



Revitalize your Garden

Terry is a self-professed "computer and science geek", spending her time gardening, golfing, reading and attempting to learn how to operate her digital camera. A graduate of Washington University, she worked for Southwestern Bell in their Information



Terry Miline

Technology department before taking early retirement. She has an Associate degree in Horticulture from St. Louis Community College-Meramec, as well as having completed the St. Louis Master Gardener program. She is a former instructor in Landscape Design at St.

Louis Community College -Meramec and currently enjoys developing presentations for the Master Gardeners' Speakers Bureau and Education Classes for the Missouri Botanical Garden. Her appreciation for all things botanical started as a child who enjoyed learning about the plants in her grandmothers' small gardens in South St. Louis. Now a grandmother of seven herself, teaching her grandchildren about nature is especially important to her.

Pond Market Under New Ownership

After two generations of owning Pond Market, Aaron Burchett decided to sell his business to Mark Chiodini. A little about him: Mark was a Financial Advisor for the past 18 years, it had gotten a little stale for him. Prior to that, he managed Zia's, his family's restaurant. Mark and his wife, April, are huge animal lovers. Wildlife photography has been

Don't Miss This!

What: Revitalize your Garden

Where: Missouri Botanical Garden,
CBEC Building, Rm 125
4651 Shaw Blvd
Corner of Kingshighway & Shaw

When: Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Who: Terry Miline, Master Gardener

their hobby, and some of the prints are for sale at the store. Also, some local artists have items related to ponds and gardens on display at the store.

He is bringing in another dimension to Pond Market. They are constantly seeking unique garden items to feature. They are now carrying a variety of wild bird items, unique feeders, and a variety of food. Mark & April are ecstatic about this opportunity to do what we love. Like the old saying goes "if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life". Mark has been keeping fish since he was 8 years old, and they have had a pond for more than 30 years.



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CALLING POND-O-RAMA VOLUNTEERS! – Joan Ziskind

Pond-O-Rama is our one chance each year to share our water features with the public and educate them on the peace and tranquility they bring.

Can you help out? Meet at 6:00 p.m. in the CBEC building at the Missouri Botanical Garden. That’s an hour just before our general membership meeting this coming Tuesday.

What can you do?

- *Ticket runners take ticket booklets, posters and instructions to our ticket sellers.
- *Photographers take photos of the ponds they visit. We can divvy up the locations so there will be photos of all on the tour for the website.
- *We need writers who can share their stories about how they got their ponds or tell about their experiences for local papers to arouse interest in the wonderful Pond-O-Rama tour coming up in June.

Every bit you can help means a great deal! Hope to see you Tuesday!

SLWGS AUDIT RESULTS

Category Description	1/1/17- 12/31/2017	Category De- scription	1/1/17- 12/31/2017	Audit Report for Fiscal Year (January 1, 2017 to	Bank Bal 1-1-17	\$29,087.85
INCOME		EXPENSES		Total income Fiscal Year		\$38,861.25
Advertising WW	\$ 2,280.00	Newsletter	\$2,693.74			\$67,949.10
Koi Auction & Raffle	\$ 16,844.00	Koi Auction & Raffle	\$8,737.57	Total Expenses Fiscal Year `17		\$28,664.81
Plant Auction	\$ 541.25	Banquet	\$3,352.75	Ending Balance for the Year `17		\$39,284.29
Banquets	\$ 1,825.00	Bank fees/ regist/memorials	\$123.45	Savings Acct. Fiscal Year `17		\$20,027.29
Donations	\$ 50.00	Field Trips	\$20.00	Clubs Total Assets		\$59,311.58
Field Trip	\$ -	Membership general	\$837.20	Audit done this Year by Joan Ziskind Thank you Joan for doing this.		
Membership	\$ 5,720.00	Pond-O-Rama	\$6,912.85			
Pond-O-Rama + Advertising	\$ 9,841.00	Jewel Box	\$1,574.29			
Plants Members bought JB	\$ 313.00	Shirts	\$157.00			
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 255.00	Hospitality	\$385.43			
Condo,ect raffle	\$ 1,167.00	AKCA Dues	\$225.00			
General Auction	\$ 25.00	Donation TG	\$ 800.00			
refund	\$ -	MOBOT Room	\$300.00			
overpayments	\$ -	Support Equip	\$54.91			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 38,861.25	Speakers	\$1,843.24			
		Website	\$647.38			
		TOTAL EX- PENSES	\$28,664.81			

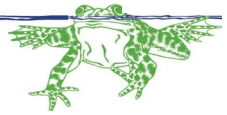


John Mosley Pond from last year’s Pond-O-Rama





Presidential Ponderings



Greetings, Folks!

Well, things are starting to warm up. The weather has been teasing with alternating warm and cold periods, but it looks like warm is starting to win out!

My fish are becoming more active and soon will be demanding food! I miss the little guys and am looking forward to morning coffee and evening wine in their company again soon.

If you haven't already seen it, check out our new and improved website. It's up and running and it looks like a substantial improvement over the old one that served us well for all those years. If you have suggestions for additions or improvements, please let us know.

Pond-O-Rama is progressing well. Sadly, this year we are saying goodbye to "Westwind" who occupied the back cover for as long as I can remember. The owner, Todd Rundquist, has been in poor health and has left the business. I would also like to note that Pond Market has changed hands but still occupies the center ad. Stop by and check out the changes new owner, Mark Chiodini, has made!

Plans for the koi show in September are underway. It will be held at Timberwinds Nursery in Ellisville. The Northern Midwest Zen Nippon Airinkai Koi Club (NMZNA), with our assistance, has decided to experiment with holding it in St Louis this year and so far, the response from vendors and other koi show folks has been fantastic! Looking forward to it!

Well this month I thought I'd relate a recent experience. On Pond-O-Rama last year, I noted an attractive light blue tint to the water in Tom and Barbara Shively's pond. After discussing it with Tom, I discovered that he had added a small amount of blue pond dye to his water. In addition to giving

the pond its attractive color, Tom related that it did a good job in controlling planktonic algae. My pond didn't have a significant algae problem, but my filtration system was being loaded a little separating the little plant critters out. I figured that discouraging its growth in the first place might extend the maintenance interval on my filter media.

I ordered some on line and received a fairly small plastic bottle of the stuff. Reading the directions gave a somewhat confusing impression of the potency of the material. I uncorked it and added what appeared to be prudent amount to one corner of the pond. Within 5 minutes the pond went from essentially colorless with a VERY slight greenish tinge to blue, to dark blue, to a virtually opaque India-ink color.

Naturally Sherry had a comment on the transformation. I remember her muttering something that sounded like, "Idiot didn't read the directions!" I pointed out to her that the dark color would surely be deadly to any planktonic algae and that the dark color would rapidly fade as we did water changes and as rain water diluted the mix. Secretly, I was doing mental math calculating how many water changes it would take to convert 4000 gallons of "ink" to a pleasing pale blue tint. The estimate was not encouraging!

Well to make a long story short, it took over a month and SUBSTANTIAL water changes to get it to the point of toleration. In the meantime, Sherry confiscated the rest of the bottle!

Dave Stahre

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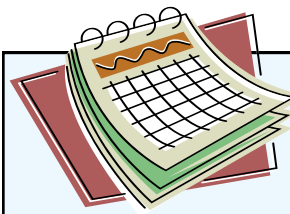
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HOURS
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 10 am - 5 pm



St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events

Membership meetings in 2018 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Meetings will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room, on the third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

March 20—Terry Miline, Master Gardener
“Revitalize your Garden” in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

April 17— Judy Evans **“Plant Auction” in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.**

May 15— To be Determined, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

June 19—To be Determined, P-O-R Host Meeting at 6 p.m.

June 23-24 —Pond -O-Rama

July 17—To be Determined

August 21—Jewel Box

September 18—To be Determined, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

October 16— To be Determined

November 13—Annual Potluck & Elections, in the CBEC Building, 4651 Shaw Ave.

Pot luck dinner and election of officers. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of President and Secretary to serve two-year terms beginning in January 2019.




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The Quest for the Perfect Pond

He was my neighbor, and everyone called him Mr. Adams. Mr. Adams was six foot three and weighed about 285 pounds. He was the sort of man who would pick up a 100-pound sack with one hand and then ask, "Where do you want it?" One day I saw Mr. Adams and his left thumb was all bandaged. I asked, "What happened, Mr. Adams?" He said he was driving a big spike nail into a log. "I knew I was going to hit my thumb, but the 'lick' was already made."

Carol and I have been the proud owners of three ponds. The first was a 60-gallon pond which we constructed. Its size limited the number of small goldfish living there. It didn't have a filtration system, but it looked good. The second pond was more ambitious, about 400 gallons, with a liner and skimmer basket with coarse filters, a small waterfall and a mixed variety of goldfish, koi and frogs. There were two bags of lava rock in the waterfall but no system to back flush the waterfall. We neglected to install an overflow system or a bottom drain. During a heavy rain overnight, water seeped under the liner causing the rocks lining the pond to fall to the bottom. The next morning, I wondered if my home owner's insurance policy would cover this unfortunate event. It didn't. Miraculously no frogs were killed. The pond builder offered to rebuild the pond wall, and I accepted his offer. Shortly after, he had a heart attack and retired.

The third pond was more ambitious. A major hole was excavated with well-designed stonework, a cave, and a shelf for plants. The stones were angled into the sides, flat stones for the bottom, and a cave and shelf constructed. A pond overflow was connected to a major drain system and a back flush for the waterfall installed. The waterfall contained two cases of bacterial filter media. A bead filter and foam fractionator with a separate pump and pot filter were added. Now we could have big, beautiful koi. However, after the pond was filled with water, it seemed to be somewhat smaller. Actually, it was a lot smaller, only 1200 gallons. The pond was no longer big. The rocks, cave, and plant shelf reduced its size and volume of water. I then recalled what Mr. Adams had said about driving the spike into the log. "The 'lick' was already made." The pond was too small. Now what? Obviously, we must find someone to blame.

The Quest for the Perfect Pond continues.

By Dan Gravens

Out on a Limb and
need some help?



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section and
"Links We Like"
for help.

Water Word is published by the St. Louis Water Gardening 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:

2018 SLWGS Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Stahre	(618) 623-9341	dstahre@hotmail.com
Vice President	Joe Summers	(636) 527-2001	chalilypond@aol.com
Treasurer	Ginny Mueller	(314) 831-3063	vcmueller16@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	Sherry Nelms	(618) 365-1057	sher200856@yahoo.com
Publicity Chairman	Ginny Mueller	(314) 831-3063	vcmueller16@hotmail.com
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Water Word Editor	Gail Abernathy	(314) 427-7076	abernat@swbell.net
Website Chairman	Mary Nies	(636) 458-2149	marycnies@gmail.com
AKCA/ Koi USA Representative	Rick Jokerst	(314) 368-2652	rickjokerst@gmail.com
Pond-O-Rama Chairman	Joan Ziskind	(636) 394-6342	joan.ziskind@yahoo.com
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Hospitality Chairman	Tonya Summers	(636) 527-2001	chalilypond@aol.com
Past President	Joe Summers	(636) 527-2001	chalilypond@aol.com

Members-at-Large

John Nies	(636) 458-2149	jtnies@gmail.com
Dan Gravens	(314) 821-1786	dgravens@sbcglobal.net
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The St. Louis Water Gardening Society is a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA). Visit the association's website at www.akca.org.

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KOI SHOW CALENDAR

Koi Show season has begun! Plan a trip with one of these events in mind. Information provided by Pam Jokerst, Special Events Coordinator. Contact her at pamjokerst@gmail.com or cell/314-276-9461.

UPCOMING KOI SHOWS FOR 2018

- April 7-8 11th ZNA Norcal Koi Show--znanorcal.info--San Jose, CA
- April 27-29 1st ZNA Carolina Koi Show--znacarolina.com--Raleigh, NC
- May 25-27 23rd Greater Louisville Koi and Goldfish Society Show--louisvillekoiclub.com-- KY
- June 22-24 26th Midwest Pond & Koi Society Show--mpks.org--Chicago, IL
- July 27-29 7th Tri-State ZNA Koi Show--tristatezna.com--New York, N.Y.
- July 28-29 38th Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club Show--nwkg.org--Portland, OR
- August 3-5 11th Upper Midwest Koi Club Show--uppermidwestkoiclub.org- Minneapolis, MN
- August 24-26 7th Michigan Koi & Pond Club Show--mkpc-se.com--Detroit, MI
- September 7-9 25th ZNA Potomac Koi Show--znapotomac.org-- Washington, D.C.
- September 14-16 17th NMZNA Koi Show at SLWGS--nmzna.net--St. Louis, MO

Library Update

The library books have been sorted into two groups. I will alternate bringing the groups to the meetings. A list of all library books will be on the new SLWGS web site when it is completed. A request for a specific title can be made at any time. Please let me know if there are any suggestions for new books.

Betsy Meier lidodeck@att.net
SLWGS Librarian

NOTE From Editor

***Looking for articles. We'd love to have articles from members about their ponds or what we should be doing in our dirt gardens. Do not be afraid to write. Sharing your knowledge is what this club is all about. We learn from others who have the same interests.



KOI SHOW SEASON IS HERE! -- WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SHOW KOI

Pam and I just returned from the first koi show of the year in San Diego, California. Arriving at the show site, and to our pleasant surprise, many of the attendees were already aware of our koi show to be held in St. Louis on September 14-16, 2018. There was lots of interest in attending. Good news travels fast! Requests for show vendor booths have been equally brisk. We are well on our way to a successful show!

At each koi show we attend, Pam and I present a Friendship Award on behalf of SLWGS to one of the exhibitors. This has a multi purpose. First-to promote SLWGS, second-to acknowledge a special koi and its owner and third-this year, to promote the St. Louis Koi Show. At the banquet on Saturday night, we bestowed the award to a beautiful Showa owned by Jack Chapman. We also announced the date of our show. It's not too early to spread the word about this exciting event! We ask each of you to help share this news.

At last month's SLWGS meeting, the Koi Show venue was announced - Timberwinds Nursery on Clarkson Road at Manchester in Ellisville, MO. To say the owner is excited to host this event is an understatement. Thanks to Steve Metzler for his assistance in securing this site. We passed around a sign-up sheet to find out which members would be interested in helping make this endeavor a success. There were over 40 names on the list. We were blown away by your positive response. Thank you!

Last month's newsletter article promised to explain the criteria used to judge koi. They are meant to be viewed from the top. Here are the four judging points with the definition and the percentage available of the total score.

Body Confirmation (40%) - Body lines from shoulder to tail must be straight. The front fins should be rounded and balanced with body size. There should be no deformities with the face, head, body or fins.

Color (20%) - The white should be snow white. The red and the black should be thick, solid and even. All colors should be distinct and consistent from nose to tail.

Pattern (20%) - The pattern of a mature koi should be large and powerful. However, the quality of the koi is more important than the pattern in judging larger koi.

Quality & Finish (20%) - Good skin quality is a must. A shiny and youthful appearance with sharp pattern edges is most desirable. Quality is difficult to define, but is visually apparent with a well-trained eye. The finish refers to the koi appearing to be as perfect as possible on the day of judging.

See you at the St. Louis Koi Show!

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San Diego Koi Show



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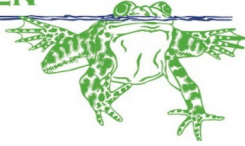
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Photo of the Month



Nymphaea ‘Fuchsia Pom Pom’

Nymphaea ‘Fuchsia Pom Pom’ is a high petal count hardy Waterlily by George Tony Moore. It is very sparingly viviparous plant. Unusual for a hardy to be viviparous.