Plants that Bite Back— Bog Gardens and Carnivorous Plants

Susan Farrington started the St. Louis Carnivorous Plant Society about three decades ago to promote the conservation and cultivation of carnivorous plants. These amazing plants are great examples of convergent evolution and many are easy to grow. Some can even be grown outside year round.

Deborah Stopsky has been a member of the St. Louis Carnivorous Plant Society almost from the beginning of the organization. She has been the President for some years. She grows Heliamphora, which grows in the mountains of South America, Sarracenia from our own Southeast, Mexican Butterworts and Cephalotus from Australia. She has given presentations to all ages and brings REAL plants to show and tell. She also gives out care sheets and hopefully, can answer your questions.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Carnivorous Plants
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room
When: Tuesday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m.
Who: Deborah Stopsky, The Saint Louis Carnivorous Society
Nashville Trip Wrap-up

What a fun trip to Cheekwood Gardens, a visit to a lovely natural pond nestled in an amazing forest, and an unbelievable tour of Lucky Dog Farm. The clouds parted and gave us nice weather to stroll in the Cheekwood Gardens. Our hosts, Cathy Green and Jack Hagstrom of Grassland Aquatics, were gracious to show us their home, greenhouses, fish, and natural pond.

The covered bridge and renovated and creative barns, party house, raised beds, horses, dogs, and a natural swimming pool set in a beautiful Tennessee landscape were highlight of the trip at Lucky Dog Farm. Check out Barn Builders June 2 on DIY to see an amazing place and meet our host Wade.

Our members enjoyed good southern food and great conversations on the bus ride sharing great stories and ideas. We even had a spontaneous stop along the road for strawberries and bonsai trees. We all enjoyed the adventure!

Thanks to Tonya Summers who organized the trip and all the members who came along for the fun.

Article and Pictures by Ginny Mueller
I am pleased to announce that the April auction was very well attended and generated $1,054. Our membership donated a wide variety of items from plants, crafts, water garden items / equipment to handmade art items. Thank you so much!

I can’t say enough about the response to the auction and how smoothly the event went. A special thanks to Josh Higgins from the Botanical Garden, who served as auctioneer and all the society volunteers who set up, tagged the items, recorded the sales and collect the monies.

Tonya Summers presented a brief reminder about the upcoming overnight trip to Cheekwood Gardens in Nashville and Joan Ziskind addressed the 19th annual Pond-O-Rama event in June. There are 20 gardens so we have an opportunity enjoy the gardens without being rushed and perhaps time to catch lunch with friends on the tour. The posters and POR brochures have been distributed throughout the bi-state area and ticket booklets will be available about May 18th.

In spite of cool and rainy weather in late April and early May, I rather think that the majority of us are busy preparing our ponds and gardens for the summer. I have constructed a new pergola over the hot tub and moved the orchid green house to a new location in the yard. My mind continually gives me ideas and projects but my body seems not to want to cooperate as it once did.

I am excited to remind the membership of the busy summer speaker calendar. In May, we have the President of the St. Louis Carnivorous Society speaking speak on bog gardens and carnivorous plants. Many species are hardy and very close to 100% maintenance free! The June speaker is Laura Bancroft, a well-known grower of water lotus. I have had the pleasure of hearing Laura speak and she is well versed in the subject. The July meeting we will be having Josh Higgins from the Missouri Botanical Garden returning to talk on water gardening and the role of the reptiles and amphibians that inhabit them. Josh is a Horticulturist for the Missouri Botanical Garden and among his normal duties removes unwanted turtles from the lily ponds. As a volunteer at the garden while feeding and deadheading the lilies, I have more than once found a turtle swimming past me. Unfortunately turtles along with ducks and geese are unwelcome guests because they tend to tear up the lilies!

Just a few reminders:

After we plant the tropical lilies and other tropica from the green houses on June 1st SLWGS members will start weekly maintenance of the pools. Please consider joining us any Saturday morning. We start around 9:00 and would love to have the extra help.

Have you ordered your SLWGS name tags yet? Tags are still available and can be ordered through Gail Abernathy. Please consider obtaining a name tag. It makes meeting people so much easier!

Enjoy your garden!

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Henson
President, SLWGS
St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events

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 Garden”

February 19 — Cancelled Due to Weather

March 19 — Angela McDonnell, Wild Birds Unlimited, Florissant Store, “Hummingbirds—The Jewels of the Skies”

April 16 — SLWGS Auction

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”

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 — Betsy Alexander “Preventing Winter Damage to your plants”

November 19 — Annual Potluck Dinner & Election of officers, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

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
206 Meramec Station Rd
Valley Park, MO 63088
Members’ Corner:

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

Bryan Cox  5/10
Jennifer Heinze 5/14
Cheryl Kowalczyk 5/30
Steve Hogenmiller
Chip Soule

Did you Miss the Auction?

A good time was had by all with lots of bargains. The auctioneer was fabulous and entertaining.
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:

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Our 19th annual Pond-O-Rama Pond and Garden tour will feature 20 beautiful water features and private gardens owned and maintained by Society members located throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area and in metro east. The tour is held the weekend after Father’s Day each year to raise money for our civic project, the water lily pools at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. Our hosts will be available and delighted to share information and answer your questions about their ponds, their fish, and their beautiful plants.

Each location is scheduled for one of the two days of the tour, either Saturday, June 22 or Sunday, June 23. The hours for this self-guided tour are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. There are 10 hosts each day so you can relax, ask lots of questions, and enjoy the people and highlights at each stop at a leisurely pace.

Tickets cost $15 each and are good for both days. They give location addresses, descriptions and driving directions. Everyone 18 years of age or older visiting the gardens must have a ticket. Those younger do not need a ticket. Tickets will be delivered to retail outlets around May 18. For a list of all retailers who are selling Pond-O-Rama tickets, call 314-995-2988.

Tickets for the tour will be available to members at the May and June general meetings. Each member is entitled to one free ticket. Members unable to attend either meeting are encouraged to have a friend pick up their tickets, or they may request that they be mailed. The order form is available from the website Pond-O-Rama page. Fill it out, print it and mail it with your check for $3.00 per ticket. Pond-O-Rama hosts will receive their Pond-O-Rama tickets at the Host meeting at 6:00 p.m. before the June 18 meeting if they have not already picked them up.

You can order tickets from the website to be sent by mail for an additional $3 per ticket for shipping and handling. Fill out the order form and either pay using Pay Pal or print the form and mail it with your check. Tickets will be mailed upon receipt of the order and the payment.

The St. Louis Water Garden Society is also offering a discount of $2 off each ticket ordered in groups of 10 or more. For more information about the group ticket purchases, text Joan Ziskind at 636-448-5411, email her at joan.ziskind@yahoo.com (note the period between the names) or call and leave a message at 636-394-6342.

**NOTE: NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED AFTER JUNE 15.**
Jewel Box Work Day — June 1 next work day

Kay would like to say thank you for everyone who showed up to get the hardy lilies in the pools. It was a wet and overcast day. We had a small crew of helpers but we got the job done. Kenny Wamhoff took charge and got in the mud-bottom pond to retrieve the lilies with Kay helping.

Then we had Bob, Steve and Jim wheeling them over to the trailer to take to the pools. The next work day June 1, 2019, planting Tropicals lilies & retrieving the tropicals from the greenhouse that were wintered over.

LIBRARY NEWS

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 Lending 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

At this point, I have a large pond, two waterfalls, a bridge and stream leading to a second pond. What else is missing from the picture? DUCKS! Why not build an enclosure at one end of the stream and buy some Chinese Mandarin ducks? I did. To date I now have four pens raising eight varieties of ornamental pheasants not to mention the original ducks. The sickness has totally consumed my life at this point but I’m having fun. Keeping ornamental pheasants and Mandarin ducks are like collecting koi, so many varieties and one more beautiful than another.

Did I mention later putting in a 20 foot water lily pond? A carnivorous plant bog? Three fountains? One good thing came from all these projects: they take up grass in the yard long dash less mowing!

An area existed in the back yard where I couldn’t get much to grow, one of those shady dry areas. Like a bolt of lightning, the vision of still another hobby invade my brain: build a small year round greenhouse dedicated to one the hobbies I failed to mention, raising orchids. With some quick research on the internet I had narrowed down the type of greenhouse and decided on a 12’ x 8’, Monticello greenhouse by Stone River which could I order through a local box store well constructed from aluminum with 8 mm twin wall polycarbonate and made in the good ole USA. Anticipating its arrival I prepared the site using 4 x 6 treated timbers for the foundation and back filled with crushed stone for drainage. The big day arrived and like a kid at Christmas I began to open the boxes. Instructions were clear (I thought), with lots of nice pictures it clearly stated that the average time of assembly would take two people no more than three hours. Right! Starting on a Friday morning, the greenhouse was fully assembled the following Monday just before dark. This all occurred in the spring of 2016. By 2017, the greenhouse was extended to 16 feet and was full of orchids.

Last winter I decided on a second greenhouse that would be planted with tropical rainforest look. The plan was to sit a 20’ greenhouse on a 24” raised cinder-block foundation. I wanted to be able to walk up three steps onto a deck at the entrance of the greenhouse followed by three steps going down into the greenhouse.

Now I’m thinking what is a rainforest without water and a waterfall.

I have included a few photos of the construction and result but the “fun” is in the details. While considering all the details of construction, questions began to pop into my head:

Have you ever dug and poured a square foundation? No!

Have you ever laid concrete block No!

How about running wiring for switches and outlets, installing an overhead heater, building a waterfall from 3,600 pounds of stone with heavy equipment? NO NOT NO, and NO! To the optimist, these are only details to be overcome.

Continued in next month’s issue.

Article by Robert Henson

Largest selection of plants in the Midwest!

www.sugarcreekgardens.com

Visit the website to find a wealth of information on plants, gardening and to discover the many benefits gardening has to offer beyond a beautiful yard.

Voted #1 Best Garden Center

Water Word, May 2019
Inside this edition:

Plants that Bite Back - Bog Gardens and Carnivorous Plants ……. Page 1

Also Inside

Nashville Trip Wrap-up ……… Page 2
SLWGS President’s Corner ………… Page 3
SLWGS Calendar of Events………. Page 4
Did you miss the Auction ………….. Page 5
Members’ Corner ……………………… Page 5
2019 SLWGS Officers and Board Members…………………………….Page 6
2019 Pond-O-Rama ……………………..Page 7
Jewel Box Work Day ………………… Page 8
Library News ………………………… Page 8

My Hobbies …………………………. Page 9
Photo of the Month ………………….Page 10

A breath taking view from the trip to Cheekwood Gardens, in Nashville