to the Jewel Box at 9 am. Bring waders (if you have them), shovels, cutters, etc.

Well, Pond-O-Rama is progressing. If you have a host sign at home please notify Robert Henson (314 495-4233 hatty92@aol.com). If you are going to be on the tour this year you may hang on to your sign but we still need to know where they are and who has them.

Continuing with my story of building the pond. I installed a layer of landscaping stones around the perimeter of the pond that made for a solid foundation for the rim. After that I installed a skimmer and routed plumbing to the filter I crafted out of a 300-gallon stock tank. My previous filter was only 100 gallons and was difficult to drain and clean. I installed a 3-inch drain in the new filter along with a knife valve. This made filter/drains/water changes impressive! I also crafted a concrete slab to support the filter, with cutouts for the inlet and drain.

Ok, skimmer ready to go, filter ready to go, time to get serious about the waterfall/stream. Sherry and I decided on a 3-drop setup. The first drop would be right after the filter and about a foot and a half high. The second and third drops would be smaller and just designed to add some additional action.

I laid out the rocks and the liner and drilled holes in the stock tank and installed bulkhead fittings through the liner to complete the setup.

In the interim I ran an extension cord to test the setup. I plugged everything in and…It leaked like a sieve! Grrrh! I analyzed the problem and concluded that I’d made the holes through the liner too big! I had no choice but to get another piece of liner to overlap and cut a new set of holes. Ok, better, but still not perfect! I decided to use waterfall foam to seal it further.

Ok foam in place I fire everything up again and DRAT! It leaks worse than it did before! Ok, what happened? Turns out that in the process of foaming the setup to stop the minor leak, I managed to knock a large rock off of the weir (the spillway). The rock fell and punched three large tears in the main part of the liner and two smaller holes! Time to punt! I was going to have to replace the entire waterfall/stream liner! MORE LATER!

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, unless otherwise noted. They are on the third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>Plant Auction</td>
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<td>Water Quality for a Koi Show by Bob Passavoy from MPKS CBEC Building Rm 125</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Pond-O-Rama Host Meeting at the CBEC Building Rm 125</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Annual Banquet by Mike Hernandez—Inventor of “Tomigai” Fish Food</td>
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<td>To Be Decided</td>
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<td>Birds of Fall &amp; Winter by Bryan Layton Prather of Wild Birds Unlimited</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Annual Potluck &amp; Elections Pot luck 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
If you want some of the most premiere and unique koi to have in your pond...come to the auction!
If you want to sit six rows above the St. Louis Baseball Cardinal's dugout...come to the auction!
If you want to spend a week in beautiful Breckenridge, CO with your family and friends...come to the auction!
If you want a chance to win a tosai koi or butterfly koi...come to the auction!
If you want to meet other members and gain more knowledge about koi, lilies, and ponding...come to the auction!

The seventh annual St. Louis Water Gardening Society tosai koi auction will be held Sunday, June 4, 11am, at the home of Rick and Pam Jokerst in Town and Country. Jokerst and Steve Metzler have spearheaded the koi auction again this year, bringing to St. Louis koi buyers the “cream of the crop” of koi imported directly from top breeders in Japan, including Taniguchi, Marudo and Omosako. This introduction of one-of-a-kind koi is possible through relationships Jokerst has built with several dealers. “We are very lucky to have made these connections,” Jokerst said. “Few clubs in the country have access to premium koi such as these.” Jokerst and his wife, Pam, make trips to personally choose the fish for the SLWGS auction, with some examples of Sanke from last year shown here. There will be many limited varieties available at the auction, such as Beni Kikukuryu, Gin Rin Saragoi, Kin Showa, and Yamato Nishiki (doitsu sanke), along with Showa, Sanke, Kohaku, Shiro Utsuri, Chagoi, Yamabuki and more.

Tosai koi are koi in the first year of life. In addition to the imported tosai, the auction will include some larger, domestically-bred koi and some tosai longfin (butterfly) koi for sale. There will also be koi “grow outs” from previous auctions that the Jokerst have cared for and grown to optimal size available for auction, and for viewing and educational purposes. In addition to the varied koi, there will be a number of tropical and hardy water lilies for auction. The varieties will be similar to those grown in the Jewel Box lily pools and will come from the same supplier, Florida Aquatic Nurseries, with hardies from our own stock. And once again, Tomigai has donated koi food which will be available for sale.

An additional fundraiser will be held again this year, thanks to the generosity of Kurt and Deb Bokamper. Tickets will be sold for a chance for a week’s stay at their Breckenridge, Colorado condo, a $1,500 value. Jokerst has donated a pair of Diamond Box Cardinal tickets valued at over $400. Several dates will be offered to choose from. Get your chances on a $50 gas card, a butterfly koi and a tosai koi. See the photo. Door prize drawings will be held throughout the afternoon.

Complimentary hot dogs, snacks and beverages will be available. Viewing of the koi offered for sale and viewing begins at 11am, with the auction beginning promptly at noon. Payment on auction bids are required at the time of purchase by either cash or check. Credit cards cannot be accepted. The event will be held rain or shine. Covered seating is provided. All proceeds benefit SLWGS. Come and get to know fellow members. See you at the auction!

Rick Jokerst,
AKCA/KoiUSA Representative,
at 314-368-2652 or rickjokerst@gmail.com.
Need fish, fish food, pond equipment/supplies, landscape and/or pond designs or plants? All that and more is available from our advertisers. Drop by or call them when you need help.

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

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Vice President
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Treasurer
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Cathy Schallenberg (618) 920-9104 iwschall52@aol.com
Be Ambassadors for SLWGS.......

What makes Pond-O-Rama so successful every year? OUR MEMBERS!!!!

Each year many of our members share their beautiful water features and private gardens and spaces, not only with our members, but also the general public. Anyone who has been a host or visited those sites know what tremendous effort (and expense) goes into opening their gardens for our tour. Comments received are always how kind and friendly our members are and how welcoming they are to everyone who enters.

Our advertisers support our tour thru their advertising in our ticket booklets and many of their customers, sharing the new features they have created and built. We publicize our tour nationally and locally for months prior to June 24-25, 2017. This is our 17th anniversary of Pond-O-Rama. Each POR chairperson before, has brought their ideas, creativity, hard work and dedication to make each year's tour special. Our ticket booklets are not only well designed, but provide great directions and descriptions of the places that members and guests choose to visit over the two days. Many keep them year after year as a reminder of ones they have enjoyed seeing.

We rely on our members to promote the one event that SLWGS sponsors to share information about a passion we all enjoy, to exchange ideas with other members and to educate the public about water gardening. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge our contractors and businesses who support us all year long.

We are grateful for our many volunteers who are always willing to step up to the plate and assist in any task needed.

As a membership benefit, each member is entitled to two Pond-O-Rama tickets. These will be available for pick up at the May and June meetings.

So share our story and our tour! Be ambassadors for our wonderful organization and our 17th Annual Pond-O-Rama Tour on June 24-25, 2017.

Bob Henson (hatt8v92@aol.com)
Ginny Mueller (vcmueller16@hotmail.com)

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 proof read Water Word next year please someone step up I can do the typing but my grammar and punctuation is 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.
Add One of These Water Plants to Your Pond.

Water Hawthorne, “Aponogeton distachyos”, is native to South Africa. However it is a true perennial here in St. Louis. Water Hawthorne has to be one of the most underrated pond plants. It host of some very unique traits which make it a must have for any pond owner. Water Hawthorne is a true bulb. There are not very many bulbs in the pond plant world. It will grow in water 6-inches to 2-feet deep. The floating leaves are long and narrow. It blooms profusely, with small, white, vanilla-scented flowers. It will bloom in the spring while the water is still cold, and then again in the fall once the water temperatures have cooled down. Each plant can cover an area about 2 to 3-feet in diameter. It goes completely dormant during the summer months, so mark your pots carefully, so you don't accidentally discard this plant in the middle of the summer. It is a great companion for perennial water lilies since they perform best during warm weather. This pond plant is also a good choice for shady ponds. Water hawthorn will tolerate slowly moving water.

Water Banana, “Musa acuminate”, is a lot of fun to add to your water garden. Yes, it really is a banana tree and yes it will make fruit, although in St. Louis it will take several seasons to get this plant up to size to obtain the tasty treat. This water banana tree will reach 3 to 5 feet tall if you take it indoors during the winter months. It is an annual plant in our region. Grow this plant slightly above water level to just at the pond surface for best results. The stunning variegated leaves will be the center point and grab lots of attention from those folks visiting your pond. The water banana tree prefers at least 5 hours of sun each day.

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14430 Manchester Rd  Manchester, MO 63011
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NATIONAL KOI SHOW AND POND TOUR CALENDAR

If you are traveling this spring and summer to any of the cities listed below, why not add their koi & goldfish show or pond tour to your schedule. Or better yet, make one of these events your vacation destination. 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 314-27 6-9461. Please visit the calendar at koiusa.com for additional cities and listings.

May 6  Atlanta Koi Club Pond Tour--Atlanta, GA--atlantakoiclub.org
May 6-7  Lone Star Koi Club & Houston Pond Society Pond Tour--Houston, TX--lonestarkoi.com
May 27-28  22nd Greater Louisville Koi & Goldfish Society Show--Louisville, KY--louisvillekoiclub.com
June 23-25  25th Midwest Pond & Koi Society Show--Chicago, IL (western suburbs) --mpks.org
July 22-23/29-30  27th Midwest Pond & Koi Society Pond Tour--Chicago, IL--two weekends
                        mpks.org
July 28-30  6th Tri-State ZNA Koi Show--Staten Island, NY--facebook.com/TriStateZNA/
Aug. 4-6  11th Upper Midwest Koi Club Show--Minneapolis, MN--uppermidwestkoiclub.org
Aug. 24-26  6th Michigan Koi & Pond Club Show--Milford, MI (Detroit area) --mkpc-se.com
Sept. 8-10  23rd 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!

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2016 Tosi Auction at the Jokerst house. Nice day. The rain held off till well after the auction was over.
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Photo of the Month

Too many fish in the pond? What do you think?