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. 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 veggie garden, put water in the buckets, put 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’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 Turbomod, an Iludium Q-235 Pond Modula 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: Yells for Help from the Internet
Where: Jewel Box, Forest Park
       SLWGS Annual Banquet
When: Tuesday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m.
       Dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Dr. Bob Passovoy
     From MPKS
Pay to Play Koi Show Opportunity

Years ago when I was employed by several pharmaceutical companies, the customer focus for these companies was healthcare professionals who made decisions about patient care. This included physicians, operating room supervisors, infection control practitioners, and the like. One important customer contact area was the annual conventions of the various professional medical societies. Among the chosen cities for these conventions was Las Vegas.

Many of us have been guests of this city and experienced the excitement and the amazing noise level of hundreds of slot machines and casinos devoid of wall clocks. We might have returned home with additional financial wealth. Or maybe not. There always seemed to be time to take the opportunity to gamble on increasing your financial wealth. But to win you had to pay.

The Saint Louis Water Garden Society is now offering you an opportunity to win. On September 14th, 15th, and 16th our SLWGS will sponsor a regional Koi Society Show at Timberwinds Nursery in Ellisville. There will be vendors offering a variety of koi associated products, as well as display tanks available for entering your koi for Best of Show awards. But there is more.

Rick and Pam Jokerst have personally selected a limited number of show quality, jumbo tosai (koi in their first year of life) that are available to members for purchase. Here is the Pay to Play connection. The pay is $250, payable to the SLWGS. This includes a jumbo tosai, its care and feeding by Rick and Pam until the Koi Society Show in September, placement in the show, and a complimentary ticket to the show's Saturday night awards banquet. So the big question is, is this a good deal?

At a recent Koi Show in Louisville Rick and Pam entered one of these jumbo tosai in one of the categories for judging. The result? It won Best in Show for that category. So I asked Rick if this koi is now a $1000 fish instead of a $250 fish? He answered, "This was always a $1000 koi. The koi we have purchased are of amazing quality and were significantly discounted for our members." This is an opportunity to acquire a beautiful, show quality, jumbo tosai at an unbelievably low price.

So my next question to Rick was, "Can I buy two?" He didn't answer.

By Dan Gravens

DID YOU KNOW .........................

We recently passed a by-law stating we are a 501(c)4 Nonprofit Organization. Nonprofits have a legal and ethical obligation to their members and the public to conduct their activities with accountability and transparency. Nonprofits should regularly convey information to the public and its members about their mission, activities, and finances. By being accountable and transparent in all activities, it builds and establishes member and public trust and understanding in the organization. As a nonprofit we must comply with all legally required reporting procedures with state and federal filings. SLWGS has an obligation to responsibly use its resources toward its mission and to benefit the community.

FINAL POND-O-RAMA FIGURES

You might be interested in knowing that:
Income from Pond-O-Rama totaled $11,613.
(Advertising, $6,410 w/o Spectrum; tickets, $5,202.82)
Our ticket sellers sold 302 tickets, members picked up 266 tickets and 62 were given to ticket sellers as a thank you. Additional tickets went to advertisers, and complimentary tickets were handed out for publicity, but I don’t have these numbers.
Our total expenses were $6,880.00, so our profit was $4,733 which just covers the cost of the feather flags, $4,617!

Joan Ziskind
Pond-O-Rama Coordinator
Greetings, Folks!

Well summer is rapidly coming to a close. It’s been a strange year. We got super-hot in May, then got cool at the end of July! As I’m writing, this it seems like the trend is back in the other direction. Oh well! Ok folks, it’s banquet time! The time we all get together, relax, and give out our service awards. This year we had many deserving nominees: Beverlee Maschek, Jeanne Lehr, Tonya Summers, Carol Greminger, Dan Gravens, Betsy Meier. It’s always hard to decide, but we’ll announce the winners at the banquet.

Speaking of the banquet, we’re bringing back Dr. Bob Passavoy. We’d hoped to have him back to talk about filters at the beginning of the year, but he had back trouble. We’re bringing him back to entertain us with calls for help he’s gotten from the internet. Based upon some stories I’ve heard him tell, it should be good.

Budget time is here! We haven’t determined if we will have a surplus this year, or not, but in case we do, we’re taking suggestions for donation candidates. If you have suggestions, please share them with a board member. One suggestion we’re considering is possible repairs to the lily ponds at the Jewel Box. Some of them are looking pretty rough.

In September, we’ll have Betsy Alexander discussing how to prevent Winter Damage to your garden. We’ll also be wrapping up proposed changes to the bylaws.

The REALLY big event in September will be our co-sponsoring the NMZNA Koi Show! This is a first for St Louis and has generated nation-wide excitement! Be sure to attend, and even possibly lend a hand. November is rapidly approaching. We will be holding elections for President and Secretary. We’re doing things a little differently this year. We have a three-person election committee consisting of Pat Tosie, Kenny Wamhoff, and Tom Meier. If you’re interested or want to nominate someone, see them. We’ll be establishing a final list of nominees prior to meeting in November.

Well, our plants have gone crazy this year. Sherry decided to give our lilies a head start in a hundred-gallon tub. It kept hungry fish away from tender new vegetation, and it provided a warmer environment to encourage growth. That combined with heavy fertilizing has resulted in an explosion of blooms. This has been our best year for water plants EVER! Local wildlife activity has picked up. We are being invaded by frogs! In addition to “Billy” (our bullfrog) we’ve seen a whole crowd of leopard frogs. Unfortunately, they seem to like our in-ground pool better than the pond and, unless we find them in time, the chlorine usually proves deadly!

Our population of humming birds started out with one at the beginning of the season. A few weeks ago, we noticed a second and this week a third has joined the group!

Dave Stahre

Text the Rep..

Here is a link to an informative article by Bryan Bateman, Certified Koi Health Advisor, on setting up an maintaining a quarantine tank and the reasons you should have one always ready for your fish.


Rick Jokerst
AKCA/ KoiUSA Rep
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314-368-2652
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.

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

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

**November**
- 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.
CONGRATULATIONS TO GINNY!

Congratulations to Virginia (Ginny) Mueller who won second place in the St Louis Post Dispatch Great Garden Contest, "amateur with professional help". Ginny's pond was originally built by LandWorks, then redesigned and maintained by Bauer Falls. JB Design also assists in helping Ginny maintain her acre of tranquility. Many of our members enjoyed Ginny's garden this year on the Pond-O-Rama tour.

The Judge's comments: The elevation of this layout provides a nice combination of textures, color and water. (Article is in the St Louis Sunday, July 29, 2018, paper Lifestyle section or on stltoday.com/lifestyles)

Her yard is filled with lovely seating areas, beautiful oak leaf hydrangeas, hostas, daylilies, dogwood trees, and a variety of annuals and perennials. Ginny has lived in her home for 40 years. "The garden is always changing and is always a work in progress." She loves vibrant colors in her home and in her garden. Along with her two Bichons, Harley and Bentley, they all enjoy a beautiful piece of paradise. Ginny always enjoys visits from friends....so members are always welcome to stop by and visit!

Congrats to Lori Stringer who was also one of the finalists in the Great Garden Contest! Lori's beautiful pond and garden have been on many Pond-O-Rama tours and a great place to enjoy.


We are so very fortunate to have so many members with fabulous water gardens that are willing share their love of gardening with our members and the public! Congratulations to Ginny, Lori, and Carol and Ron! Well deserved accolades!
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:

**2018 SLWGS Officers and Board Members**

- **President**
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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

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

MEMBERS’ AWARDS BANQUET AT THE JEWEL BOX

The SLWGS will present service awards to several members at the banquet on Tuesday, August 21. There will be a presentation by Dr. Bob Passovoy on internet inquiries he has received to assist with people’s pond and fish questions. Please contact Pam at pamjokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461 to check seating availability. Cost is $25 each. Start time is 6pm. The Pasta House Company is catering the event. A reservation is required to attend.
TIKI TOUR IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The annual Tiki Tour has several beautiful water features that will be showcased on this evening tour. The directions will be in the mailed issue of the September Water Word newsletter or will come as an attachment to those members receiving it by email. Since this is a members' event, the directions will not be posted on the website. Hard copies will be available at the September 18 general meeting. Please contact Pam with any questions at pamjokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461.

WATER LILY TOUR EDUCATED ALL

There were forty members and guests that attended a wonderful lecture and tour on the history of the Missouri Botanical Garden's water lily collection and the production greenhouses by Senior Nursery Manager, Derek Lyle. The visit ended with a walk past the Central Axis pools to see the beautiful lilies, including the spectacular Victoria's, and the pools along the Linnean House conservatory that contain a variety of water plants. Many questions were asked by members on the lilies, plants and their care. Afterwards, all members enjoyed a light sandwich supper before the start of the general meeting and program. Derek said he is looking forward to additional partnerships with SLWGS in the future. A big thank you to him for hosting the club!

Pam Jokerst
Special Events
The club is in eager anticipation of the very first Koi Show in St. Louis on September 14-16 at Timberwinds Nursery in Ellisville, MO. The show is free to the public and is open on Friday 3-5pm, Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-2pm. All details are being finalized and those volunteering to help will be choosing their assignments. The St. Louis Water Garden Society is fortunate to have this opportunity to host the 17th Annual Northern Midwest ZNA Koi Show along with corporate sponsor, Anjon Manufacturing, and media sponsor, St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles magazine. The show koi have been selected by the lottery participants and will be judged at the ZNA show, where the top three winners will be entered into the main competition. There will be seminars on Saturday and Sunday, vendor booths selling koi, goldfish, and pond and garden related items, along with raffles and attendance prizes. Koi sold by select dealers on Friday from 3-5pm will have the option of being entered into the main show for judging. There are still tickets available for the Saturday night awards banquet. Cost is only $25 for SLWGS members, due to the generous club subsidy. It will be held at the Double Tree Hilton in Chesterfield at 6:30pm. There will be an auction of great items and the drawing for the Breckenridge, Colorado condo stay. Please contact Pam at pamjokerst@gmail.com or 314-276-9461 to make your reservation. Deadline for payment is September 01. Please tell your friends, neighbors, coworkers and relatives to meet you at the koi show!

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

This is the store front of Timberwinds Nursery. The site of the ZNA Koi Show that SLWGS is hosting next month. Hope all will be able to stop by one of the days to see what it is all about.
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Photo of the Month

Here is a newer Tropical Lily that we saw on our behind the scenes tour we took last month at the Missouri Botanical garden last month.