

The Water Garden

The Water Garden

is the official publication of the Colorado Water Garden Society (CWGS). Copyright 1999

The CWGS meets monthly, April, May, August and September, usually at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). The dates and specific locations of the meetings will be announced in *The Water Garden*. The 1st Sunday in June, at the Morrison Center at DBG, is a fund raising event with the sale of tropical and hardy waterlilies, as well as other water plants. This sale is open to the public. The 2nd Sunday in July is reserved for the CWGS members' pond tour and picnic. The 1st Saturday in December is the annual Holiday Party.

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Your comments on the quality, and suggestions for improvement for this newsletter are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

VISIT THE CWGS WEB SITE
<http://members.xoom.com/cwgs>
 See inside for more interesting Web Sites.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 8, 1999

WHEN: SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 @ 2PM
**WHERE: MORRISON CENTER AT THE
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
NE CORNER OF 11TH & YORK**
GUEST SPEAKER: JOSEPH TOMOCIK
TOPIC: "PLANT IDENTIFICATION"

Joe will help us unravel the mysteries of "Plant Identification". If you have any unlabeled lilies in your pond (and who doesn't), you will want to learn about the features which distinguish one lily from another, and the basic resources available to assist you in plant identification. At the end of the session, there will be a fun exercise to practice your new skills.

Joe is a founder and honorary member of CWGS. He is author of the informative book, *Water Gardening* (with Leslie Garisto), and several published articles on the topic. Joe has been a keynote and banquet speaker at symposia of the International Waterlily and Water Garden Society (IWGS) and meetings of CWGS. He is a recipient of the IWGS Hall of Fame Award.

COME HERE IT FROM THE EXPERT!

Call Carla Littlefield, Program Chair for additional information. 303 399-7946



Officers and Committee Chairs for 1999

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Bill Bittman	303 420-7595
<i>Vice President</i>	
Cyndie Thomas	303 755-1885
<i>Secretary</i>	
Nancy Jewett	303 671-7964
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Lynn Jewett	303 671-7964
Stan Skinger	303 237-0071
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<i>Membership</i>	
Nancy Jewett	303 671-7964
<i>DBG May Plant & Book Sale</i>	
Ron Bice	303 427-6323
<i>CWGS June Plant Sale</i>	
Cyndie Thomas	303 755-1885
Stan Skinger	303 237-0071
Bob Hoffman	303 978-0124
<i>July Pond Tour & Picnic</i>	
Carla Littlefield	303 399-7946
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Lynn Jewett	303 671-7964
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Nancy Styler	303 850-7150
<i>Historian</i>	
Lois Mayerchak	303 798-1779
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	
Nancy Jewett	303 671-7964
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	
Pam Maxwell	303 722-1923

1999 MEMBERSHIP

Many Garden Centers give discounts to Garden Society members, so remember to show your 1999 membership card when shopping at Garden Centers. See page 7 for membership information.

REPORT ON THE 1999 POND TOUR AND PICNIC

Carla Littlefield
Pond Tour Chair

Kudos to our SE Metro (Tamarac Square and Aurora) members who opened their water gardens for the CWGS Annual Pond Tour on July 11th, attended by over 100 members and guests. All eight water gardens were owner designed and installed, an inspiration for those who want a pond but not the expense of having a professional do the job. Each garden had a unique feature for "show and tell", including biofilter buckets, a bog sustained on rain water, a converted raised swimming pool, a do-it-yourself greenhouse, many splendid lilies and marginals, and even a hotdog-eating bullfrog. The fun continued at Hilltop Park where the breezes blew through the picnic area most of the afternoon. Thanks to Cyndie Thomas and Bob Hoffman, everyone left with at least one door prize. The 2000 Pond Tour is tentatively scheduled for the Golden-Boulder area, and plans are already underway. Let us know if you want to be on board.

(Ed. We all want to thank Carla for all of the time and effort she put in to make this a very successful Pond Tour.)

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The family of Velma Disbrow, a long time, very active member of CWGS, would like to invite her friends to celebrate her 90th Birthday, with a reception in their yard. Sunday, August 22, 1999, 11am to 3pm. 865 S Estes. Please RSVP by August 14 @ 303 986-0087 or 303 989-1138

(Ed. In the current issue of PONDKEEPER magazine (May/June 1999) article on Victoria Waterlilies written by Jack Honeycutt, in the Bibliography section listing *The Water Garden*, said "A nice photo of Victorias growing in Velma Disbrow's pond in Lakewood, Colorado in 1992. Velma has been an inspiration to many".)



EDUCATIONAL BROCHURES

CWGS members John Mirgon, Mary Mirgon, Cyndie Thomas, Nancy Styler and Stan Skinger have developed a set of nine educational brochures. The brochures titles are "Pond Care, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter"; "Lotus"; "Tropical Lilies"; "Pond Design & Construction"; "Preserving Water Lilies"; "Green Water, The Ecology of the Pond"; "Hardy Lilies"; "Water Plants"; and "Container Water Gardens". These brochures will be available to members at all regular meetings, at no cost. If you are unable to attend meetings, these brochures can be ordered for a cost of \$1.50 to cover shipping and handling, from Cyndie Thomas, 1023 S. Kittredge Way, Aurora, CO. 80017

GARDENS TO VISIT

Again this year, a list of CWGS members who invite visitors to their water gardens is available. (NOTE: This list was compiled from 1999 membership applications through May.) You can obtain the list by calling Nancy Jewett @ 303 671-7964.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

June 1, 1999	
Beginning Balance	\$12359.37
Income	13280.75
Expenses	(5439.86)
June 30, 1999	
Balance	\$20299.26



**MONET'S LIVING CANVAS
AT
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS**
Information for this article provided by
the Denver Botanic Gardens

Monet's Living Canvas - a garden inspired by Claude Monet (1840-1926), the Impressionist artist, will present visitors with a garden as a living canvas, a tool for inspiration and creative focus. Monet the gardener celebrated the art of gardening in making his great garden at Giverny in France. Monet the artist, painted the garden and created work that embodies the essence of impressionism. Denver Botanic Gardens captures the spirit of Monet as a gardener and artist in a new garden adjacent to the large waterlily pool. The garden features elements of reflected light, shimmering water, colorful flowers and dramatic foliage, and showcases Monet's passion for art with the plants he grew and painted. A perfect place for a summer picnic or evening stroll.

Monet the Gardener

After buying the house and land at Giverny he created a signature garden that would be his greatest inspiration for forty years of painting. Monet's fascination with the visual richness of his garden provided a new outlet for his creative genius. He worked with a passion planning a garden with flowers blooming from spring to fall.

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A series of 6' X 9' waterlily panels were his greatest artistic achievement, taking the last twelve years of Monet's life to complete. His legacy endures in his paintings and in the great garden at Giverny that nurtured his soul.

Monet's Water Garden

"Then all of a sudden I had the revelation of how enchanting my pond was. I took up my palette. Since then I've hardly had any other subject."
Claude Monet, 1924.

Famous as an artist and gardener, Monet spent the last 20 years of his life painting waterlilies at his beloved garden in Giverny. He designed his water garden with an arched, Japanese-style bridge and shoreline plants that surround regularly spaced waterlilies. The waterlilies of Monet's garden were predominately hardy waterlily hybrid creations of French nurseryman and botanical genius, Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac (1831-1911) of Le Temple-sur-Lot, France. DBG's display features Marliac's lovely pink *Nymphaea* 'Amabilis', as well as many of his other notable hybrids. The emergent plants and bridge give the impression of Monet's natural pond.

"The basic element of the motif is the mirror of water whose appearance changes at every instant..." Claude Monet.

(Ed. The Monet Garden opened July 21 with an evening party for members. Several CWGS members were in attendance as guides. The dress was period costume, and Cyndie and Mike Thomas had great costumes.)

The exhibit opened to the public July 22, and will continue through the first autumn frost. Entrance is included with general DBG admission, and is open during regular DBG hours. More information can be obtained on the display and other related activities and classes by calling 303 370-8187.

1999 PARADE OF PONDS

Advertised as Denver's Premier Water Garden Tour, the 1999 Parade of Ponds is scheduled on Saturday, August 28,

1999, from 9am-5pm.

Adult tickets are \$10.00 (children under 15 free). Tickets and the map may be obtained, through the day of the tour, at True Pump, 1429 S. Broadway; Arapahoe Acres Garden Center, 9010 S. Santa Fe Dr.; or Hudson Gardens, 6115 S. Santa Fe Dr. This is a self guided tour. The ticket for Hudson Gardens is not limited to the day of the tour, and may be used any day for a year. This tour is sponsored by BR&D Landscape, Inc., and the proceeds are to benefit Hudson Gardens. Information can be obtained by calling BR&D Landscape, Inc. @ 303 660-5015.

HUDSON GARDENS WATER FESTIVAL

Hudson Gardens is having a Water Festival on Sunday, August 29, 1999 to follow the Saturday Parade of Ponds (A good time to use your ticket for Hudson Gardens).

There will be walks and tours, and an opportunity to learn about hardy and tropical waterlilies and marginals. Don't miss the Victoria Waterlily!

CWGS has been invited to participate with our display board, educational brochures, and act as guides.

We will need volunteers to be at the display board, answer questions, and lead tours. If you are interested in volunteering call (AFTER AUG. 15) Lynn Jewett @ 303 671-7964



VERY IMPORTANT PLEASE READ ELECTION TIME

Cyndie Thomas, Vice President

Ever wonder about the operation of an organization such as the CWGS (Colorado Water Garden Society)?

How it decides what to do to raise money-how it decides to distribute those funds to other non-profit entities such as Hudson Gardens and Denver Botanic Gardens?

The CWGS elected Board of Directors (all volunteers) make those decisions. Their interest is in representing the desires of the general membership, guided by the goals set forth in the formal organization's Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

In September elections will be held for the positions of President, Treasurer, Program Chair and Member-at-Large. Term of office is two years. To run for an office requires no experience, just a genuine interest and the time to attend meetings.

Nominations for the open positions will be accepted by current Board members. If you are interested in running for a position or would like more information, contact any current Board members. (List of Board member names and phone numbers can be found on page 1)

Following are summaries of the responsibilities of each open position:

- President**- shall:
- Preside at all meetings and act as administrative head of the Society.
 - Sign checks for the Society if the Treasurer is absent or in case of an emergency.
 - Appoint committees as needed with the approval of the Board of Trustees.
 - Perform such duties as directed by the Board of Trustees.
 - Conduct official correspondence if desired.

- Program Chairman**-shall:
- Develop the program content for all regular or special meetings of the Society, and handle all arrangements and logistics for speakers or other program designs, as approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - May be assisted by other members of the Society for special projects.
 - Perform such duties as directed by the Board of Trustees.

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Treasurer-shall:

- Collect and be responsible for the safe keeping of all funds of the Society.
- Keep accurate and up to date records of all monies due, collected and disbursed.
- Pay all bills contracted by the Society upon written notice by the Board of Trustees.
- Furnish a written financial report to the Board of Trustees at each meeting and to the audit committee once each year.
- Perform such other duties as directed by the Board of Trustees.

Member-at-Large-shall:

- Attend Board Meetings and General Meetings.
- Assist in Committee activities and all Organization activities.
- Perform such duties as directed by the Board of Trustees.

Please consider running for a position on the Board!

POND CARE SUMMER

Excerpt from the CWGS Educational Brochure, "Pond Care, Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter" written by John Mirgon and Cyndie Thomas.

Fertilize marginal plants every 5-7 weeks through the growing season. Lilies should be fertilized every 3-4 weeks, until early August. Tablet of pellet fertilizer for aquatic plants is recommended. Excessive yellow leaves or pads, few petals on flowers, or poor blooming can indicate a lack of nutrients.

Prune and remove all dead leaves (pads) or flowers from the plant at the crown level, throughout the growing season.

Add water as necessary to replace amounts lost through evaporation. Remember to use a dechlorinator and chloramine remover at the rate specified if you add more than one inch of water. (Ed. NOTE: Most of the Denver Metro area water has

chloramine, so just a dechlorinator is not sufficient.)



APHID SEASON

Nancy Jewett

Are you noticing tiny black bugs on your lily pads and flowers? Those are probably aphids making a meal of your aquatic plants. Aphids are tiny, but in large numbers can make large holes, and weaken plants. Plus they look nasty, and take away from the enjoyment of your water garden.

Some suggested methods for controlling aphids are:

- Beneficial insects, such as ladybugs. We tried that this year, but sad to say, the birds ate most of the ladybugs before they had a chance to eat the aphids.
- Washing the aphids off by spraying the plants with a hose, and letting the fish eat them. In our experience, the aphids swim right back to the lily pads, and our fish don't like them.
- Homemade spray-1 teaspoon of liquid detergent, 1/4 cup of cooking oil, and 1 cup of water. Mix well and spray plants lightly. **NOTE: Do this in the evening, and rinse off before the sun is up. The mixture of oil and sun will fry the pads. No more aphids, but no more pads either.**
- A light spray of rubbing alcohol on the pads. It evaporates fast, so does not need to be rinsed off.
- A product called Blade Runner. It is a diamataceous earth mixture in powder form, that is puffed onto to the pads, and chops the aphids to pieces.
- Remove plants from the pond and spray with an aphid specific insecticide,

Keep spray away from the pond, and rinse well before returning plants to the pond.

g. Next year spray your fruit and sumac trees with dormant oil spray, before they leaf out. Be careful that you do not get the spray in the pond.

HYPERTUFA

Nancy Jewett

This information is from research on the Internet, and I have not tested any of it.

Hypertufa is a mixture of either 1 part Portland cement (no substitutes or ready mixes), 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite or peat moss (peat moss has to be sifted to get the twigs and large pieces out), used to make fake rocks, outdoor planters, or even "stone" lanterns. A good place to mix the ingredients is in a wheelbarrow. Use only enough water to bind the material together. Concrete dye may also be added.

Using a mold or freehand style, shape the mixture in the shape you want. One suggestion was to put the mixture into a plastic bag, then work the bag until it like a rock or boulder. Before the mixture completely hardens, you can use brushes, other tools or water to modify the surface. If you are molding containers you should make them at least 3-4" thick.

Unmold when the surface is too firm to dent with your finger, but still soft enough to be scratched with a fingernail. After the item is removed from the mold, or has cured for 2 - 5 days, rub dry Portland cement powder into the surface. It will be a more rocklike surface, and less likely to absorb water. Like any concrete material, there will be considerable alkalinity until completely cured. To hasten curing, wait a week after applying the dry Portland cement, then spray it with a product called "CLR". "CLR" is used to remove mineral deposits like rust. Spray it on your

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"rock", and as it foams scrub a little with a brush (wear gloves), wait 5 minutes then wash it off thoroughly.

Want to try a mossy look? If the item is in the shade, you may be able to grow moss on it by mixing bits of moss with buttermilk or yogurt and painting it on.

If anyone tries or has tried Hypertufa let me know. We could display some finished products at a meeting.



THE DRAGONFLY

Nancy Jewett

We all know that ponds are not just interesting for their lilies and other aquatic plants. Watching the wild life that is attracted to the water and plants is fascinating, and one of the most interesting species is the dragonfly. There are 450 types of dragonflies in North America, large ones with wingspans of up to four and one-half inches, and small ones with wingspans of about two inches. Some fly above the water and other skim along the surface. They can fly forward, backward, hover up, down or in place and even upside down. The larger dragonflies have been clocked at speeds up to eighteen miles an hour. They perform these feats while eating insects, most notably the mosquito and the black fly. Their keen eyesight enables them to see a mosquito as far as twenty-five feet away.

The male dragonfly establishes its territory, and patrols it to keep out other

invading males, and to entice females for mating and egg laying. The territory may be within twenty-five to one-hundred feet of the pond, and the male will usually have several perches that he routinely lands on. If the perch is vertical, the dragonfly will always land on the top. If the perch is horizontal, he will always land on the same spot. Dragonflies lay their eggs in the water. The female lays her eggs by dipping her ovipositor in the water as she flies. The eggs hatch as a nymph form, and the nymphs feed on mosquito larvae, small fish and other dragonfly nymphs. The nymphs shed their skins up to twelve times over one to three years, then they climb up a stalk, the skin splits and the wings expand and harden. The adult dragonfly lives from two to eight weeks.

Reprinted from *The Water Garden*, the CWGS Newsletter, May 1994.



EDIBLE WILD WATER PLANTS

Cattails

In early summer, the new flowers appear as green bloom spikes (soon to be the decorative brown cattail stalk). These tender spikes make an excellent vegetable when still young and green, requiring only 10 to 20 minutes of cooking. They can also be roasted, buttered, and eaten like corn on the cob. As these early green spikes get taller, a very fine yellow pollen forms at the very top of each flower stalk. This pollen can be gathered, sifted and used

wither with regular flour, or can be used alone to make yellow-colored bread, muffins and pancakes.

The rhizomes spongy outer layer can be removed and these rhizomes can be processed into a flour whose carbohydrate, protein and fat is comparable to corn or rice.

In winter and spring, the young cattail shoots can be eaten. Pulling back the outer green leaves, grasp the white inner leaves of the young shoot and pull it up. Approximately the bottom 12 inches of the shoots are eaten. The outer fibrous layers should be pulled back to get to the tender insides. This is probably the best part of the cattail, described by various people as tasting like celery or cucumber.

When the fully mature brown flower stalks are broken open all the fluffy hairs and small seeds could be pressed into a wound to stop bleeding. The down was also used to stuff pillows and blankets, or as an excellent fire tinder. The long erect leaves can be used in making chairs, sandals, mats and other items. The stalks can be cut and used as chopsticks.

Watercress

Can be eaten in salads or lightly cooked or gently fried. An excellent source of vitamins and minerals, it includes a substantial portion of Vitamin C, and is one of the best sources of Vitamin E. Eaten raw in salads, it has an enjoyable peppery or mustardy flavor. Watercress, boiled like spinach and seasoned, makes a tasty dish. The leaves can be dried, powdered and used as a seasoning to flavor other food.

During Roman times in Mediterranean areas, it was considered good for deranged minds. Pliny (23-79AD) listed over 40 medicinal uses for watercress, including the knowledge that the smell of burned water cress was supposed to drive away serpents and neutralize venom of scorpions.

Others thought watercress was something to be avoided, that the seed of the plant was bad for the stomach

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and harmed the spleen, but could be used to expel worms. Dioscorides (40-70AD) felt that the seeds of watercress were a good aphrodisiac.

Lotus

The lotus seeds or duck acorns have a hard shell but once open, the starchy contents are edible. You can roast the fresh seeds or boil them. They are very pleasant eating, tasting much like boiled chestnuts, but not quite as sweet. The entire plant is edible, especially the large starchy tuberous roots, which sometimes weigh half a pound and have a sweet-potato flavor.

Arrowhead

The starchy and nutritiously important parts of the arrowhead are the tubers that form at the ends of the often long, narrow roots, frequently several feet beyond the plant. Mature after midsummer and in the autumn, these are also nourishing throughout the winter.

The tubers, which have a milky juice, are edible raw. They have some what of a bitterness, which can be dissipated by cooking. Roasted, baked, boiled, creamed, french-fried or scalloped, they can be handled like new potatoes, although their sweetness and smoothness gives them more of a water chestnut flavor.

Sweet Flag

Candied sweet flag has somewhat the same aromatic pungency of candied ginger. Once regarded as a country aid to digestion, raw sweet flag is excellent in the springtime, when the partially grown flower stems are edible and the interiors of the young stalks and half-formed leaves, are sweet and tasty enough to be taken home for salads. The spicy fragrance of the sweet flag's leaves were a major reason why our pioneer ancestors chose to spread them cleanly on the floors of their cabins. They are also natural insecticides, a property that is concentrated in the dried and powdered roots of the plant.

Wild Rice

Although it is ordinarily too expensive to be used indiscriminately, it will improve any recipe calling for domestic rice. You can even pop it, placing a small amount of still unwashed seeds in a fine sieve, immersing this in deep hot oil until the kernels pop, drain on paper towels, salt and serve hot.

If home gathered wild rice is not well washed in cold water before using, it is apt to have too much of a smoky flavor.

Nuphar (Yellow Spatterdock)

The roots are the richest in starch from autumn to early spring, along with the seeds. These roots can be roasted or boiled, after which they peel easily. The sweetish interiors are usually cut up in soups and stews.

The roundish seed vessels become filled in late summer and in the autumn, and are easily gathered, fried and shelled. The seeds resemble popcorn in taste. The Native Americans ground the "poppings" for flour.

Other Edible Plants

Marsh Marigold
Green Arrow Arum
Golden Club
Water Parsley
Great Bulrush
Pickerelweed
Chufa, Yellow Nut Grass
Marsh Mallow
Bur Reed
Manna Grass

Before fixing any water plants please consult a book! Some plants or parts of plants can be poisonous!

Source Materials

Guide to Wild Foods by Christopher Nyerges
Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants by Bradford Angier
Edible Wild Plants by Oliver Perry Medsger
Field Guide to North American Edible Wild Plants by Peter A. Oykeman
Wild Edible Plants of the Western U.S. by Donald R. Kirk

The Colorado Water Garden Society Has It's own Web Page @

<http://members.xoom.com/cwgs/>
The site had information on the organization, meeting dates, articles on water gardening, plant descriptions and photos, and a new discussion list. Anyone interested in joining the discussion list on water gardening can do it through accessing the page. Ask questions, or share your successes. A mini-study on lotus growing is starting. Information on this will be shared on the web site and discussion list in the months to come.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

The Commercial Web Sites are not meant to be endorsements, but are listed because have interesting information and links.

WATER GARDEN SOCIETIES

International Water Garden & Waterlily Society

www.iwgs.org/index.htm

Victoria Conservancy

http://members.xoom.com/victoria_splindex.html

Inland Koi Society (California)

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/AnitaA/home2/homepage.htm>

WATER GARDEN INFORMATION & FUN SITES

Garden Endeavors

www.perigee.net/~jrjohns/web20.html

101 Gardening Links

www.sharewareplace.com/101/101plant.shtml

Virtual Garden

www.vg.com/

Aarons Creek Farms/Hobby Greenhouses

www.littlegreenhouse.com/

Garden Web Home Page

www.gardenweb.com

Daydreamer Aquatic Gardens

www.daydreamergardens.com/

Garden Statuary

www.venturablvd.com/garden-statuary/index.html

Lotusland Photos

www.rivenrock.com/lotusland.htm

Tazman's Pond

www.dsUPER.net/~tazman/pond.html

Aqua Botanic

www.aquabotanic.com/

Send your favorite water garden related Web Sites to the editor.