Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner coming up...

Need a reason or excuse to stop by the Jewel Box in Forest Park to see how the night-blooming tropical water lilies are doing? The St. Louis Water Garden Society will hold its 19th annual awards banquet at the Jewel Box Tuesday, August 20. The caterer will be Russo’s. It will be a buffet dinner, and tickets are $25 per person. Plan to come for an evening of socializing and enjoying each other’s company. You can make your reservations by sending a check, made payable to the St. Louis Water Garden Society (SLWGS), to Tonya Summers, 7810 Weil Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119. If you have questions please contact Tonya Summers at 314-494-9794 or e-mail her at tonya2summers@aol.com

Don’t Miss This!

What: Banquet and Awards Dinner

Where: Jewel Box Forest Park

When: Tuesday, August 20, at 6 p.m. Dinner served at 7 p.m.

Come join a nice evening looking at the lilies and the other plantings at the Jewel Box, and view various slide shows.
We had a wonderful Pond-O-Rama tour despite the rain. Interested hosts enjoyed the Friday pre-tour even though it rained cats and dogs!

First, many thanks to all our splendid hosts who opened up their yards, to our marvelous advertisers who covered our POR expenses, to our terrific ticket sellers who made their customers aware of our tour, and to the many members who took the tour and everyone who helped: Host Party Food (Tonya Summers), Photographers (Gail Abernathy, Dave Schiele, Bob Temper), Publicity (Ginny Mueller), Ticket runners (Bob Henson, Ginny Mueller, Dee and Gene O’Neill, Dave Schiele, Jane Sykes, Joan Ziskind), and hosts taking surveys (Rebecca Harrison, Beverlee Maschek, Dee O’Neill, Joan Ziskind). Hope I haven’t forgotten anyone!

A few statistics follow. The top ticket seller was Ponds Plus Water Garden Center. Chalily and Sandy’s Back Porch tied for second place. 546 tickets were sold or given out. Total income was $10,490.79. ($1,230.00 is still due.) Total expenses were $5,409.68. Once the outstanding amounts are paid, we net $5,081.11. If you’d like the really detailed details, see Joan at our membership meeting.

Please support our wonderfully supportive advertisers and ticket sellers and thank them next time you visit!

If you have suggestions to improve our tour, Joan would love to hear them.

SAVE THE DATE: June 21 & 22, 2020!

By Joan Ziskind

Left: Joan Ziskind’s

Right: Chip & Christine Soule

Left: Carol & Ron Greminger’s

Left: Bob Henson’s
Pond-O-Rama has come and gone for another year and the board is in the process of finalizing plans for the next events. On August 20th the Annual Awards Banquet will be at the Jewel Box. We are using a new catering service this year. In lieu of a banquet speaker we will present a visual review and music highlighting some of the events of this and past years of the St. Louis Water Garden Society. This will give guests and attendees more time to socialize. September’s schedule the annual Tiki tour. The dates and times are posted in the calendar of this issue of the Water Word.

I am pleased to announce the addition of 20 plus new members and renewals of past members. It is so nice to see new as well as familiar faces from the past. A big WELCOME to all!

During the July board meeting, Joan Ziskind chair of this year’s POR, and Ginny Mueller, treasurer, gave their reports regarding this year’s Pond-O-Rama. The event brought numerous positive comments and was a financial success for the society. It just goes to show that a little rain never prevents a good time. My thanks go out to everyone for making the event so successful.

Next year will be a special year for the SLWGS. In 2020 we celebrate the 20th year for Pond-O-Rama and mark the 30th year for the St. Louis Water Garden Society. We will be looking to the membership for ideas, suggestions and volunteers to help make both events more successful.

Before closing this President’s Corner, I would like to mention two other issues. Along with a big THANK YOU to all the SLWGS members that help maintain the water lilies at the Jewel Box, I would encourage more members to lend a helping hand on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00 am. With the heat of the summer, the lilies are growing larger and require more work to maintain. They must be properly fed, trimmed and old blooms and pads removed from the plants. An extra set of hands are always welcome and appreciated.

Additionally, the Vice President and Treasurer will be ending their two-year term on the board in November 2019. Nominations will be accepted between now and the October membership meeting.

Hope to see you at the Annual Awards Banquet. Good gardening until then.

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.

April 16—SLWGS Auction
May 21—“Plants that Bite Back— Bog Gardens and Carnivorous Plants”
June 18—Laura Bancroft from Ten Mile Creek Nursery “A-Z Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Growing Lotus”
June 22-23—Pond-O-Rama
July 16—Josh Higgings “Reptiles and amphibians in the Water Garden”
August 10—Potluck Picnic at Chip & Christina Soule’s home at 201 woodland Ct, O’Fallon, IL 62269 11-1pm.(Rain Date August 17th)
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 meeting at 7 p.m.

Young’s Restaurant & Ice Cream
206 Meramec Station Rd
Valley Park, MO 63088
Pond of the Month: Member Jim Haegele

My water garden has an oriental theme throughout which includes an extensive bamboo grove Asian statuary and a boardwalk perimeter. A stream feeds a 9’ x 15’ koi pond, an 8’ x 20’ plant pond is deckside.

Members’ Corner:

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

Rita Jenkins 8/12
Bob Temper 8/19
Behn 8/20
Eddie Smith 8/23
Chuck Peterson 8/27
Dan Chevalier
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 Greminger (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 Misikell (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: Tom Meier (636) 405-1120
dstahre@hotmail.com
- Pond-O-Rama Chairman: Joan Ziskind (366) 394-6342 joanziskind@yahoo.com
- Parliamentarian: Carol Greminger (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
- Dee O’Neill (314) 223-9119 oneilldee@sbcglobal.net
Bargain Surprise!!

While shopping at Lowe's last summer I came upon Asiatic Lilies that had finished blooming. The plants were just single stems with leaves. The original price was $12.95 but the sale sticker said $1. I had never grown this type of lily before but I couldn't resist the bargain so I bought 5. They nicely filled a bare spot in my garden. In the spring, each plant sprouted 3 stems and soon started developing buds. I was very happy when these beautiful blossoms appeared. What a bargain!!!

Come See How Things Have Changed at the Jewel Box

Last pictures taken were when we planted the tropical lilies.
Saving Beautiful Tropical Water Lilies

If you have invested in the beautiful blooms created by the tropical water lilies, you hate to see the cool weather. This summer, the blooms in the Jewel Box pools have been plentiful.

2019 Miami Rose, at right, not only produced large and abundant blooms, but also produced far-reaching runners for its leaves. This great plant, like all the other tropicals, will not care for the cold that is coming, however, and neither will the ones you have enjoyed in your pond. If you want to try to save them to enjoy again next summer, Joe Summers of Chalily Pond and Gardens offers some advice.

Summers says you can overwinter topical lilies using a simple procedure. Next spring, you can “wake up” the sleeping beauties and wait for the blooms. Follow the step-by-step procedures below to save your favorite tropical lilies.

**Step One:** Remove your potted tropical water lily from the pond. If the outside air temperature is above 50 degrees you can leave the pot outside. If it is below 50 degrees move your plant to a warmer location indoors.

**Step Two:** After the plant has dried out for one week, it’s time to take off all the soil, roots and leaves. You are looking for the tuber, which is directly under the center of the plant. The tuber can range from the size of a marble to the size of a baseball.

**Step Three:** Wash off all the soil and cut any roots or leaves off. After a good cleaning allow the tuber to air-dry overnight.

**Step Four:** Moisten clean sand. Be sure the sand is barely damp (not wet). If the sand is too wet, the tubers will rot.

**Step Five:** Pack the tubers in an airtight container. Place a layer of moistened sand in the bottom and then a tuber. Add more sand to fill the container and seal. Label the outside of the container.

**Step Six:** Place the tuber containers in a cool, dark place. The temperature should be between 50 and 70 degrees. A basement is an ideal location.

**Step Seven:** Check your container about once per month. You are looking for mold or rotting tubers. If your tubers are soft, discard them. If they have mold wash it off and allow the tuber to dry over night. Then store the tuber in new sand.

You can leave tubers in storage for up to five years, as long as they remain firm and healthy. If you want to replant them, brush off the sand from the firm tuber and place it in the same kind of pot and soil it was in before and place it in your pond. Make sure the water temperature is warm enough (60 degrees at least) before you put the tropical plants back in the pond.

![Miami Rose day blooming tropical, located in the St Francis pond south end and the center pond right side concrete container near sundial.](image-url)

LIBRARY NEWS

The SLWGS library books are now available by request. 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
If there is a koi that could have “jazz hands,” the Gin Rin koi would have to be the one. It’s flashy and glitzy. Some Gin Rin have more sparkle than Michael Jackson’s famous left-hand glove. The Gin Rin variety is a star in the koi world. But koi cannot have jazz hands, and I don’t think that anything is more sparkly than Michael Jackson’s glove; so I hope you get the point I’m trying to make. The Gin Rin type of koi is easily recognizable because of its characteristic sparkling scales, and it is easy to remember because of its easy name Gin Rin, which is actually pronounced “geen deen.” Gin Rin characteristics can happen in many varieties of koi. This sparkling effect is strongest on young koi and will often fade away as the koi ages because of the way the scales of the fish age. Scales get thicker on older and larger koi and the sparkling effect becomes less visible. The name Gin Rin means “silver scale” and it is easy to understand why because of how this scale type reflects sunlight. Like many characteristics of koi and ornamental fish, the Gin Rin scale type is actually a deformity of the fish scale that has been bred into the fish. There are four sub-types of Gin Rin scale patterns with some more desirable than others.

The Gin Rin koi was developed by Mr. Eizaburo Hoshino. Mr. Hoshino was a well-known Japanese koi breeder in the early 1900s. It’s said that in 1929, Mr. Hoshino came across a fisherman who had caught a wild magoi that had many glittering scales. That fish was used as the genesis in the development of what we now know as the Gin Rin trait. Intense work by several early koi breeders in Hiroshima and Niigata Japan fixed this trait into Gin Rin koi and also developed the four different sub-types of scalation by around 1950. These days just about every variety of koi has a Gin Rin type and there are even official judging standards for this trait. To be considered a Gin Rin koi, the koi must have at least three complete rows of Gin Rin scales. The fish, which has the Gin Rin trait, must first specifically qualify as its base variety. For example, a Kohaku must show all the characteristics of a show quality Kohaku before the Gin Rin trait is judged. As far as keeping a Gin Rin koi there are no special requirements. They can be treated just like any other koi type as far as feeding, temperament, and longevity. Many hobbyists report that they do not grow as large as other koi, but truly large koi size is not very common in a typical backyard koi pond, so the average hobbyist will not even notice! The Gin Rin koi is a lot of fun to have as part of a koi collection and adds that sparkle that really catches the eye. They are widely available from breeders and dealers. So pick your favorite variety of koi and look around for them with that classic Gin Rin sparkle and your pond will shine!

by Mike Gannon

About the Author, Mike Gannon is owner of Full Service Aquatics located in Summit, NJ. Mike is an award-winning pond, water garden, and water feature builder. Mike is the creator of “The Pond Hunter” video series seen on YouTube and has made several television appearances on networks such as HGTV and the DIY Network. He also hosts the Pond Hunter Radio Broadcast. You can contact Mike at the LOVEYOURPOND blog at http://fullserviceaquatics.com.

Article from: International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society
Come join us for an evening at the Jewel Box and see our civic project. Enjoy an evening eating and strolling by the reflection pools, which are maintained by SLWGS.

Make your reservations to attend the annual banquet. A good time is had by all who attend.

Contact Tonya Summers to save your spot. Info on pg. 1