

Leeches and a host of other invertebrates are part of healthy pond life along the front range.



Photo by Cyndie Thomas

What's *THAT* in my pond!

When you've noticed strange insects, egg sacks, or gooey invertebrates in and around your pond, you've probably wondered how to research these oddities. Now there's an easy reference guide for front-range gardeners. Whitney Cranshaw, Professor / Extension Specialist of Entomology at Colorado State University has published "*Life in a Colorado Water Garden...*" The limited printing focuses on "*The Insects and Other Invertebrates Associated with Water Features*" in the Rocky Mountain states.

Research for the study was funded in part by a small grant from CWGS. Sample collection involved a number of the Society members' backyard ponds so it's sure to be reflective of conditions in our area. The 27-page book is arranged by "Feeding Guilds," reflecting each species' food habits and ecological roles within the web of pond life. Whitney has included lots of large color photographs, many of which were taken by former CWGS President Cyndie Thomas who also assisted in the season-long collection process.

To obtain your own professionally printed, color copy of "Life in a Colorado Water Garden", send a check or money order made payable to Whitney Cranshaw. Include your own contact information (Name, street, apt. #, city, state, and zip code.) The cost is \$12 per copy. No taxes apply. Mail your check and order to:

Whitney Cranshaw
1400 West Lake St.
Fort Collins, CO 80521

You can also download a pdf file of "*Life in a Colorado Water Garden*" for free at the following url:
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/bspm/extension%20and%20outreach/Water%20Garden%20Insect%20Publication.pdf>

Wet (Again!) on Thursday, April 8

CWGS will hold its signature season kickoff at Denver Botanic Gardens. The evening's program will include a presentation by Sylvia Bernstein on the new gardening technique of Aquaponics. (For more about Aquaponics, read the article on [page ?.](#))

Bob Hoffman will offer insight on how to grow Lotuses at high altitude. We'll deliver pre-sold lotus

the program and offer a limited number of small bowl lotuses for sale, first come first served.

As usual, representatives of major garden centers and water gardening vendors will be available before and after the program, and we'll have our "Ask the Experts" table to answer all your questions. Look for more detail in the next newsletter.

Christmas (and volunteers) Remembered...

By Bill Powell

If you remember, the night of December 7 2009 was very cold. Sandwiched between snowstorms, the club's Holiday party was almost cancelled, but Janet, April, and Dorothy persevered. And, given the weather, we had a very good turnout to enjoy the delicious foods and fun gift exchange.

Vicki Aber, CWGS President, thanked all those who contributed to the operation of the club's programs, events, and educational outreach.

Unfortunately, I was so focused on the food and gifts that I forgot to bring the list of hours I'd collected of the volunteer effort at Denver Botanic Gardens. Eighteen

CWGS-sponsored volunteers contributed nearly 1,700 hours at DBG during the past year. Some individuals contributed more than 150 hours.

A belated recognition of the DBG volunteers follows, arranged alphabetically within categories of generosity:

40 hours donated:

Gary Blubaugh
Ben Coleman
Bob Hoffman
Carla Mascarenas
Joe Mascarenas

40 to 80 hours:

Jo Ann Graham
Trina Jacobson
Carla Littlefield
Lois Mayerchak
Les Petrash

80+ hours

Jim Arneill
John Bayard
John Burkert
Doris Freestone
Len Freestone
Stewart Koons
Marge Oleson
Bill Powell