



Tips and Procedures for Successfully Closing Your Pond

Benjamin Wong, the owner of Providence Ponds, will discuss closing down our water features for the winter. He is a lifelong St. Louisan with over ten years of experience helping homeowners and businesses with landscaping and outdoor design. He has a reputation for being a hard worker and for being eager to serve his clients.

Get ready for this practical evening where we'll be learning new, innovative techniques for closing our water features. It's a thrilling opportunity to enhance our skills and knowledge.

Everyone has a different way of doing things, which is why you can always learn new tricks and tips when you attend a meeting.

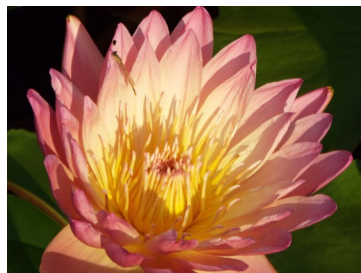
Don't Miss This!

What: Tips and Procedures for Successfully Closing Your Pond by Benjamin Wong of Providence Ponds.

When: Tuesday, October 15, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: New Meeting Location:
Grace Episcopal Church
514 E Argonne
Kirkwood, MO 63122

The Church is located at the corner of Argonne and Woodlawn



What: End-of-the Year Potluck Dinner, Vote on President And Secretary and our Budget for 2025

When: November 19, 2024

Where: Grace Episcopal Church
514 E Argonne
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Who: All SLWGS members and Guests welcome!

Time to Eat, Drink and Be Merry (And Review, Reflect and Reorganize)

The St Louis Water Garden Society is closing out another successful Year with a traditional end-of-the-year Pot Luck Dinner. It's time to bask in our success and plan for another year! It's a party, but there are important matters to decide as well.

Our business will include:

- ◆ Voting on President and Secretary for 1yr term; Vice president / Treasure 2 yr terms
- ◆ Approving our budget for 2025

Bring a dish to share! SLWGS will supply meat, beverages and paper goods. Not sure what to bring? Use this handy guide, based on the first letter of your last name.

A-G	Salads
H-M	Desserts
N-Z	Side-dish

Call Beverly Maschek, Hospitality Chairman at (314) 954-8616, Or email her at mascheck@sbcglobal.net to let her know what dish and how many people you'll bring with you.

Please Come!





Pond Winterization Ideas

Every new season brings something different to our ponds and gardens, and changes in how we do things come with temperature changes. As winter approaches, some St. Louis Water Garden Society members consider protecting their pumps, filters, and other mechanics from the harsh winter's cold. Others are thinking about more precious assets—their favorite fish. A few are already thinking about next spring—and how to minimize the problems they will face when it's time to gear up again after the snow and ice have melted. It doesn't matter how many times you have been through it all. There are always things you don't remember or need to update.

Water features are as beautiful in the winter as in the summer if proper plans are made and carried out. During the most frigid weather, ice formations are spectacular and may even draw the homeowner pond-side for a closer look. Generally, one can divide winterizing your pond into five categories: Plants, Nets, Pumps, Ice, and Fish. Although each of these categories is related, closing your pond for the winter may be easier to handle when divided into tasks.

Plants: Pull out any tropicals you may have in your pond. Then, cut back any of the hardy plants necessary to make sure your net fits nicely over

your pond.

Pumps: As the water temperature dips into the low 50s, it is time to clean your pumps and make another filter choice. Do you want to leave the fall/spitter run all winter? 2: Do you feel more comfortable taking the pump indoors for the winter? If you decide not to use some pumps or equipment, store them in a non-freezing place.

Ice: Although St. Louis usually does not experience long periods of frigid weather, we pond owners still need to be prepared for the possibility of ice-over. An ice-over will cause your fish to die if it lasts more than three days. The buildup of toxic gases will speed up if fish overpopulate the pond. Another contributor to fish death during an ice-over is the amount of debris or sediment at the bottom. Eliminating this debris will contribute to your fish's health. Putting a pond heater or a bubbler in for the winter will help. Keep a hole in the ice for gases to escape

Fish: As the nights grow longer and the days cooler, your fish will show signs of slowing down. Once you check your pond temperature and determine that it is below 65 degrees, it is time to change to a cool-weather food like a wheat germ product.

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Winterization Photos



Leave a little pump running during the winter months to keep a hole in the ice.



This is a picture of a high dome netting. Most of our advertisers will carry something close to this if it works for your water feature.



These pictures are courtesy of Bob Hensons.

At some point fountains in winter freeze when we have that cold snap.



This member net has a lower dome but the general feeling is there. They also put a finer net a week or two later. Since there is a white pine tree close by, the finer netting helps keep most of those needles out of the pond.

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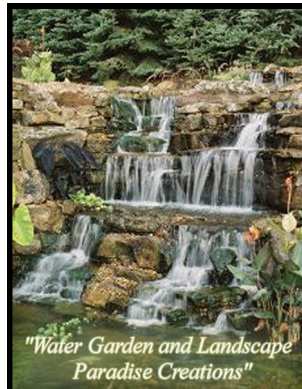
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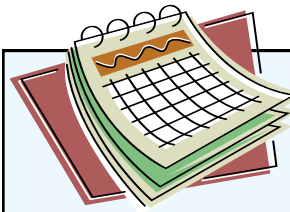
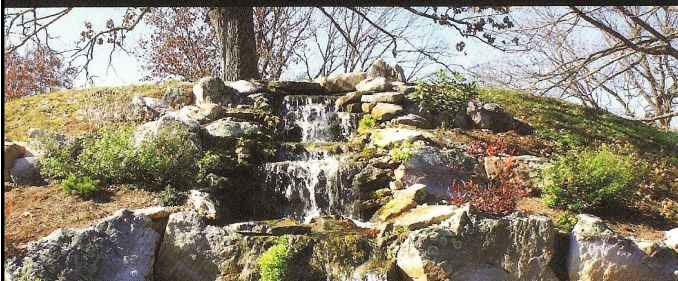
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St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events

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 Grace Episcopal Church. There is an elevator.

October 15—Tips and Procedures for Successfully Closing Your Pond, by Benjamin Wong of Providence Ponds.

November 19th — Budget—Election of All 4 offices. President, Vice President and Treasurer and Secretary.

Potluck Dinner.

**** New Meeting Location ****

Address:

**Grace Episcopal Church
514 E Argonne
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

The church is located at the corner of Argonne and Woodlawn.





Our Last Meeting of the Year in November

Don't miss our last meeting of the year. It is our annual potluck. We will also approve our budget and vote on new officers for Vice President and Treasurer for a two-year term. This year is unique. We will also be voting on one-year terms for President and Secretary.

We will also have a special guest speaker and demonstration by no other than Joe Summers. He will show us the proper way to plant Amaryllis and answer any questions you may have. I bought these earlier this year from Joe.



Check out our new meeting room for the rest of this year and probably next year since the Kirkwood Community Center is being renovated. The room is big. We even have access to a kitchen area for serving! The tables are nice big round ones, lots of space. So come to the meeting and fill it up. There's no reason to stay home.



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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
Sue Abernathy (314) 795-2160 abernat56@gmail.com

Vice President
Carol Ann Miller (314) 821-0184

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
Kathie Soehngen (314) 894-0981 kasoehng@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
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Keith Haus (314) 993-0985 keithhaus33@gmail.com
Jim Haegele (636) 349-5511 jimhaegele@gmail.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.



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LAST CALL

Elections are just around the corner. Please think about running for President, a one year term. The duties are to run the general meeting and board meetings. We also are voting for a new Vice President, for a two-year term, to run the meetings when the President is not available. We also will be electing a Treasurer a two-year term.

Also this year the recording Secretary's position is open, a one year term. That position's duties are to take minutes of the board meetings and send them out to the board in a timely fashion before the next board meeting.

Come on down! Throw your hat into the ring and shine. We all have hidden talents that are waiting to come out.



Jewel Box closing date: October 12th at 9 am. We move the hardies to the mud-bottom pond. No tropicals get moved since we buy new every year. Bring your friends too. It's a fun time. Bring dollies, two wheelers or whatever you have to help move the plants once they are out of the pond.

Members' Corner:

Happy Birthday to all October & November Members below and any not listed.

John Lena 10/4	Udo Heinze 11/6
Paul Bailor 10/5	Joy Cooper-Presson 11/9
Joan Hummel 10/5	John Hanff 11/11
Susy Alias 10/16	Rita Zeitz 11/18
Julie Young 10/16	Pat Henderson 11/28
Joe Zimmerman 10/27	Rodney Jarboe 11/29
Catherine Mayer 10/31	

Membership Bonus

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society

Here is the link to the website and the login information.

www.iwgs.org

Login: SLWGS

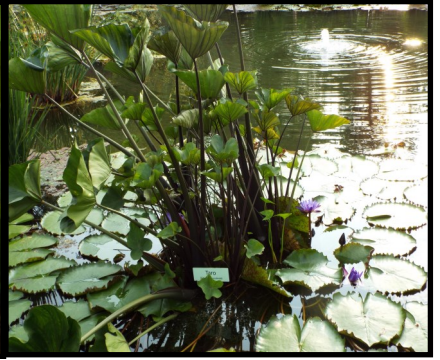
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An advertisement for Walter Knoll Florist. It features a pond with water lilies and lily pads. The text includes "Walter Knoll Florist is a full service landscaping company offering" and lists services: Plant Maintenance, Landscaping, Lawn Service, Outdoor Lighting, Walkways, Driveways, and Paver Installation. It also mentions "And new for 2015 Complete line of grill stations and grill accessories" and provides the phone number "Walter Knoll Florist 314-633-8770".



Banquet at the Jewel Box Photos



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Twilight of the Victoria...

Picture by Bob Henson

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 Mar-Oct (7 Days)
 9 am - 6 pm
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 10 am - 5 pm



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 10922 Killdare Ct
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Photo of the Month



This night-blooming waterlily (Emily Grant Hutching) is in a member Steve Harris' pond. It had four flowers on the same plant a couple of months ago.