Autumn Spectacular ....

Carol Gravens became a St. Louis Master Gardener in 2001 after retiring from a professional career as a microbiologist. She is also a Master Naturalist. As an Advanced Master Gardener she volunteers in many capacities, but her first plant love is orchids, and she grows about 250 of them in her home in Glendale, MO. Carol can be found every Thursday volunteering in the orchid greenhouses at Missouri Botanical Garden, helping to care for the Garden’s extensive orchid collection. She also shares her love of orchids by speaking to various garden clubs and community groups. She completed a degree in Horticulture in her retirement and was voted Master Gardener of the Year for 2013.

Don’t Miss This!

What:    Autumn Spectacular

Where:  Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room

When:   Tuesday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Who:      Carol Graven
           Master Gardener

“A lie doesn’t become truth,
A Wrong doesn’t become right,
And evil doesn’t become good
Just because it’s accepted by the majority!”

JEWEL BOX BANQUET AND AWARDS NIGHT

The SLWGS Annual Banquet and Awards program at the Jewel Box on August 21 was attended by 75 members and guests. The weather was pleasant and allowed all to see the work our volunteers provide to the three lily pools with beautiful plantings and blooms throughout the season. Our speaker from the Midwest Pond and Koi Society in Chicago helped to enlighten and entertain us on various aspects and challenges of pond keeping. Following a delicious buffet meal, our two service awards were presented to Jeanne Lehr and Beverly Maschek. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to SLWGS. Closing the evening, lovely glass birdbath centerpieces were raffled to lucky attendees.

by Pam Jokerst,
Special Events Chair
FIRST ST. LOUIS KOI SHOW IS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!

All the fish vats have been stored away and all the exhibitors and vendors from across the Midwest have returned home to ready their ponds and businesses for the approaching winter weather. But the memories of this past Koi Show season will help get us through until next spring! And there were many memories to take home from the first St. Louis Koi Show with the Northern Midwest ZNA Koi Club hosted by St. Louis Water Garden Society on September 14-16.

The 34 show vats displayed some of the largest koi and the highest quality koi owned by hobbyists from 9 different states--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. The 18 vendors, using 29 booths, hailed from Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, and New Jersey. Site host, Timberwinds Nursery, had a large variety of plants and trees in stock, along with unique gift and garden items.

Show attendees were from as far away as California and Canada. The St. Louis public turned out strong along with many members from SLWGS, LLWGKS (Land of Lincoln Water Garden and Koi Society-Springfield, IL), MASI (Missouri Aquarium Society-St. Louis) and many koi, pond and garden clubs from the region. Anjon Mfg., the main show sponsor, had two vendor booths and provided several of the seminars held on Saturday and Sunday. The show's media sponsors, St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles and Gateway Gardener provided the public with free magazines. We hope some of you were able to listen to Mike Miller's KMOX Garden Hotline on Saturday morning to hear his commentary for the koi show, along with four other spots throughout the weekend.

The Saturday evening Koi Show Awards Banquet was attended by 145 guests, of which 90 were SLWGS members. They enjoyed great food, wonderful conversation, bidding on unique auction items and purchasing raffle tickets. Kurt & Deb Bokamper's Colorado Condo raffle was won by SLWGS members, Ken & Maria Bowers.

Many exhibitors received exquisite trophies for their prized koi. Among those winners were eight members from SLWGS that had entries from the Show Koi Lottery for a total of 36 fish. Congratulations to all, and thank you for participating in another unique social and fundraising event! Here is that listing:

Supreme Grand Champion--Tom & Barb Shively
Best Tategoi--Patrick Tosie, Jr.
Grand Champion A--Ken & Maria Bowers
Grand Champion B--Kirk & Karen Neuhausen
Reserve Champion A--Dave Stahre & Sherry Nelms
Reserve Champion B--Tom & Judy Evans
Jokerst Award A--Betty Tang & Bill Lott
Jokerst Award B--Dan & Carol Gravens

The 17th Annual NMZNA Grand Champions were for A, Michael Yen Chang, with his Kohaku and for B, Rick and Pam Jokerst, with their Shusui. This koi, now at 34 inches, was a 6-inch tosai purchased at the first SLWGS Koi Auction nine years ago! SLWGS members, Josh & Rae Hetley, won People's Choice, Best GinRin B and EIPS Friendship, Dan & Carol Gravens won Best Doitsu, and Dave Stahre & Sherry Nelms received MPKS Friendship. The Jokersts also won Best in Size 2 and Size 7, Best in Variety for Showa, Bekko, Goshiki, Tancho and Kawarimono and the GLKGS Friendship. The SLWGS Friendship was presented to Don & Wanda Richardson. The judges went home with gift bags of popular Missouri and St. Louis products. They loved our toasted ravioli, barbecue and Ted Drewes frozen custard! They couldn't say enough good things about our city, our members, our show site, our hospitality and the Koi shown!

As Show Co-chairs, Rick and Pam Jokerst, along with Dick Thomas, NMZNA President and Chester Bailey, Co-chair, want to thank Bill Doyle and John Hall from Chicago who came on Tuesday to assist with set-up and stayed late on Sunday for tear down along with Mike and Michelle Pfeffer from Louisville. They expertly trained the St. Louis teams on proper procedures. Jeanne Lehr and Steve Metzler, and Josh Hetley were invaluable assistants to Pam and Rick. To all the helpers and attendees from SLWGS and NMZNA for making this first St. Louis Koi Show such a memorable event for everyone, our deepest gratitude and thanks. It couldn't have been possible without YOU!

Photos on page 9 of the event.

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

Well Summer is over and soon things will be getting cooler. Soon it will be time to say goodbye to my little buddies until the Spring!

This is my last column. I’ve been president for eight of the last ten years. A lot has happened in those ten years: Divorce, the marriage of my two daughters, the birth of my two grandkids, retirement, a new pond, travel to Greece, Egypt, Italy, the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone, crewing for hot air balloonists in New Mexico, etc. I’ve enjoyed my time as president, it’s been rewarding and, at times, challenging.

It has become difficult to fulfill duties as president and plan vacations (I’m writing this from a hotel room in Florence), and it’s time to kick back and let others try their hand.

Well folks the Koi Show was a roaring success! NMWZNA (a real mouthful!) seems inclined to make St Louis the new home for the show and Timberwinds Nursery appears to be the site. This will be a nice addition to the local activities.

In October, we’ll finish voting on changes to the bylaws, and we’ll have Carol Gravens give her presentation “Autumn Spectacular.” I hear it is a good one.

November will see elections. We have at least one candidate for president, but as of this writing, there was no one for secretary. If you would like to run, or know someone you think would be good, contact the election committee (Tom Meier, Pat Tosie, or Kenny Wamhoff). Anyone nominated must agree to being nominated.

Well, as I said last month, this is essentially the last year for the current Stahre/Nelms pond. It will be activated again next Spring, but hopefully, a replacement will finish out the year. The current pond is over-crowded, and Sherry and I can only agree on a few candidates for removal. That being said, the swimming pool at the future residence appears to be facing its last year as a swimming pool! Don’t know how rapidly the conversion will take place, but I’m pretty sure that’s the path we’re going to take.

The property has almost three acres and there are places we could put a pond, but the size of the current pool and its proximity to the house makes it look like the best candidate. Another factor in favor of the conversion is the cost (and nuisance) of pool maintenance. Our current 33,000 gallon beast is a real chore to keep in working order. We spend all summer maintaining it, buying chemicals, paying for water and electricity, and use it about three times. What’s wrong with this picture?

Well, I’ve rambled long enough. I smell breakfast cooking downstairs here in the hotel. I think I’m going to sign off.

Happy Trails!

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.

October 16—Autumn Spectacular by Carol Graven

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

Potluck 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.

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.

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.

IN THE NEWS!

The November/December issue of KoiUSA magazine will feature an article on the SLWGS 2018 Pond-O-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.
The weather was changing. It was early fall, windy, almost cold. A friend and I decided to walk over to a neighbor's farm to see his collection of old farm trucks, many with solid tires and wood bodies. Instead of walking the mile along the road, we cut across the neighbor's fields. In the distance we saw a building ahead, standing all alone. It was a cottage with a stone sidewalk leading to the back door. We walked up to look inside through the window. It seemed vacant. We pushed open the unlocked door. The back room was the kitchen with table and chairs. The table was set for a meal with plates, coffee cups, forks, knives and spoons. Everyone had finished eating and had left the dishes on the table. The old percolator coffee pot was still on the stove. From the looks of the dishes, it had been a long time ago, months, maybe years. We closed the door and left.

My parents knew about the cottage. It was a small house originally used by the tenant farmer. More recently, the older farm family owners moved from the big house, as it was too much effort for them to maintain. Eventually one family member passed away and then others. After the last funeral, there was a meal in the cottage with the remaining family, and after that meal, the family closed the back door and walked away leaving the table and dishes on the table. The cottage was alone again.

Years ago many farms had tenant farmers living in cottages such as this one. These farm workers often stayed their entire lives and became an important part of the farm family. So what else was on the farm? Besides the crops, fruit orchards, pasture lands and farm animals, there was always a pond or two. Some were just farm ponds for cattle but others were spring fed, cool and clean. These were great for fishing and even swimming. Fish...the usual catfish and bluegill but often bass, large mouth bass. Koi...unlikely. But carp could be caught in the nearby rivers and often were added to the ponds. So what about koi in these ponds? The history of koi being raised in the United States probably dates back to the 1950s. One of the major developments that influenced this introduction of koi was the availability of plastic bags for transport. Now, of course, koi can be raised almost anywhere, given the right environment and facilities.

The weather in St Louis has begun to change. The water temperature in the ponds has fallen. Fall is here. It is time to cage the koi, cover the pond with netting, winterize some filter equipment, consider a pond heater, pour a cup of coffee for yourself and look for some old trucks.

By Dan Gravens

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**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. After this...
**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:

**2018 SLWGS Officers and Board Members**

- **President**: Dave Stahre  
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- **Hospitality Chairman**: Tonya Summers  
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- **Past President**: Joe Summers  
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**Members-at-Large**

- **John Nies**:  
  (636) 458-2149  jtnies@gmail.com
- **Dan Gravens**:  
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Out on a Limb and need some help?

Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

TIKI TOUR ENJOYED ANOTHER PERFECT EVENING!

The 14th Annual SLWGS Tiki Tour on September 29 was again blessed by beautiful weather and even the good fortune to have the five-member ponds that granted the club access to their fantastic backyard paradies. We traveled from Millstadt, Illinois to Manchester, Missouri and were blown away by the uniqueness of each homeowner's water features. The ponds and gardens blended seamlessly into the landscapes, emphasizing the phrase "like it's always been here". The outdoor lighting, candles, fire pits and tiki torches at each stop drew you into the space and carried you through the design. With the clear skies, the moonlight was an added bonus when seeing the reflection in the crystal-clear water. And these folks know how to entertain! Each site had many seating areas to enjoy while gazing at the koi and goldfish gracefully swimming under the stars.

Thank you to our host families and to the 51 members and guests that attended this fun, social event. Enjoy the pictures of the Tiki Tour on page 8.

by Pam Jokerst, Special Events Chair

Library Update

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
Tiki Tour Photo’s courtesy of Irv Schallenberg

1st Stop Les & Phyllis Voudrie, in Millstadt, IL

2nd Stop Bernice Bush in Columbia IL.

#3 Joe & Lisa Santiago, S. County

4th Stop Brian & Chris Mollenhoff, Ballwin, MO

5th Last stop Sue & John Wehrman, Manchester, MO

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Koi Show Photo’s courtesy of Jeanne Lehr, Pat Tosie, Bob Temper, and Bo Doyle

Final Touches

Welcome Table

Koi Show is READY!

Judging Decisions

Michael Chang
Kohaku Grand Champion A

SLWGS Winners

So many photo’s
So little space
Thanks to all who shared there photo’s.

Awards Table

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Early Fall at Beverly & Dan Maschek Pond. Notice the usage of the Pond-O-Rama host gifts of the stones around there pond.