Bring the Natives Home

Betty is a native Missourian and an active member of "Wild Ones Natural Landscapers." She has helped create native landscapes in local parks, other public spaces and private gardens. A Master Gardener since 1999, she is a winner of the St Louis Post Dispatch "Best Native Garden" contest. Betty volunteers with the Master Gardeners Speakers' Bureau, the Museum of Transportation and the Bring Conservation Home program. Her home landscape is certified “Platinum” in the BCH program.

She has served on the Master Gardeners Advisory Committee.

Betty's programs for the Speakers Bureau are Bring the Natives Home, Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs, and Designing with Nature in Mind.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Bring the Natives Home
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When: Tuesday, July 17, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Betty Struckoff, Master Gardener

July Field Trip for Water Lily Presentation at MOBOT

Tuesday, July 17, at 5pm is the date for the field trip at Mobot with Derek Lyle, Senior Nursey Manager, for a behind-the-scenes look at the Garden’s historically renowned collection of water lilies. Learn about the history of the collection, recent improvements to the Victoria Pool, and plant production techniques to create the Garden’s outdoor water lily displays. Please meet in the lobby of the Ridgway Center at the ticket counter by 5pm. We will tour the greenhouses and visit the center axis lily pools. Outdoor walking and standing for periods of time will be involved. Wear comfortable shoes. Cold bottled water will be available. There is a limit of 25, RSVP required to Pam by July 15, space permitting. Sandwiches, chips and a side dish will be available at the general meeting during snack break, which begins at 7pm. This is a free event.
THANKS! So much to all our wonderful Pond-O-Rama hosts who had their yards looking so lovely and for everyone who drove themselves all over St. Louis to visit so many of the sites! Quite a few people went to almost all. Everyone I talked to really enjoyed the tour, and the weekend weather was perfect—up to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, anyway.

I’ve only received a few Host surveys so far. The numbers reported were 323, ~ 200, 241, 150, 65 and 108. There were many nice comments on the new feather flags. There have been several good suggestions too. Most are happy with the hours from 9-5, though one suggested ending at 4. We need more hosts in IL. We only need to have maybe two conscientious hosts each day find out where visitors heard about Pond-O-Rama rather than asking all hosts to keep track. The biggest problem reported was “my feet”. Just about everyone felt the visitors were the most fun— from talking with those who want to have a pond and sharing information and ideas, to helping to solve problems. And, of course, seeing how much visitors enjoyed seeing their ponds and yards!

Who came? The majority were already members, but almost as many came because they’d been on previous tours. A large number learned about POR in Garden Centers. Some had read about it in a magazine article or friends had told them. A few heard about it from a radio broadcast or newspaper article. (Thanks for the terrific detail, Jill Eichwald!)

There were so many people behind the scenes. All were a huge help. Ginny Mueller took care of publicity, turned over what’s been done previous years, and was there for me in many ways; Sherry Nelms handled the ticket advertisers; Dave Schiele, Ginny Mueller, Dee O’Neill, Dave Stahre and Cathy Schallenberg were ticket runners; Mary Nies and Diane Brader helped me with the ticket booklet; Rita Fritz and ticket runners helped hand out host items as well as ticket booklets; Tonya Summers organized the Host party food and the club voted to get the feather flags. Ticket sellers too played a crucial role, with Chalily, Ponds Plus and PondMarket topping the list.

You have no idea how grateful I am to every single person for all they did to make the Pond-O-Rama tour go well. Thank you so much to each one of you!

Pond-O-Rama Chair

Joan Ziskind
Greetings, Folks!

Well Summer is definitely here! We’ve had heat indexes over 100 F and, even though I grew up in Florida, I can definitely say it’s HOT!

Well folks, we’ve been overhauling the by-laws. Most of the changes are cosmetic but others are significant. We’ll be discussing, and hopefully voting on, some of them at the July meeting. Other provisions will require more discussion and we’ll deal with in September (instead of at the banquet).

Speaking of the banquet: Get your reservations in now. Dr. Bob Passovoy is going to be our speaker and we agreed that he will do a somewhat humorous presentation for our entertainment. It should be fun. At the banquet we will be announcing the winners of our two service awards: The Alford and Ganim awards. Be thinking of folks you think deserve them. We’ll be taking nominations at the July meeting.

This month’s meeting will feature Betty Struckoff of Master Gardeners speaking on “Bring the Natives Home” about encouraging the growth of native species in your yard and garden.

In September we will be co-sponsoring the very first koi show ever to be held in St. Louis, Sept 14-16. The NMZNA club, who normally holds their annual show in Carmel, Indiana, has agreed to hold it in St Louis this year. The Carmel venue is very limited, both in space of fish display tanks and vendors. Our venue, Timberwinds Nursery, will allow for a significant expansion of the show in both participants and merchants. Our club will have a separate judging for some specially purchased fish available only to SLWGS members. The top three fish from that judging will compete in the main show also. In addition, there is some limited opportunity for SLWGS members to enter their own fish in the show. Space is at a premium, so if you want to participate, you need to get your reservations in very soon. There will be a banquet following the show at which the show winners will be announced. On the last day, the show judges will conduct a walking tour of the winners. They will explain the factors that determined their decisions. If you’ve never been to a koi show, you definitely need to see this one. There will be AMAZING fish there!

Well, the back yard is active! Reba (the ribbon snake) appears to have fled, probably due to the hunting activities of the new hound and to the delight of Sherry. We have a new resident: “Billy the Bullfrog!” While we’ve had bullfrogs in the past, most have been females. You can tell because only the males croak, the females (unlike humans) are usually silent. Billy has taken up residence in the pond area. We’ve noticed him in the main pond (on a lily pad), in the “Frog Pond” (an auxiliary pre-formed plastic job we use to start aquatic plants in), in the Biofalls tank (among the water hyacinths), and this morning we heard him in a bush next to the main pond. We’ve had an abundance of flies this year (vicious, little biting b**tards), so he’s very welcome. In addition, we’ve got two hummingbirds this year, the hawks are back, and dragon flies are everywhere. If it wasn’t so hot, I’d say it was turning out to be a nice summer.

Dave Stahre
Membership meetings in 2018 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 17**—Bring the Natives Home, by Betty Struckhoff

**August 21**—Yells for Help from the Internet, Dr. Bob Passovory at the Jewel Box, Annual Banquet 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

**September 14-16**—St. Louis Koi Show with NMZNA

**September 18**—Winter Damage, by Betsy Alexander, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

**September 29th**—14th Annual Tiki Tour 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

**October 16**—Autumn Spectacular by Carol Graven

**November 13**—Annual Potluck & Elections, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

Pot luck dinner and election of officers. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of President and Secretary to serve two-year terms beginning in January 2019.

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.
More Winners at Chicago Koi Show

SLWGS members Don and Kathy Zundel, along with Pam and I, attended the MPKS Chicago Koi Show in June. We were fortunate enough to bring home the Grand Champion "B" Award with a size 6 Tancho Showa, bred by Isa Koi Farm in Niigata, Japan and the Sakura Award, given to a size 6 Ochiba Segure, bred by Koda Koi Farm, also of Niigata. The Sakura Award is one of three specialty awards originating in Japan that consist of several different varieties of koi in each category and is highly coveted.

Seven of the Koi Show Jumbo Tosai were also shown. Several of them won awards, again validating the quality of the fish you will be selecting from during the lottery. The Doitsu Showa, which won Best Doitsu at the Louisville Koi Show, also won Best Doitsu in Chicago. A two-time winner! At the writing of this article, there are only a couple lottery spots available.

Please contact me asap if you are interested at 314-368-2652 or rickjokerst@gmail.com.
The St. Louis Water Garden Society is a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA). Visit the association’s website at www.akca.org.

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.
Koi Show season has begun! Plan a trip with one of these events in mind. Information provided by Pam Jokerst, Special Events Coordinator. Contact her at pamjokerst@gmail.com or cell/314-276-9461.

UPCOMING KOI SHOWS FOR 2018

July 28-29  38th Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club Show--nwkg.org--Portland, OR
August 3-5  11th Upper Midwest Koi Club Show--uppermidwestkoiclub.org--Minneapolis, MN
August 24-26 7th Michigan Koi & Pond Club Show--mkpc-se.com--Detroit, MI
September 7-9 25th ZNA Potomac Koi Show--znapotomac.org--Washington, D.C.
September 14-16 17th NMZNA Koi Show at SLWGS--nmzna.net--St. Louis, MO
September 21-23 7th Tri-State ZNA Koi Show--tristatezna.com--New York, N.Y.
September 29-30 24th Atlanta Koi Club Koi & Goldfish Show—atlantakoiclub.org--Lawrenceville, GA

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.
Save the Date for Annual Tiki Tour!

Please join members of SLWGS on a magical tour of water at night on Saturday, September 29, 6:30pm. Directions will be included in mailed copies to members and as an attachment to emailed member newsletters in the September issue. Hard copies will be available at the September general meeting.

HISTORICAL POR SIGNS AVAILABLE

Is anyone else interested in having one of the Pond-O-Rama signs we used for the first 18 years? We still have a few nice ones. If you’d like one, please contact me. Thanks!

Joan Ziskind
C 636-448-5411 (text is fine)
H 636-394-6342

ANNUAL SLWGS BANQUET and MEMBER AWARDS
AUGUST 21 AT JEWEL BOX

At the July meeting, Pam will be collecting banquet reservations. Please bring cash or check payable to SLWGS for $25 per person. After this date, checks should be mailed to Pam Jokerst at 305 Wyndmoor Terrace Court, St. Louis, MO 63141. Please send an email to hold your reservation until check is received. Final deadline is August 10. Come see day and night blooming lilies in the pools, enjoy a meal with friends, old and new, and learn from our entertaining speaker. Attendance prize drawings. Contact Pam, SLWGS Special Events Chair, for more information at 314-276-9461 or pamjokerst@gmail.com

Nominations for the awards banquet coming up in August are being accepted.

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.

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Get Ready for the Koi Show in St. Louis!

The countdown begins! Only 2 months until the first Koi Show in St. Louis on September 14-16 at Timberwinds Nursery in Ellisville. Flyers are available at the July and August meetings for you to place at local businesses you visit. Regional and national advertising is going strong. Several more vendors have come on board after talking with me at the Chicago Koi Show. Hobbyists are reserving their show vats from states across the Midwest. Please email Pam for information about the Koi Show Awards Banquet on Saturday, September 15 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Chesterfield. Reservations are required. Payment can be made at the July meeting. If you want to stay at the host hotel, please make your reservation now, as rooms are limited. The link is available at www.nmzna.net to get the reduced rate.

The SLWGS Show Koi are looking great! The members that are participating in this event are excited in anticipation of the lottery drawing. If that is you, an email with the date, time and pertinent information will be sent soon. Remember, these koi will be judged separately, as a group, at the Koi Show. The top three winners will then be judged in the larger Koi Show. Special recognition for all will be given at the banquet. Please join your fellow members for this fun evening!

If you are planning on showing your own koi, please contact Rick to make a show vat reservation.

Rick Jokerst
AKCA/KoiUSA Representative
cell/314-368-2652 rickjokerst@gmail.com

Two questions have been received from SLWGS members. Here is good advice to follow.

1. There has been some recent fish loss with several of our members, most likely due to the extreme heat, since the fish appeared healthy and not damaged. Warm water does not hold as much oxygen as cooler water. It is very important to keep oxygen levels high with waterfalls, bubblers and air stones. Water changes are just as important, not just topping off the pond. Remember to use a dechlorinating product that will remove chlorine and chloramines, if you are on city water. Also, a water filter is a good idea to remove more pollutants and as a preventative measure for a garden hose left on too long. Best to set a timer or alarm to remind you.

2. Another problem to avoid is low Ph levels. We see this when experiencing heavy rainfall, as rain tends to be acidic. Water changes will offset this, as well as the use of baking soda, as it raises your Ph level. Koi do best in Ph ranges of 7.5 and higher. It is also important to not have big Ph swings, so measuring your Ph periodically is wise. Also, your beneficial bacteria thrive in higher Ph conditions.

Water Word, July 2018
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