

Plants That Changed the Course of History

The interconnection of plants and human existence is monumental. Food, shelter, fuel, medicines, clothing, oxygen, and carbon dioxide certainly, but have you considered the impact of plants on our daily lives?



About Carol: She retired from a professional career as a microbiologist and became an Advanced Level St. Louis Master Gardener. She became a Master Naturalist in 2007 and has an AAS in Horticulture from St. Louis Community College, Meramec. She gives talks and teaches classes on orchids to various groups in the community and at Missouri Botanical Garden as part of the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau. She volunteers one day a week in the orchid greenhouses at the Garden and grows orchids in her home in Glendale, Missouri. She also is a Kemper Center Plant Doctor volunteer. She loves everything about horticulture and has a passion for orchids.

Don't Miss This!

What: Plants That Changed the Course of History

Who: Carol Gravens, Master Gardener

When: Tuesday, May 21st from 7p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Also, enter Kirkwood Community Center from Geyer Road.

Next month's speaker, Barry Ritter, will speak about the New and Upcoming Perennials to enhance the beauty of Ponds.

Be sure to hear this!

2024 Pond-O-Rama tickets will be distributed at the May meeting and again at the June meeting. Stop by and pick yours up.

Also, enter Kirkwood Community Center from Geyer Road.





POND-O-RAMA

The Pond-O-Rama tickets are here!

There are several new features of the all color Ticket Booklet:

A photo of the host site's water feature along with a description and directions

A key to the site's features and accessibility

A QR code that gives a Google map route to that site from any current location.

There is also a QR code for the large map of all the host sites for Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets will be available at the May and June General Meetings on May 21st and June 18th.

If you can't attend the meetings, send a check made out to SLWGS for \$3.00 (to cover the postage) to Carolyn Haus, 33 Bon Hills Drive, Olivette, MO 63132, and your ticket will be mailed to you. If you want additional tickets, they are \$20 each this year.

You can also go to the website to purchase tickets or get your membership ticket – www.slwgs.org.



SCHMITTEL'S NURSERY
13801 Marine Ave. • Maryland Heights, MO 63043
(across the street from Creve Coeur Park)

SERVICES

- Landscape design, consultation, and installation
- Tree and shrub installation
- Products for all your landscaping needs
- Trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, veggies, fruits, tropicals, and indoor plants
- Bagged and bulk soil, mulch, topsoil, and compost
- Bagged garden soil, fertilizers, and plant food
- Bulk rock, pottery, and more

For all your landscape needs

SPRING HOURS
(starting April 1)
Mon.–Sat., 8a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

schmittelnursery.com • (314) 469-8900


Pond, Waterfall & Landscape Construction
Aquascape™ **2012 Artist of the Year**




Nature's Re-Creations
PONDS & FALLS

Chris Siewing
636. 223. 2330

www.Re-CreateNature.com
Facebook.com/NaturesReCreations



60 NORTH GORE AVE
WEBSTER GROVES, MO
314-962-3311
ROLLINGRIDGENURSERY.COM



PONDS PLUS (636) 946-2242
Water Garden Center
www.pondsplusstl.com
1757 S. Old Hwy 94
St. Charles, MO 63303



HOURS
Mar-Oct (7 Days)
9 am - 6 pm
Nov-Feb (Fri, Sat, Sun)
10 am - 5 pm



Fifty Plants That Changed the Course of History

Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History by Bill Laws is a beautifully presented guide to the plants that have had the greatest impact on human civilization. Entries feature a description of the plant, its botanical name, its native range and its primary functions -- edible, medicinal, commercial or practical. Concise text is highlighted by elegant botanical drawings, paintings and photographs as well as insightful quotes.

Many of the plants are well known, such as **rice, tea, cotton, rubber, wheat, sugarcane, tobacco, wine grapes and corn.** However, there are also many whose stories are less known. These history-changing plants include:

Agave, used to make sisal, poison arrows, bullets, tequila and surgical thread
Pineapple, which influenced the construction of greenhouses and conservatories

Hemp, used for hangman's rope, sustainable plastics, the Declaration of Independence and Levi's jeans

Coconut, used for coir fiber, soap, margarine, cream, sterile IV drips and coagulants

Eucalyptus, used in mouthwash, diuretics, vitamins, honey, underwear and fire-resistant uniforms

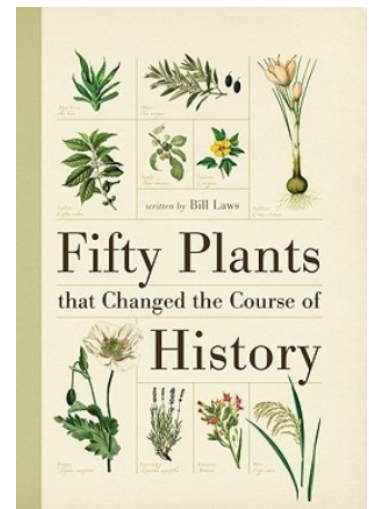
Sweet pea, which Gregor Mendel used in his research on genetic heredity

White mulberry, used to make silk

English oak, used for fire-resistant structures, dyes, leather tanning, charcoal, casks and ships

White willow, used in the manufacture of aspirin, cricket bats, hot-air balloon baskets and coffins

This attractive reference provides an innovative perspective on both botanical and human history.



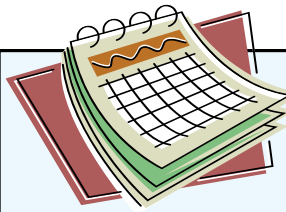


Chalily

Joe Summers
Tonya Summers
Owners
14430 Manchester Rd.
Manchester, MO 63011

T. (636) 527-2001
E. info@chalily.com
www.chalily.com



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 19— By Jeff Streibig, owner of Missouri Ponds.

April 16—The creative process used to create his pond. –SLWGS member Don Richardson

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

June 18—New and Upcoming Perennials to Enhance the Beauty of Ponds, by Barry Ritter of Ritter Perennials.

July 16—No Auction TBA

August 20—Banquet at Jewel Box

Sept. 17—

October 15—

November 19th — Budget—Election of Vice President and Treasurer

****** Meeting Location ****
Address:**

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

Largest selection of plants in the Midwest!

www.sugarcreekgardens.com

Visit the website to find a wealth of information on plants, gardening and to discover the many benefits gardening has to offer beyond a beautiful yard.

1011 N. Woodlawn
Kirkwood, MO
(314) 965-3070



Voted #1 Best Garden Center




Garden-Lou brings St. Louis gardens and gardeners together!
Featuring private gardens, horticulturists, plant reviews, and local events like
Pond-O-Rama
www.garden-lou.com
Find us on facebook and Instagram!



Proud Supporter of the
Pond-O-Rama Tour
since 2005

Pick up your **FREE** copy at
more than 400 locations
throughout the Metro area
or read it online at
GatewayGardener.com

THE GATEWAY GARDENER
Your Guide to Enjoyable Gardening and Easy-Care Landscapes

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.





How To Create Your Own Tropical Paradise

When you think of a tropical paradise, do you picture lush foliage and large, beautiful flowers? Rushing, falling water nearby? A shady, serene patio with bamboo furniture waiting? Those are some of the images that form in most people's minds, and almost everyone wants to go there. You may not always be able to get away for a tropical vacation, but you can create a reasonable facsimile in your backyard. Careful planning and a good plant list will get you to paradise.

You may not think of St. Louis as a tropical climate, but it does come close in July and August especially. In many local landscapes, you will see banana trees, large elephant ears, and other tropical varieties. These plants usually can be dug or potted to bring inside for overwintering. If you don't want to do that much work for your tropical paradise, consider alternative plants that can create the same feeling. If you have ample space to fill, go big. Banana trees have become very popular; several varieties, sizes, and colors will fit the bill. "The fiber banana, *Musa basjoo*, is hardy in zones 5 to 11. It grows in full sun. It will die back to the ground and benefit from winter mulch in northern

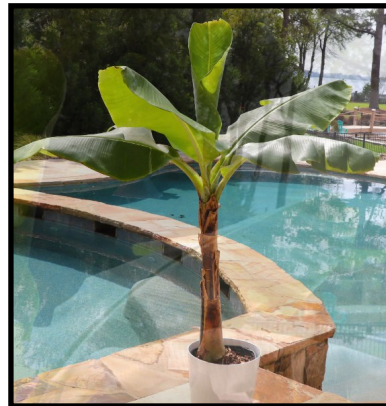


Red Abyssinian Banana Tree

areas of its hardiness zone. Less hardy and smaller but more colorful is the blood banana, *Musa acuminata* 'Zebrina.' It has large leaves with red markings on 6' to 8' plants. It is not hardy in St. Louis, but it can

be overwintered. Another variety that gives lots of choices is Elephant Ear. These come in many the leaf shapes and different colors, from light green to the very dark 'Black Magic.' Many elephant ears also grow well in water. Tall, stately, colorful cannas are also suitable for large spaces.

If your space is more limited, you can still create a tropical feel with smaller plant varieties and potted collections. Crotons have fantastic tropical foliage. Caladiums come in a wide variety of colors and sizes. If you have a space where a vine will work, try Passionflower or Clematis varieties. For dramatic flowers, add Anthurium and Begonia. These must be brought inside in winter, so they are perfect for container collections. Some Tuberous Begonias have beautiful flowers and a wide variety of colors and shapes in foliage. Our area has several hardy plants that still look exotic and tropical. Hardy hibiscus has a wide range of flower colors. Many ferns have colorful stems and different-shaped leaves.



Banana Plant for any size landscape. Veranda get about 3ft tall

BAUER FALLS LLC.
636 357 3495
RECREATING THE WONDERS OF NATURE

Walter Knoll Florist
LANDSCAPES

Your Personal Florist and Landscape Specialist Since 1883

Walter Knoll Florist is a full service landscaping company offering

- Plant Maintenance
- Landscaping
- Lawn Service
- Outdoor Lighting
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Paver Installation

And new for 2015
• Complete line of grill stations and grill accessories

Give us a call to schedule your appointment.
Walter Knoll Florist 314-633-8770



Out on a Limb and need some help?



Find resources at [www.slwgs.org!](http://www.slwgs.org)



We have a large selection of colorful Annuals, Perennials and Shrubs!

2004 West Boulevard
Belleville, IL 62221

(618) 235-2004

sandybackporch.com



WE ARE THE ONLY PROVEN WINNER'S DESTINATION IN THE ENTIRE ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA!

HARTKE NURSERY

"Good growing begins here"



1030 N. Warson Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

Cindy Collins
Owner, Certified Nurseryman
Certified Arborist

(314) 997-6679
FAX: (314) 997-6778

E-mail: hartke@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.hartkenursery.com

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.



WEBB'S

WATER GARDENS

Shop over 3000 pond products!

Use code **STL10** and receive **10% OFF** on your next order.

WWW.WEBBSONLINE.COM



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:

2024 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

Recording Secretary

Jane Sykes (314) 535-0101 gardenlady490@sbcglobal.net

2024 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 kasoehng@sbcglobal.net

Society Shirt Sales Chairman

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

Membership/E-mail Chairman

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

Jewel Box Chairman

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

Water Word Editor

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

Website Chairman

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

Pond-O-Rama Chairman

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

Parliamentarian

Carol Greminger (314) 487-9119 carolnron@att.net

Historian

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

Hospitality Chairman

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 Haegele (636) 349-5511 jimhaegele@gmail.com



American Water Willow

The American Water Willow is a hardy water plant with white flowers “decorated with purple,” The bloom resembles an orchid, and while it blooms heaviest in June in St. Louis, it will continue to bloom all summer. This is a Missouri native aquatic that is a common sight along streams. It prefers shallow running water. However, it grows quite well on the pond edge. It will grow with as much as 12” of water over its roots, but also, will grow in only damp areas. Water Willow grows equally well in full sun to full shade. It will deliver ample blooms when placed in the shade. The plant spreads mainly through the root system but also has an effective means of seed dispersal: When the small



oval seed capsules are ripe, they explode with an audible “pop” and scatter seeds for several feet. For more information about American Water Willow, copy the link below.

[How to Plant & Grow American Water Willow \(Justicia americana\) - Pond Informer](#)



Members' Corner:

- Barbara Bartley 5/5
- Diane Brader 5/5
- Jennifer Heinze 5/14
- Theresa McMullen 5/21
- Cheryl Kowalczyk 5/30



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





Shining Up Our Jewel

There was no rain and hardly a cloud in the sky when the St. Louis Water Garden Society volunteers met April 27th to retrieve the hardy lilies from the mud bottom pond and place them in the Jewel Box pools. Like other plants in gardens throughout the area this spring, our lilies had thrived in their winter home.

Back at the ponds, Steve Harris helped dump and divide the plants, Two new helpers shoveled dirt into the buckets, added plants, and then delivered them to the ponds. Meanwhile, Kay Miskell, Jewel Box Project Coordinator, made great use of the discarded blooms! Next step: planting the tropical lilies, probably on June 1. After that, weekly maintenance of the plants is every Saturday morning at 9 a.m.




(314) 831-0344



LAND WORKS, INC.
Design • Ponds • Plants • Patios • Walls

BARCLAY H. COMPTON
President

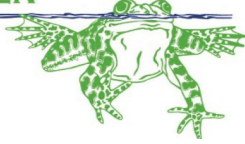
3295 Charbonier Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63031
www.landworksnet.com
Email: landworks@sbcglobal.net

"Water Garden and Landscape
Paradise Creations"



PLANTHAVEN
FARMS
GARDEN CENTER
www.planthavenfarms.com





SLWGS *Water Word*
 10922 Killdare Ct
 St. Ann, MO 63074
www.slwgs.org



Inside this edition:

Plants That Changed the Course of HistoryPage 1
 Pond-O-Rama Page 2
 Plants That Changed the Course History..... Page 3
 SLWGS Calendar of Events..... Page 4
 How to create your own tropical paradise..... Page 5
 2024 SLWGS Officers & Board Members..... Page 6
 Water Willow Page 7
 Members' CornerPage 7
 Shining Up Our JewelPage 8
 Pictures of work day at the Jewel Box.....Page 9
 Photo of the Month Page 10

Photo of the Month



Peonies & Iris are blooming in your garden right now.