



Discover Wildlife in Your Garden By Going on a 'Pond Safari'

When “ponders” try to justify the time and effort spent on backyard ponds and water gardens to purely terrestrial friends and relatives, they find there is much to talk about. Dennis Campbell of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Ill., and the

Land of Lincoln Water Garden Society, Springfield, Ill., knows what most of us say. “Of course we speak of the aesthetic pleasures of viewing and hearing water, and we frequently speak of the amazing beauty found in the variety of colors and shapes of aquatic plants such as water lilies, and of the flashes of color and light that fish such as goldfish and koi give us,” he said. “But seldom do we talk of the insect larvae, or the worms, or the snails, or the clams, or the crayfish that can often be seen in our ponds.”

He says, it would be a “hard sell”



Dennis Campbell

SLWGS Finalizes Koi Auction Plans

The St. Louis Water Gardening Society will hold a koi auction Sunday, June 5, at 1 p.m., at the home of Steve and Terry Metzler, 5511 Wieland Drive, St. Louis. Steve Metzler is the representative for SLWGS to the Associated Koi Clubs of America, AKCA. He and other interested members, including Rick and Pam Jokerst, Pat Tosie and Gilbert Chen, have been working for several months to bring high-quality

koi to St. Louis for a club auction. The colorful collection of Sanke, Showa, and Kohaku koi swimming in the tank at left is just part of the offerings the group has purchased for the sale.

“All of the fish are from two of

Continued on page 2



Don't Miss This!

What: “Pond Macroinvertebrates: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly”

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

When: Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.

Who: Dennis Campbell of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Ill, and the Land of Lincoln Water Gardening Society, Springfield, Ill.

to convince anyone of the joy, fascination, and beauty of the creepy crawlies that frequent the surfaces and bottoms of our ponds, or that glide through the water to find food, trying to stay out of the reach of the fish. “These are the pond macroinvertebrates: they are big enough to be seen, but don't carry the perceived significance of animals with backbones such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals,” he said.

During the May meeting Campbell, will lead “a safari into the world of these cryptic, but important components in our ponds.” His program is titled “Pond Macroinvertebrates: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.”

“Some, perhaps, will contend until the day that they die that these critters all are ugly,” he said. “But following this program you should have new-found knowledge that will allow you to identify the bad ones that are detrimental to your pond and its plants and animals, and the good ones that contribute to the ecological balance that we all want for our ponds.”

Campbell grew up in Texas, and holds degrees from Texas Tech University, earned while doing research on the ecological roles that various animals play in the caves of the Carlsbad region and of Central Mexico. He also has a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, earned while investigating the ecological roles of animals in the caves of that country as well as of New Zealand and New Guinea. Upon returning to the U.S. he has been a scientific researcher, publisher of scientific and nature

Continued on page 7

SLWGS Finalizes Koi Auction Plans

Continued from page 1

the top breeders in Japan—Isa and Marudo,” said Rick Jokerst. The Jokersts and Pat Tosie were among those who travelled to Minnesota to pick out and purchase fish for the auction from a highly reputable importer, Koi Acres. Jokerst said Koi Acres is owned and operated by Mike Swanson and his son, Devin, and that the family-owned company has an impeccable reputation in the industry. Devin Swanson recently returned from a three-year stint in Japan where he studied with breeders. “The fish have been blood-tested for KHV virus, as recommended by Dr. (Andrew) Goodwin at our meeting last month. They also have been quarantined and treated for parasites and bacteria,” said Jokerst. The fish are small now, averaging 6” to 8” in length, but are healthy and have good color. Each has the potential to grow into “a future grand champion,” said Tosie.

Jokerst and Tosie were assisted in making their selections by Bryan and Bay Bateman of the Midwest Pond and Koi Society. The Chicago group has conducted koi shows and sales for some time, and both the Batemans are AKCA accredited judges. Gilbert Chen, our own koi expert, will be on

hand to answer questions on the day of the auction, Jokerst said.

There will be between 30 and 50 fish available for sale, including (besides those named with photos) will be Yamabuki Ogon, Shusui, Asagi, Gin Rin Chagoi, Beni Kikokuryu, Kujaku and Maruten Kikusui.

“This is a great opportunity to purchase high-quality fish at a very reasonable price,” said Jokerst. He urges all SLWGS members to attend the auction, even if they have no interest in purchasing fish. “This will be a great learning experience and a chance to have fun and build camaraderie with your fellow water gardeners,” he said. Refreshments will be served and information about the fish will be provided.

Attendees also will have the opportunity to win a fish—everyone in attendance will get one chance to win one fish the day of the auction—no purchase is necessary, but you must be present to win.



Top photo: Gin Rin Two-Step Kohaku (top row center); a Gin Rin Maruten Ochiba, silver with red head, top row, left, two Kikusui, top row right and bottom row left; and a yellow/white Harawake. Larger views of the same Gin Rin Two-Step Kohaku, above, and, at right, the Gin Rin Maruten Ochiba.

A “Two Step” Kohaku is a reference to the well-defined pattern, which has two “steps” of red separated by a white “step.” Patterns such as these are highly desirable, says Rick Jokerst.



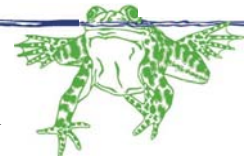
Above and left are two groups of Shiro Utsuri, black and white fish with distinctive patterns.

On page one is a grouping of Showa, Sanke





Presidential Ponderings



Wow, was the April meeting fun! Having a college professor talk about fish diseases sounds like a real sleeper, right? Wrong! Our guest speaker was Dr. Andrew "Andy" Goodwin of the University of Arkansas who gave us an amazing PowerPoint presentation that kept the audience paying attention and participating via little hand-held wireless "clickers." As the audience gave its own answers to facts/myths about fish diseases, Dr. Goodwin created instant graphs on the screen to show how our answers compared with reality. For the better part of an hour Andy amused, informed, and wowed us with jokes, pictures and special effects. The feedback was terrific and I think we'll bring him back again!

Continuing with learning about what's alive in our ponds, this month we have Dr. Dennis Campbell from Lincoln College, Lincoln, Ill., and the Land of Lincoln Water Gardening Society, Springfield, Ill. Dr. Campbell will talk about pond macro-invertebrates. He has titled his talk "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," so there will be a special door prize for the best Clint Eastwood impersonation.

Don't forget our exciting upcoming events: We will have a koi auction June 5 at the home of Steve and Terry Metzler. Rick Jokerst and company have gotten us a deal on some top quality fish. Check out the photos on pages 1 and 2.

On June 23 we will gather in front of KSDK Channel 5 to plug Pond-O-Rama (bring adorable kids!) Then the big one itself: Pond-O-Rama on June 25 and 26. Members, don't forget to pick up your free tickets at the May or June meeting.

We also are planning an overnight trip to Kloubec's Koi farm in Iowa. The Society is going to underwrite some of the cost of the trip to keep the individual cost lower. See the article on page 7 for more information.

Spring-time at the "White House" produced an unpleasant surprise. Freda (my female bullfrog) was found dead in a secluded part of the system (the waterfall pickup sump) along with two male Leopard frogs (also dead). Was Freda caught in an amphibian love-triangle? Was this a three-way suicide pact, or a murder/suicide involving a jealous suitor?

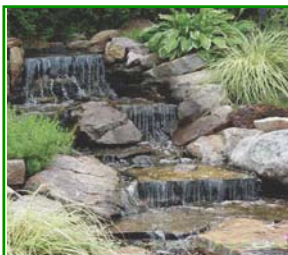
A few days later, making his first appearance this season was, you guessed it, "Sammy the Snake." I was standing on the rocks next to the pond while the first lady was pointing to some dead branches in the oak tree near the pond when I happened to notice Sammy go swimming by! I had to keep the First Lady distracted while Sammy swam to the far end of the pond and slithered into the rockwork around the waterfall. This serpent is getting way too brazen!

In mid-April I started my annual cleaning ritual. The First Lady was on my case about wearing my good jeans to clean the pond. (Somehow "good jeans" seems like an oxymoron.) I assured her that I was wearing my waders and would not get the jeans dirty wet. I stepped into the pond, using my rake as a stabilizer to keep me from falling forward, and promptly fell backwards, proving that the water-proofing in the waders works equally well at keeping water in as well as keeping it out! I slipped back into the house and in response to the First Lady's inquiry I noted that it was cold and had started to rain.

Well, it appears that my water leak is in my stream not the waterfall tank as I originally thought. I achieved a degree of success by chopping out a piece of mimosa root as big as my thigh from under the liner. I'll keep you posted.

Well folks, again, enough! As always I'm proud of this organization and I'm honored to be your president.

Dave Stahre



NatureScape Designs

- 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

For Free Plants

visit www.sugarcreekgardens.com

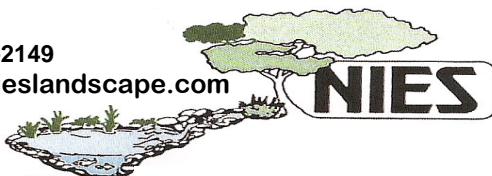
Here you will find a wealth of information on perennials, roses, annuals, vines, and shrubs, along with coupons for FREE PLANTS.



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

636-458-2149

www.nieslandscape.com



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



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

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

HOURS: Seasonal
"OPEN 7 DAYS"



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**



PondMarket.com
500 South County Centerway, St. Louis, Mo 63129
Tel: 314-894-2894 Fax: 314-414-0040

Largest Pond Supply Store in the Midwest!

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




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



Born in the USA

Call
1-800-227-8941
For your Local
Dealer or visit
our website:
www.mazuri.com

Mazuri
The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

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



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.

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 4—Planting tropical water lilies and installing other tropical aquatics at the **Jewel Box** in Forest Park. Volunteers will meet every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. after this date to maintain the lily ponds.

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, or check our website 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.

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.

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.

November 15—**End of the year holiday social and pot luck supper**, 7 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center, Beaumont Room.





Did You Miss This?

What We Know—or Don't—About KHV Virus

Members of the St. Louis Water Gardening Society got a definitive answer about what they knew—or didn't know—about KHV, the koi herpes virus, and other kinds of fish diseases at the April meeting. Dr. Andrew Goodwin began his presentation by handing out small wireless transmitters that provided the means for audience participation. Dr. Goodwin put several questions on the screen, asked members to select an answer by pushing the corresponding number on their “clickers.” The answers went into Dr. Goodwin's computer and almost instantly produced graphs showing how many people chose each answer—and showed the correct choice.

It was quickly evident that general knowledge of what a virus is was somewhat lacking. The question: “Which are most numerous in a normal healthy human body, bacteria or virus?” In answering, 45% of the audience said bacteria and 25% chose virus—the correct answer.

When the question was what is the most important disease in koi, however, most chose the correct answer—KHV. It is the disease about which there is the most available information and much concern, Dr. Goodwin said.

The important thing to understand about KHV is that it IS a virus, and, just like a virus in humans, it can be dormant, but present, for a long time.

“Fish herpes virus is not a lot different from mammal viruses,” he said. “Everyone who has had chicken pox has a herpes virus.” One who has become infected with the chicken pox virus, and has had the actual disease and recovered, still has the herpes virus. Under stress, it can break out again—as shingles.

The koi virus has the same cycle, he said “Some fish die, but not all—some are survivors that carry the virus and can infect other fish.”

The best defense against KHV is first to buy good, clean fish from a reputable source, Dr. Goodwin said. Fish from breeders in the U.S. are less likely than imported fish to be infected, but knowing your supplier in any case is important. Reputable breeders use quarantine techniques and extensive tests to avoid KHV in their fish.

Koi herpes virus occurs in temperatures of 70° to 80°, said



Dr. Goodwin. Below that temperature, there are few problems and virtually none at higher temperatures. Therefore, a 14-day quarantine in water 75° should identify fish with KHV.

However, quarantine will not

Continued on page 7

Dr. Andrew Goodwin of the University of Arkansas brought expertise, humor and technology for his presentation on koi virus and other fish diseases at the April SLWGS meeting.



Xtrahand
David Mallory
314-374-4053
xtrahand.net
xtrahand@worldnet.att.net
Specializing in professional pond maintenance, repairs, clean-outs and installation. Working with St. Louis area pond owners since 1998

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
STORE HOURS
 MON-SAT 9:00 - 6:00
 SUN 12:00 - 4:00
5% discount to members Scott & Georgene Collier owners

(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
 e-mail: landworks@sbcglobal.net





Free water hyacinths just for visiting our store!!!

Chalily
pond & gardens

636.527.2001
chalilypond.com

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



WEST WINDS
EARTHSCAPING LLC

Todd Rundquist

WATERFALLS & WATERGARDENS
Horticultural Design and Development

18714 Bonhomme Creek Road ph 636.274.5133
Wildwood, MO 63005 cell 314.223.1542

www.westwindsfalls.com



Saul's Custom Designs
Landscape Design

Landscape Design ♦ Installation ♦ Maintenance
Outdoor Lighting ♦ Stonework

636.300.1770


PO Box 185
COTTLEVILLE, MO 63338-0185



MPR SUPPLY COMPANY

2541 LINK ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63114
314-426-4838, www.mprsupply.com

AUTHORIZED Aquascape PRO DISTRIBUTOR



Water Word

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.

2011 SLWGS Officers, Board Members and Coordinators

President
David Stahre (618) 785-2501 dstahre@hotmail.com

Vice President
Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 alice1628@att.net

Treasurer
David Poos (314) 821-1622 david.poos@att.net

Recording Secretary
Mary Nies (636) 458-2149 Mary-Nies@att.net

Publicity Coordinator
Virginia Mueller (314) 831-3063 vcmueller16@hotmail.com

Special Events Coordinator
Pam Jokerst (314) 514-8348 pamjokerst@gmail.com

Society Shirt Sales Coordinator
Ruth Mosley (314) 878-7281 rgbmosley@aol.com

Librarian
Jeanne Lehr (314) 432-2842 jeannelehr@yahoo.com

Pond-O-Rama Coordinator
Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 alice1628@att.net

Pond-O-Rama Advertising Coordinator
John Nies (636) 458-2149 jtnies@aol.com

Membership Coordinator
Gail Abernathy (314) 428-3037 abernat@swbell.net

Jewel Box Coordinator
Kay Miskell (618) 344-6216 km99@att.net

Water Word Editor
Alice Gibson (618) 876-1628 alice1628@att.net

AKCA Representative
Steve Metzler (314) 845-3902 stevenmetzler@att.net

Website/E-mail Coordinator
Joan Woelfel (636) 394-6342 joan.woelfel@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality Coordinator
Sophia Cluck (636) 530-1726 Sophia.Cluck@hotmail.com

Member-at-Large
Carolyn Haus (314) 993-0986 carolyn_haus@sbcglobal.net

Koi Health Advisor
Lynne Jones (314) 646-7301 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.

Did you miss this? (Continued from page 5)

identify the survivors/carriers who have already had the disease. To identify these fish, testing in addition to quarantine is necessary.

There are three kinds of tests that can be used. The first is a tissue culture test that takes 10-20 days and can detect the virus only in active infections. The second is a DNA (PCR) test that takes only one or two days and can detect KHV in sick fish and in some carrier fish. The final is an antibody (blood) test. This one can detect KHV in survivors.

Best to use? For sick fish, the faster DNA test spots problems quicker. For carrier/survivor fish, quarantine and do DNA or antibody tests, he said.

Some breeders are using quarantine and higher water temperatures to help fish recover, saving them. However, these fish then will be survivor fish and can pass on the virus. Question: If you have an outbreak of KHV, what should you do? 1) Use heat to try and save the fish? 2) Destroy the fish and start over? Most experts recommend option #2, Dr. Goodwin said. Most would destroy the fish and start over rather than deal with the survivor fish problems.

Dr. Goodwin said a vaccine for KHV has been developed and is being used in Israel with some success. "Most koi and carp in Israel are now vaccinated and it appears to be effective," he said. The vaccine is not available in the United States or in Europe. Concerns about the vaccine include the fact that it is not easy to tell the vaccinated fish from the survivor fish which still are carriers.

Koi are not the only fish with a problem. Goldfish also can be infected a herpes virus (GHV), although 86% of attendees said they had not heard it. Dr. Goodwin said a number of goldfish breeders in the United States have lost many fish to GHV outbreaks. "The virus can travel from tank to tank," he said.

Discover Wildlife on a 'Pond Safari' (Continued from page 1)

magazines, and educator. For the last 18 years he has taught life and earth sciences at Lincoln College. Campbell says he has found great joy in encouraging students to learn by participating. For the last 12 years, students have used freshwater mussel studies to identify the historical pollution levels of local creeks.

"During one study, students serendipitously discovered in one of the local creeks the remains of one of the largest (and one of the last) woolly mammoths to have walked the planet," he said. "A student reaches into the creek water to find a clam and pulls out an ancient elephant!"

Both Campbell and his wife, Christine, love gardening, so when a mine-subsidence event adversely affected their backyard and its in-ground pool, they got into backyard water gardening in a big way. They converted the pool into a "swimming pond." Campbell takes his grandson, Georgie, on 'pond safari' there to discover wildlife present. He will introduce the macroinvertebrates that have found their way into the pond.

SLWGS On The Road Again: Trip to Koi Farm is Planned

The St. Louis Water Gardening Society members are planning another road trip—this one an overnight adventure. The trip will be July 23-24.

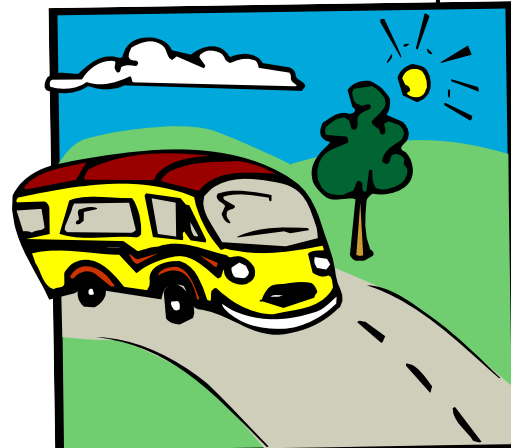
On the agenda is a trip to an award-winning koi farm, and a tour of Eastern Iowa Pond Society members' gardens.

The trip is being planned by Pam Jokerst, special events coordinator.

"To help keep the trip affordable for members, the Society is underwriting the cost of the bus for the trip," Jokerst said. "Members will need only to cover their personal expenses for a hotel room and meals." Jokerst is negotiating with hotels for a special group rate, she said. Details will be available soon.

The Kloubec Koi Farm is a prize-winning koi farm, taking many awards at the 4th Annual Koi Breeders Association Show last July. Kloubec's won five of the seven major awards. For more information, visit the Kloubec Koi Farm website, www.kloubECKOI.com.

To reserve your seat on the bus, contact **Pam Jokerst**, special events coordinator, (314) 514-8348, or e-mail her at pamjokerst@gmail.com.



Experts in Pond, Waterfall & Landscape Construction

Nature's
Re-Creations
PONDS & FALLS



Chris Siewing
636. 287. 3838

www.re-createnature.com



JAEGER Greenhouses

2369 Creve Coeur Mill Road
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
314-739-1507

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



Laura Lynne—The Reality of the Real World

Continued from page 10

also love designing gorgeous spaces for people and places.

Twelve years ago I was on a fun-filled vacation in San Francisco, enamored with unique doorways and fascinating shop displays, snapping pictures left and right in a photo-journalistic daze. In the middle of this glory in a space where I could not escape the reality of it was a homeless man sitting Indian style on our busy sidewalk at noon, with his dirty, bearded face tipped to the sun, sound asleep. Cradled in his arms was a tiny innocent puppy who had joined him in the fantasyland of dreams, where everyone has a home, a full tummy and a loving family.

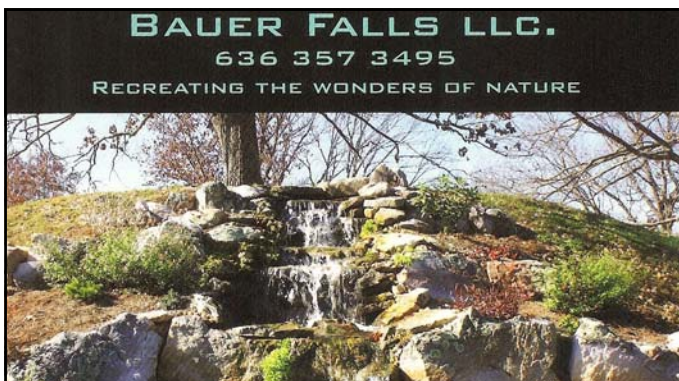
I froze in a deep and tumultuous dilemma. Do I capture this sad event for the history of my mind and break my commitment to joy? Or do I walk away and act as if that is not part of my world? I took the shot and wrestled with my conscience. As I think about it no one has seen that shot but me. I had a similar reaction when a neighbor's dogs took out half of my chicken population in an all-day event I felt the same way about taking a picture of death and destruction.

Several years ago my professional photography association ran an article in our publication about the art of a practice that was once part of our culture, capturing the precious memory of

a stillborn baby or one who had only a few days to live. I ignored the article because it seemed morbid to me and I felt very uncomfortable looking at the images. Yet when I finally had the courage to read about this honoring art, I wept. I made a connection—finally—with the fact that everything in the real world is not necessarily beautiful or happy or joy-filled. And that events that are not so pretty can nonetheless evoke a great outpouring of emotion—the goal, really, of any art form.

My challenge for this month is REALITY—that is, the REALITY around you that is calling you to photograph it, whatever it is. It may be a gorgeous tree in bloom with a sweet and sacred fragrance, or it may be something less beautiful and gut-wrenchingly sad to you.

Be courageous and honor the emotion you feel by photographing the REALITY you see. The image you are called to take may be the healing touch someone needs to shed a long-awaited tearful memory locked inside.



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.
- July 8, 9 and 10, the Midwest Pond & Koi Society in Chicago. See 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.

POND CRAZY
Water Garden Center
(Formerly Best of Nature)

Free Tadpoles With Every Purchase!

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

Hillermann
NURSERY & FLORIST

2601 East 5th Street
Washington, MO
636-239-6729
www.hillermann.com

Our roots are in Washington!
Since 1951!

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

got pond scum?

Saint Louis' Oldest
Professional Pond Service

Maintenance,
Repair and Installation

Your Pond Doctor
314-481-3359
www.YourPondDoctor.us

**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
or visit our website,
www.slwgs.org!**



Jewel Box Shines for First Work Day

The sun was shining brightly for the Jewel Box volunteers on the first work day of the season, but workers were greeted with an unexpected surprise—the pools were not completely filled and the tops of the pots were clearly visible (top right). From this photo clockwise: The group met pond-side to ponder their options, deciding finally to carry on. While some decamped to the mud ponds, others stayed behind to clean out weeds and prepare the pots. At the mud pond, another surprise waited—the park had cleaned some of the vegetation so the SLWGS lily pots were clearly visible. A work line formed—those with waders hit the water and dragged pots to the edge, where waiting hands brought them up to the waiting truck and loaded them on. Back at the work site, the operation was reversed, with pots unloaded and dumped, and lilies divided and repotted. Finally they, and a heavy load of concrete blocks for them to sit on, were delivered to the pools by hand truck and put into place. With the hardy lilies done, the volunteers will take a break until June 4, when they will meet at 9 a.m. to plant the tropicals.



Jokersts Win SLWGS Koi of the Year

A tri-colored *Showa Doitsu* koi owned by Rick and Pam Jokerst was chosen as the St. Louis Water Gardening Society's Koi of the Year. Members brought photographs of their best fish to the April meeting, and those in attendance voted for their favorite without knowing whose fish was whose.

The Jokersts' fish will be entered in the American Koi Clubs of America (AKCA) contest to choose the AKCA fish of the year. The winner will be selected and the prize will be awarded at the 2012 conference of AKCA.





Attention Members:
*Pick up your two **FREE***
Pond-O-Rama tickets at the
May meeting!

Inside this edition:

Discover Wildlife in Your Garden by
 Going on a 'Pond Safari'..... Page 1

Also inside:

SLWGS Finalizes Koi Auction Plans Page 1
 Presidential Ponderings Page 3
 Calendar of Events Page 4
 Did You Miss This?
 What We Know—or Don't—about KHV Virus Page 5
 2011 SLWGS Officers, Board Members
 and Coordinators Page 6
 SLWGS on the Road Again: Trip to
 Koi Farm is Planned Page 7
 Koi Club Events of Interest..... Page 8
 Jewel Box Shines for First Work Day Page 9
 Jokersts Win SLWGS Koi of the Year Page 9
 Ask Laura Lynne—Photo Tips for the Artist in You:
 The Reality of the Real world Page 10

Ask Laura Lynne—Photo Tips for the Artist in You
The Reality of the Real World

Pause for a moment and think about a photograph you have seen that moves you. Got it? Now close your eyes and walk back to the time and place you observed this image. Was it on the cover of *Time* magazine when you were a child? Was it a

picture pulled from the archives of your early family history? Or perhaps it was one that represented the essence of a tragedy in world history?

What do you feel as you recall the scene? Hopelessness or exuberance? Warm and connected? Are you feeling happy, funny, fearful, or spiritually fed?

Now think of a picture that you have taken that elicits this same kind of emotion. You can remember these in an instant, can't you? Why? Because the thoughts that are connected to the images touch our hearts and move the energy of emotion in our bodies?

I used to pride myself (and that word seems appropriate because it's ego based) on ONLY taking and sharing photos that were inspiring, beautiful and fun. It was how I wanted to bless the world, to leave it in a better place visually. It's likely why I



A window full of angels frolicking in a display window called to me, and I took the shot. Once upon a time, I looked only for beautiful, and joyful images to photograph, ignoring the realities of the world that were less lovely.

Continued on page 8