

BOTANIC GARDEN ARMCHAIR TOURS

John Hensley has been a Master Gardener since 2008 and volunteers weekly at the Missouri Botanical Garden and is a member of the Master Gardener Speakers' Bureau.

He received the MoBot Dedication Award in 2010.



John Hensley

John was commissioned to lay Stephen Minister in 1988 and certified Stephen Leader in 1989.

Four of the most renowned botanic gardens have been chosen for their focus on water gardening. John and his wife have traveled the world touring and photographing botanic gardens. To date, they have had the pleasure of visiting 15 gardens in the United States as well as in Spain and Sweden.

Some of the botanical gardens they have toured:

Alaska Botanical Garden, Anchorage; Boerner Botanical Garden, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Butchart Gardens, Vancouver Island; Chicago Botanic Garden; Green Bay Botanical Garden, Wisconsin; Kew Botanical Garden, London; Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota; Naples Botanical Garden, Florida; Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia; Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Dome) Milwaukee, Wisc.; Norton Arboretum, near Chicago; Olbrich Botanical

Don't Miss This!

What: Botanic Garden Armchair Tours

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

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

Who: John Hensley, Master Gardener

Garden, Madison, Wisc.; Powell Gardens, Kansas City, Elche Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Elche, Spain; Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville, Wisconsin; Santa Fe Botanical Garden; Visby Botanical Garden, Gotlande, Sweden.

Contact information:

BLUEMOON53@AOL.COM, 314.346.2010



Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia





POND-O-RAMA

April Showers Bring May Flowersand lots of Pond-O-Rama news.....

It's a great time to plant! Thirty of our Pond tour hosts are getting their ponds and gardens ready for our Pond-O-Rama tour, June 25-26, 2022.

Ticket books are at the printers and will be ready in the next week or so.

If you haven't renewed your membership, now is a great time to do so and receive your ticket as part of your membership.

The ticket books and brochures will be out at all our ticket seller locations this month.

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Ticket books will be available at our general meetings for pick up, and ONLY at the designated times and places for our members. Can't make meetings.....no problem..... we can mail them to you.

Please send a check for \$3.00 per ticket to Carolyn Haus, 33 Bon Hills Drive, Olivette, MO 63132. Include your name, address, phone number, and email address. No tickets will be mailed after June 15th.

Volunteers Needed:

Join us at Healthy Planet Natural Living Expo
Sunday, May 15 from 10 AM to 4 PM
Webster Groves Recreation Center, 33 E Glendale Rd, 63119

We will have a table for SLWGS and will be promoting Pond-O-Rama and membership.

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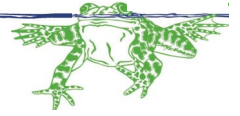
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SLWGS President's Corner



Enjoying Spring yet?? I just walked the garden and noticed the water lily pads just coming up, the koi fish is stirring a bit and many of the spring bulbs are blooming. All of this on a fine spring morning on the 9th of April as it is snowing a miniature blizzard! Spring weather in the Midwest is so unpredictable.

If you did not make the March meeting, you missed out on a very informative talk on Container Gardening by Kim Gamel. There seems to be an entire gardening world out there just focused on what can be done with container plants. I suggested to Kim she purchase a large container and put some water into it.....I didn't need to say more. She did give me the motivation to try my hand at container gardening this summer.

The board is moving forward with plans to have a Water Garden Society banquet in August and will provide details as they come available. Due to the Covid issues, our last banquet was in 2019, and hope the membership will turn out for this long-standing tradition. The Jewel Box lily pond volunteers I'm sure will have the display in perfect shape for your viewing.

A couple of reminders to our general membership; if you intend to attend the May 14th bus trip to "Hostas on the Bluff", please reserve a spot on the bus as soon as possible. We are limited to 20 riders and will be on a first come first served basis. Please email me at Hatt8v92@aol.com, text or call 314-495-4233 Robert Henson to reserve your spot. Include your name(s) and contact information and I will verify your reservation once received. Feel free to follow the bus if you wish to drive or carpool. Lunch will be available afterward.

REMINDER:

The Jewel Box water lily pond work day is scheduled for May 7th beginning at 9:00. You provide the coffee and I will have doughnuts available for the volunteers.

REMINDER:

Our guest speaker for the April meeting is John Hensley. I have attempted to get John to speak on several occasions in the past, but due to scheduling conflicts was not successful until now. John and his wife have photographed many botanical gardens both here and abroad. Please join us for his talk "Armchair Tour of Botanical Gardens" on April 19th at the Kirkwood Community Center.

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St. Louis Water Garden Society Calendar of Events

Membership meetings in 2022 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Meetings will be held on Tuesday at the Kirkwood Community Center, Room 200 A/B. There is an elevator.

- February 15— ABC's of Honeybees**
Marc Hartstein, Master Gardener
 - March 15 —The Art of Container Gardening**
Kim Gamel, Master Gardener
 - April 19 — Botanic Garden Arm Chair Tours**
John Hensley, Master Gardener
 - May 17 — Hostas**
Bruce Buehring
 - June 21 — Gardening for Wildlife**
Speaker from the Audubon Society TBA
 - June 25 & 26 Pond-O-Rama**
 - July 19 — Auction**
 - August 16 — TBA**
 - September 20 — TBA**
 - October 18 — TBA**
 - November 15 — Budget—Election of Vice President and Treasurer**
- ****New Meeting Location******

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



Jewel Box Opening Day! May 7, 2022

Saturday, May 7th at 9 am will be our date to move the hardy lilies from the mud bottom pond to the Jewel Box. The Parks Dept will have water in the ponds.

Please bring any carts or dollies, and shovels to help split any that have outgrown their pots. Also, if you want to take a piece of a hardy lily home, please bring a container or trash bag for transport.

If you have any friends or family that can help we could use them! We're not getting any younger! The more people the less the time it takes and less back issues. LOL.

Contact me with any questions.

Kay Miskell
km99@att.net




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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:

2022 SLWGS Officers

President

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

Vice President

Bryan Cox (618) 593-4238 bcox741@gmail.com

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Let's Go On a Scavenger Hunt in St Louis


How well do you know Saint Louis? Let's see. Let's go on a scavenger hunt without leaving our warm and cozy home. Once spring comes we can explore.

I found this book at Christmas time. Some are easy. Some are hard. It was written by the owner of a local tour company, Dea Hoover. Let's get started. Note: I do not know the answers to very many. Some are obvious. Some are hard. Let's see how we do as a group.


Last months answers were: Adria's, 5101 Shaw Ave , Mudd's Grove, 302 W Argonne Dr, Kirkwood




3



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Save the date!

June 18th Carnivorous Show and Sale
We will be meeting at Papillion Perennials
(2906 Ossenfort Rd, Wildwood, MO 63038) from 9-2.

Membership Bonus

International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS).

Here is the link to their site and the login information.

The login for IWGS (www.iwgs.org) is: SLWGS

Password is: slwgs20

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How to Avoid Fish Loss During Pond Cleanouts

Spring is a happy and exciting time for water gardeners.

You're so excited for the season to begin that you don't even mind cleaning the pond yourself. In fact, you relish it. Anything to interact with your pond is a welcome activity!

You drain the pond, carefully transport the koi to a temporary location, wash the rocks, check the pump, and clean the filters. Once the dirty work is done, you refill the pond, add appropriate water treatments, and carefully return the fish to their home. All looks good and you can't wait until it's warm enough to feed the fish and plant waterlilies.

Keep in mind that being transferred from the pond to a holding tank and back again proves stressful for your finned friends. They need all the TLC they can get after their home

has been disrupted and scrubbed clean. The last thing you want to see after a pond cleanout is sick fish, or worse yet, dead ones.

Fortunately, we have a list of tips you can follow to ensure your fish are handled as gently as possible and will have a great start to the pond season

Stop feeding fish one week prior to cleaning your pond.

Use a pond cleanout pump to transfer existing pond water to a holding tank where you'll house the fish when cleaning the pond.

When transferring fish from the pond to a holding tank, use a container as opposed to a net so that the fish remains in water during transport.

Place an aerator in the temporary holding tank that will house the fish.

In addition to an aerator, use a Submersible Pond Filter in the fish-holding tank.

Place a net over the temporary holding tank to keep the fish from jumping out.

Check expiration date of all water treatments before adding them to your pond.

If you have an Automatic Dosing System, use a Protect for Ponds treatment bag for the first month to help de-stress your fish and neutralize the water.

If you don't have an Automatic Dosing System, you can use the pump-top bottle version of Protect for Ponds.

If you prefer to have a professional clean your pond, Please check with some of our advertisers.

This article came from Aquascapes newsletter.



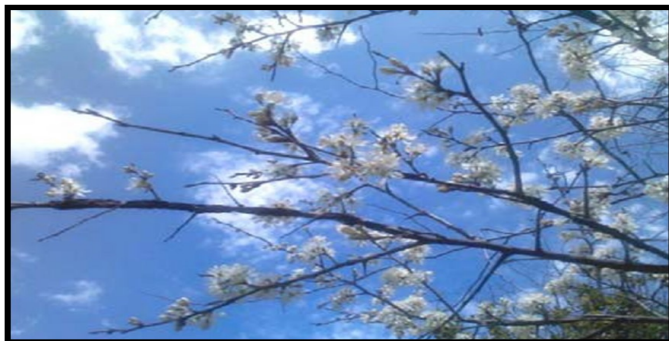


Photo Tips for the Artist in You

Spectacular Spring Backdrops

What an award-winning spring! It is full of surprises and invokes a desire to learn the name of every new bloom that emerges on the land in the meadows, along the creek, etc. Every day something new presents its beautiful face for all to see in a blanket of bounty. The temperatures have been up and down, but the flowers' gently unfold blossoms. We see what redbuds, dogwoods, and magnolias can do in their natural state. It's simply glorious. Even if you never left your house in the last month, you still will have witnessed something amazing if you just looked out your kitchen window.

Spring provides many spectacular backdrops for your photos. What is a backdrop? It is what you see behind your image—what is in the background behind your subject matter. The splendor of the image of cherry blossoms in bloom is enhanced by the spring blue sky. The sky becomes a part of the image as the white clouds mimic the sweet white flowers.



Often the backdrop is the same as the subject when only a simple focus is given, as is true in the close-up of the forsythia. If there had been a bird in the foreground, then the forsythia would have been in the backdrop for it.

Another way to see the scene is to back up and



capture the path that leads to your subject and to shift the focus to a wider view. What has more impact on you, the scene that leads your eye into a focal point or the focal point handed to you? Play with giving people the ability to walk the path that you took to get to your image.



This is the spring to find a place to capture spring flowers and seek the more unusual ones that emerge under the forsythia and around the glade. Put it on your schedule before the blaze of summer snatches these tender souls, and the weeds that also bring blooms begin to emerge. *Re-print from 2012 W.W.*



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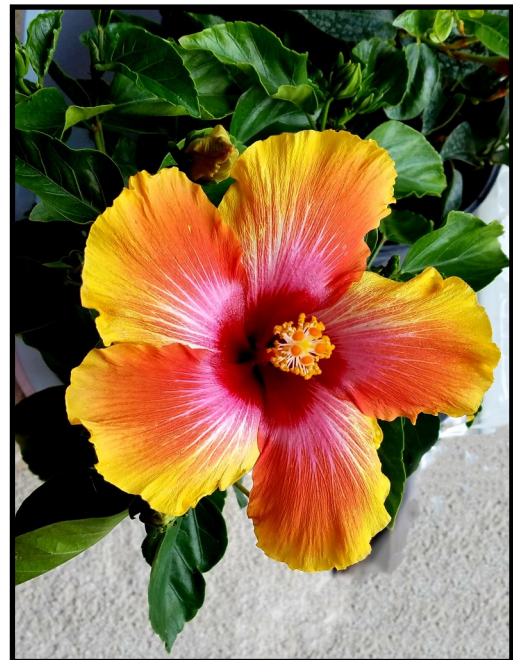
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Photo of the Month



Start your plant gathering now at the nurseries. Before gems like this one are gone.