Find Treasures at the Auction

April will be our Plant and Other Things auction, so gather your garden plants, pond plants, garden statuary and other goodies. Remember one man’s junk really is often another’s treasure! Any pond or garden related item is welcome—plants, pots, books, photos, cute trolls, leftover pumps, and on and on….

The only prohibited items are live fish and animals, which the botanical gardens will not allow to be sold.

Hand made items are always popular.

Please make sure any plants that you bring are wrapped in plastic, so we do not make a mess at the gardens that will have to be cleaned up.

Here is a small glimpse of some things that will be there:

Don’t Miss This!

What: Annual Auction & Raffle
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When: Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Josh Higgins, Auctioneer

Nashville here we come!!!

The semiannual road trip is coming up fast. We are heading to Nashville on May 4th - May 5th. Our anchor tour will be to the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. Cheekwood boasts 55 acres of wonderful gardens and features the Robinson Family Water Gardens. We will also visit a local water garden shop. As well as visit some homeowners’ ponds while in Nashville. We must have a firm head count at the April 16th meeting. However, if you know you want to reserve your spot please reach out to Tonya Summers sooner rather than later. The bus will fill up and the early koi gets the worm. A $50 per person deposit is required to hold your spot. Final cost estimate is $115.00 assuming double occupancy. Please contact Tonya Summers at 314-494-9794 or e-mail her at tonya2summers@aol.com
By the time you read this, our posters should be printed, and ticket runners will be delivering brochures, membership cards and posters to our 29 ticket sellers. They are spread all over the Metro area from Belleville, Centreville and Edwardsville in Illinois to St. Charles and Washington in Missouri. (You, too, can hand out Pond-O-Rama brochures! Just see me. I have plenty!)

All advertisers had their ads in on time. Ellie, our wonderful graphic designer, spent last weekend preparing them for the ticket booklet. Revised ads have been sent out for final approval.

Last Tuesday, hosts were asked to verify their ticket info so that Friday, our graphic designer can start her magic, transferring all our detailed information into the ticket booklet and fitting the various sized filler into their proper spots.

We have twenty ponds on tour this year, so visitors will have time to talk with our hosts, visit with one another and still see them all!

Those of you at our last meeting met Xavier, the 15-year-old who researched, dug and built his own 20’ x 40’ koi pond last summer, which he wants to dig deeper before he’s on the tour in June. Yes, he’s still in school!

Chris Siewing finished the huge water feature at his house last year, so it will be interesting to see how things fill in as the plantings grow.

If you didn’t make it out to see John Mosley’s trains and enjoy his humorous signs, you can this year! He LOVES having visitors!

Jim Haegele has lots of oriental touches with his bamboo grove, Asian statues and, of course, lovely koi!

Pat Henderson also has oriental touches with her large red pagoda, stone lanterns and buddha.

While you’re out working in your garden with this warm, beautiful weather, please remember to patronize our advertisers and ticket sellers for your pond and gardening needs!

SEE You on Tour!

Joan Ziskind
Pond-O-Rama Coordinator

PS: If you would like to help out, it would be nice to have more ticket runners to visit 4 stores in the Kirkwood area.
After a slow wintery start to the 2019 St. Louis Water Society monthly meetings, our March meeting was well attended and productive. I am glad to announce that both the 2018 audit and 2019 budget have been completed. The 2019 budget was approved unanimously after a short presentation by the treasurer followed by a few questions.

Tonya Summers discussed plans for an overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee to visit the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens on May 4-5th. Room is limited and she stressed the need to sign up and pay your $50.00 deposit ASAP. Please contact her to add your name to the list of attending members. A short article about the Cheekwood estate and Botanical gardens trip is included on the first page.

The guest speaker for March was Angela McDonnell owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Florissant. She presented a lively and very informative talk on hummingbirds. Many had questions for the speaker for a very entertaining discussion. Additionally, Angela provided an attendance prize that was won by our newest and youngest SLWGS member, Xavier Baldwin from Winfield, Missouri.

Pond of the Month certificates and gifts were presented to Robb Reals and Sally Byron for February, and Dee and Gene O’Neill for March. Congratulations on such beautiful pond and gardens.

The board is looking for a volunteer to chair the AKCA position. If you are interested please contact any current board member.

Hopefully you know that the SLWGS Auction is scheduled for the month of April. The meeting will consist of the auction and a social. Our auctioneer will be Josh Higgins who is a Missouri Botanical Gardens employee and member of the St. Louis Orchid society. In order to make this auction fun and financially successful, the membership is encouraged to bring auction items. As the old saying goes, “One man’s junk is another man’s treasure”! PLEASE help out by attending and bringing items that can be auctioned off. Plants and pond items are welcomed. Crafts, pottery, statuary etc. can add to the diversity!

As Pond-O-Rama nears, we encourage members to Tell Their friends about it. Joan would like one more ticket runner. Please pick up some brochures and post them on your local community bulletin boards. Joan will have them at the April meeting so pick up a stack!

Spring has arrived along with all its wonders, so get out and enjoy your pond and garden and live life to its fullest!

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”

February 19 — Cancelled Due to Weather


April 16 — SLWGS Auction and Raffle

May 21 — “Plants that Bite Back—Bog Gardens and Carnivorous Plants”

June 18 — Laura Bancroft from Ten Mile Creek Nursery “All you need to know about Water Lotus”

June 22-23 — Pond-O-Rama

July 16 — To be decided

August 20 — Jewel Box Banquet

September 17 — Speaker TBD

October 15 — Betsy Alexander “Preventing Winter Damage to your plants”

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 pm.

Young’s Restaurant & Ice Cream
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Water Garden of the Month. Opportunity!

IN 2019 WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS!
We would love to see YOUR WATER GARDEN!
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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:

We have a few birthdays in April so
“Happy Birthday” this month to:

Ginny Mueller  4/10
Paul Miskell      4/20
Ron Greminger  4/21
Dee O’Neil       4/30

Happy Birthday

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**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

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Pond of the Month: Chuck Brust

Description: In 2010, Josh and Caleb Bauer spent two weeks turning a flat piece of turf grass into an oasis. They created a three and a half foot deep, 4000-gallon pond with a 15’ waterfall. The design included a submerged staircase to provide me with easy access for maintaining the plants in and around the water garden. Most nights I fall asleep with my bedroom window open, listening to the sound of a mountain stream.

Out on a Limb and need some help?

Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

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scd-dr@charter.net
Mark your Calendars Jewel Box Work Day

Calling all volunteers—the new season of work at the Jewel Box in Forest Park is about to begin. Each year, the St. Louis Water Garden Society places a variety of water lilies and other aquatic plants in the Jewel Box pools and then meets regularly to maintain them.

The first step is to retrieve the hardy water lilies that have spent the winter in the mud-bottomed pond in the park, identify, divide and replant them as needed, and then place them in the pools. That first step will take place Saturday, April 27, beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers with waders, shovels, cutting tools (hatchets, machetes, etc.), rakes and wheelbarrows or carts will be needed. If you have a pickup truck or trailer, that would be helpful too as there are 2 dozen big heavy pots to move. Also, any extra helpers are always needed, Ask your friends.

This is a good day to volunteer, since there are likely to be leftover divisions of hardy lilies for the taking.

LIBRARY NEWS

The next workday will be around the end of May. Volunteers will meet to plant tropical water lilies and to retrieve tropical canna, taro, and other plants from the Forest Park greenhouse where they have spent the winter. The planting will be completed on this day, so the regular maintenance work days will begin after that on Saturday, mornings, at 9 a.m. and each Saturday thereafter through the summer.

Planting and maintaining the Jewel Box pools is the civic project of SLWGS, and more volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers typically spend 1-2 hours removing spent flowers and old, unsightly leaves.

In addition to gathering leftovers, volunteers have the opportunity to learn more about aquatic plants and their care, and can get “up close and personal” with their cameras for great shots like the one shown here.

The SLWGS library books will now be available by request. Over the last several years, only 10 books were borrowed from the table at the members meetings. Many people are using the Internet as a resource. We do have a very nice selection of books for those who like information on the printed page. A complete list is on the SLWGS.org website. Go to the membership page and click on Leading Library. If you are interested in borrowing a book, contact me and I will be glad to bring it to you at the next meeting.

Betsy Meier
SLWGS Librarian
Lidodeck@att.net
My Hobbies

How does a person become involved in a hobby? A fair question to ask but this isn’t always easy to answer. Over the years I have collected silver coins, old American flags, books, and the list goes on all fun hobbies that you enjoy in your spare time.

Then again there are the more demanding interests in life those interests that require deeper pockets and somehow slowly began to consume more time and work. Are these are simply interests or perhaps more fittingly, obsessions?

For the majority of us, we relate to water gardening as a hobby and perhaps gardening in general and accept the need to have a bit of dirt under our fingernails at times. Perhaps it is a form of mild addiction that we suffer from, the occasional need for that extra pond plant or a new koi for the pond. If you are like me, just driving to the water garden shop or nursery adds a bit of weekend excitement.

So here is my “story”,

WHAT IS A HOBBY?
The good, the bad and the ugly truth of it all.

Some 17 years ago, I pulled the garden hose into an area of the back yard I thought was befitting a water garden (aka fish pond). After multiple shape changes in the course of a few days I finally had the “perfect pond” shape. Excavation (by shovel) was followed by, liner, filters, skimmer, plumbing, rocks, plants and fish. Soon I had established my first pond.

During the following winter I decided to construct an arched bridge in my workshop. Now bridges as you know are normally built with the idea of crossing some body of water such as a stream. Unfortunately my “cart was in front of the horse” since no stream currently existed in the yard! Having a newly constructed bridge and no water to cross, I decided that during spring break from school was the time to address the problem of a bridge with no water.

I decided on a possible location for the bridge near my pond but the lack of water to cross still existed. During that particular spring break the weather was a bit unusual. We had cold weather that week with light blowing snow but excavation had to go on. I dug a stream under the bridge connecting two small waterfalls about 25 feet apart. Believe it or not I actually dug up a silver quarter from 1953 which ended up in my previously mentioned hobby of coin collecting.

Continued in next month’s issue.

Article by Robert Henson
Pond-O-Rama is June 22 and 23—
invite your family and friends
to tour with you. Tickets are $15!

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Signs of spring are finally showing up all over our yards, like this peachy hyacinth showing it beauty and a promising that warmer weather is on its way.