Companion Planting....

Marsha Smith has a B.S. in Chemistry from California State University at Long Beach and worked in analytical chemistry for several years. In 1990, she earned a B.S. in Computer Science with minors in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Missouri at St. Louis and worked for nearly 20 years as a software developer and software architect.

Marsha has been a Master Gardener since 2015 and has been involved in ornamental gardening and vegetable gardening for more than 30 years. Marsha maintains a large vegetable garden in Franklin County and has a sizeable seed-starting operation each spring. She has been a Kemper Center Plant Doctor volunteer since 2015 and started keeping honey bees in 2016. Marsha is the current Chairperson of the St Louis Master Gardeners Advisory Committee and President of the Union Garden Club.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Companion Planting
Where: The CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.
When: Tuesday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Marsha Hobbs Smith
Master Gardener

CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH "KOI 101"

The September issue of the Gateway Gardener contains an article by MPKS member and retired AKJA judge, Bryan Bateman of Clarendon Hills, Illinois. There is also information highlighting several varieties of koi along with a representative photo of each type and details about the Koi Show. Our own members, Ken and Maria Bowers' pond is featured on the front cover. Be sure to pick up a copy at your local pond or garden store. There will be issues available at Timberwinds Nursery during the show at the SLWGS Welcome Table. Stop by and say hi or sign up with Pam Jokerst to help at the booth. The Gateway Gardener is a free local publication with gardening suggestions and tips key to the St. Louis Metro and surrounding areas.
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The biggest show of the year is here! Maybe the PGA was a little larger, but that remains to be seen!

~~~Come out and see what all the excitement is about this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 14-16 at Timberwinds Nursery in Ellisville.
All the show tanks have been reserved---a total of 31 and all the vendor slots are filled---29 spaces.
~~~Come and support your fellow club members as 35 of them exhibit over 50 of their koi.
~~~Come to the banquet Saturday night and celebrate with those members who will win awards.

Be part of the 130+ people attending. Your cost for the banquet as a SLWGS member is only $25, as part has been subsidized from the general fund.
~~~Come to a seminar on Saturday or Sunday to gain more knowledge and learn from the experienced speakers.

Thanks to the many volunteers from both SLWGS and NMZNA, this first-time event for St. Louis will be a great success. An email was received from the President of the NMZNA that stated "Wow and Wow! This will be the largest show in the 17 years the event has been held." So don't miss out on all the fun!

Goldfish for the Asking

Goldfish, goldfish oh where did they all go? Well apparently all over to Mrs. Josie LaMotte’s place. She has been a member of the club for many years, and when she needed gold fish, members offered her some. She has a very small pond, but her fish are very happy, there so much that she has a abundance of fish now. She needs to thin out her small pond and would like to offer goldfish to whomever would like some. There are so many, she is having a hard time keeping up with them.

She would appreciate any assistance she could get from the members who would like to go over and get some from her. She can be contacted at 314-741-2335. If she is not there to answer, please leave a message and she will call you right back.
Greetings, Folks!

Well folks, summer is coming to a close! The days are getting shorter (though often not a lot cooler). Soon it will be time to winterize our ponds again, but the season is not over yet!

Congratulations to Beverlee Maschek and Jeanne Lehr who are winners of the Bonnie Alford and Ganim service awards respectively. Beverlee was recognized for her contributions as Pond-0-Rama host, Jewel Box volunteer, and custodian of the sound system; Jeanne for her endless, and thankless, job of maintaining and modifying the clubs bylaws! Congratulations to both of you

The big event this month (by the time you read this) was the “Koi Show.” In the past, this show was held in Carmel, Indiana. The typical show at that time had 16 tanks and 4 or 5 vendors. At the time I was writing this we had 27 vendors set up and, I believe, 35 tanks entered. We have equipment coming from Chicago, Louisville, and Indianapolis and there is a LOT of excitement! The show was to include a special entry by some of our members: Specially purchased “Jumbo Tosa!” These fish (some of whom were shown in Chicago) received rave reviews from all who saw them.

Due to an unforeseen snag in paying for the fish; this special program was pulled from SLWGS sponsorship and put under NMZNA’s area of responsibility. Unfortunately, this also resulted in a significant loss of revenue to the club!

We are in the process of putting our budget together, status of future koi auctions is a question mark as protection of sensitive supplier identities and pricing information has become an area of contention. If the conflict cannot be resolved, there will be no more auctions!

Also, this month we were scheduled to hear a presentation by Betsy Alexander on how to avoid damage to your garden from the winter weather. Unfortunately, Betsy had to cancel. The replacement program will be Marsha Smith talking about “Companion Planting.”

In October we are bringing Carol Gravens back to give her “Autumn Spectacular.” I’m sure it will be great!

If you are interested in running for President or Secretary of the club, contact Pat Tosie, Kenny Wamhoff, or Tom Meier as they are the election committee representatives. We’ll need nominees well in advance of the November meeting as nominations will not be taken on election night.

Things have been quieting down here at the Stahre/Nelms homestead. We anticipate this will essentially be the last year for our pond here. Sherry and I are moving to much more spacious quarters in Millstadt. The new house has a pool that is a tempting candidate for conversion to a koi pond, but also 3 acres that offer other possibilities! Decisions, decisions! We’ll be closing on the house in the April/May time frame, so our current pond will be revived in the spring, but we anticipate a transition effort will get underway soon after.

In the meantime, our hummingbird population has exploded! We started the Spring with one little guy. Later, we had two, then three, now six! The new house supposedly has a virtual flock of the critters. Looking forward to watching them. The place also has a lot of raccoons (a problem I’ve not had to deal with here). This will be interesting!

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.

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

September 18 — Companion Planting, by Marsha Hobbs Smith, 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.

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Mink and Other Visitors

Most of us have a history about mink. One of my fellow workers long ago offered me the opportunity of purchasing a new, full length mink coat, complete with a New York label, for $300 cash. I passed. First, I think furs look better on animals. In addition, owning a fur coat of unknown financial history had limited appeal to me and perhaps was of more interest to local law enforcement. Now, I understand that many individuals love mink coats. My daughter’s mother-in-law had seven fur coats, and she lived in Florida.

However, let’s consider mink as a pond guest. They are smart, great swimmers, have hungry families and are interested in our personal koi collections. They also seem to possess a great memory for returning to select ponds for additional nutrition.

So, what do we do? We can use fishing line stretched at the edges of the pond to discourage herons and other winged visitors. We can place red flashing solar night lights (Nite Guard) and motion detected water sprays (Scare Crow) for other intruding mammals. But mink? Vertical pond walls are not a barrier, as they swim well and can hold their breath. So the magical solution is the "cage", a sturdy PVC and coated wire-wrapped enclosure to hold the koi from fall until spring. There is the cost of construction plus the task of catching the fish and placing them safely in the cage for winter. Catching larger koi and safely placing them in the "cage" is not easy, particularly if you prefer wearing dry clothes, but we become attached to our koi. We name them, feed them, and provide a safe pond with clear clean water. In short, they are pets and we try to keep them safe.

So, let me know if you have other options for "overwintering" your koi collection. Mother mink generally sends her new family of five out into the world in late August or early September. What a coincidence, that time is here!

By Dan Gravens

Out on a Limb and need some help?

Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Nominations for candidates for President and Secretary may be made now through the October members meeting. Please contact a member of the election committee with your nomination. Someone please step up and show you strengths.

By Dan Gravens

Bauer Falls LLC.

636.357.3495

Recreating the wonders of nature
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

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

KOI SHOW CALENDAR

There are five new books in the water garden society library. The titles are:

A Popular Guide to Garden Ponds
Beginners Guide to Water Gardening
Mini Encyclopedia of Garden Ponds
Water Gardens
The Rock and Water Garden Expert

There is a wonderful selection of books in the library that cover most water gardening, pond, and fish subjects. I hope members will take advantage of this great resource we have.

Betsy Meier
SLWGS Librarian
Did you see the September issue of the St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles magazine? SLWGS business member, Bauer Falls, LLC, is featured in an article where the homeowners in Millstadt, IL received the honor of 2018 Garden of the Year. Josh, Caleb and David Bauer transformed a steep hillside into a breathtaking water feature, which has been seen on Pond-O-Rama tours. Several of our members have been the recipients of this prestigious award. Check out the full article by going to either of these two links.


Ugly Fish Contest

Once again we are holding our ugly fish contest within our membership to see who has the ugliest fish. Rules are very simple. It must be a fish that lives in your pond now: no dead fish, no prior fish, no aquarium fish, PLEASE no enhancements to your pictures and no downloading of pictures from the internet. YOU ARE ON YOUR HONOR! Print your picture of your fish give it to Sherry Nelms at the next general meeting. Sherry will number all pictures and display them at the October meeting. She will keep a secret list as to who brought which picture. In October we will vote on which picture deserves the prize. They will be the winners of the Ugly Fish Sculpture (Trophy) for a whole year to display in their home. Join the fun bring a picture to the September meeting.
IN THE NEWS!

The November/December issue of KoiUSA maga- zine will feature an article on the SLWGS 2018 Pond-0-Rama. If you were on tour this summer, you may find a photo of your pond included. If you do not currently subscribe, this would be the perfect time to make sure you receive a copy. With the many informative and educational articles it contains, Koi USA is a valuable resource. Go to koiusa.com and click the Subscribe button to apply online or scroll further down to obtain the printable mail-in form. Special rate for club members is $28 per year or $50 for two years.

MORE WINNERS FOR SLWGS!

The Minnesota Koi show was held the first weekend in August by the Upper Midwest Koi Club in Minneapolis. Trophies won were Best Bekko, Best Doitsu and Best Goromo/Goshiki sponsored by Yen "Michael" Chang, member of UMKC. The Doitsu Sanke also took the UMKC Friendship Award and the Goshiki had the honor of receiving the coveted Judges' Award presented by Head Judge, Pam Spindola, of California. Luanne Porter, of Florida, also judged the show. Three of the lottery show koi received First Place awards! The SLWGS Friendship Award was given to Joe Retterath, member of UMKC, for his beautiful Shiro Utsuri.

MICHIGAN KOI SHOW A WIN FOR SLWGS

The Michigan Koi and Pond Club held their 7th annual show in August. Among the winners were Dan and Carol Gravens taking Best Doitsu for the fourth time with their Showa! Rick and Pam Jokerst received Reserve Grand Champion B with an Asagi, Adult Champion with a Kohaku, and Best in Size 6 with a Sanke.
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Photo of the Month

Kohaku fish from The Michigan Koi Show