

Chase Away the Chills With Warm Weather Plans

A cold wind is blowing from the north, the gardens are still and brown, and our fish keep to themselves on the bottom of the pond. It is January and officially winter, even though there have been mild days to enjoy. Still, there isn't much a gardener can do—we know the warmth is just a tease—the cold will come back in two or three days.

However, all gardeners know that these are the days for planning—that's why the seed catalogues arrive shortly after Christmas. You can see in your head what you want to create in your garden. Now is the time to make those plans begin to take shape.

Josh Bauer, who has 15 years experience in the field, is ready to help you with plans for a new water feature, the expansion of an old one, or a renovation that will make life easier for you. Bauer will be the first speaker of 2012 for the St. Louis Water Gardening



Josh Bauer of Bauer Falls LLC will be the first speaker of the year for SLWGS.

Don't Miss This!

What: Planning Pond Constructions
Where: Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC), Room 126-7
When: Tuesday, January 31, 7 p.m.
Who: Josh Bauer, Bauer Falls LLC

Society at our January 31 meeting. NOTE: Tuesday, January 31, is a FOURTH Tuesday.

Josh, with his brother, Caleb, owns and operates Bauer Falls LLC. The firm builds, renovates and maintains ponds, waterfalls and other features.

So bring all your dreams and your questions so we can get started on spring projects!

Most SLWGS Meetings in 2012 to be at MoBot's CBEC Building



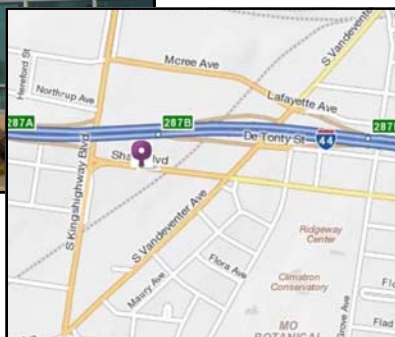
The Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC), located at 4651 Shaw Ave., will be the site for many SLWGS meetings in 2012, including the January meeting coming up soon.

Building repairs and a heavy schedule of events at the Missouri Botanical Garden Ridgway Center means that the St. Louis Water Gardening Society will shift its meetings between the Beaumont Room in the Ridgway Center and classroom #126-7 at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC). Most meetings will be at CBEC, with only the February and September meetings currently scheduled for the Beaumont Room.

The meetings will stay on Tuesdays, but will fluctuate between second, third, and fourth Tuesdays—check the calendar on page four for the complete line up of events in 2012.

Our first meeting will be held January 31 at CBEC. The easiest way to reach the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education is to exit I-44 from east or west at S. Vandeventer Avenue and go south to Shaw. Turn right onto Shaw and go across the railroad tracks to the west parking lot entrance. Use the west entrance doors.

For your GPS system, the complete address is 4651 Shaw Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110





Did You Miss This?

Fun, Food and Fellowship Ends 2011

If you missed the final event of 2011—our November pot luck dinner—you also missed out on one of the best parties of the year. There was great food in abundance, great company and a great presentation by one of our own, Rick Jokerst, on foam fractionators and their advantages. There was a very good turnout for the event and a good time was had by all. Photos, clockwise from right, show that the group gave Jokerst their rapt attention following dinner. All around the room, people were smiling and having fun, including Jim and Chole Bear; Dave Poos, Ron and Carol Greminger; Virginia Mueller and Betsy Meier; Dennis and Cathy Frey; Josh Bauer, Pam Jokerst (the coordinator for the event) and Ruth Mosley. Center photo: Ken and Sophia Cluck, Terry Metzler, Rob Smith, Josh Bauer and Cathy Schallenberg.





Presidential Ponderings

Greetings, fellow ponderers! Well, here we are, year four of my tenure as president. If history serves as a reasonable model, I/you can look forward (?) to three more years with me at the helm! Actually, I have found the job both fun, and rewarding. It is a privilege to represent an organization with the reputation for excellence

that SLWGS has. I am constantly amazed at the quality of the events we sponsor, the hard work of the members and the service that we provide to the community. Okay, that's enough self-congratulation! It's time to start a new year.

Unfortunately, we are starting the new year with a challenge. Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot) has not been able to provide us with a consistent meeting schedule or space for 2012. If you check the calendar on page four you will see that our meetings bounce around some from month to month—we stick with Tuesdays, but sometimes the second Tuesday, sometimes the third and sometimes the fourth. You also will notice that most of our meetings will be at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, (CBEC) a separate facility of MoBot where we met for much of 2011. But a few move back to the Beaumont Room in the Ridgway Center. As always, *Water Word* will precede the meeting and will inform you of the time, place, and program. You will need to pay close attention so you won't miss anything.

I have tried to put together a list of quality presentations for SLWGS in 2012. There are still a few "to be determined" spaces in the calendar, but a lot is already set.

In January, Josh Bauer from Bauer Falls will give us a presentation on pond construction. In February, we will have a panel of experts who will discuss opening the pond in spring. On the program are Aaron Burchett of Pond Market on construction/mechanics, Steve Harris on plants, and Pat Tosie to talk about fish.

Bill Ruppert, owner and manager of National Nursery Products and a member of the Perennial Plant Association, will talk about plants. April and May are still being nailed down, but in June, back for a repeat performance will be Dr. Andy Goodwin to talk about fish diseases. In July we will have our fund-raising auction, and in August, our awards banquet held at the Jewel Box. Joe Summers has agreed to give a presentation about his Victoria Adventure that resulted in the hybridization of a new water lily. In September, we'll have our fall panel of experts. October is currently open, and in November it will be time for elections and our now annual pot luck.

Well, folks, when I last signed off, I was in the process of moving the presidential pond from Baldwin to Belleville. A lot has happened since then—far too much to tell the full story in one column. So, in true serialization style, I'll employ one or more cliffhangers to bring you up to date.

When I found out that I was going to have to move, Rick Jokerst generously offered the use of his "show pool" (a fairly good sized portable pool designed to house koi temporarily at shows or sales. Those of you who attended the koi auction may remember it.) I gladly accepted and took delivery of it at one of our meetings. I took it home and one fine Saturday, I laid out the liner on the back brick patio.

Based on the hardware that had come with the pool, and my lack of instructions, I concluded that the pool was self-supporting. If you ever saw the episode of "I Love Lucy" when Lucy and Ethel went to work in the chocolate factory, you might get some idea of the problems I had trying to fill this unwieldy structure with water. My efforts finally ended with a previously mentioned tsunami that washed across the patio in Belleville. Were there fish in the water? Did Dave's basement dwelling get flooded? Tune in next month!

Dave Stahre



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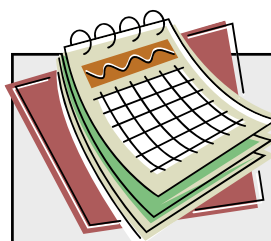
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www.slwgs.org!



St. Louis Water Gardening Society Calendar of Events 2012

Membership meetings in 2012 will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below between 7 and 9 p.m. Most meetings, but not all, will be held at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC). Specific locations are included with each listing below.

January 31—Planning for Pond Construction, presented by **Josh Bauer**, Bauer Falls LLC., at CBEC, Room 126-7, the LAST Tuesday in January, 7 p.m.

February 28—Panel of Experts on spring start up for your pond, with **Aaron Burchett** of Pond Market on mechanics, **Steve Harris** on plants, and **Pat Tosie** on fish. Ridgeway Center, Beaumont Room, 7 p.m. the LAST Tuesday in February.

March 27—**Bill Ruppert**, owner and manager of National Nursery Products, on plants for your garden, at CBEC, Room 126-7, the LAST Tuesday in March, 7 p.m.

April 17—Speaker and program to be determined, the meeting will be held at CBEC, Room 126-7, at 7 p.m. on the THIRD Tuesday of April

May 29—Speaker and program to be determined, at CBEC, Room 126-7, 7 p.m., the LAST Tuesday of May.

June 5—Pond-O-Rama hosts meeting, at CBEC, Room 126-7, 7 p.m.

June 12—**Dr. Andrew Goodwin** will talk about fish diseases; at CBEC, Room 126-7, 7 p.m., the SECOND Tuesday of June.

June 23-24—Pond-O-Rama—the 12th annual pond and garden tour, open to the public. For listing forms, contact Alice Gibson, alice1628@att.net, (618) 876-1628.

July 24—SLWGS annual fundraising auction, at 7 p.m. in CBEC, Room 126-7 the FOURTH Tuesday in July.

August 21—Annual Awards Banquet, at the Jewel Box in Forest Park, 6 p.m., the THIRD Tuesday. **Joe Summers**, Chality Pond and Garden, will be the speaker. Contact Special Events Coordinator, Pam Jokerst, pamjokerst@gmail.com, (314) 276-9461.

September 18—Panel of Experts on closing the pond for winter. Panel members to be determined. The meeting will be held in the Beaumont Room, Ridgeway Center, on the THIRD Tuesday of September.

October 30—Speaker and program to be determined, at CBEC, Room 126-7, 7 p.m., the LAST Tuesday in October.

November 13—Pot luck dinner and election of officers for a two year term beginning in January 2013, at CBEC, Room 126-7 at 7 p.m. the LAST Tuesday.



Koi and Goldfish Clubs Planning Shows

If you can't decide where to go for a spring or early summer getaway, think about joining your fellow koi and goldfish enthusiasts at one of the many upcoming show and sales events. The first is coming up soon—in sunny California. The events listed below were taken from the Koi USA website events calendar. Visit it yourself for updates. Go to www.koiusa.com and click on calendar at the top of the page.

February 25-26

Koi Club of San Diego
25th Annual Koi Show
Del Mar Fairgrounds,
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
San Diego, Calif.

For more information, contact the chairman, Matt Rhodes, (619) 224 1705, or visit the club website, www.koiclubsandiego.org.

March 9-11

Central Florida Koi Show,
Sponsored by four central Florida koi clubs including the [Orlando Koi and Pond Club](#), the [Rainbow River Koi Club](#), the [Gainesville Koi Club](#), the [Florida East Coast Koi and Pond Club](#), and the [ZNA Southern Koi Association](#).

International Palms Resort
655 International Drive
Orlando, FL

For more information, visit www.centralfloridakoishow.org or www.orlandokoishow.org.

March 17- 18

ZNA So Cal 38th Annual
Koi Show
Gardena, Calif.
For more information,
contact Don Kobashigawa at
(818)766-2729 or send
e-mail to
donkobash@aol.com.



March 30-April 1

4th Annual Middle Georgia Koi and Goldfish Show
Georgia National Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall
Perry, Ga.

For more information, visit the club website at www.middlegakoisociety.com.

April 13- 15

Valley Of The Sun Koi Club, Inc.
Phoenix, Ariz.

Greater Phoenix Open Koi Show
For more information, contact Jim Stackhouse at jjstack@aol.com, or visit the website, www.vskc.net

May 26-27

Greater Louisville Koi and Goldfish Society
17th Annual Koi and Goldfish Show
6806 Briscoe Lane
Louisville, KY.

For more information, contact Troy Head at (502) 418-7626 or send e-mail to headache6@bellsouth.net.

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The St. Louis Water Gardening Society is a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America (AKCA). Visit the association's website at www.akca.org.

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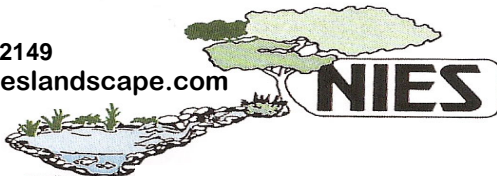
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Two Ways to Get Water Word

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



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

2012 SLWGS Officers, Board Members and Coordinators

President	
David Stahre	(618) 623-9341 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) 276-9461 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 itnies@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

Have you checked our website lately?

Take a look—go to www.slwgs.org for all the latest news, information and relevant links! Let our website coordinator, Joan Woelfel, know about any changes you would like. Send an e-mail to joan.woelfel@sbcglobal.net.



**HELP
WANTED**



Needed: Talented People

The St. Louis Water Gardening Society is getting organized for 2012, and the work already has started. Volunteers are trying to maintain the website, put together this newsletter every month, organize Pond-O-Rama, plan special tours and events, put together interesting programs

and are looking for ways to make the evenings more fun and informative. We need help and think we have enough variety in our needs and enough talent in our group to get it. Here are a few things that need some immediate volunteers. Check off the ones that fit your talents, contact the person listed and come join in the fun!

Web Site Assistance

Joan Woelfel is our website and e-mail coordinator and spends a lot of time trying to keep it up to date. It is a big job, but the website is useful to our members and is one of our best public relations means only if it has accurate and current information.

One of the advantages we have on our website is adequate space to show and archive a lot of photos of members' ponds and gardens. What Joan needs help with is sizing the photos for internet display and getting captions properly written to identify them. If you are familiar with a basic photo editing program, you can help with this project.

She also can use help with finding and preparing content for the website that would be useful and helpful to members and to the general public seeking information about water gardening, and updating and monitoring the "Links We Like" section to keep it current.

If you can help Joan with the website, please e-mail her at joan.woelfel@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Help

Alice Gibson is the Water Word editor. The 10-page newsletter is produced 11 times annually (every month in which there is a SLWGS meeting.) Alice writes most of the articles and takes many of the photos. She can use help in generating material that can be used on an "as needed" basis (timeless material) and taking photos at special SLWGS events and preparing them for the newsletter. She also would like more interaction with members in terms of hearing about their ponds and gardens, and seeing interesting photos they have taken of plants and fish.

Volunteers are also need for proof-reading on an as-needed basis and to help with mailing.

If you can help Alice with the newsletter work, e-mail her at alice1628@att.net.

Meeting Assistance

Part of the fun of every meeting is sharing food and conversation during the break between the business meeting and the program. Sophia Cluck is our hospitality coordinator and needs help every month to set up and organize food donations. If you can help Sophia on a regular basis, contact her at Sophia.Cluck@hotmail.com.

Rick Jokerst and Pat Tosie have been working to secure attendance prizes for every meeting. If you have time to make some phone calls to a variety of companies, or generate and mail form letters, contact Rick at pamjokerst@gmail.com, or Pat at pat.tosie@att.net.

Jeanne Lehr handles our SLWGS library. She can use assistance at every meeting to set up and pack away the library display. She also asks that books be returned in a timely manner and that everyone make sure she is aware when it comes back. Tracking the books and other materials available for loan is a big job. Contact Jeanne at jeannelehr@yahoo.com to offer help.

Steve Metzler handles our video and sound systems, setting it up prior to each meeting and packing it away at the end of the evening. No need to contact Steve—just be on hand about a half hour prior to the meeting and hang around afterward.

Special Events

Pam Jokerst is our Special Events Coordinator, and always needs volunteers for member tours. Ideas for the kinds of tours or field trips members would like are very welcome. She also needs assistance to set up for special events such as the pot luck or annual banquet. If you can give Pam some assistance, contact her at pamjokerst@gmail.com.

Pond-O-Rama and PR

Work is starting this month on Pond-O-Rama 2012. We need people who can serve on the committee, helping with compiling host descriptions and other chores. If that is you, contact Alice Gibson at alice1628@att.net.

Public Relations Coordinator Virginia Mueller can use help with compiling and distributing news releases and photos. If you are interested in helping Ginny, e-mail her at vcmueller16@hotmail.com.

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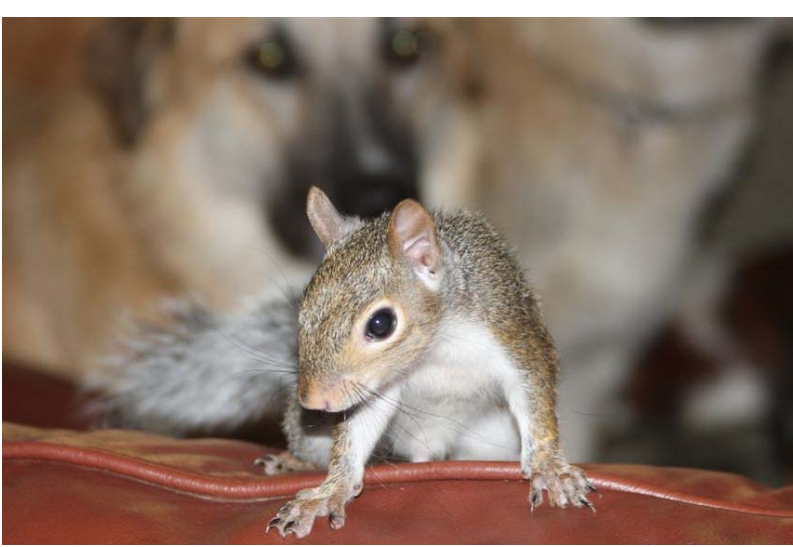
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My dogs take their responsibility to protect my property very seriously—including keeping an eye on this pet squirrel. Unfortunately, I did not have my camera handy when they cornered a larger prey—a coyote—on our property.

Laura Lynne—Take a Walk IN the Wild Side

(continued from page 10)

watched me play in the shallow stream as they criss-crossed the creek.

Those of us who love the flow of water also get to learn the beauty of frozen falls and the excitement of the zillions of robins who fly south in waves of rusty breasted armor and stop to splash in the edges of our water gardens. Movement...ahhhh, to see something traveling in what seems to be the stillness of winter is a great delight.

There under the icy water was a leopard frog cruising at quarter speed. I surrendered wet sleeves for the joy of catching and holding her and feeling her smooth skin in the cold breeze. This was a perfect day. The only thing missing was my camera. So the moral of this story is take a walk IN the wild side, don your rubber boots and play this winter IN your water garden, but please don't forget to bring your camera!

Pond Winter Care—Six Tips to Keep Your Pond Healthy

In the depths of winter, the last thing most of us want to do is perform maintenance chores on our ponds. However, keeping a few basics in mind will help you avoid major problems and will make your spring opening easier.

1. If your pond pumps and/or waterfall is running through the winter, check your filter at least weekly. Even though the fish are not eating and creating waste, your filter still will collect dirt and debris from the pond surface.
2. Check the pond water levels daily. It only takes a few hours for a broken pipe to empty a pond and under the ice, it is easy to overlook a drop in water level.
3. If topping off is necessary, pay attention to the water quality to avoid excessive chlorine buildup. If you are adding new water from the house, add it slowly to avoid a sudden temperature change in the pond water. Drain and store the hose after use.
4. Make sure your bubblers, de-icers and warmers are working properly to keep a hole open in a frozen surface. Check especially when the temperature takes a drastic and sudden overnight dip.
5. If you have netted the pond for winter, make sure you remove the accumulated debris from it regularly so the net does not collapse into the pond.
6. If you have NOT netted the pond, look for a buildup of leaves and debris in the pond. Remove as much as you can with a net—or don rubber waders on one of the milder winter days and get the debris out.

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IWGS Introduces Top Lilies of 2011

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) has announced the winners of its 2011 waterlily competition. The lilies all were grown at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham, N. C., under the direction of horticulturist, Tamara Kilbane. The winners are shown here along with the developer names.

A panel of judges from various backgrounds and countries judged the contest in September. This year's judges include John Loggins of Lone Star Aquatics, Farley See of Moore Water Gardens, Craig Presnell of Luster Aquatic Nurseries, Kit Knotts of Water Gardeners International, James Allison of Aquapic Consulting, Rich Sacher of American Aquatic Gardens, Tim Jennings of Longwood Gardens, Jim Purcell of Oregon Aquatics, Kelly Billing of Maryland Aquatic Nurseries, Stu Schuck of Charleston Aquatic Nurseries, Marc Hachadourian of New York Botanical Gardens, and Deb Spencer of Waters Edge.

Visitors to the garden and website viewers also voted to select Popular Choice winners.

The IWGS has recognized on its website the efforts of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens and the dedication of Kilbane on behalf of the 2011 water lily competition. Kilbane has nine years of experience in the water gardening industry, and is a freelance garden writer and photographer. Duke Gardens is a public non-profit botanical garden that is affiliated with Duke University. It is supported by public donations and has no admission fees. The garden grows the Longwood Victoria and many other varieties of water lilies and marginal plants.

For more photos and information about these and other lilies, visit the IWGS website at www.iwgs.org.



Best new water lily
Nymphaea 'Siam Purple 1'
Pairat Songpanich, Thailand



Second-best new water lily
Nymphaea 'Tuonata'
Nopchai Chansilpa, Thailand



First Place Hardy, *Nymphaea 'Pink Dawn'*, Dustin Machinsky, United States



Second Place Hardy, *Nymphaea 'Tanpong'*, Pairat Songpanich, Thailand



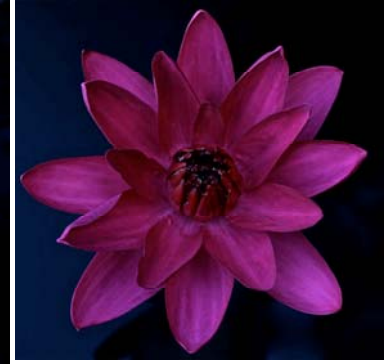
First Place Tropical Day-Blooming, *Nymphaea 'Scarlet Flame'*, Florida Aquatic Nurseries, United States



Second Place Tropical Day-Blooming, *Nymphaea 'Valentine'* Florida Aquatic Nurseries, United States



First Place Night-Blooming
Nymphaea 'Rojjana Ubol,' Pairat Songpanich, Thailand



Second Place Night-Blooming, *Nymphaea 'Ploi Jear'* Teanchai Teandatesakun, Thailand



The People's Choice winner for a hardy water lily, in first place, is *Nymphaea 'Siam Nymph'* from Pairat Songpanich, Thailand, shown at left.

The People's Choice for a tropical day-blooming lily is, in first place, the *Nymphaea 'Scarlet Flame'* from Florida Aquatic Nurseries, shown above, second row, right.

The People's Choice for a first-place tropical night-bloomer is the *Nymphaea 'Rojjana Ubol'* also from Pairat Songpanich, shown above in the third row center.

All photos by Tamara L Kilbane



*Time to Renew Your Membership!
Look for the renewal envelope
enclosed in this issue.*



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Ask Laura Lynne—Photo Tips for the Artist in You

Take a Walk IN the Wild Side

The dual incessant barking told me something needed attention. My Great Pyrenees/Anatolian shepherd dogs were doing their appointed task—watching over the land. “Good girls,” I thought and proceeded to do dishes with the garden hose and my tall rubber boots outside the well house. Life is a little



Taking a walk IN the creek, rather than beside it, offers its own pleasures.

primitive in the country but the rewards outweigh the hassles.

But the barking was so insistent that I stopped my task and took an unexpected hike through the woods, across the creek, scaling my way through

the tangled bushes and fallen trees to see what the fuss was all about. Tucked under brush, growling defensively, was a coyote. The dogs were very proud of their work, and so was I. I called them off point. They gladly surrendered their predator and followed me back down the glade.

Coming to the creek, I thought, “Hey—I have on rubber boots; I can walk the creek IN the creek.” Small pools of water danced through sycamore roots that look like a nest of snakes and surprising patches of moss clung to palm sized rocks from the warm spell we just experienced. Why hadn’t I done this before? I’ve had this property for four years and I’ve walked along the sides of the creek. I’ve taken my shoes off here and there to splash in the water, but the rocks make it tough to walk barefoot. I never considered walking in it with boots on. The dogs

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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.