History of the Missouri Botanical Garden....

Jack Lane retired in 1999 after 35 years with Dun & Bradstreet. He started at Missouri Botanical Garden in 2000 and completed Master Garden training in 2001. Volunteer areas include Kemper Center Gardens, Reception Desk, Speakers Bureau, St. Louis County Extension Board, St. Louis County Parks, and St. Louis University Alumni Board. He will share some history of how the Missouri Botanical Garden began.

Don’t Miss This!

What: History of the Missouri Botanical Garden
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When: Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Jack Lane, Master Gardener

The Best Garden Tour of the Year is Ready for a Repeat!

Our 19th Pond-O-Rama tour will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23, 2019!

For the past 18 years, the members of the St. Louis Water Garden Society have shared some amazing water features and gardens during this annual two-day event. It attracts more media attention than ever, helping to introduce water gardening to the public and enlarging the Society through a free trial membership offer to ticket holders.

Our hosts and Pond-O-Rama committee members in addition to the advertisers, retail ticket sellers and ticket buyers are the wonderful people who make this event successful each year.

Last year, just about every host felt that the visitors were the most fun whether talking with those who want a pond and sharing information and ideas, or helping to solve problems; and, of course, seeing how much visitors enjoyed seeing the homeowners’ special spots. Can you help? Can you be a host this year? Share your beautiful space. Every water feature is different and interesting. Fill in our online Pond-O-Rama 2019 Host Form from the link at www.SLWGS.org or page 8 of the newsletter to be part of this year’s exciting tour!

Or do you want to select host gifts? Run tickets to the retailers? Organize the host party? Sign up advertisers? Write up ponds for newspapers and magazines? Email Joan Ziskind at Joan.Ziskind@yahoo.com to be on the POR committee.
2019 and the New Year will bring changes and a few new faces on the Board of Directors...

The four elected officers are:

- Robert Henson — President (2019-2021)
- Joe Summers — Vice President (2017-2019)
- Betsy Meier — Secretary (2019-2021)

**SLWGS 2018 ... A year in Review**

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have served in so many ways during the past year. We appreciated all our volunteers, committee members, committee chairs and most especially the officers of SLWGS and the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Water Garden Society.

**In 2018 ... Many events were enjoyed ...**

There were many interesting speakers on a variety of topics at our general meetings each month at the Botanical Gardens. SLWGS hosted many events throughout the year for our members and the community:

- Plant Auction
- Koi Auction
- Our Signature Water Garden Tour in June...Pond-O-Rama
- July Field trip at MOBOT for a Water lily presentation
- The annual SLWGS Banquet at the Jewel Box
- Koi Show with ZNA at Timberwinds Nursery
- Our Pot Luck Dinner in November
As I write this first SLWGS President’s Report, I ask myself, what happened to the year 2018? The scientific community has done studies that show that our perception of time changes as we grow older, and to us, time does speed up. “The bad news is, as you get older time does fly. The good news is you’re still the pilot”.

I would like to thank all those who have served during the past year as volunteers, committee members, officers and members of the past board of directors.

The new year brings changes to the Board. The officers are President, Bob Henson; Vice-President, Joe Summers; Treasurer, Ginny Mueller and Secretary, Betsy Meier. Standing committee chairs for 2019 selected by the elected officers are: Joan Ziskind, Pond-O-Rama; Tonya Summers, Hospitality and Special Events Coordinator; Betsy Meier, Librarian; Gail Abernathy, Water Word editor and Membership and Ginny Mueller, Publicity and Website Coordinator.

Currently we are looking for an AKCA representative, Merchandise Sales Chairman, Parliamentarian and Member-at-Large. If you are interested in one of these positions or can help on one of the committees, I encourage you to volunteer.

The new year will also bring other changes. As the ole saying goes, “there is no need to reinvent the wheel”. However, the new year offers an opportunity to improve and make positive changes in our meeting format, the newsletter, and events.

At the 2018 November meeting, members were asked to complete a 2019 planning survey. An on-line electronic form has been created on the SLWGS website, and paper copies will be available at the January meeting. PLEASE complete this survey as your input does count! This information will be shared with the membership when the survey is completed.

The 2019 budget approved by last year’s board was rejected by the membership in November’s general meeting. I have informed the new board we will revert back to the 2018 budget until such time that we have had an opportunity to review and propose a revision to the membership for a vote.

All the monthly meetings will be held at the Botanical Garden in the Beaumont Room, except the November meeting which will be at the CBEC building. Reminder notices will be sent out before each meeting describing the agenda and speakers.

The Board meets on the Tuesday following the general meeting. This meeting is currently held at Young’s Restaurant in Valley Park at 7:00 pm. SLWGS members are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

I want to encourage each SLWGS member to be actively involved as time permits. One of my 2019 goals is to move us in a positive and productive manner using the many talents and resources within our membership. Let’s make 2019 a special year for the St. Louis Water Garden Society!

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Henson
President, SLWGS
Membership meetings in 2019 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 the month unless otherwise noted.

**January 15** — Jack Lane “History of the Missouri Botanical Gardens”

**February 19** — Rich Lesage, Audubon Society

**March 19** — To be decided

**April 16** — Chris Sewing Nature Recreations “Installing a Pond for less than $5K”

**May 21** — Deborah Stopsky, President of the St. Louis Carnivorous Plant Society “Carnivorous plants for the Water Gardener”

**June 18** — “Movie”

P-O-R Host Meeting at 6 p.m.

June 22-23 — Pond – O-Rama

**July 16** — To be decided

**August 20** — Jewel Box Banquet “The Jewel Box and the 1904 Worlds Fair”

**September 17** — Speaker TBD “Preparing Your Pond for Fall and Winter”

**October 15** — Betsy Alexander, Master Gardener “Protecting your plants and shrubs from winter damage”

**November 19** — 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 Vice President and Treasurer to serve two-year terms beginning in January 2020.

Board meetings are held at Young’s Restaurant one week after our general meetings at 7 p.m.

Young’s Restaurant & Ice Cream
206 Meramec Station Rd
Valley Park, MO 63088
IN 2019 WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS!
We would love to see YOUR WATER GARDEN!
WE WILL BE FEATURING ONE OF OUR MEMBER'S GARDEN, EACH MONTH
AND......you might even receive a special gift!

ENTRY RULES:
YOU MUST PLAY TO WIN
NO STAMPS OR BOX TOPS ARE REQUIRED!!!

SEND US A COUPLE OF PHOTOS OF YOUR GARDEN OR POND.
INCLUDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WATER FEATURE.
TAKE A PHOTO OF YOU... SO WE KNOW WHO IS THE PROUD CREATOR AND OWNER OF
THE FABULOUS WATER GARDEN FEATURED!

A SELECTION WILL BE MADE ......AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN:
THE MONTHLY EDITION OF WATER WORD AND ON THE SLWGS WEBSITE.

FORWARD THE ENTRY TO:
GAIL ABERNATHY
abernat@swbell.net
WATER WORD EDITOR

Members Corner:

Happy Belated Birthday to Carol Greminger’s whose birthday was January 11\textsuperscript{th}

Thank you to Diane Brader for proofing the Water Word all of last year
For Free Plants

Visit www.sugarcreekgardens.com. Here you will find a wealth of information on perennials, roses, annuals, vines, and shrubs, along with coupons for FREE PLANTS.

1011 N. Woodlawn, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122
314-965-3070

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.

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:

2019 SLWGS Officers and Board Members

President
Bob Henson (314) 495-4233 hatt8v92@aol.com
Vice President
Joe Summers (636) 527-2001 chalilypond@aol.com
Treasurer
Ginny Mueller (314) 831-3063 vcmueller16@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary
Betsy Meier (636) 405-1120 lidodeck@att.net

Board Members

Publicity Chairman
Ginny Mueller (314) 831-3063 vcmueller16@hotmail.com
Special Events Chairman
Tonya Summers (314) 494-9794 tonya2summers@aol.com
Society Shirt Sales Chairman

Librarian
Betsy Meier (636) 405-1120 lidodeck@att.net
Membership/E-mail Chairman
Gail Abernathy (314) 427-7076 abernat@swbell.net
Jewel Box Chairman
Kay Miskell (618) 344-6216 km99@att.net
Water Word Editor
Gail Abernathy (314) 427-7076 abernat@swbell.net
Website Chairman
Ginny Mueller (314) 831-3063 vcmueller16@hotmail.com

AKCA/ Koi USA Representative

Pond-O-Rama Chairman
Joan Ziskind (636) 394-6342 joan.ziskind@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian

Historian
Betsy Meier (636) 405-1120 lidodeck@att.net
Hospitality Chairman
Tonya Summers (314) 494-9794 tonya2summers@aol.com
Past President
David Stahre (618) 623-9341 dstahre@hotmail.com

Member-at-Large
Pond of the Month: Tom & Betsy Meier

Our ponding life began when we needed to have steps constructed down the slope in our back yard. We ended up with the steps, a 35’ stream and an 800 gallon, 2 foot deep, 8’x10’ pond. Within a year, we added the 3000 gallon, 3 foot deep, 15’x17’ pond that connects under a stone bridge to the small pond. The steps and ponds are landscaped with a few small trees and perennials. In the summer, the bio filter is filled with cannas and taro. The ponds were constructed by Bauer Falls. We do the pond maintenance and landscaping.

By Betsy Meier

Out on a Limb and need some help?

Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

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scd-dr@charter.net

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St. Louis MO 63129

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Come see our NEW displays, feed our fish, and have some fun!
Be part of the 19th annual Pond-O-Rama tour! This year, Pond-O-Rama will be on Saturday, June 22 & Sunday, June 23 from 9-5 each day. Having your water feature on the pond and garden tour is a wonderful way to showcase your efforts, share and educate the public about water gardening, fish and plants, and our Society’s projects and activities. Each one is unique and your love of your special place and sharing it with others is what makes this event so successful. To include your water feature in our 2019 ticket booklet, this form needs to be returned by the end of January.

NOTE: To participate, you must be a current member of SLWGS. ($15 per person annually)

Name: ______________________________________ Approx. year if on a previous POR Tour __________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________________________

CITY: ____________________________________ STATE: ______ ZIP CODE: _______________________

HOME PHONE: ________________________ CELL PHONES: __________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________________

Photos of my pond taken during the tour may be used by SLWGS for publicity, on our website or in a Pond-O-Rama CD or DVD collection: (Circle one) YES   NO

TICKET BOOKLET INFORMATION: If you were on a previous POR tour, please only enter CHANGED data.

CIRCLE FEATURES IN YOUR YARD: GARDEN   POND PLANTS   STREAM   WATERFALLS   FISH   BRIDGE

IS YOUR POND/LANDSCAPE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE? CIRCLE ONE:   YES   NO

DESIGNED BY: ___________________________________ CONSTRUCTED BY: _______________________

DESCRIBE YOUR POND/GARDEN IN 100 WORDS OR LESS: _______________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

GIVE DETAILED DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME FROM A MAJOR HIGHWAY:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM BY THE END OF JANUARY TO:
Robert Henson, 6 Concord Ln, St. Louis, MO 63128
314-495-4233 cell
hatt8v92@aol.com
Netting a Pond  by John Mosley

If you have a small pond here's what I do to cover it to keep the leaves out. Place six concrete blocks around the pond. Then use 1/2" electrical conduit to make arches over the pond. I cross them over to the length I need, then connect them with zip ties and place the ends in the concrete blocks. They are flexible enough to make an arch. Next place some PVC pipe with a cap on the bottom end to protect the pond liner and place them upright in the pond under an intersection of the conduit. I drill holes in the PVC pipe and attach the PVC pipes to the conduit with more zip ties. Then just put a net over the top and anchor it with rocks all around the edges. Works great, and you don't have to worry about leaves getting in the pond all winter.

After the first snow...Hope it
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Art in Nature.