



## Dealing with Difficult Diseases in Your Favorite Fish

Everyone who has paid a small fortune for a large, lovely koi—or invested a large amount of time and love helping a



*Dr. Andy Goodwin, PhD*

small fish grow up—will be interested in the work of Dr. Andy Goodwin, PhD. Dr. Goodwin has both a masters and a doctorate degree in Fish Pathology from Auburn University. He currently is a professor at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff teaching graduate and undergraduate classes in fish physiology and fish pathology.

He oversees four fish disease diagnostic laboratories that handle more than 2,000 cases per year, submitted from 20-25 states.

His research program is all

### Don't Miss This!

**What:** “Understanding and Avoiding KHV and the Other Koi and Goldfish Viruses”

**Where:** Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125

**When:** Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.

**Who:** Dr. Andrew Goodwin, PhD, Fish Pathologist/Inspector, University of Arkansas/Pine Bluff

about fish disease, and he specializes in the virology of cyprinid fishes (carps, koi, and minnows).

It is his work specifically on the KHV virus that will be of most interest to St. Louis Water Gardening Society Members. Dr. Goodwin will be the speaker at our April meeting. The title of his talk is “Understanding and Avoiding KHV and the Other Koi and Goldfish Viruses.”

Dr. Goodwin’s laboratory was the first to discover Spring Viremia of Carp in North America and the first to provide a KHV PCR test as a routine diagnostic option for farmers, dealers, and hobbyists dealing with KHV disease.

He has participated in international symposia on KHV in London, Copenhagen, and Israel and has presented many talks on KHV to the scientific community, gatherings of farmers and hobbyists, and to the Associated Koi Clubs of America.

Dr. Goodwin is the incoming president of the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section and serves on many national and international fish health committees including several that work with the USDA and OIE.

One of his current tasks is traveling the country with the National Aquaculture Association to educate fish farmers and culinary students so that they better understand the quality, safety, and sustainability of U. S. aquaculture.

This is the first appearance at SLWGS of this recognized expert in the field of koi and goldfish diseases, so don’t miss this opportunity to hear about the latest research and treatment methods. Bring your own questions for Dr. Goodwin as well.

## It's Not Nice to Fool Mother Nature!

Does it not seem sometimes that in spring, the weather gods really are waging battle? Sunny and warm days in mid-March had daffodils in bloom and tulips pushing up through the ground. It brought magnolia and cherry trees into full bloom, only to have the blossoms covered just a few days later, by a wet, heavy snowfall. The snow disappeared



quickly, leaving most plants without severe damage. But the message was clear—don’t be in a hurry to get into your gardens in St. Louis—Mother Nature is watching!





## Romance Has Always Bloomed Along With the Lilies at the Jewel Box

Generations of happy couples have fond memories of the Jewel Box and of having their photos taken beside the pools. Sheila Kramer of Centralia, Ill., shared the photo of her parents, below, from her family album. The picture was taken in 1945, when her father, August Eugene “Gene” Kramer was 20 and her mother, Mildred, was 18. “Daddy died in 1950 and mother is now 83,” said Kramer. “I love this photo because the Jewel Box is still there.”



If the members of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society have anything to say about it, the Jewel Box will always be there, with lilies blooming for happy couples yet to come. Designing, planting and maintaining the lily pools is the civic project of SLWGS. It is our annual gift to the community.

The work is about to begin again. The first work day for Jewel Box volunteers will be April 30. This is one of the heaviest workdays—scenes from the first day of the season last year are show here.

First, volunteers retrieve the hardy lilies from the mud-bottomed pond in Forest Park and transfer them to the pool area on trucks.

The plants will be divided as needed and groomed. Pots will be filled with fresh dirt and the lilies planted in them. Finally, they will be taken by hand truck to the pools and put in place.

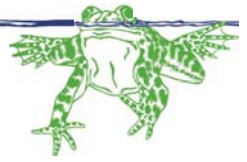
If you have a couple of hours on April 30, beginning at 9 a.m., come and help us keep the romance going.

Hand trucks, wheelbarrows, shovels, clippers, and waders or boots if you have them—all will be of use. And there is a bonus—leftover divisions of lilies or other aquatic plants are available for adoption!





## Presidential Ponderings



Well, folks, after the March meeting you should be all set to get your pond ready for the season. We had a fine panel of experts give us tips on what needs to be done—now go do it! Many thanks to Caleb Bauer, Joe Bindbeutel, and Dawn Frierdich for doing such a great job. We had a very informative meeting and a lively

question and answer period after. We also continue to give out some really nice door prizes—it is amazing what people will provide to keep me from contributing a door prize again!

This month we will have Dr. Andrew Goodwin from the University of Arkansas talk about the koi herpes virus as well as how to avoid various other fish diseases. It should be interesting and informative. Next month, Dennis Campbell, PhD, from Lincoln College, will be giving a presentation on "Pond Macroinvertebrates: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." Music will be supplied by Hugo Montenegro and members are encouraged to wear serapes.

Don't forget that, due to construction from January thru May, we will continue to meet in CBEC classroom #125. CBEC is located at 4651 Shaw Avenue. To get there from I-44, exit at Vandeventer Avenue and go west. Turn right on Shaw Avenue, cross the railroad tracks and turn right into the parking lot.

Also don't forget that on April 30 at 9 a.m., we will be gathering at the Jewel Box to retrieve the hardy lilies from their winter quarters in the "mud pond." Come on out for fun and fellowship. In May we plan to have a koi auction, and in July we are planning an overnight trip to a koi farm. Stay tuned for the details on these events.

Pond-O-Rama is gearing up. Alice Gibson and her group have it under control but can always use additional help, especially in promoting the event to friends, family and the general public. Let us know if you have a favorite publication or a media contact we should reach. On June 23 we will have a

group gathered on the sidewalk outside Channel 5 to do our annual plug for the event. If you have adorable kids (or a short adult who can pass for an adorable kid) plan on bringing them out!

In case you didn't know our club library, under the superb management of Jeanne Lehr, has an extensive collection of magazines. There are too many for Jeanne to drag to the meetings but I have asked her to be on the lookout for articles relevant to the monthly topics or questions that members have asked, and bring those along

Well, the White House pond is showing signs of life. The Saturday before the March meeting I took the netting down. Good thing, too—we got 5 inches of snow in Baldwin on the 26th! One more episode of the frame collapsing into the pond would have been more than I could take!

My little buddies are begging for food and I've started to give them some. (It's a good idea to begin with a low protein or wheat germ food at first.) There is no sign of "Sammy the Snake" yet, though neighbors tell me they've seen some serpentine activity in the neighborhood.

The green water has returned. This weekend will be tax time for most people but pond cleanout time for me. I don't think I'm going to drain it this year. The fish population is pretty well under control and I don't pressure-wash what little gravel I have. I have a set of waders to use this year. I purchased them so I can assist with the Jewel Box project, and I accidentally scared the First Lady by leaving them hanging in the basement by their straps. She turned around suddenly and mistook them for some creature and let out a scream! Hmmm, I have this really realistic looking Wolfman mask...

As always, if you have suggestions, ideas, or complaints, I'd like to hear them. I'm honored to be your president.

*Dave Stahre*

**Free water hyacinths just for visiting our store!!!**

**Chalily**  
pond & gardens

**636.527.2001**  
[chalilypond.com](http://chalilypond.com)

14430 Manchester Road  
Manchester, MO 63011  
owned by Joe & Tonya Summers

**Hillermann**  
NURSERY & FLORIST

2601 East 5th Street  
Washington, MO

**636-239-6729**  
[www.hillermann.com](http://www.hillermann.com)

Our roots are in Washington!  
Since 1951!

Nursery/Garden Center  
Flower/Gift Shop  
Landscape/Irrigation  
Lawn & Garden Equipment

**Experts in Pond, Waterfall & Landscape Construction**

**Nature's Re-Creations**  
PONDS & FALLS

**Chris Siewing**  
636. 287. 3838

[www.re-createnature.com](http://www.re-createnature.com)

**Design Reflections**

**"THE AQUATIC SOURCE"**

• Unique Creations •  
Design – Installation – Maintenance  
Filtration Systems + Ozone Systems  
Pond less + Faux

Division of Saul's Custom Designs  
Since 1977

**636.300.1770**



**Free Tadpoles With Every Purchase!**

Mon-Fri 9-6 Sat 9-5 Sun 12-5  
 7950 Watson Road 63119 314.962.5833

**BAUER FALLS LLC.**

636 357 3495

RECREATING THE WONDERS OF NATURE



2541 LINK ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63114  
 314-426-4838, [www.mprsupply.com](http://www.mprsupply.com)

**AUTHORIZED**  
**Aquascape PRO**  
 DISTRIBUTOR

got pond scum?

Saint Louis' Oldest  
 Professional Pond Service

Maintenance,  
 Repair and Installation

Your Pond Doctor  
 314-481-3359

[www.YourPondDoctor.us](http://www.YourPondDoctor.us)

### Two Ways to Get Water Word

Your issue of *Water Word* will arrive in your mail box each month, prior to the monthly meeting, unless you prefer to have it delivered via e-mail. To sign up for e-mail delivery only, contact membership coordinator Gail Abernathy at [abernat@swbell.net](mailto:abernat@swbell.net)



## St. Louis Water Gardening Society Calendar of Events 2011

Membership meetings in 2011 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. on the **FOURTH TUESDAY** of each month unless otherwise noted.

**April 26**—"Understanding and Avoiding KHV and the Other Koi and Goldfish Viruses," **Dr. Andrew Goodwin, PhD**, Fish Pathologist/Inspector, University of Arkansas/Pine Bluff, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125.

**April 30**—First **Jewel Box** work day of the season, 9 a.m., to retrieve, divide, plant and place hardy lilies in the reflecting pools. Rain or shine.

**May 24**—"Pond Macroinvertebrates: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly," **Dennis Campbell**, Lincoln College, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125.

**June 5**—**St. Louis Water Gardening Society Koi Auction**, 1 p.m., at the home of Steve and Terry Metzler, 5511 Wieland Drive, St. Louis, MO 63128.

**June 14**—**Pond-O-Rama host meeting**, 7 p.m. Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room.

**June 21**—"Goldfish in America," **Peter Ponzio**, certified judge, Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA), 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room. Note: This is a **THIRD TUESDAY**.

**June 23**—**Pond-O-Rama on the Plaza**, a group appearance at the KSDK Channel 5 "Show me St. Louis" window to promote Pond-O-Rama. Come join us—be at the Plaza at 1000 Market St., St. Louis, Mo 63101 by 2:30 p.m.

**June 25-26**—The 11th annual Pond-O-Rama pond and garden tour. For ticket information, call 314-995-2988, contact Alice Gibson at [alice1628@att.net](mailto:alice1628@att.net), or check our website [www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org) under the Pond-O-Rama tab.

**July 19**—**Annual SLWGS Auction**, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room. Donations needed. Note: This is a **THIRD TUESDAY**.

**July 23-24**—**Members' Road Trip**, overnight bus trip to visit Iowa's Kloubec Fish Farm and the Eastern Iowa Pond Society. For reservations, contact **Pam Jokerst**, special events coordinator, (314) 514-8348, [pamjokerst@gmail.com](mailto:pamjokerst@gmail.com).

**August 16**—**Annual Awards Banquet**, "The Multifaceted and Enchanting Lotus: From Ancient Myths to your Backyard," **Paula Biles**, author and lotus expert, at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. Note: This is a **THIRD TUESDAY**.

**September 24**—Annual Tiki Tour, an evening tour of members' ponds. For more information or to sign up, contact **Pam Jokerst**, special events coordinator, (314) 514-8348, [pamjokerst@gmail.com](mailto:pamjokerst@gmail.com).

**September 27**—"Panel of Experts: Fall Shutdown." Panel to be determined. 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room.

**October 25**—"Trees and Shrubs for Moist Areas," **Cindy Gilberg**, horticulturist and garden consultant, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room.





## Did You Miss This?

### Getting Started in Spring

Our March meeting featured a spirited discussion of issues related to opening ponds in the spring. Answering questions from members were, Joseph “Joe” Bindbeutel, Ponds Plus Water Garden Center, on fish; Caleb Bauer, Bauer Falls, LLC, on pond care and maintenance; and Dawn Friedrich, Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses, on plants. The panel was moderated by David Stahre, the president of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society.

There were the usual questions about when and what to feed fish, how to clean the pond, how to get rid of string algae and what plants work best in St. Louis.

On fish feeding, Bindbeutel said to wait until the water temperature is above 50° day and night before feeding. (Make sure you measure the water temperature, not air temperature.) With koi, begin with a food such as wheatgerm that is specifically formulated for cool temperatures.

On controlling string algae, Bauer said the key is to get plenty of plants in the pond. Plants both provide shade on the water surface and use some of the same nutrients that algae thrives on. Floating plants such as water lettuce, water hyacinth and lilies provide direct shade. Taller plants such as iris also help to shade the pond surface.

There also are chemical treatments that help in severe cases, he said. However, Bauer cautioned against taking excessive measures to kill the algae. Once the weather warms up, the plants begin to grow and the fish are active again, much of the problem will solve itself, he said.

Bindbeutel noted that adding barley straw bales to the pond—fresh ones in April and September—is an effective means of controlling many types of algae, especially string algae.

Both Bindbeutel and Bauer noted that it is important to make sure there is not an excessive number of fish in the pond, and that pH levels are properly maintained.

Bauer also noted that while the pond should be cleaned to remove debris from winter, it should not be scrubbed clean or “power-washed.” Doing so removes the important layer of



*Our panel of experts for the April meeting discussed getting your pond opened for spring. Fielding questions were Joe Bindbeutel, Ponds Plus Water Garden Center on fish; Caleb Bauer, Bauer Falls, LLC, on maintenance, and Dawn Friedrich, Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses, on plants.*

patina and gets rid of beneficial bacteria.

When cleaning the pond, he said, remove the fish and put them in a tub or a child’s swimming pool while you work. Don’t remove all the old water—replace no more than two-thirds of it with clean water. Before you return the fish and the water in the tub, test the new water to make sure it is chlorine free and at the proper pH. If necessary, add water conditioner to remove chlorine, chloramine and to detoxify heavy metals.

Friedrich was asked about bringing tropical plants that have been over-wintered inside back outside and putting them into the pond. She, too, recommended waiting until the temperature is above 50° on a consistent basis. “People get real excited about an 80° day, but I’ll bet it will snow at least two more times,” she said. Friedrich said using a cold frame to help plants transition from inside to outside is a good idea.

Friedrich said that it also is a good idea quarantine plants brought into your garden or water garden from other sources,

Continued on page 7



**Saul's Custom Designs**  
Landscape Design ♦ Installation ♦ Maintenance  
Outdoor Lighting ♦ Stonework

**636.300.1770**

PO Box 185  
COTTLEVILLE, MO 63338-0185




- waterfalls and ponds
- landscape lighting
- paver patios
- fire pits
- walks and steps
- stoneworks
- landscape design

References available. Call for FREE estimate.

**636-751-9621 ♦ [naturescapedesignsstl.com](http://naturescapedesignsstl.com)**





**JAEGER Greenhouses**  
 2369 Creve Coeur Mill Road  
 Maryland Heights, MO 63043  
 314-739-1507  
[www.jaegergreenhouses.com](http://www.jaegergreenhouses.com)

**Master Grower Since 1985**  
 Perennials, Annuals, Flowering Shrubs,  
 Hanging Baskets, Vegetables & Aquatics  
 Premium Potting & Soil and Mulch  
 Beautiful Asian and European Pottery



(636) 946-2242  
 (800) 598-9413

2130 First Capitol Drive  
 (Hwy. 94) at West Clay  
 St. Charles, MO 63301

HOURS: Seasonal  
 "OPEN 7 DAYS"



**Largest Pond Supply Store in the Midwest!**

- Retail Facility
- Mail-Order
- Online Shopping
- Wholesale



(314) 831-0344



**LAND WORKS, INC.**  
 Landscape Consultation • Design • Installation  
 "Pond and Water Garden Specialists"

**BARCLAY H. COMPTON**  
 President

3295 Charbonier Rd.  
 St. Louis, MO 63031

[www.landworksnet.com](http://www.landworksnet.com)  
 e-mail: [landworks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:landworks@sbcglobal.net)



*Water Word* is published by the St. Louis Water Gardening Society 10-11 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.

SLWGS membership dues are \$20 annually per household. Information about the Society, including how to join, can be found at our website, [www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org) or from any of the officers, board members or coordinators listed below.

### 2011 SLWGS Officers, Board Members and Coordinators

- President  
 David Stahre (618) 785-2501 [dstahre@hotmail.com](mailto:dstahre@hotmail.com)
- Vice President  
 Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 [alice1628@att.net](mailto:alice1628@att.net)
- Treasurer  
 David Poos (314) 821-1622 [david.poos@att.net](mailto:david.poos@att.net)
- Recording Secretary  
 Mary Nies (636) 458-2149 [Mary-Nies@att.net](mailto:Mary-Nies@att.net)
- Publicity Coordinator  
 Virginia Mueller (314) 831-3063 [vcmueller16@hotmail.com](mailto:vcmueller16@hotmail.com)
- Special Events Coordinator  
 Pam Jokerst (314) 514-8348 [pamjokerst@gmail.com](mailto:pamjokerst@gmail.com)
- Society Shirt Sales Coordinator  
 Ruth Mosley (314) 878-7281 [rgbmosley@aol.com](mailto:rgbmosley@aol.com)
- Librarian  
 Jeanne Lehr (314) 432-2842 [jeannelehr@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannelehr@yahoo.com)
- Pond-O-Rama Coordinator  
 Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 [alice1628@att.net](mailto:alice1628@att.net)
- Pond-O-Rama Advertising Coordinator  
 John Nies (636) 458-2149 [jtnies@aol.com](mailto:jtnies@aol.com)
- Membership Coordinator  
 Gail Abernathy (314) 428-3037 [abernat@swbell.net](mailto:abernat@swbell.net)
- Jewel Box Coordinator  
 Kay Miskell (618) 344-6216 [km99@att.net](mailto:km99@att.net)
- Water Word Editor  
 Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 [alice1628@att.net](mailto:alice1628@att.net)
- AKCA Representative  
 Steve Metzler (314) 845-3902 [stevenmetzler@att.net](mailto:stevenmetzler@att.net)
- Website/E-mail Coordinator  
 Joan Woelfel (636) 394-6342 [joan.woelfel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joan.woelfel@sbcglobal.net)
- Hospitality Coordinator  
 Sophia Cluck (636) 530-1726 [Sophia.Cluck@hotmail.com](mailto:Sophia.Cluck@hotmail.com)
- Member-at-Large  
 Carolyn Haus (314) 993-0986 [carolyn\\_haus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolyn_haus@sbcglobal.net)
- Koi Health Advisor  
 Lynne Jones (314) 646-7301 [ldmalice@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ldmalice@worldnet.att.net)

Please support *Water Word* advertisers with your business when you need plants, fish, equipment, supplies or consultants. Find links to their websites from ours at [www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org).



**Did you miss this?**  
(Continued from page 5)

especially if you are unfamiliar with the previous environment. Plants, like fish, can bring diseases into the garden.

While isolation of new plants is important, it is more important to buy from sources you are familiar with, and to carefully inspect plants at the garden center before you bring them home. "Look carefully for mealy bugs or white fly or scales. If you see anything, don't bring it home."

She said most plants can be divided by cutting through the root system and pulling them apart. New divisions can be potted separately. Taro plants, several varieties of which are often seen in ponds, can be divided, but some varieties are easier to do than others, she said. "The darker colors are more difficult to propagate. They need lots of bottom heat."

Bindbeutel said such isolation is critical when bringing home new fish. He, too, however, recommended a careful inspection of the fish at the pet store or the hatchery to make sure they are healthy before you bring them home. In any case, he said, "Quarantine them separately for a time to make sure."

Asked if tropical goldfish can be put into an outdoor pond, Bindbeutel said many do just fine in outdoor ponds. However, some tropical varieties are not as winter hardy as more common types. Some varieties also have a difficult time getting away from predators.

Responding to a question about mosquito fish, Bindbeutel said the one thing to remember is that while mosquito fish are very good at eating mosquito larvae, they also eat the babies of other species.

Bindbeutel said a rule of thumb for determining if you have too many fish is 100 gallons of water for each one pound of fish. If you have 500 gallons of water flowing through the pond, then five pounds of fish is enough.

Bauer was asked if all ponds have to have a filter. "I would advise it," he said. "Some do not need them, but most of those have very few fish."

Many plants make good filters if water flows through them, including yellow flag iris and anachris plants.

Bauer said biofilters should be cleaned once a year at least. Other filters should be checked often and the pads cleaned routinely.

Asked about finding a leak in the waterfall, Bauer said to check for any possible low spots in the rocks where water can back up. "Most of the time, the water is running over the side somewhere and can't get back into the pond."

**Suggestions for Fighting Algae**

Here is a list of suggestions made by members and panel participants at the last meeting for fighting string algae, prominent in ponds in the spring.

- ◆ Have lots of plants in the pond—especially floating plants such as water lettuce or water hyacinth.
- ◆ Do NOT have too many fish. An over-abundance of fish can tax your filtration system.
- ◆ Have the water tested to make sure there are not unusual levels of nitrates present.
- ◆ Maintain the proper pH in the water.
- ◆ To kill string algae in the water fall, turn off the stream on a sunny day and spray the rocks with white vinegar. Allow it to dry and remove the dead plants.
- ◆ Keep barley straw bales in the pond year round. Place fresh bales in the pond in April and September
- ◆ Use a chemical algacide, taking care to follow directions on the package.

636-458-2149  
www.nieslandscape.com



**NIES**  
**LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS**  
3410 Whitsetts Fork Road  
Wildwood, MO 62038

*Specializing in Water Feature Maintenance, Leak Location, Problem Solving, Pond Clean Outs and Monthly Care Programs*

Great Selection of  
*oxygenators, water lilies & marginals*

**Water Plants**

720 South 11th, Belleville, IL  
(618) 234-4600  
Mon-Sat 9-6 • Sun. 10-4  
www.effingergarden.com

**EFFINGER**  
**Garden Center**  
5 miles east of the  
Shrine off Hwy 15

**Planning a move?  
Be Sure You  
Take SLWGS Along  
With You!**

Don't miss an issue of *Water Word*. Send change of address notices to  
Gail Abernathy  
10922 Killdare Court  
St. Ann, MO 63070

**Questions? Contact  
Gail at**  
[abernat@swbell.net](mailto:abernat@swbell.net)  
or visit our website,  
[www.slwgs.org!](http://www.slwgs.org)

**Born  
in the  
USA**



Call  
1-800-227-8941  
for your Local  
Dealer or visit  
our website:  
[www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com)

**Mazuri**  
The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource



## Bring Koi Photos to April Meeting



St. Louis Water Gardening Society members will vote for their Society's Koi of the Year from photos brought to the April meeting. If you haven't yet taken that great photo of "Sparky," it's time to have him pose.

The Associated Koi Clubs of America has cancelled its 2011 conference in Indianapolis because of problems with the host hotel. However, a Koi of the Year will be selected for this year, and the prize will be awarded at the 2012 conference of AKCA.

To be eligible, the photo of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society's favorite koi must be submitted to AKCA before May 1, 2011. That means the SLWGS members must vote on its single candidate—among those submitted by members—at the April meeting, said Steve Metzler, the AKCA representative for SLWGS.

For the best results, isolate your favorite koi in a blue tub for the prize-winning photograph. The bright blue background shows off the colors and patterns to the best advantage.

## Oops! We Goofed...

In last month's Water Word, we gave the incorrect price for the new polo-style sport shirt now available for SLWGS members to order. The shirts are \$20 each—not \$25.

The shirts are made by Harriton, and are 6.5 oz. ring-spun cotton pique with short-sleeves, collars and button placket openings. Men's and women's styles are available.

Sweatshirts (\$25), and T-Shirts (\$15) also are available. For colors and sizes in each type and style, or to order them, go to our website, [www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org). The shirts and other merchandise also can be ordered at a regular meeting.

## Missouri Aquarium Society to Hold Spring Event and Auction

The Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc., will hold its 51st Annual Spring Weekend April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Gardenville Masonic Lodge, 8230 Gravois Road, Affton, MO 63123.

The event kicks off Friday, April 29, with a pizza dinner and speakers Phil Benes on Ponds and Mike Hellweg on "Miniature Cyprinids." Saturday's events include speakers Ray Lucas on "The State of the Hobby" and Mike Schadle, "New World Cichlids," Benes on "Rainbowfish," Greg Steeves on "Haplochromine Cichlids & CARES." An awards banquet will be held in the evening and will feature a talk by Schadle titled "Livebearers & Fish Ark."

On Sunday, May, a dry goods auction and the main event—a giant all-species auction—kicks off at 11 a.m.

Visit [www.MissouriAquariumSociety.com](http://www.MissouriAquariumSociety.com) for more information.

## Koi Club Events of Interest

Pam Jokerst has noted that a number of koi shows and/or auctions will be held in the next few months that are within relatively easy driving distance of St. Louis. They are:

- May 28 and 29, the Greater Louisville Koi and Goldfish Society, in Louisville. For more information, visit the website at [www.louisvillekoiclub.com](http://www.louisvillekoiclub.com).
- July 8, 9 and 10, the Midwest Pond & Koi Society in Chicago. See [www.mpks.org](http://www.mpks.org) for more information.
- September 2, 3, and 4, the Internet Koi of North America Koi Club will hold a show in Clarksville, Tenn. This is an internet koi club. The website is [www.ikonaonline.org](http://www.ikonaonline.org).

## For Free Plants

visit [www.sugarcreekgardens.com](http://www.sugarcreekgardens.com)  
Here you will find a wealth of information on perennials, roses, annuals, vines, and shrubs, along with coupons for FREE PLANTS.



1011 N. Woodlawn,  
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122  
314-965-3070

## Wild Birds Unlimited® Nature Shop



Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist™

9987 Manchester Road  
Warson Woods, MO 63122  
PHONE (314) 821-2266  
FAX (314) 821-2361

wbu.warsonwoods@swbell.net  
[www.wbu.com/warsonwoods](http://www.wbu.com/warsonwoods)

STORE HOURS  
MON-SAT 9:00 - 6:00  
SUN 12:00 - 4:00

5% discount to members

Scott & Georgene Collier  
owners



## Xtrahand

David Mallory  
314-374-4053

[xtrahand.net](http://xtrahand.net)

[xtrahand@worldnet.att.net](mailto:xtrahand@worldnet.att.net)

Specializing in professional pond maintenance,  
repairs, clean-outs and installation.  
Working with St. Louis area pond owners since 1998

## WEST WINDS EARTHSCAPING LLC



Todd Rundquist

WATERFALLS & WATERGARDENS  
Horticultural Design and Development

18714 Bonhomme Creek Road  
Wildwood, MO 63005

ph 636.274.5133  
cell 314.223.1542

[www.westwindsfalls.com](http://www.westwindsfalls.com)



## Pond-O-Rama Set With 42 Hosts

The 2011 Pond-O-Rama tour promises to be entertaining and enlightening with a wide variety of water features to see. Installations range from tall, tumbling water falls to quiet streams and peaceful ponds. Also to be seen are pondless waterfalls, rain recovery systems and beautiful, diverse gardens. There will be 42 locations to visit over two days, June 25 and 26. More than one-

third are new this year.

In addition to new hosts and locations, there will be a number of water gardens that have been reworked since they were last seen. Virginia Mueller, whose North County pond is on the Sunday portion of the tour, has been completely redesigned and enlarged, she says. Rebecca Harrison, a Saturday host in Warson Woods, said the removal of some large trees have caused significant changes in the landscape. "We also have added two 20-pound Albino catfish," she said.

Other perennial

favorites also will be returning. Joy Cooper-Presson will continue her run as the pond owner most often on the tour—this is her 11th. Kirk and Carol Watkins, whose pond and garden is seen above, and Keith and Cheryl Kowalczyk, below, will be back. Rick and Pam Jokerst, along with David and Joan Poos,

will be greeting tour guests again—fast on the heels of their appearances on the Missouri Botanical Garden tour.

Each member household of SLWGS is entitled to two free tickets for the tour. The tickets will be available for pick up at the May and June meetings. Additional tickets also will be available for purchase at the May meeting, and at local retailers after May 25.



*The extensive water gardens of Rick and Pam Jokerst contrast sharply with the wide variety of day lilies and other perennial plants at the home of David and Joan Poos. What both have in common, however, are that both have great water gardens, both have beautiful landscapes and both were chosen by the Missouri Botanical Garden for its summer tour. Both also are returning to the 11th annual Pond-O-Rama.*



**Surprise Celebration**—Several members of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society joined family members and a room full of other friends to help "roast" Don Ganim for his 75th birthday last month. Among the guests were Joan Woelfel, left, and Pam Jokerst, right, shown here with the man of the hour in his birthday crown. It was a surprise luncheon for Don, held immediately after church services at St. Raymond's where he sings in the choir.

Family members, including his children and grandchildren, joined a host of friends at the microphone, relating their own memories of life with Don—and adding their own "zingers" to the mix.





**Inside this edition:**

Dealing with Difficult Diseases in  
Your Favorite Fish ..... Page 1

**Also inside:**

It's Not Nice to Fool Mother Nature!..... Page 1  
Romance Has Always Bloomed  
    Along With the Lilies at the Jewel Box ..... Page 2  
Presidential Ponderings ..... Page 3  
Calendar of Events..... Page 4  
Did You Miss This?  
    Getting Started in Spring ..... Page 5  
2011 SLWGS Officers, Board Members  
    and Coordinators ..... Page 6  
Bring Koi Photos to April Meeting ..... Page 8  
Missouri Aquarium Society to Hold  
    Spring Event and Auction..... Page 8  
    Koi Club Events of Interest..... Page 8  
Pond-O-Rama Set With 42 Hosts ..... Page 9  
Surprise Celebration..... Page 9  
New Plants of Merit List Includes Helleborus  
    'Walhelivor' Ivory Prince™ ..... Page 10

**Save the Date!**  
**Pond-O-Rama Weekend is**  
**June 25 and 26 .**  
**Why not make it a group**  
**event—discounted tickets**  
**are available for groups of**  
**10 or more!**

**New 'Plants of Merit' List Includes Helleborus 'Walhelivor' Ivory Prince™**

New to the list of 'Plants of Merit' for this region is Helleborus 'Walhelivor' Ivory Prince.™ Commonly known as Christmas Rose, this favorite perennial grows to a height of 1'-2' and spreads about the same. It is hardy in zones 3-8 and blooms in St. Louis from March to May.



*Helleborus 'Walhelivor' Ivory Prince', Photo courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden.*

Helleborus is easy to grow in well-drained, medium moisture, slightly alkaline soil. It prefers part to full shade. Helleborus 'Walhelivor' was selected from a controlled breeding program set up to produce new plants exhibiting vigorous growth, upright form and flat flowers.

It is commonly sold as Hellebore 'Ivory Prince' and it grows as a clump-forming perennial. Flower buds are burgundy-pink, but the outward facing, cup-shaped flowers of the late winter bloom are creamy white with overlapping petals. The flowers become pink as they age. The leaves are divided into 3-7 narrow, lance-shaped toothed leaflets per leaf.

The plant should be located in a spot that will protect it from cold winter winds to prevent the evergreen foliage from becoming tattered and scorched. Flowering stems should be cut back after blooming to promote new growth. The leaves, stems and roots are poisonous, and the plant is resistant to deer and rabbits.

The 2011 Plants of Merit list includes annual, perennials, shrubs, vines, trees and edible ornamentals. The selected plants have all performed well in one or more locations in the lower Midwest region, zones 5 and 6.

For more information, visit the Missouri Botanical Garden website [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org).