

It's Spring! Think Pond Cleaning, Planting Lilies and Feeding Fish

No one who has gone through a winter such as the one just past can fail to breath in the heady air of springtime—especially gardeners.



Our panel of experts for our spring start up program includes Dawn Friedrich, above; Caleb Bauer, above right; and Joe Bindbeutel, right.



We all are ready to dig in—but there is so much to do. What should come first? When should we plan to do which of the many chores? A St. Louis Water Gardening Society tradition—our spring start-up panel of experts—will help you sort it all out at the March meeting. It's time to get serious!

All three members of this panel are appearing on our panel for the first time, so each

Don't Miss This!

What: "Panel of Experts—Spring Start-up"
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125
When: Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Who: Joseph "Joe" Bindbeutel, Ponds Plus Water Garden Center; Caleb Bauer, Bauer Falls, LLC; Dawn Friedrich, Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses

brings a fresh perspective to the season ahead.

Handling your questions about maintenance and cleaning for the start up of the pond itself will be Caleb Bauer, co-owner with his brother, Josh, of Bauer Falls, LLC. He has more than 10 years of experience constructing, maintaining, and designing ponds and water features. He has lots of new ideas to help make your water feature beautiful, safe, and low maintenance.

Fielding your questions about fish will be Joseph (Joe) Bindbeutel, co-owner with his wife, Carol, of Ponds Plus Water Garden Center. The business was founded in 1981 as Pets Plus, and has evolved from a pet shop to a predominantly water garden business. Joe has been an aquarium hobbyist since 1960. The Bindbeutel's have three children, Joe II, Jim and Julie. Joe II and Jim also are active in the family business.

Taking on the questions about spring plantings will be Dawn Friedrich, who has helped to manage Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses for 12 years. The company grows an extended assortment of annuals, perennials, basket combos and planters. Friedrich is a member of the Landscape and Nursery Association of St. Louis, and of the Gateway Professional Horticulturist Association of St. Louis. She has designed planters and grounds for the personal residence of the owner of a local waterfall installation company, as well as personalized gardens for clients. She studied horticulture at the University of Illinois.

Bring all your "spring into spring" questions to the March meeting. This panel is uniquely qualified to find the answers you need.

Hardy Lily Best of 2010



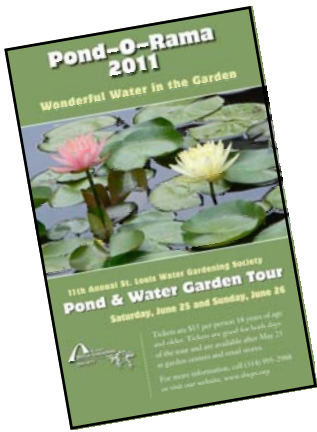
A hardy water lily was named the Best new Water Lily of 2010 by the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS). The new lily *Nymphaea* 'Wanvisa' is the first hardy variety to win since the IWGS annual

Continued on page 8

Photo courtesy of the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society.

Just a Little Help From Our Friends...

Our promotional campaign for Pond-O-Rama got a kick-start in early March at the 34th annual St. Louis Builder's Home and Garden Show. Our new 2011

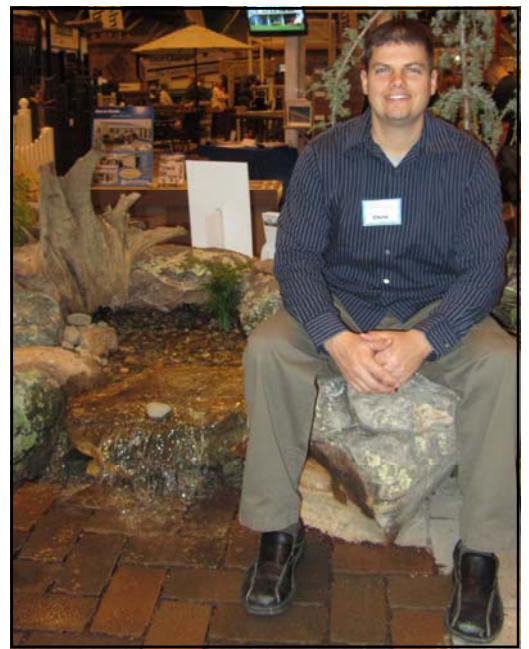


poster, left, was displayed in ten booths throughout the show, and our informational brochure also was available from these companies. Advertisers and supporters who had business of their own to do, happily took our materials. They included, clockwise from right, Chris Siewing of Nature's Re-Creations, who allowed a waterfall to come down on his brick floor and just disappear beneath it; Chris and Todd Rundquist of West Winds Earthscaping, who made the event a family affair, with help from Eli and Zoe; Aaron Callis of Naturescape Designs, who gave away all the brochures we gave him; and Kelly and Barclay Compton of Landworks, whose popular booth featured a water wheel and duck races for the kids.

Also helping out were Frisella Nursery, Prestige Landscaping, Rivers West Landscaping, Shelton Landscape & Maintenance, Signature Landscapes and

Design, Inc., Walter Knoll Florists, and the East Central District, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc. National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Our thanks to all!



Award Winning Design—The East Central District, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, National Garden Clubs, Inc., mounted a competitive flower show at the home show. The theme was "Dance Among the Stars," and SLWGS member Alice Gibson won a first place blue ribbon in her category, "It Takes Two to Tango." The design also won the Award of Design Excellence.





Presidential Ponderings

Well, folks, wasn't the February meeting fun? Aaron Burchett from Pond Market gave a great presentation on pond construction; we had a lively crowd, and decent door prizes! We did things a little differently with the feedback sheets this time. (Notably, we provided writing implements!) As a result, we got about twice as

many responses as we normally do. Thanks to all who filled them out. The sheets really do help us answer additional questions and plan for other programs.

This month we'll have our Panel of Experts on Spring Start-up for your pond. We'll have Caleb Bauer, of Bauer Falls, LLC, discussing the pond itself; Dawn Friedrich of Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses, discussing how to get your plants ready; and Joe Bindbeutel of Ponds Plus Water Gardening Center, talking about your fish. It should be an interesting discussion, so plan on attending and bring your questions!

Remember our meeting location until June is at CBEC classroom #125 due to construction at Ridgway. CBEC is located at 4651 Shaw Avenue, down the street from the main garden.

As always, I'm open to suggestions for program topics. I'm already thinking about next year and considering bringing Clarke Smith from Jagged Moss to show us a Japanese water garden project from start to finish. We're also exploring topics such as "Edible Water Gardens." Let me know your ideas.

Pond-O-Rama is gearing up and will be upon us before you know it. Come on out before the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. and help with the planning.

Other activities to be thinking about include our project to maintain the lily ponds at the Jewel box. We're planning a koi auction this spring and a field trip to a koi raising operation this summer.

Don't forget about our merchandise. We still have a good

supply of our lovely 2010 Pond-O-Rama posters, which look great framed! We also have those beautiful note cards. Consider gifts for out of town water gardeners.

Another member benefit is the use of our Society library. In case you didn't know we have a large supply of magazines. Unfortunately, poor Jeanne, our librarian, can only haul so many back and forth to the meetings. If you have a subject you are interested in, let her know either by e-mail or at a meeting and she'll see what she can find!

Winter continues to take its toll on the "White House" pond. The ice has melted and my frame and netting has once again been resurrected from the chaos. Unfortunately the clear water also revealed that two fish had not survived the winter freeze. One sunny afternoon I got a call at work from the first lady informing me of the tragedy. She wasn't able to identify the victims so, after an afternoon of worrying about who was gone, I rushed home to discover that "Lawn Mower2" (so named by a 4-year old 10 years ago) and "Max" (my largest goldfish) had kicked it. I was relieved to find my sentimental favorite "Tubby" (my blind female) was still among the living as were the rest of gang. I have concluded that Tubby has the fish equivalent of cataracts. Her eyes appear slightly glazed and she can't see food that is right in front of her. I'd say she can probably see just a little but certainly would need extremely thick lenses if reading was required. The fish are asking for food, and they are hard to resist, but I'm afraid that it is still too cold. Answers at our next meeting!

Well, folks, I've rambled long enough! Thanks for all the support you have given and continue to give! See you next week.

Dave Stahre

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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



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.

February 22—Pond-O-Rama organizing committee meeting, 6 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125.

March 22—"Panel of Experts: Spring Startup," with Joseph "Joe" Bindbeutel, Ponds Plus Water Garden Center; Caleb Bauer, Bauer Falls, LLC; Dawn Friedrich, Maxwell Homestead Greenhouses, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, Room #125.

March 30—SLWGS Board of Director's meeting at the home of Joan Woelfel, 1064 Charlois Drive, 7 p.m. All members welcome.

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 to retrieve and place hardy lilies in the reflecting pools.

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 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 25-26—The 11th annual Pond-O-Rama pond and garden tour. Sign up now to be a part of it. Contact Alice Gibson, alice1628@att.net, or look for forms at our website www.slwgs.org.

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

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 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?

Exploring Pond Construction

Before you dig the first hole—or even draw the first lines on a planning sheet—you should ask yourself a number of questions about the pond or water feature you want to create. “The answers will often dictate the design,” said Aaron Burchett of The Pond Market. Burchett shared his expertise on pond-building with members at the February meeting of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society.

Ask yourself what it is you want in a water feature—the sound of water, the look of a water garden, a place for fish or a place for plants.

There are three primary types of water gardens. One is installed to enjoy aquatic plants with few, if any, fish. This pond can be a little less elaborate. At the other end of the spectrum are koi ponds, which need to be larger in size and have adequate filtration. While plants can be included, they tend to be less important. The third variation is a hybrid pond, a cross between strictly plants and strictly fish. Allowances are made in the design to allow for both.

So, important questions to ask yourself before you begin are: Will it be mainly for fish, and, if so will it be strictly for koi, goldfish or a mix? Or will it be mainly for pond plants with some fish?

Also important to decide up front is what kind of waterfall, if any, will be incorporated into the pond—multiple cascades creating maximum sound, a single sheet of water falling into the pond, or a stream that empties into the pond. These design considerations are important because it can be difficult to incorporate them once the building has begun, Burchett said.

“Safety with fish ponds is paramount,” Burchett said. “Check first with local municipalities for fencing regulations and make sure the proper electrical circuit is installed by a qualified electrician. Anything plugged into an electrical outlet outside or in the pond should be ground-fault protected so that the electrical component cannot electrify the pond water or ground around it.”

Some excavation tips that will enhance the finished look of the pond and ease maintenance chores include sloping the bottom of the pond to one side for easier drainage, and planning for ledges just below the water level for plant and stonework.

Once you have the planning done and have dug the initial



Aaron Burchett explained the principles he considers important to good water feature construction at the February SLWGS meeting.

shape, you are ready for the liner and underliner. “EPDM pond liners are the liners of choice for ponds today because of their longevity, UV resistance and the 20-year warranty,” Burchett said. Make sure you use underliner beneath the pond liner. “Using padding (underliner) can increase the puncture resistance of the pond liner more than 300%,” he said.

The most important thing about selecting stone for your pond is to stay away from soft stones that erode easily such as sandstone. Keep base rocks in the waterfall level as you work up to the starting point of the waterfall.

There are a myriad of choices for filtration systems and pumps. Today, skimmers are commonly used. Skimmers house the pumps and mechanically filter the pond water. The pump is easily accessible, making maintenance easy.

There is a great deal of information about pond building on The Pond Market website, www.pondmarket.com. The company also will host a seminar on pond construction at its facility at 500 South County Center Way on June 4. The seminar is free, but registration is required.



A question from the feedback sheets: What is a bottom drain?

Bottom drains are comprised of a two-piece flange designed to be used as the name implies—as a drain in the bottom of the pond. Similar to the drain in a sink, bottom drains are installed into the lowest points in ponds so debris can be removed with minimal effort. Advantages also include the ability to tie the bottom drain into skimmer boxes and/or external pumps via flexible PVC pipe, drastically increasing the effectiveness of the filtration system.—Aaron Burchett



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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 or from any of the officers, board members or coordinators listed below.

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Find links to their websites from ours at www.slwgs.org.



IWGS Plans China Symposium

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society will hold its 2011 Symposium in Qingdao, China, July 22-29. The agenda includes an education day that has scheduled 12 speakers from around the world. Tours to aquatic gardens that feature hundreds of varieties of water lilies and lotus—including many lotus varieties never seen in Western water gardens. Attendees will view the new lotus competition, and will meet water gardeners from around the world.

Included will be a tour of the 50 acres of the Chinese Waterlily World. The facility has 250 varieties of waterlilies and 650 cultivars of lotus. The site also includes exotic fruit trees and unusual wood furniture.

The group also will experience the high-speed train to Beijing and will tour the Beijing Botanical Gardens and the Botanical Garden of Chinese Academy of Science. In addition to the garden tours, cultural tours to the Gugong Palace—the Forbidden City, the Yiheyuan Summer Palace, and the ‘Temple of Heaven’ at Tiantan are planned. The symposium attendees also can experience a walk along the Great Wall of China.

The seaside host city of Qingdao will sponsor tours of its own environment and visits to the small goods markets.

To attend this symposium, you must have a valid passport along with a current Chinese Visa to enter China.

For complete details about the symposium, visit the IWGS website at www.iwgs.org.



St. Louis Water Gardening Society Annual Audit Report Fiscal Year January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 Audited by Joan Woelfel

INCOME

Advertising, Water Word	\$2,700.00
Auction	1,432.00
Banquet Payments	1,460.00
Note Cards	162.00
Memberships	5,050.00
Pond-O-Rama	8,621.00
T-Shirts/Hats Sales	232.00

2010 Income \$19,657.00

2010 Expenses \$20,333.26

Bank Balance 12/31/10 \$23,062.98

EXPENSES

Auction Supplies	\$ 15.03
Bank Charges	28.50
Banquet	3,667.59
Jewel Box Project	1,458.70
Membership Supplies	93.79
Meeting Room @ MBG	300.00
Membership Dues	145.00
Miscellaneous	1,357.58
Newsletter, Water Word	4,469.71
Pond-O-Rama	6,354.82
Speakers	1,456.53
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Hardy Lily Best of 2010

Continued from page 1

competition began in 1997. It aced out” 30 other entries, said Soni Forsman, of the society board of directors.

N. ‘Wanvisa’ was introduced by Dr. N. Nopchai Chansilpa of Thailand, a waterlily hybridizer, at the 2010 IWGS symposium held in San Angelo, Texas. Dr. Chansilpa did not create this waterlily, said Forsman, but he did rescue it from an unspoiled pond of *N. ‘Joey Tomocik’* in Thailand. He saw the potential of the vagrant and saved it from being discarded. For three years, he grew the plant to determine if the flower and pad variegations remained constant and if it could be propagated. Almost 500 plants later, the answer to both concerns was ‘Yes.’

The plant has salmon-pink petals streaked with white/cream, a variegation never before seen in a hardy waterlily. It is described as a good bloomer with pads heavily mottled with deep bronze and bright green. It has vigorous and compact growth habits, making it a good choice for most water gardens.

The rescued water lily first bloomed for its new owner on the day of Visakabucha, the most important holy day in Buddhism. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of Lord Buddha, (Wan= day and Visa=Visakabucha).

A limited number of the winning water lily are available from the IWGS in 2011, through an exclusive agreement with Dr. Chansilpa, and orders are now being accepted.

N. ‘Wanvisa’ is offered through the IWGS Collector’s Plant (s) of the Year (CAPY) program. This program started in 2010 to offer members and others an opportunity to purchase limited new and/or rare aquatic plants prior to widespread distribution. It is also a society fundraiser, furthering education, research and the conservation and enjoyment of aquatic plants.

Another exclusive CAPY offering in 2011 is the Best New Water Lily of 2009, *N. ‘Tanzanite,’* from Florida Aquatic Nursery. It is a day-blooming tropical with deep purple blooms and mottled pads.

Get Squirrely!—Ask Laura Lynne

(continued from page 10)

silliness. Nature is hilarious to me. The hidden and subtle ways plants grow together around odd things are very interesting to me. And certainly the actions of animals catch my attention. I just found the first salamander of my life whose stomach was so bloated it looked like a tadpole. I have yet to figure why, but I’m waiting for eggs soon.

Imagine my surprise when the baby squirrel we raised chewed through his cage in the car and attempted to replace me as the driver.! Find things peculiar, goofy or hilarious? Catch them, share them—and smile! This month capture the HUMOR in your world—get really squirrely!



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Sure Signs of Spring: Plentifall Pansies



Mary Ann Fink

It's almost officially spring, so let's talk the Pansy (*Viola*). After years of managing the Missouri Botanical Garden's annual trials and creating beautiful seasonal displays, it is apparent there are lots of potential uses and choices for spring annuals, with pansies leading the list. For years I have grown baskets full of cool season pansies to decorate my deck and door step.

The Pansy—Plentifall *Viola* is a new

pansy breed touted to have large flowers, a true trailing habit with branching stems and a mass of fragrant, colorful blooms. This is the first trailing series of pansies produced from seed. Plentifall is a nice spreading groundcover. It is one of the earliest pansies to come back in the spring. The trailing

attributes make it a great “spiller” in mixed containers.

Pansies come in so many colors, there is sure to be one that is your favorite. Look for them now and enjoy this season—and next.



Mary Ann Fink is a life-long horticulture practitioner and green industry representative. She shares her best management practices, known as “Show Me Smart Gardening,” with professional horticulturists. Fink appreciates the functional and ornamental aspects of native plants for the lower Midwest and encourages their use in the cultivated landscape. She can be reached at maryann@maryannfink.com.

New SLWGS Shirt Choices

A new polo-style sport shirt is now available for SLWGS members to order. The shirts are made by Harriton, and are 6.5 oz. ringspun cotton pique with short-sleeves, collars and button placket openings. Men's and women's styles are available. All are \$25 each.

Men's sport shirts come in S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL and 4XL and in white, black, chalk blue, dill, grey heather, hunter, navy, red, stone, straw and true royal.

Women's sport shirts come in S, M, L, XL and 2XL, and in white, black, blush, chalk blue, dill, grey heather, horizon (light blue), hunter, navy red stone, straw and true royal. All are \$25 each.

The selections for sweatshirts and t-shirts are unchanged. Available are Gildan Ultra Blend sweatshirts, 50% cotton, 50% polyester with ribbed collar, cuffs and waistbands. Size S to 3XL are available in black, garnet, navy, old gold, safety green, safety orange, sport grey and Tennessee orange. Sizes S to 2XL also come in white, ash, cardinal red, Carolina Blue, forest green, maroon, orange, red and royal. Sweatshirts are \$25 each.

Hanes 'Beefy-T' shirts are available for sizes S-3XL in aquatic blue, athletic orange, blue stone, brown, cardinal, Carolina blue, charcoal heather, daffodil yellow, dark chocolate, deep forest, deep royal, denim blue, fatigue green, blue, lime, maroon, natural, orange, Oxford gray, pale pink, pebble, pine, pink, purple, sand, shamrock green, smoke gray, stonewashed blue, stonewashed green, teal, Texas orange, wow pink and yellow. T-Shirts are \$15 each.

All shirts come embroidered with the SLWGS logo. Additional embroidery for individual or company names can be ordered with an extra charge of \$5 per shirt.

For more information, visit our [website www.slwgs.org](http://www.slwgs.org).



Time to Photograph Your Prize-Wining Koi

The Associated Koi Clubs of America has held a Koi of the Year contest for several years. Although the organization's 2011 conference in Indianapolis has been cancelled because of problems with the host hotel, a Koi of the Year contest will be held 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. Photos of candidates for Koi of the Year should be submitted at the March meeting, said Steve Metzler, the SLWGS AKCA representative.

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.

SLWGS members will vote for their favorites among the photographs selected, and that one entry from St. Louis will be sent to the AKCA contest.



A Taisho Sanke koi, a three-color fish with distinct markings.





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**Don't forget to check out
our website,
www.slwgs.org. There is a
lot of information available
right at your fingertips.**

Ask Laura Lynne—Photo Tips for the Artist in You

Get Squirrely!

Usually March makes me dance as I hear that sweet sound of Spring Peepers ringing in the promise of warmer days and blankets of green taking over the brown 'blah' that has held court all winter. I look outside today and nothing calls me to that fascinating place of photo journalist. I know if a Red



Snickers Squirrel takes the wheel!

Tailed Hawk landed on my grill with a plastic mouse I would scamper for my camera in a second without breathing as if that would hold the hawk in place while I ran.

Sometimes as a photographer I feel like I'm not doing my job if I am free wheeling

the day without lugging my camera off my right shoulder, banging into every doorway and every dog's head that I reach down to pet. But photography is a *feeling* experience for me and if I am not moved by anything, then why bother? So when my camera has been sitting still for a period of time, I always wonder what it will take to lure it back into my hands?

A little boy in the woods with his first squirt gun operates on a theory that "if it moves spray it." The same is true as a photographer—if it's funny, shoot it. If you smile or laugh, likely so will others. Make this month be about the joys of

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Laura Lynne Dyer is a professional photographer and owner of Laura Lynne Designs, Inc. She designs outdoor excursions for her clients, always thinking about the photographic opportunities she creates while installing her works of art. Visit her website at www.lauralynnedesigns.com.