

Ways to Discourage Pond Predators

Our speaker this month is Carol Ann Miller, a long-time member. She will be talking about their mistakes when building their own pond. Mainly she will be talking about what she found worked the best to discourage pond predators from visiting their pond.

Come and learn what worked for her and see if it will work for your pond. She promises you will have a good time, along with a few of her known jokes!

Common Pond-Building Mistakes

1. **Using seam tape to connect the stream to the pond.** It is usually a tedious chore. Instead, bring the pond liner up to the stream level and into it. Put the stream liner over it, with 3' or so overlapping.
2. **Not having the proper filtration.** Not having enough filtration will result in murky, green water. I don't think you can 'over filter' a pond."
3. **Not having enough plant life.** Use lots of plants for shade and algae control.
4. **Not building big enough to start with.** No one ever says, 'Oh, it's too big!'
5. **Stream sides not high enough.** Build it up to contain the water without overflow.
6. **Having a fish overload.** A heavy fish load in spring and fall will cause you to have heavy algae growth.
7. **Not being patient with the natural ecological systems.** All natural systems go through cycles, so give it a chance to adjust.

Don't Miss This!

What: Ways to Discourage Pond Predators

Who: Carol Ann Miller, SLWGS Member

When: Tuesday, Feb. 20th 7p.m. —9 p.m.

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





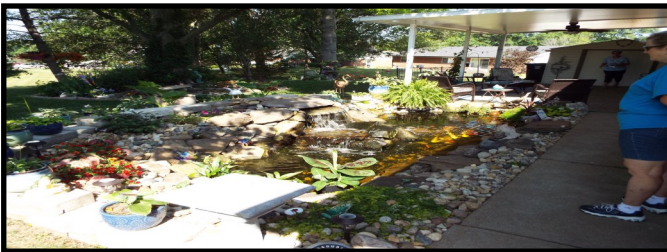
ANNUAL ST LOUIS WATER GARDEN SOCIETY TOUR



It's time to prepare for another exciting Pond-O-Rama!

The 24th Annual St. Louis Water Garden Society's Pond Tour will be held from 9 a.m. ~ to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 22nd, and Sunday, June 23rd, 2024.

The ticket book will be refreshed with new features like QR codes for maps and location content. Look for full-color pictures and sponsor ads, too!



Now Accepting Host Applications for the 2024 Pond Tour

The deadline for completed applications is February 28, 2024.

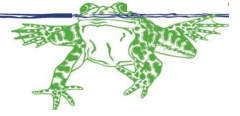
“Why so early?” you ask.

Producing a beautiful ticket book takes considerable time and effort, from synthesizing information from hosts and sponsors to editing and graphic design. The book goes to print in April and then for distribution/sale in May.

Please note: Pond Tour hosts must be active members. We ask that you complete the online form - even if you have hosted in previous years!

(Continued on Page 3)





We always need more help on the Pond-O-Rama committee.

To help make the 2024 Tour successful, please contact Ginny at vcmueller16@gmail.com or 314-808-7000.

All Host Applications and Advertiser Information are due February 28th.

Please use the links below to submit your applications online for the 2024 tour.

Applications can also be found on our website: <https://slwgs.org>

Host form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlGKsqVLIGGcBrly99PxmzqFL3mkTho87DZeimJ2Wqj1KR2w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Advertiser Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfL1qrZ1I4p_5Q2hqgJfIIVTDjmF9XdW14ER7FlpY1DLkdX2g/viewform?usp=sf_link

We look forward to an exciting water garden tour with beautiful new water features.

If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Mueller at 314-808-7000, vcmueller16@gmail.com.

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St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events

Membership meetings in 2024 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.

February 20—Ways to Discourage Pond Predators by Carol Ann Miller SLWGS Member.

March 19th— By Jeff Streibig, owner of Missouri Ponds.

April 16th—The creative process used to create his pond. -Don Richardson

May 21st—Plants that Changed the Course of History by Carol Gravens, Master Gardener.

June 18th—New and Upcoming Perennials to enhance the beauty of ponds, by Barry Ritter of Ritter Perennials.

July 16th—

August 20th—

Sept. 17th—

October 15th—

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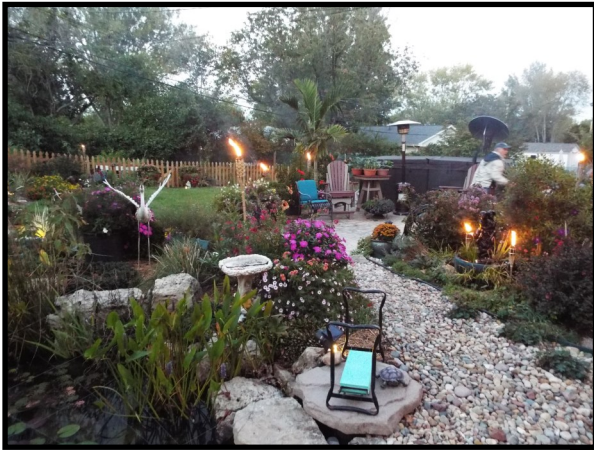
Chris Siewing
636.223.2330

www.Re-CreateNature.com
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2023 Tiki Tour Photos



Barry Ritters Pond at Dusk



Michael & Kat Slivka.

Second stop of the evening.



Lori Stringer
3rd stop of the evening



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Rodney Jarboe

Last stop of the evening.



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Out on a Limb and need some help?



Find resources at www.slwgs.org!

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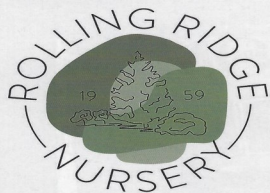


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Water Word

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:

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Time to Renew!

Membership chairman Gail Abernathy has reminded us that our membership renewals were due in January. She will be ready at the February meeting to accept your dues payment, which remains \$15 per person. If your membership information needs updating, you can use the brief form at right, or download the membership form from our website, www.slwgs.org. While nonmember guests always are welcome at our meetings, there are definite benefits to membership. For one thing, all members receive one free Pond-O-Rama ticket, a \$20 value. In addition, all members receive the regular issues of *Water Word*, and may participate in a number of special events throughout the year, including tours and field trips arranged for members only, plant swaps.

SLWGS member volunteers get hands-on experience in planting and maintaining a water garden that includes a wide variety of exotic water plants by working at the Jewel Box pools in Forest Park.

So bring your checkbooks and stop at the membership table to make sure you remain a member.

Members' Corner:

We have a few birthdays in February so "Happy Birthday"

February Birthday's

Ed Parker 2/4
 Judy Krajocovic Feb
 Janet Tran 2/9
 Steve King 2/10
 Jim Bear
 Mary Pohlman
 Jerre Baynes 2/24
 David Jenkins 2/22
 Dave Schiele



Return this form with your \$15 check payable to the St. Louis Water Gardening Society to the below address! 10922 Killdare Ct, Saint Ann, MO 63074 Please Print or Type Clearly

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New Membership Annual renewal

(Renewals are due annually in January)

Would you prefer to receive your copies of *Water Word* :
 via e-mail only? Or by regular mail? **Circle one**

Membership Bonus

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society

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

Login: SLWGS

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Are you Afraid of Bugs?

Are you afraid of interacting with insects? Have you been in the middle of a photo shoot and something amazing landed on your lens? Are you drawn to the iridescent green bugs that tease you and then take flight just when you begin to focus on them? In St. Louis we are blessed with bugs. There are little ones like the naughty gnats that believe their purpose is to occupy your face in the heat of a sweaty summer. There are more daunting, daring and dangerous danglers like the orb spider, which begins a new weaving each evening.

Bugs live year round. So do we. They hibernate in their homes or under sunbaked rocks when the snow covers the ground—just as we hide in our cozy getaways when it's chilly. Hiking in the hills on a snowy winter day, lie down on the soil to connect with Mother Earth and let the stresses of the day release into the ground. Within a few magical moments something catches your attention. You are soon greeted by a wayward fly causing you to ask where he left his coat? A spider follows the fly, and then a centipede wiggles from the decaying log you bumped with your foot. It's a wonderland of fun. Now this experience would give some people the creeps.

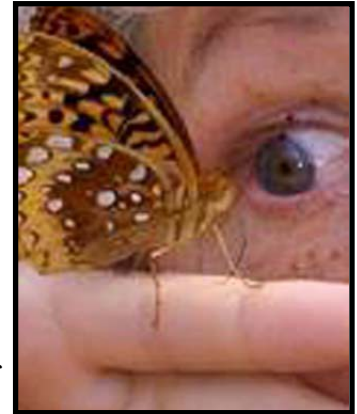
Bugs are a part of our community. Community you gasp what are you thinking about? When was the last time you were surprised in February by a lady bug in the corner of the window inside your house? Have you ever been reading a novel in the cold winter and had an ant cross the page? What is up with that?

There is a wonderful book by Ted Andrew titled "Animal Speak." It is a dictionary of what each animal and insect represents. It is a fabulous resource for your library and a great way to create a

new experience with bugs.

The next time you have a day of butterflies or bumble bees in abundance, look up their meaning in Ted's book, or find them on the internet. They just may be trying to tell you something.

Try having a new experience with bugs—especially ones that delight you like this lovely GuGu Gaiety Girl (not the real species name, it just sounds better) that was one of several who had a morning of landing on a finger. Even try having an interaction with one that may hold great fear for you. Decide to open up to something new this winter as we come out of hibernation. You may find a whole world you have been missing.



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This dwarf phlox is aptly named indeed. Desire is part of the reblooming Bambini® series. Compact plants grow to 10" tall and wide, and produce lush, colorful panicles of bright purple florets. An outstanding variety, it has a lovely fragrance that perfumes the entire area, both indoors and out. Desire is an easy-to-grow phlox that attracts butterflies and other pollinators with its brilliant hue, scintillating aroma and a flower form that makes accessing vital nectar a breeze. Makes an incredible display in front borders, mixed containers and cut-flower bouquets. Plus, these show-stopping blooms perennialize well, returning yearly with vigor.

Pink Bush Clematis

The latest companion to 'Stand By Me' Bush Clematis; varying from the original with pink flowers instead of blue. Compared with traditional vining clematis, 'Stand By Me Pink' is completely herbaceous and will restart from the ground each year. Flowers will appear profusely beginning in late spring, peaking in early summer, and continuing to show color until fall. Attractive cream thread-like seed heads follow. Broad, green foliage. This plant benefits from staking, cages, or neighboring plants for support.



Rainbow Rhythm

'Blazing Glory' has 6" golden yellow flowers with a bold burgundy red eye and matching picotee edge. Where traditional cultivars have picotee edges that bleed or fade, 'Blazing Glory' remains consistent with a wide margin that extends the length of the petal. Compared to 'King of the Ages' the flowers are 1/2" smaller, more golden yellow in color, and have a more pronounced eye and picotee edge; the plant is also about 6" shorter. Well-branched scapes and high bud count will ensure a blazing display of color.



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Photo of the Month



Shadowland Hosta

This Hosta will be a part of your garden “love story.” Long heart-shaped leaves have medium green margins with chartreuse jetting that bleeds into creamy white centers. The medio-variegation extends from leaf tip to the petiole, flaring at the base of the leaf. A gentle pie-crust wave edges each leaf. Tall stalks hold large clusters of tubular white flowers in early summer, creating a Hosta that can be enjoyed for its foliage and flowers.