**Water Quality for a Koi Show**

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 trundled 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 veg. garden, put water in the buckets, the lilies in the water and waited for…pink. What grew was white and mosquitos. 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 MacRaccoonal’d? 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.

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**Don’t Miss This!**

**What:** Water Quality for a Koi Show

**Where:** Missouri Botanical Garden, CBEC Building, Rm 125
4651 Shaw Blvd
Corner of Kingshighway & Shaw

**When:** Tuesday, May 16th, at 7 p.m.

**Who:** Bob and Anne Passavoy
from MPKS

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

Pond-O-Rama Host Meeting is changed
To June 20th from 6:00 to 6:45 just Before the general meeting on “All About Orchids”
7th Annual Tosai Auction June 4th

If you want to have some of the most premier and unique koi 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, 11 a.m., 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. 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’s 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. 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 begins at 11 a.m., 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
Greetings, Folks!

Hope you’re doing well and weren’t affected by the flooding. It’s been quite a month. Sadly, two members, Paula Price (Joe Summers’ mother) as well as Martin Schweig Jr. passed away. Our condolences to their families. In addition, the club’s board voted to make small donations in their names to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Last month’s plant auction went well with the club making a little over $500. Thanks to Chuck Brust (as well as to Judy Evans for an assist) for providing information on the offerings. Thanks also to all who contributed plants to be auctioned.

This month we have Dr. Bob Passavoy from the Midwest Pond and Koi Society in Chicago who is going to give us some insight into the chemistry of our ponds. I’ve asked Bob to approach the subject from the viewpoint of the typical pond owner. In other words, I’ve asked him to help us understand what drives things such as pH, ammonia, nitrites, etc as well as what happens when we add anti-chlor to our ponds. The subject can get pretty complex but Dr. Bob has promised to keep it understandable. Hope you’ll come out!

For June we have Carol Gravens coming to tell us “All About Orchids!” We changed the topic from the original “Orchids Lure and Legend” based on feedback from the membership that they preferred a more “hands-on” version of the subject. I’m sure it will be great!

Well folks, last month I told you about the “fun” I had getting my waterfall going! I finally got the leaky liner replaced and got everything sealed pretty well. This month I’ll skip ahead to some work that Sherry did to improve the waterfall.

The basic design that I implemented lacked much detail and was pretty plain. There was a lot of exposed liner and not a lot of rock covering the sides. At the end of last year Sherry took the leftover rocks from the original three tons we started with (mostly small stuff) and built up the sides. The result was kind of a jumble and was hazardous to step on if you needed to get close to the falls.

This spring, Sherry decided to work on making it more stable and aesthetically pleasing. While I was on a trip to Washington DC, she worked on the changes. Sherry does read my column from time to time but I think she skipped the story about “Samantha” the snake who inhabits the area around the waterfall! Sherry is ambivalent toward snakes. She isn’t very warm toward them. She realizes they perform a role in the ecosystem controlling rodents etc., but she does not like them getting into the garage or house! Apparently, after working most of the morning, Sherry suddenly spotted Samantha coiled up among the rocks of the waterfall. She apparently had been there most of the morning, observing Sherry working and catching a few rays! At first Sherry though that the snake might be dead so she poked her with the blunt end of a rake. Samantha, didn’t like this too much and crawled into a crevice in the wall of the waterfall. Over the next few days, Samantha would appear and disappear but stick close to Sherry! Sherry at this point is being tolerant, but has threatened violence if Samantha pops out and scares her!

See you next month!

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.

May 16 — Water Quality for a Koi Show by Bob Passavoy from MPKS CBEC Building Rm 125

June 20 — Pond-O-Rama Host Meeting
June 20 — All about Orchids
   By Carol Gravens

June 24-25 — Pond-O-Rama

July 18 — To Be Decided

August 15 — Annual Banquet, Mike Hernandez—Inventor of “Tomigai” Fish Food.

September 19 — To Be Decided

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

November 14 — Annual Potluck & 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.

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.

Pick up your FREE copy at more than 400 locations throughout the Metro area or read it online at GatewayGardener.com

St. Louis Water Gardening Society Calendar of Events
Purchasing fish for your pond can be a simple task if you want it to be, or it can be quite the challenge to find the best fish.

Taro Kodama is President of Kodama Koi Farm. Kodama Koi Farm is the largest importer and distributor of quality Japanese Koi in the US.

Their farm carries 35,000+ Japanese Koi from the top breeders in Japan. Kodama Koi Farm was founded in Japan almost 50 years ago. “We’ve had the honor of raising award-winning koi, including six recorded champions,” said Taro. He also said he “loves sharing knowledge and expertise to grow the hobby of koi keeping.” Kodama believes being close to the breeders is very important.

“Unlike other merchandise, we cannot make a design and ask the manufacturers to keep producing it for the rest of the year. Every Koi is different. We never know when we will come across a great Koi. You need to visit the breeders often to make sure that you are always getting the best. Simply not being there is a tremendous disadvantage. I believe we are the only Koi dealer in the US who has these advantages.”

Taro Kodama is coming to Chalily to present free educational classes on May 20 and 21st. Taro will talk about how to pick Kohaku, Sanke and Showa. He is bringing fish with him from Japan to show how to pick the best fish. He also will give talks on the proper diet for Koi and Koi pond water quality.

The classes will fill up, so please make a reservation.

A Doitsu Kohaku from Kodama Koi Farm
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](http://www.slwgs.org) or from any of the officers and board members listed:

### 2017 SLWGS Officers and Board Members

- **President**: Dave Stahre (618) 623-9341 dstahre@hotmail.com
- **Vice President**: Steve Metzler (314) 845-3902 stevenmetzler@att.net
- **Treasurer**: Steve Harris (314) 968-8432 stevelitzsinger@gmail.com
- **Recording Secretary**: Sherry Nelms (618) 365-1057 sher200856@yahoo.com
- **Publicity Chairman**: Ginny Mueller (314) 831-3063 vcmueller16@hotmail.com
- **Special Events Chairman**: Pam Jokerst (314) 276-9461 pamjokerst@gmail.com
- **Society Shirt Sales Chairman**: Ruth Mosley (314) 878-7281 rgmosley@aol.com
- **Librarian**: Katie Williams (314) 210-2919 beezy696@hotmail.com
- **Membership/E-mail Chairman**: Gail Abernathy (314) 428-3037 abernat@swbell.net
- **Jewel Box Chairman**: Kay Miskell (618) 344-6216 km99@att.net
- **Water Word Editor**: Gail Abernathy (314) 428-3037 abernat@swbell.net
- **Website Chairman**: Mary Nies (636) 458-2149 marycynies@gmail.com
- **AKCA/ Koi USA Representative**: Rick Jokerst (314) 368-2652 rickjokerst@gmail.com
- **Pond-O-Rama Chairman**: Robert Henson (314) 495-4233 hatt8v92@aol.com
- **Parliamentarian**: Jeanne Lehr (314) 432-2842 jeannlehr@yahoo.com
- **Historian**: Joe Summers (636) 527-2001 chaillilypond@aol.com
- **Hospitality Chairman**: Cindy Williams (636) 394-9214 happyclub3@hotmail.com
- **Past President**: Joe Summers (636) 527-2001 chaillilypond@aol.com
- **Members-at-Large**: John Nies (636) 458-2149 jtnies@gmail.com
- **Dan Gravens**: (314) 821-1786 dlgravens@sbcglobal.net
- **Cathy Schallenberg**: (618) 920-9104 iwschall52@aol.com
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 314-276-9461. Please visit the calendar at koiusa.com for additional cities and listings.

May 27-28  22nd Greater Louisville Koi & Goldfish Society Show--Louisville, KY--louisvillekoclub.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  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

****Note***
The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park annual plant sale.  At the St. Louis City Greenhouse 5600 Clayton Ave. Saturday, May 13th 8a.m.—2 p.m.  Check out there website ( TheFloraConservancy.org ). This is where all the flowers come from that are planted around the Jewel Box.

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.
Pond-O-Rama Tickets at May & June Meetings

Our 17th Annual Pond-O-Rama is on Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. This year there are 39 fantastic private water gardens on tour. 14 of those are new for the very first time!

The Pond-O-Rama Host Meeting will be held June 20th from 6:00-6:45 p.m.; just prior to the general meeting.
We encourage all our hosts to attend.

Pond-O-Rama is an annual event that not only gives our members an opportunity to share their passion and enjoyment of water gardening, but it also is an opportunity to share this hobby with the St. Louis metro community. Garden clubs and many individuals look forward to viewing the ponds, fish, and water features that are part of our members' special places each year. It's the creative designs, unique features and welcoming spirit that makes each host location a joy to visit. We are grateful to all our 2017 hosts!

Each year our society is fortunate to have 30 advertisers supporting us, not only for Pond-O-Rama, but throughout the year in their Water Word ads and on our website. SLWGS partners with 29 retail and garden centers throughout the St. Louis Metro area and in Illinois who kindly sell our tickets beginning early in May and through June. We encourage all our members to support our advertisers and ticket sellers. The Pond-O-Rama tickets will be available at the May 16th general meeting and the June 20th Host Meeting and General Meeting.

Pond-O-Rama signs? If you have one, please return it at the May meeting. We would appreciate it. Any Pond-O-Rama questions, give us a call:

Bob Henson, 314-495-4233
e-mail: hatt8v92@aol.com
Ginny Mueller, 314-808-7000
e-mail: vcmueller16@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a great tour!
My Special Place

Welcome! You have arrived at my special place.
Let worries be gone as a smile lights your face.
As sights and sounds of nature greet you this day,
please relax for awhile and enjoy your stay.

Look! Can you see the dragonflies' wings of lace?
Goldfish and Koi swimming with elegant grace.
Colorful lilies, above pads, spread all astray,
offer beauty and shade from the sun's hottest rays.

Listen! Nature's talking in wonderful array
of sweet notes and melodies here on display.
Small critter noises, while birds have their say,
makes this whole experience so happy and gay.

Feel, the breeze, the sun, the falling water spray.
Joy in the garden grown in water and clay.
Your mind, your body, your thoughts will embrace,
the tranquility of this small special space.

Remember when you leave to go on your way,
the magical beauty you found here today.
How enchanted you were as you slowed your pace;
And come back soon to visit - my special place.

by: Cindy Williams
Member of the St Louis Water Gardening Society 2017
Inside this edition:

Water Quality for a Koi Show.....Page 1

Also Inside:

7th Annual Tosai Auction June 4th.........Page 2
Presidential Ponderings .......................Page 3
SLWGS Calendar of Events..................Page 4
Educational Class on Koi.....................Page 5
2017 SLWGS Officers and Board
Members............................... Page 6
National Koi Show & Pond Tour Calendar..Page 7
Note From Editor.......................... Page 7
Library and Learning Center.................Page 7
P-O-R Tickets at May & June Meetings.... Page 8
My Special Place .......................... Page9
Photo of the Month..........................Page 10

Photo of the Month

Can you tell what this picture is?
The underside of a Hosta leaf with a little art added.

Photo by: Mark Collins