



The Thyme is Cumin to Learn About Herbs!

The Thyme is Cumin to learn about herbs! Niki Salima, a certified herbalist, developed an interest in herbs for their medicinal properties at an early age.

Raised by her gardening Russian grandmother and also influenced by her Native American heritage, she grew up helping to tend a home garden and learned to use herbs to make traditional home remedies. Niki now grows herbs and native plants in her own garden to produce her natural teas, salves, and skin/hair care products. She will give us insight into the benefits of homeopathic gardening.

Herb-seasoned snacks and sweets is the theme.

And the Award Goes To?

Two St. Louis Water Garden Society members received awards recognizing their volunteer service at the annual Awards Banquet held last month at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. The awards were presented by the president of SLWGS, Bob Henson. The Bonnie Alford Service Award was presented to Betsy and Tom Meier. The Ganim Award went to Kathie Soehngen.

Recipients of the two service awards are chosen annually by members who have previously received the awards.

The Bonnie Alford Service Award honors the founder of the St. Louis Water Garden Society, Bonnie Alford, and is given to a member who has been a member of the Society for at least five years and who has made measurable and significant contributions to the Society.

The Ganim Service Award honors Don and Lizanne Ganim and is given to a member who has been a member of the Society for at least 60 days, and who has gone beyond the call of duty for

Don't Miss This!

What: The Thyme is Cumin to Learn About Herbs!

Who: By Niki Salima, Certified Herbalist

When: Tuesday, September 19th, 7 -9 p.m.

**Where: Kirkwood Community Center
111 S Geyer Rd, Rm #200 A/B
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

SLWGS. Kathie Soehngen stepped up when a program director was needed and is on the SLWGS Board of Directors.

Annual Tiki Tour Saturday October 7th

The St. Louis Water Garden society will hold its annual members-only TIKI Tour—an evening tour that features ponds with lighting—on October 7th starting at 7 p.m.

The Tiki Tour has become a favorite event for SLWGS members because it shows how lighting affects the look of a pond or waterfall. It's a fun progressive tour with mingling and food.





First Class held at the Jewel Box Ponds by Greg Heck

The initial “pond tour/class” for the Jewel Box were small, but successful. Weekends have been packed with family events for me, but we can squeeze one more into the season before the shutdown of the ponds when we transfer of hardy waterlilies to the storage pond and salvaging select tropicals for greenhouse overwintering. If you are interested in learning and seeing some more in-depth information about plantings and associated biology, please respond directly to me Greg Heck at taraxacum44@gmail.com or 314-302-0273. Accommodation is somewhat limited.



Class is in session!



Those of all ages enjoy the class that Greg Heck led at the Jewel Box on a Saturday. The youngest, I think, just like playing in the water. Come out and learn some interesting facts!



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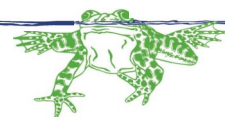
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SLWGS President's Corner

This year's SLWGS banquet was well attended, and the weather could not have been more perfect. Many thanks to Kathie Soehngen for organizing the banquet, especially her talk on the history of the Jewel Box. I was surprised to learn that the current Jewel Box is not the original structure nor location in the park. Gratitude also goes to Greg Heck and Rob for preparing the special treat for members at the edge of the main pond, a display of various edible aquatic plants and samples of prepared food products from them. They were a big success with the attendees. The water chestnuts were delicious and indeed a loss if you missed the banquet.

The 2023 SLWGS Awards were presented to well-deserving recipients the Bonnie Alford award was given to Kathie Soehngen, the Ganim Award went to Betsy and Tom Meier, and the Spirit Award was given to Jim Haegele. Many thanks to Kathie, Betsy, Tom, and Jim for their efforts and contributions to the St. Louis Water Garden Society.

I have been asked to remind the membership that the annual Tiki Tour is coming up in October and November is the annual budget presentation and election of officers. This year's election will be for President and Secretary, and you are encouraged to attend to cast your vote. Dinner will be potluck, and I'm sure the events committee will send out more


information as we approach the date.

Ginny Mueller has been very active in recent months, restructuring and improving the SLWGS website, SLWGS.org. All the current news, events, dates, etc., are available and better allow the viewer to stay up to date on important dates and news. Along with various useful features, each of the past editions of Water Word is now available. The new format is easier to navigate and has more features than before. Check it out!

Word does get around! The volunteers at the Jewel Box last Saturday were greeted with some extra help from Radka and Peter Sherman from Cedar Rapids, IA. The Shermans recently contacted me and indicated they would visit family in the area and ask if they could help in the Jewel Box ponds. Radka was a true water lily enthusiast and wasted no time helping. Unfortunately, a lightning storm finally drove us out of the ponds early. Thank you, Radka and Peter!

Enjoy the remaining time this year in the pond and gardens, and I hope to see you at a future meeting or event.

Bob Henson
President, St. Louis Water Garden Society



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St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events 2023

Membership meetings in 2023 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays at the Kirkwood Community Center, Room 200 A/B. There is an elevator.

September 19th—The Thyme is Cumin to Learn about Herbs!

By Niki Salima, Certified Herbalist

October 7th — Tiki Tour

October 17th—Raindrops to Rainbows

By Allison Joyce, Earthways Center of MOBOT

November 14th— Budget—Election of President and Secretary

This year Potluck Dinner will be back!

****** Meeting Location ******

Kirkwood Community Center

Rm# 200 A/B

111 S Geyer Rd

Kirkwood, MO 63122





10TH ANNUAL MOONLIGHT POND TOUR & AFTER PARTY

Saturday, September 30, 2023

5:45 PM - 10:00 PM



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[Nature's Re-Creations | Moonlight Pond Tour in St. Louis \(recreatenature.com\)](http://Nature's Re-Creations | Moonlight Pond Tour in St. Louis (recreatenature.com))



Feather Flag REMINDERS!

If you have not returned your feather flag, please return it at either the Board meeting on September 12th or the General Meeting on September 19th at 7:00 PM at the Kirkwood Community Center.

If you are considering being on the Pond-O-Rama 2024 tour, now is a fantastic time to take pictures of your water garden while it is still beautiful.

We need our members to be part of the 2024 Pond-O-Rama committee. Whatever your talent and skills, we are sure it will help make our event spectacular,

please call/text Ginny Mueller at 314-808-7000 or email – vcmueller16@gmail.com.

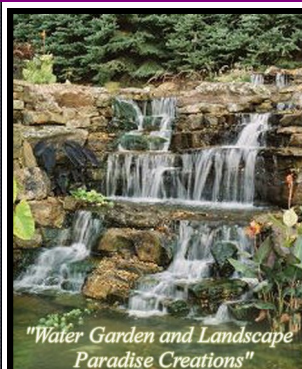


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Water Word

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 or from any of the officers and board members listed:

2023 SLWGS Officers

President

Bob Henson (314) 495-4233 hatt8v92@aol.com

Vice President

Greg Heck (314) 302-0273 taraxacum44@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jerre Baynes (314) 775-5453 baynes_j@swbell.net

Recording Secretary

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

2023 Board Members

Publicity Chairman

Ginny Mueller (314) 808-7000 vcmueller16@gmail.com

Special Events Chair

Laurel Walle (314) 898-7216 lollysnorkels@gmail.com

Kathie Soehngen (314) 894-0981 kasoeing@sbcglobal.net

Society Shirt Sales Chairman

Gail Abernathy (314) 427-7076 abernat@swbell.net

Membership/E-mail Chairman

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Jewel Box Chairman

Kay Miskell (618) 344-6216 km99@att.net

Water Word Editor

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Website Chairman

Ginny Mueller (314) 808-7000 vcmueller16@gmail.com

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Ginny Mueller (314) 808-7000 vcmueller16@gmail.com

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Betsy Meier (636) 405-1120 lidodeck@att.net

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Bev Maschek (314) 954-8616 maschek@sbcglobal.net

Member-at-Large

Carolyn Haus (314) 993-0985 chaus2016@gmail.com

Keith Haus (314) 993-0985 keithhaus33@gmail.com

Jim Haegle (636) 349-5511 jimhaegle@gmail.com



HELP NEEDED!

The Jewel Box Lily Pools. This is our civic project for the club. Could any of you spare two hours on a Saturday morning? It doesn't have to be every Saturday but come and help out in the water pulling spent blooms and bad leaves off the lilies. If you could only spare an hour, that would be helpful. As the temperatures go up, the plants take off in their growth. You don't have to get into the ponds. We need someone to help take the stuff that comes out. If you have a cart or something, you can wheel it around, collect the trash, and take it to the back of the Jewel Box to the dumpsters. That will help a lot. It is a great way to meet other members and you would not believe how many people come by and say thank you for doing what we do.

At our November meeting, voting will take place for the president and the secretary. The last time nominations will be accepted is at the end of the October meeting. Nominations must be sent to Tom Meier at ufo.kites@att.net before that time. No nominations will be accepted after that. Please be sure that the person you nominate has agreed to accept the nomination.

Free Give Aways

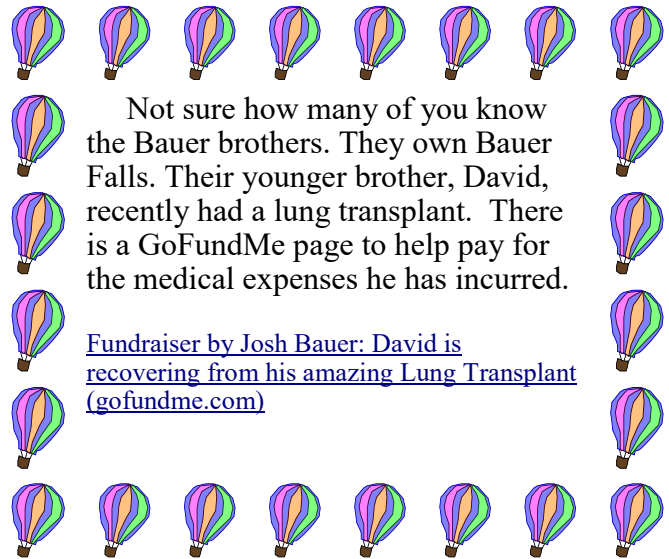
Jim Haegele 636-349-5511
Bamboo shoots for the taking, call Jim Haegele

Jane Sykes 314-750-7492
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Members' Corner:

Happy Birthday to all September members below and not listed.

Bill Sheffer — 9/2
Kay Miskell — 9/8
Sandra Ellington — 9/9
Keith Kowalczyk — 9/13
Scott Fehr — 9/17
Rodney Bridges — 9/29



Not sure how many of you know the Bauer brothers. They own Bauer Falls. Their younger brother, David, recently had a lung transplant. There is a GoFundMe page to help pay for the medical expenses he has incurred.

[Fundraiser by Josh Bauer: David is recovering from his amazing Lung Transplant \(gofundme.com\)](#)

Membership Bonus

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society

Here is the link to their site and the login information. www.iwgs.org

Login: SLWGS

Password: slwgs20

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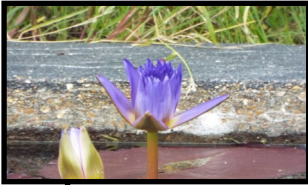
Photos of the Jewel Box Banquet



Kathie Soehngen— Ganim Award



Greg Heck handed out the Spirit Award to Jim Haegele



Others recognized for their work in the club. Left to right: Jerre Baynes, Joan Ziskind, Steve Harris, Greg Heck, Keith & Carolyn Haus, Joann Batzer, Ellie Flesher, Dave Thies.



Robin Knoll, long time
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Saturday Morning Maintenance, by a Visitor



On a rainy Saturday morning, unexpected visitors from out of town wanted to help with the Jewel box maintenance. This was their second time seeing the displays at the Jewel Box. Please read their email below as a thank you to Bob for letting them help out Saturday morning.



Hi Bob,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome. We enjoyed every minute we spent in and around Jewel Box Ponds. I am the waterlily enthusiast in our family, and my husband kindly supports me in my hobby. We live in Cedar Rapids, IA, and the SLWGS Jewel Box ponds display alone is worth the 4.5-hour drive to St. Louis.

While waterlilies are generally a sight for sore eyes by themselves, I really appreciate that you put out the planting maps so I know what I am looking at. It was interesting to compare the huge King of Siam in Pines pond to my tiny plant I grow in a 2ft barrel (yet she blooms non-stop during summer for me, too). Nice example of how adaptable some cultivars are. Another interesting comparison was the Queen of Siam July 2022 vs. August 2023. Last year, we visited in late July, and, as far as I remember, her viviparous pads didn't have any plantlets on them back then. I take it she is not as strongly viviparous as, for example, Dauben, Innocence or Crystal (and it was good to compare this year's Crystal to Innocence you displayed last year, too).

Thanks again for the warm welcome and for all your wonderful work you and your friends do for the community, to make the beautiful city of St. Louis even more beautiful. We're looking forward to coming back next summer, hopefully the weather will cooperate better when we return.

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Radka and Peter Sherman





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Events Around Town

May 2– October 15 — Chihuly in the Garden, Missouri Botanical Garden



Tiki Tour
October 7th



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Photo of the Month



A must see at the Jewel Box before the season wraps up.
There are many other beautiful ones to see along with the
edible display of plants growing in the pools this year.