Angela McDonnell, a native St. Louisan, was a dancer with the Saint Louis Ballet while she earned her Bachelor of Fine Art at Maryville University. As an elderly dancer of 23 years old, she gradually worked her way up the tiers of administration with the Saint Louis Ballet and its official school. When she finally had enough of the ballet world, she put her college degree to work doing graphic design for Innovations in Art, a company that designed and produced high level corporate awards, signage and museum displays. Due to the ever-increasing demands of motherhood, she downsized and took a job at Made by Me Craft Studio, working for her sister-in-law, until the economy forced its closure. She then took a dream job at Thies Farm and Greenhouses where she spent seven years playing in the dirt. When her husband, Peter, retired early they decided to do something that brought them much JOY... Backyard Bird Feeding! So, Angela and Peter bought Wild Birds Unlimited of Florissant in August 2016 and are now very excited to announce the addition of the Wild Birds Unlimited of Tallahassee in January 2019. Her favorite birds to talk about are the fascinating Hummingbirds.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Hummingbirds—The Jewels of the Sky
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When: Tuesday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Angela McDonnell, from Wild Birds Unlimited Florissant Master Gardener
Send this form with your $15 check per person payable to the St. Louis Water Garden Society to Gail Abernathy, 10922 Kildare Ct, St. Ann, MO 63074

**Please note: New bylaw changed the price to $15 per person so if there are two of you the price would be $30. Please print or type clearly.

Name(s)____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
City_________________________State______ZIP________________
Phone_______________________
e-mail _____________________________________________________

☐ New Membership ☐ Annual renewal (Renewals are due in January)

Would you prefer to receive your copies of *Water Word*:
via email only? Or by regular mail? Circle one please.

***Note: Some of you only renewed for one person. The price of membership was voted on to be per person not per household like it was at the beginning of the society. So if you want both of you to be members you need to send another check for them.

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**Time to Renew!**

Membership renewals for all St. Louis Water Garden Society members are due in January. If you have not sent in your dues yet you may make your payment in person at the February meeting, or mail a check to Gail Abernathy, Membership Chairman, using the form at left. Dues are $15 per person. While non-member guests always are welcome at SLWGS meetings, there are definite benefits to membership. For example, all members receive one free Pond-O-Rama ticket per person a $15 value. In addition, all members receive the regular issues of Water Word, and may participate in a number of special events throughout the year, including tours and field trips that are arranged for members only. Don’t miss out on the fun of 2019.
Several weeks ago, I had lunch with a very good friend of mine who expressed the fact that she was “dying for spring” and could not wait to get back into her garden again. Certainly, the winter blues and spring fever take a toll on all gardeners. Unfortunately, it is only February and we have no choice but to be patient.

Hopefully your garden and pond are faring well in the St. Louis snow and very cold weather. Both my greenhouses are staying toasty warm and pleasant to work in. Orchids are in bloom along with the banana tree. Unfortunately a columnar fountain in the garden toppled over and broke due to the ice buildup on one side.

I want to thank those SLWGS members who braved the winter weather watch and attended the January meeting. With Ginny in Florida and Joan Ziskind in California we concluded the business portion of the meeting in about 20 minutes.

I was happy to see several members wearing the new name tags. The tags are engraved with the SLWGS logo and member name and have a magnetic backing for attachment. Gone are the days of crooked tags or the worry about a blood donation from sticking yourself with the pin! I hate to appear as a salesman but… you can order your name tag ($8.10) at any of the meetings or by calling me.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Jack Lane who spoke about the History of the Missouri Botanical Garden. This gentleman was extremely knowledgeable about the garden and took us from the glacial period of the last ice age and its effect on the garden area up to the time of Henry Shaw and the development of the Missouri Botanical Garden of today.

Included in his talk was a collection of interesting stories and facts about the garden including some very unique photos and maps he had uncovered in the Botanical Garden’s archives. On the subject of speakers, we have a change in speakers for February. Originally a guest speaker from the Saint Louis Audubon Society was to speak about birds and how important our water gardens are to their survival. Unfortunately, the talk had to be cancelled. Our guest speaker for February comes from Wild Birds Unlimited and will be talking about “Hummingbirds in the garden”.

The membership chair indicates that 2019 renewals are going well and Joan has received several applications for Pond-O-Rama 2019. The meeting concluded with raffle prizes and Tom and Betsy Meier received their Water Garden of the Month gift and certificate.

Mark your calendar for the February 19th meeting. We will be discussing a new revenue event for 2019. Please attend the meeting to hear the details!

The next Board of Directors’ meeting is on February 26th.
Due to Young’s winter hours, the board meeting will be held at the Schnuck’s store (second floor), 12332 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131.

See you at the garden!

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”


March 19—To be decided

April 16—To be decided

May 21—Deborah Stopsky, President of the St. Louis Carnivorous Plant Society “Carnivorous Plants for the Water Garden”

June 18—To be decided

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

September 17—Speaker TBD

October 15—Speaker TBD

November 19—Annual Potluck & Elections, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

Potluck 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. **Except this month it will be held at Schnuck’s address in Presidents Report.

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:
On a sad note we were informed that a long time member Maureen Green passed away in December. She
was very active in the society. Her passion was lilies. She used to help out at the Jewel Box on Saturdays.
On February 7th we lost another member Victoria Erman mother of another member Sue Wehrman.

We had many birthday’s January & February so Happy Belated Birthday and Happy Birthday this month.

Beverly Maschek 1/7
Jim Haegle Jr 1/8
Andrea Fehr 1/18
Dianne Hueseman 1/25
Debra Roth 1/27
Ed Hansen 1/29

Ed Parker 2/4
Britt Dwyer 2/8
Steven King 2/10
David Jenkins 2/22
Jerre Baynes 2/24
Mary Pohlman  February
Water Word is published by the St. Louis Water Garden 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

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

2019 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
Carol Gremeringer (314) 487-9119 carolnron@att.net
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
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AKCA/Koi USA Representative
Tom Meier (636) 405-1120
Pond-O-Rama Chairman
Joan Ziskind (636) 394-6342 joan.ziskind@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian
Carol Gremeringer (314) 487-9119 carolnron@att.net
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
Ron Greminger (314) 487-9119 carolnron@att.net
Pond of the Month: Robb Reals & Sally Byron

Robb Reals and I put in our little pond almost 20 years ago. Having a very small backyard required a small pond and it has worked out perfectly with views from both the patio and family room window.

We have had our share of pond visitors as captured by our game camera and it is always fun and interesting to see who visits and at what time of day or night.

We have been members for as many years, and love to support the SLWGS even though we are unable to attend many meetings.

We enjoy the newsletters and hearing of all the good things happening.
POND-O-RAMA 2019 HOST FORM

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 March 15.

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
Preparing for Pond-O-Rama!

Pond-O-Rama is our one chance each year to share our water gardens with the public and educate them on the peace and tranquility they bring.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered already! There is still a need for more ponds for the tour. A host form has been set up on our home page at www.slwgs.org which can be filled out and sent online. One or two more ticket runners would also be good.

If you can help out, please contact

Joan at joan.ziskind@yahoo.com or 636-448-5411.

Note from Joe Summers

With the ice on the pond this morning I wanted to give you a quick review on why you should not break the ice.

I often hear folks say they use a hammer or shovel or even a pitch fork even to break the ice on the pond. The reason you don't want to do that is the percussion in the water can cause harm or death to your fish. Just as you see on aquariums, Please Don't Tap the Glass.

You do want to keep a hole in the ice to allow gas from the pond to escape. Those gases will be released if we just keep a hole in the ice. Three ways to keep a hole in the ice: 1. leave a pump running, 2. keep an air pump running or 3. add a pond deicer (often called a heater). With the morning being cold and the afternoon above freezing, right now you don't need to worry too much about the ice. Just be thinking about which action you plan to take.

Side note, at least once a year someone tells me the reason, they are getting a new pond liner... cause that pitch fork they used to break the ice...well it went right through the pond liner. Just another reason not to break the ice.

Stay warm!!!
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Photo of the Month

Picture taken by Sue Abernathy
enhanced by Mark Collins.

We definitely had some very cold weather two weeks ago. This picture was taken at a well-known pond store. Can you guess which one?