Rain Gardens Help Solve Problems, Create Beauty

Many beautifully planned, well-organized landscapes nonetheless include one or more problem areas—high spots and low spots, places that are too dry or too wet, some that are too shady and some too sunny for our needs. Scientists and horticulturists often work together to solve such gardening problems. In doing so, they sometimes create a solution that also adds beauty to the landscape. Such can be the case with rain gardens. Members of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society have an opportunity at their July 18th meeting to explore that topic.

Ned Siegel, a retired agricultural researcher and currently a Master Gardener, will present “Rain Gardens: a Job Description.” The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Beaumont Room. Siegel was formerly a research scientist who spent 32 years in the field, initially with Monsanto’s Agricultural Research group and ultimately with Pfizer, Inc., working in the Discovery Research biotechnology area. He holds a bachelor of science degree in biology and a master of science degree in botany from the University of Illinois.

He is currently enjoying his retirement after completing the Master Gardener training and certification program at the Missouri Botanical Garden in 2007 and the Master Naturalist program in Illinois in 2008-9. He is a member of the St. Louis Master Gardener Speaker’s Bureau.

Siegel’s discussion of rain gardens will center on what they are and how and why they can help to reduce storm water runoff.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Rain Gardens Help Solve Problems, Create Beauty

Where: Missouri Botanical Garden,
        Ridgway Center,
        Beaumont Room

When: Tuesday, July 18th, at 7 p.m.

Who: Ned Siegel, a member of the St. Louis Master Gardener Speaker’s Bureau

Got Lights? Think Tiki Tour

The 13th annual Tiki Tour, an evening and nighttime pond and water garden tour for members, will be held Saturday, September 30 6:30 p.m.. Pam Jokerst, special events coordinator, is in the process of planning the event and is looking for hosts who would like to show off their pond at night. “This is a fun, nighttime tour that club members look forward to each year,” said Jokerst. “It is a progressive tour, which means we proceed as a group from pond to pond to allow all the hosts to join the tour.”

The location of entries determines the route. The deadline for submission is August 1.
Award Nominations Sought

The St. Louis Water Gardening Society will hold its annual Awards Banquet at the Jewel Box in Forest Park on August 15. One highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Bonnie Alford Service Award and the Ganim Service Award to deserving volunteers of the Society. Any member of SLWGS may nominate another member. This form can be used to nominate those volunteers deserving of recognition for their hard work and time, or you can use a separate sheet of paper to make your nominations. Please be specific about the reasons you believe your nominees deserve the awards. Turn in your written nomination at the next meeting, mail it to Gail Abernathy 10922 Killdare Ct, St. Ann, MO 63074 or e-mail it to her at abernat@swbell.net.

The Bonnie Alford Service Award is given in honor of the founder of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society and is awarded annually to a person who has been a member of the society for at least three years. All persons are eligible who have made measurable and significant contributions to SLWGS.

The Ganim Service Award honors Don and Lizanne Ganim. The award is given annually to a member who, during the past year, has gone beyond the call of duty for SLWGS. Candidates need to be a member of the society for no less than 60 days.

I nominate __________________________________ for the Bonnie Alford Service Award for 2017 because:

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I nominate __________________________________ for the Ganim Service Award for 2017 because

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____________________________________________________________________________________

Pam Jokerst, special events coordinator, reminds members that the Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Jewel Box in Forest Park on August 15. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Bonnie Alford Service Award and the Don and Lizanne Ganim Service Award. Use the form above to nominate a deserving SLWGS member for an award. The qualifications for each service award are on the form above.

Tickets to the event are $25 and reservations must be made in advance. Bring a check to the July 18th meeting or mail your request and check to Pam Jokerst, 305 Wyndmoor Terrace Ct, St. Louis, MO 63141. For more information e-mail Pam at pamjokerst@gmail.com or call her at 314-276-9461. Deadline is August 7th.
Greetings, folks!

Well, another Pond-O-Rama is history. Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Robert Henson and Ginny Mueller and an assist from Mother Nature who provided us with the best Pond-O-Rama weather in recent memory. It was a great one! Thanks to all who participated and especially to the hosts for opening their ponds to us.

If you missed the June meeting then you didn’t see a great presentation on orchids by Carol Gravens, member and a speaker with the Master Gardeners. It was very interesting and informative. Sherry commented that she found out that everything she was doing for her orchid was wrong!

This month we have Ned Siegel, also with the Master Gardeners, who will be giving a presentation on “Rain Gardens.”

In August, we will be having our annual awards banquet. Mike Hernandez of “Koi Acres” will be discussing how he chooses championship koi. Get your tickets at the July 18th meeting or contact Pam Jokerst directly. As in the past the charge will be $25 per person. Hope to see you there!

Speaking of the banquet, we need to select recipients for the Alford and Gamin service awards. Be thinking of deserving persons and submit your nominations at the meeting.

One personal side note: As you have probably heard my older daughter, Grace, was diagnosed with breast cancer back in January. She underwent several rounds of chemotherapy followed by a double mastectomy. She has been pronounced as NED (no evidence of disease) and is starting the reconstructive process. My thanks to all who have expressed interest and concern.

Well, since last month there have been some developments in and around the pond that Sherry and I maintain. “Reba” (the ribbon snake) ignored the warning lecture I gave her and went after one of Sherry’s beloved frogs! One day, while she was out in the yard, Sherry heard an amphibian’s desperate call for help. Upon further investigation, she discovered Reba about to have lunch, which appeared to include a frog. Sherry intervened and saved the frog. Reba, in the meantime, “beat feet” out of the area. Sherry has since declared Reba persona non-grata and has sworn a fatwa against her. I’ve spotted her once or twice since the incident but she quickly scurried out of sight and has been maintaining a low profile since then.

In other developments, Sherry and I installed the preformed pond we bought from the club back in November next to our waterfall. We’d had problems with our koi eating any tropical lilies we added to the pond so we decided to place them there. I tied into the waterfall plumbing and set up a drain back to the pond. Within days after completing the project “Freddie” (the bullfrog from last month) reappeared and took up residence in it.

It appears to be an ideal environment for frogs. There are no fish to disturb them, the water is a little warmer than that in the main pond, there are no fish to bother them, and there’s plenty of cover and a good supply of insects. Apparently, the new quarters are attractive as Freddie appears to have attracted a girlfriend, “Fiona!” The two appear to be quite content in their own little pond.

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.

**July 18**—Ned Siegel, a member of the St. Louis Master Gardener Speaker’s Bureau, will present a program on rain gardens, what they are, why and how they can help to reduce storm water runoff, at 7 p.m., Beaumont Room.

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

**September 19**—To Be Decided

**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](http://www.akca.org).
A Few Pond-O-Rama Photos

PONDS PLUS
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www.pondslusstl.com
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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.

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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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.

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.

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
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
Pond-O-Rama Thank You Note....

Thanks to spectacular weather and spectacular water gardens...the 17th annual Pond-O-Rama was a spectacular success!!!

The gorgeous June weather provided two beautiful days to tour the 39 member gardens on tour. There were many new ponds to see this year on both Saturday and Sunday giving members and guests new ideas for creative use of space.

A tremendous thank you to all the hosts this year who opened their gardens to the public, especially to the new hosts who had no idea what to expect, (but they do now)!

Thanks to: John Mosley, Larry and Kathleen Albright, Dave and Stacy Rolfe, Chuck and Courtney Klose, Gerri Rosen and Lori Stringer, Joe Summers (Chalily), Dennis and Sheila Thompson, Steve Neukomm and Molly McKenna, Barbara Cripps, Elliot Pelot, Dave Schiele, Judy and Tom Evans, Rick Ikemeier, Mike and Kathy Bocksersman, Caleb Bauer, Joy Cooper-Presson, Tim and Mary Wanner, Larry Snyder and Tara Nealey, Gong Shu, Kenny Wamhoff, Virginia Mueller, Fred and Christine Murray, Roger and Diane Brader, Chuck Brust, Beverlee and Daniel Maschek, Robert Henson, Pat and Fran Murphy, Bob and Christine Nelson, Dianne and Eric Huesemann, Bill and Rebecca Harrison, Dan and Carol Gravens, Carol Beiter and Bob Coombs, Aaron Burchett (PondMarket), Carol and Ron Greminger, Steve and Andrea Michalak, Sonal Shah, Millstadt Falls, Chip and Christina Soule, and Tom and Barb Shively. You all did a fantastic job of making your places beautiful and so welcoming to the public. You are who make the St. Louis Water Gardening Society so very special!

Thank you to all our advertisers who support the Water Garden Society all year long:
Bauer Falls, Chalily, Creative Landscapes, Design Reflections, Effinger Garden Center, Gateway Gardener, Hartke Nursery, Kloubec Koi Farm, Land Works, Market Basket, MPR Supply, Nature's Re-Creations, PondMarket, Ponds Plus Water Garden Center, Sandy's Back Porch, Saul's Custom Designs, Spectrum Brands (Tetra Pond), Sugar Creek Gardens, Walter Knoll Florist, and West Winds Earthscaping and St Louis Homes & Lifestyles Magazine who has sponsored Pond-O-Rama the last few years. Please return the favor when you need design expertise, landscape or maintenance assistance, plants, fish, equipment or supplies. These fine companies represent a wealth of knowledge and you will find links to their websites from our website www.slwgs.org.

Thank you to all our ticket sellers who for many months promote the tour and our society:

(Continued on page 9)
Special thanks to the Pond-O-Rama Committee who begin work in January and complete the Pond-O-Rama event in July! Without the help of members this event would not be as successful as it has been for 17 years.

- Thanks to Mary Nies and Joan Ziskind who spend time coordinating with hosts, verifying information, mapping routes, ensuring that the format is ready for the graphic designer, editing and proofing every word and page of the ticket book. Their contribution is invaluable in ensuring our ticket book is first class.
- Thanks to our graphic designer, Ellen Flesch, who has designed our poster, creates individual maps, forms and ensures our ticket books are to the printer on time.
- Thanks to Dave Schiele who is always willing to assist the committee in a variety of ways and coordinates with Walter Knoll for ticket sales.
- Thank you to Lois Tobin who assisted at Ft Zumwalt Park in promoting SLWGS and distributing ticket books at the meeting. Thank you to Carolyn Haus who also assisted at Ft Zumwalt Park for Garden Days.
- Thanks to Carol Greminger who assisted in promoting Pond-O-Rama in distributing brochures at various locations.
- Thanks to Gail Abernathy who always is part of the Pond-O-Rama committee and is an invaluable part of making Pond-O-Rama successful.
- Thanks to the many members who promote our event!

This year's Pond-O-Rama tour was Co-chaired by Bob Henson and Ginny Mueller. To make Pond-O-Rama successful it takes time and effort beginning in January to meet deadlines for the host sites, advertisers, ticket sellers, printing of brochures, distribution of promotional material, creating articles and ads, and participating in venues to promote our event. Thanks to Ginny Mueller, who not only manages all the publicity for Pond-O-Rama and SLWGS (ads, online calendars, articles, brochures, etc.), but also has chaired Pond-O-Rama in previous years. The combined talents of Bob Henson and Ginny Mueller made this year's Pond-O-Rama one that many will remember.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED .....WE HOPE THAT P-O-R 2018 WILL BE ANOTHER FUN WEEKEND. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE MEMBERS BECOMING INVOLVED IN SLWGS SIGNATURE EVENT AND SHARING YOUR TALENTS AND IDEAS ON THE POND-O-RAMA COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR.
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Photo of the Month

Found this unusual plant on Pond-O-Rama Sunday at the Nelson’s pond.