Pond-O-Rama 2021

So, what new and exciting things will you experience in 2021?

While 2020 was a most unusual year for all of us, our Pond-O-Rama tour was the best in twenty years. That was thanks to all our fantastic members who volunteered to be hosts. Spending time outside during a pandemic helped their gardens look fabulous! We experienced a record number of visitors to the gardens, and as requested in our ticket book, everyone wore masks and complied with social distancing. We wanted to ensure that not only our hosts, but our visitors remained as safe as possible in the outdoors. We will continue to encourage masks and social distancing for this year’s tour as well.

SAVE THE DATES ........
Saturday, June 26th and Sunday, June 27th will be the dates for our 21st Annual Pond-O-Rama tour from 9-5 pm each day.

It is winter and you are at home…inside. Are you comfortably enjoying the beauty of snow from the warmth of your home while you cuddle with your favorite furry friend or play with the little ones? Are you pondering what new flowers will spring up in your garden or which you will purchase? Are you thinking of what outside projects you can do as soon as it warms up?

While you are Pondering…. Think about being one of our 2021 Hosts for Pond-O-Rama this year. It is not too early to think about it!

It really is exciting to meet visitors that come to your beautiful personal oasis and share your knowledge and experience of water gardening or just enjoy your ponds and gardens.

We print our ticket books in April, so they are available in May.

We need our 2021 hosts finalized by March 10th.

We look forward to seeing some new member water features on tour this year and those of the many members who are always enhancing their water features. Please consider sharing the beauty you enjoy every day.

Want to be a host for our 2021 Pond-O-Rama tour?

The host form is on the website.

Forms can be sent to Ginny Mueller, 2021 Pond-O-Rama Chair, 16 Talisman Way Drive, Florissant, MO 63034, or email to vcmueller16@gmail.com.

ADVERTISERS

All ads are due April 1, 2021. It’s a great way to promote your business. Contact Ginny for
This year was a first! A mink (or maybe a few more) found our pond and the fish that were in it. Sneaky little guy went under the net and our poor fish became his breakfast/lunch/dinner.

We set traps….first catching a squirrel……not the objective!

Then we finally caught a mink!
Maybe some of our fish survived and we’ll see them in the spring!

Mink … Mink….go away…..
Please find another place to play.
You really should let our fish be,
Or one day you be a coat for all to see!
Out on a Limb and need some help?

Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

SLWGS President’s Corner

Hopefully, this February-March edition of Water Word finds you well and anxious for spring to arrive. A teaching colleague called yesterday and during the conversation I mentioned that we could expect a few spring flowers by the middle of next month. She quickly indicated that she has spring crocus already up a good two inches. We all have had a hard winter and a change in the season will be a welcoming sight.

Gail Abernathy, who is responsible for the Newsletter and I thought we it might be best to do an issue of Water Word every two months. This change will be in effect until the warmer weather arrives and more information is available to fill each edition.

I would like to welcome new members just joining SLWGS as well as returning members. The Missouri Botanical Garden has a major construction project which will include the replacement of the Ridgeway center. This was where most of our the monthly meetings were held. No other Missouri Botanical Garden locations can be used for meeting purposes due to the COVID issue. Once restrictions are lifted, we can expect to restart our monthly meetings.

SLWGS will again sponsor the annual water lily display at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. As you may recall, last we worked with Derek at MOBOT to help in the selection and display of the plants in the ponds. The display was fantastic and included several sizable Victorian Lilies. Thanks so much to Derek for helping and a very special thank you to our faithful members that meet every Saturday to maintain the display in peak performance. Every member of

SLWGS is welcome to join us at the Jewel Box. We meet every Saturday morning around 9:00 am during the season.

This year we will again offer the membership the opportunity to purchase lilies when the society places our annual plant order. Kay Miskill and Greg Heck will be working on the lily selections.

Ginny Mueller has graciously volunteered to chair the 21st SLWG Pond-O-Rama Tour and will be needing help from the general membership. Please consider taking an active role this year by helping. Whether you host for POR or help directly in the planning and implementation YOU can help make the difference.

Enjoy your garden!

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Henson
President, SLWGS
Membership meetings in 2021 will be held ??

No Meeting until COVID restrictions are lifted.

We might Try Zoom meetings we shall see.

Need fish, fish food, pond equipment/supplies, landscape and/or pond designs or plants? All that and more is available from our advertisers. Drop by or call them when you need help.

$15

POND-O-RAMA
ST. LOUIS WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
POND & WATER GARDEN TOUR
Sat. and Sun., June 26–27 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Dear ADVERTISERS

We are grateful for your support, not only for Pond-O-Rama, but all during theyear.
Your ad in the ticket booklet will enjoy the following benefits:

- Your ad will be placed in the 2021 Pond-O-Rama Ticket booklet with your company name, information, and services. Everyone on the tour, including SLWGS members and ticket sellers, will have a ticket booklet.

- With your ad in Pond-O-Rama a business-card ad in the Society’s newsletter, "Water Word", will remind Society members about your services—and your support of the Society.

- All advertisers' ads will also be posted on our website: [http://www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org).

- All advertisers will be invited to include as hosts their best installations. Showing your creativity in the water features you design and having your clients share the love of their new installation will definitely create interest in your business.

Contact Ginny Mueller for more information. vcmueller16@gmail.com
All ads are due No Later Than April 1, 2021.... the sooner the better!

Members’ Corner:

We have a few birthdays in February and March so “Happy Birthday” this month to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February Birthday’s</th>
<th>March Birthday’s</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Parker 2/4</td>
<td>Ann Lena 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Krajocovic Feb</td>
<td>Tom Meier 3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britt Dwyer 2/8</td>
<td>Karen M Zimmermann 3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve King 2/10</td>
<td>Bruce Feldman 3/12</td>
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<td>Crinnion 2/10</td>
<td>Bob Henson 3/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Huch 2/18</td>
<td>Rhonda Porter 3/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerre Baynes 2/24</td>
<td>Laurel Walle 3/22</td>
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Free water hyacinths just for visiting Chalily!!!
Water Word is normally 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:

### 2021 SLWGS Officers
- **President**
  - Bob Henson
  - (314) 495-4233
  - hatt8v92@aol.com
- **Vice President**
  - Bryan Cox
  - (618) 593-4238
  - bcox741@gmail.com
- **Treasurer**
  - Ginny Mueller
  - (314) 831-3063
  - vcmueller16@hotmail.com
- **Recording Secretary**
  - Betsy Meier
  - (636) 405-1120
  - lidodeck@att.net

### 2021 Board Members
- **Publicity Chairman**
  - Ginny Mueller
  - (314) 831-3063
  - vcmueller16@hotmail.com
- **Special Events Chairman**
  - Carol Greminger
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  - carolrnron@att.net
- **Society Shirt Sales Chairman**
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  - lidodeck@att.net
- **Membership/E-mail Chairman**
  - Gail Abernathy
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  - abernat@swbell.net
- **Jewel Box Chairman**
  - Kay Miskell
  - (618) 344-6216
  - km99@att.net
- **Water Word Editor**
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  - lidodeck@att.net
- **Hospitality Chairman**
  - Bev Maschek
  - (314) 954-8616
  - maschek@sbcglobal.net
- **Member-at-Large**

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.
Robert Henson's pond and backyard. Some very cool pictures with all his sculptures in his yard.
SLWGS is a Member of IWGS

Hello All. The St. Louis Water Garden Society is now a member of the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS).

Actually, when stuck and in need something for the newsletter, I will look to see if they have anything I think would be interesting to you.

Here is the link to their site and the login information.

The login for IWGS (iwgs.org) is: SLWGS

Password is: SLWGS20

Looking for something to do on a cold day?
Try some virtual classes. Here are just a few sources.

SLCL.ORG
On March 3 and March 9, the St. Louis County Library has a virtual class on Gardening 101.
There are many gardening classes available.
All the virtual classes are free and provide great information.
You just need to register for the class.

PROVENWINNERS.COM
Great information on new plants for the season.
They also have a Facebook page.

ME LindAMY ERS.COM
Melinda offers some interesting classes virtually and has the classes online for viewing if you missed it.
Check out her website on a wide variety of topics.

Things To Do While Inside....
NATURE IN MY BACK YARD

It started with a modest objective: save the monarchs — all of them. I wanted my backyard to look like the monarch wintering grounds in the oyamel fir forests of Mexico. If time and resources allowed, my secondary objective was to create a good place for other butterflies, birds, bees, and the occasional small furry or scaly critter to hang out.

The plan was to convert my relatively small, central Missouri backyard into a natural space for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of friends and family. With access to MDC’s bird and habitat experts, turning my backyard into a 2,500-square-foot nature haven should have been child’s play.

GOING AU NATUREL

“That’s the big idea, right?” said State Ornithologist Sarah Kendrick. “If you can give up just a little bit of your lawn looking perfectly, immaculately manicured, you can help a lot of wildlife.”

There are three adjectives that have never been used to describe my backyard: perfect, immaculate, and manicured. It’s a bit of a mess to begin with, so why not put it to use attracting “a lot of wildlife.” With any luck, I would have the added benefit of relaxing and enjoying nature with my morning coffee.

STEP AWAY FROM THE SHOVEL

Apparently, the first step in converting your lawn to a nature haven is to get your shovel and all the rest of your garden tools — and lock them away. Even though a landscape designed for nature is not as structured as a traditional lawn, it still requires planning, said Norman Murray, habitat chief of MDC’s Wildlife Division.
Here is another way to make a water garden in a container. This is a little bigger version of container gardening but it still works. The possibilities are endless for doing this type of gardening. No matter what you decide to do, it will look fantastic.