Gardening for Wildlife

Dan Pearson is the coordinator of the Bring Conservation Home (BCH) program. BCH provides consultations and detailed written advice to improve landscapes with native plants, stormwater management techniques and wildlife stewardship practices for the benefit of ecosystems and human communities across the St. Louis region. With a background of over 15 years of anti-violence advocacy, Dan has pivoted to pursue a passion for environmental conservation. It began with a BCH consultation for Dan’s own landscape in 2016. This led to several years of studying native landscaping and implementing BCH recommendations to transform his yard into a platinum-certified wildlife habitat which was selected to host the 2018 St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour. In 2017 Dan trained as a volunteer BCH habitat advisor and remained active until 2020 when he was hired at first to support and later to coordinate BCH.

Don’t Miss This!

What: Gardening for Wildlife
Where: Kirkwood Community Center
111 S Geyer Rd, Rm# 200 A/B
Kirkwood, MO 63122
When: Tuesday, June 21st 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Who: Dan Pearson,
St. Louis Audubon Society

St Louis Audubon Society
PO Box 220227
St Louis, MO 63122
www.stlouisaudubon.org
Jewel Box Work day

June 4th was our work day for the tropicals. A big enough crew showed up to help plant the lilies and bring the tropicals out of the green house over to the pools! There were Dalen Johnson, Frank Blair, Leonard Durant, Jim Bear, Greg Heck, Bob Henson, Howard Schroeder, Steve Harris, Kay Miskell, Gail Abernathy.

Our supervisor watching what we were doing.

Thanks to all who came out and help get the reflection pools planted for the season.

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HOURS
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Nov-Feb (Fri, Sat, Sun) 10 am - 5 pm
I assume that each of you is in full swing working in your yard and gardens. I’m certainly no exception. Yesterday I hosted a delightful group of ladies from the Methodist church who toured the garden. This month is a pre-tour of the Master Gardener tour followed by the actual tour and then, of course, Pond O Rama toward the end of the month.

The Hosta on the Tour on May 14th was an absolute blast. I have included a brief description of the trip and photos in this issue of Water Word. Bruce and Chick Buehrig presented a wonderful slide presentation of their garden of conifers, Hosta, and an endless list of other plants in their garden at the May meeting. Their garden is one of the thirty gardens included in this year’s Pond-O-Rama. If you missed the May meeting make plans to drop by and walk through their garden. You will not be disappointed.

The speaker of this month is Dan Pearson from the Audubon Society. He will be talking about ideas and ways to invite more wildlife into your garden. I welcome all creatures…. that’s not true! Blue Herons, squirrels, deer, and especially mink are not invited or welcome.

The annual audit was recently completed and to quote the treasurer, “all is good”. We appreciate Ron Greminger and Dave Schiele serving on the audit committee, and of course, Ginny Mueller, for remaining treasurer. When you see them, personally thank them for their work.

The July meeting will be our auction so please plan on bringing items to help make the event successful. Josh Higgins, formerly of the Botanical Garden will be this year’s auctioneer.

The August meeting is to be held at the Jewel Box for the 2022 “Banquet”, September we’ll be back at the Kirkwood Community Center with Derek Lyle. Derek will be teaching us how to be successful at overwintering tropical lilies, something I have yet to perfect!

In October we hope to have a well-noted expert speak on owls and, of course, November is the annual budget meeting and election of officers. The year is certainly moving along!

Enjoy your garden and see you in June.
Membership meetings in 2022 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Meetings will be held on Tuesday’s at the Kirkwood Community Center, Room 200 A/B. There is an elevator.

May 17 — Hostas
Bruce & Chick Buehrig

June 14—Host Meeting @ Kirkwood Community Center Pickup flags an gifts 6:30 to 8:30p.m.

June 21 — Gardening for Wildlife
Speaker from the Audubon Society
Dan Pearson

June 25 & 26 Pond-O-Rama

July 19 — Auction

August 16 — Banquet, at the Jewel Box

September 20 — Derek Lyle
How to winter over tropical lilies.

October 18 — TBA

November 15 — Budget—Election of Vice President and Treasurer

**** Meeting Location ****

Address:
Kirkwood Community Center
Rm# 200 A/B
111 S Geyer Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Find Treasures at the July Auction

Start now to scout out items that will catch the attention of our discriminating buyers. Remember that hand-made items usually generate spirited bidding. Photographs, paintings, and needle art also have done well in the past. However, any garden—or pond-related item—new or gently used—is acceptable as a donation. Also good are pumps, filters, and other mechanical equipment needed for pond operations. Unusual plants or container plantings draw interest as well.

Start thinking about what you have in your garage or basement you can contribute, what you can create yourself, or what you can talk a neighbor or retailer into donating. As you visit garden centers or pond stores, ask if they are willing to make an auction donation. We always let members know which commercial establishments have made donations, and we list commercial donors in the August issue of the newsletter.

All donations should be brought to the site by 6:30 p.m., for registration. The auction begins promptly at 7. Don’t forget to bring your checkbook!
Water Word is usually 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](http://www.slwgs.org) or from any of the officers and board members listed:

### 2022 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**
  - Sophia Cluck
  - (636) 530-1726
  - rodie0415@gmail.com

### 2022 Board Members

- **Publicity Chairman**
  - Ginny Mueller
  - (314) 831-3063
  - vcmueller16@hotmail.com

- **Special Events Chairman**
  - Gail Abernathy
  - (314) 427-7076
  - abernat@swbell.net

- **Society Shirt Sales Chairman**
  - Betsy Meier
  - (636) 405-1120
  - lidodeck@att.net

- **Membership/E-mail Chairman**
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- **Jewel Box Chairman**
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- **Water Word Editor**
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- **Website Chairman**
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- **AKCA / Koi USA Representative**
  - Tom Meier
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  - ufo.kites@att.net

- **Pond-O-Rama Chairman**
  - Ginny Mueller
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  - vcmueller16@hotmail.com

- **Parliamentarian**
  - Carol Greminger
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- **Hospitality Chairman**
  - Bev Maschek
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  - maschek@sbcglobal.net

- **Member-at-Large**
  - Greg Heck
  - (314) 302-0273
  - taraxacum44@gmail.com
June 25 & 26
The Pond-O-Rama tickets are now available.

The ticket books are available for sale at all our retail locations. Member tickets can be picked up at our June 14th, Board Meeting (all are welcome), or June 21st general meeting.

If you have any questions regarding Pond-O-Rama, contact Ginny Mueller, 314-808-7000 or vcmueller16@gmail.com.

***Save the date! This will be a really good event.***

June 18th Carnivorous Show and Sale
We will be meeting at Papillion Perennials
(2906 Ossenfort Rd, Wildwood, MO 63038) from 9-2.

Membership Bonus

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS).

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

(www.iwgs.org)

The login: SLWGS Password is: slwgs20
What You Should Know About Oxygen in Your Pond

Keep It Cool
Pond owners in colder climates have a bit of an oxygen edge over southern water gardeners. Water under 60 degrees Fahrenheit dissolves (or carries) more oxygen. Therefore, it’s a good idea to add an aerator to your pond during the dog days of summer.

In addition to heat, plants and an abundance of fish will reduce oxygen levels. So be careful not to overstock your pond. A good rule of thumb to follow is no more than 10 inches of fish per 100 gallons of water. Another oxygen glutton is beneficial bacteria which have voracious metabolisms when it comes to consuming oxygen. Your pond’s bacterial flora consumes more oxygen than your fish ever could. So basically, the things you want most in your pond (fish, plants, and beneficial bacteria) are the things that consume the most oxygen!

Less common ways that cause dissolved oxygen levels to fall include decaying algae, treating the pond with chemicals, and the depth of your pond. Algae eats up oxygen as it rots away, consuming massive amounts. The use of certain chemicals can consume a lot of oxygen, so if you do use them, be sure to agitate the water during treatment. Also, the depth of your pond plays a role in the available oxygen in the pond. Ponds over five feet deep, for example, will have low dissolved oxygen levels at the bottom.

Too Much of a Good Thing?
You might wonder if it’s possible to have too much oxygen in your pond. Fortunately, the level of oxygen in an ecosystem pond is usually at a decent level if there is sufficient movement. Water is generally adequate to give a residential pond enough oxygen. The exception might be during the hottest months of the year. An aerator can be added to the pond to provide additional oxygen for your fish during summer. There’s no need to test your pond for oxygen levels. If your fish appear to be gasping for air at the water’s surface, it’s usually a sign that they need a little more oxygen.

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TRIP TO HOSTAS ON THE BLUFF

If you did not attend the trip to explore the Hostas on the Bluff in Fairview Heights, Illinois, you missed a very enjoyable outing with fellow SLWGS members and guests.

I had arranged for a 20-passenger bus to transport those who did not wish to drive. My last-minute concern was that only 10 people signed up to ride the bus. What was a disappointment with the lack of riders turned out to be an asset on the return trip home. Every unused seat and space was now occupied with boxes of Hosta plants!

The view of the city of St. Louis from the “Bluff” was very beautiful and certainly explained the name of the establishment. After exploring the hundreds of Hosta varieties available we loaded back on the bus and headed for lunch followed by members who drove their vehicles. The stop for lunch was at the “Lotawata Creek” restaurant. The food was fantastic and with huge portions being served. Many of us left with take-home boxes.

This trip is surely worth repeating sometime in the future and I want to thank all those who were able to attend.

A special thanks to David Roberts, owner, and driver of the “KOOL BUS”. David had decorated the inside of the bus with balloons which on the return trip erupted into a balloon fight.

*Article by Bob Henson
Photos by Bob Henson and Ginny Mueller*
How many you have one of these guys in your back yard? This one is a day in half old. They are cute at this age not once they get older. Enjoy your gardens!