

## Coming in 2005!!

- **August 13**  
CWGS Water Blossom Festival  
at DBG, 9 am - 4 pm
- **September 11**  
2-4 pm, Morrison Center, DBG,  
program to be announced
- **December 3**  
Holiday Party - Recap of 2005  
IWGS Symposium in  
Bethlehem, PA in July,  
Morrison Center, DBG

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# The Water Garden

Volume 22 Number 6

August 2005

### In Memoriam



**John B. Mirgon**

**1926 - 2005**

**Founder, Colorado Water Garden Society**

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*2nd Annual Water Blossom Festival, DBG  
Saturday, August 13th, 9 am - 4 pm - details page 3*

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***CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic '05***

**Pictures inside - watch website for full layouts**

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Official  
Journal  
of the  
Colorado  
Water Garden  
Society

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### Renewing Members

Lee & Kerstin Carlson, Lakewood  
Lynn Frestedt, Centennial  
Joan Greelman, Arvada  
Jonathan & April Hough, Boulder  
Duff Kerr, Denver  
Steve & Maryann Miller - Boulder, CO  
Elaine Menter, Greenwood Village  
Mark & Nikki Tomlin, Littleton

### New Members

Kevin & Melissa Waples, Aurora

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Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;  
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Return this form with your payment to:  
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(Please Print)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pond Experience (Beginner) \_\_\_\_\_ (Some Skill) \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:

Flower & Plant Show (April) \_\_\_\_\_ Plant Societies, Hudson Gardens (April) \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Exchange/Sale (June) \_\_\_\_\_ Water Garden Spectacular (August) \_\_\_\_\_

Pond Tour (July) \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Party (Dec.) \_\_\_\_\_ DBG Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_



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**Major Board changes coming at Sept. meeting**

CWGS members interested in being more than just "members" are invited to consider running for an elected Board of Directors position at the September 11 General Meeting.

Cyndie Thomas, President, is term-limited this year, and must be replaced. The Treasurer's position, now held on an interim basis by Ken Lange, must be formalized by an election. Two one-year Board positions - held by Jim Arneill and Cathy Manley - created by a Bylaws change last year become two-year positions this year, and another two-year position has been vacated. Other Member-at-Large positions also exist.

around Goals and Objectives for 2006, including possible meeting date and/or location changes, as well as possible new activities. The current Board has recognized the changing CWGS membership, and has attempted to meet those changes in a proactive way.

A special commitment to CWGS and its mission to provide education and assistance to anyone interested in water gardening is required, as well as extra time. The rewards, however, are immeasurable, and give an insight the members oftentimes don't ever see.

If you are interested in a position, contact Cyndie Thomas, [splash@comcast.net](mailto:splash@comcast.net)

Prior to the elections, discussion will center

**Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens on August 13 to Include CWGS "Water Blossom Festival"**

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 13, and join in the many activities offered as part of CWGS' 2nd annual "Water Blossom Festival." This free event, open to the general public on a SCFD-sponsored free day at Denver Botanic Gardens, is a celebration of the many CWGS volunteers and their efforts which contribute to the beauty and splendor of the water features and aquatic plants at Denver Botanic Gardens. Last year, CWGS volunteers provided nearly 1,700 hours in labor alone to DBG.

the greenhouse and pond areas around the Gardens, and give demonstrations of various tasks required by aquatic plants. In addition, free water plants will be available while supplies last.

Without the many hours of dedicated service by CWGS volunteers every year, the Denver Botanic Gardens would not be able to provide the impressive water garden displays that help make it such a special place to visit. Besides recognizing the efforts of Joe Tomocik, Aquatics Curator, CWGS wants to acknowledge and thank those who have so generously given their time and worked hard to make such a difference at DBG! This day is dedicated to YOU!

From 9 am - 4 pm near the gazebo by the main pool at DBG, CWGS members will share helpful water gardening information, conduct tours of



# CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic '05

More pictures coming soon to: <http://colowatergardensociety.org>



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Nelson & Sharon Rubin



Gary & Julie Bulzec



Nelson & Sharon Rubin



John & Kim Schmidt



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5. **Flutters Herb Garden & Flower Shop**  
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6. **Denver Botanic Gardens**  
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Tickets are non-refundable.  
No tickets sold at residential locations.

# When should you divide lilies?

by **Jim Arneill**  
**CWGS Member-at-Large**

How do you know if your plants need to be divided? The main way is by assessing if the plant has overgrown its pot. In general, waterlilies need dividing every two to four years. Also, if the size of the leaves seem stunted, that is another clear indicator of the need to divide it.

Hardy marginals often benefit from being repotted every two to four years. For these plants it is helpful to examine the plant's growth habit and determine the need for a larger pot by not only the amount of annual growth, but also if it grows uniformly from the center or sends out new foliage and roots laterally.

Another reason for dividing your plants is to remove any dead growth that has occurred over the winter. In some plants, you will find these areas in the middle of the plant, as in cattails, and this gives you the opportunity to access and discard this portion of your plant and create several new smaller plants. The overall health of any water plants will be improved by removing any soft, dead, rotting material.

## Hardy Water Lilies

Dividing hardy water lilies is accomplished by removing the plant from its pot and using a hose to rinse off the soil from its roots. It is recommended that this process be done in a shady area so the roots become less dried out. Also, having all the necessary tools on hand ahead of time adds to the efficiency of this process, including your containers, soil, fertilizer tablets, knife, gravel, plant labels and marking pen. As you examine the waterlily's

rhizome, look for the main growing tip which only needs 3-5 inches of solid healthy root with it. Use a sharp knife and cut off the old growth, especially dark colored or mushy parts that are decaying. With the remainder of the rhizomes, look for any areas that have sent out new growth. These represent new plants and may be cut off and potted along with at least three inches of surrounding rhizome.

Fill new pot(s) about two-thirds full with regular garden soil. In our area, this is often a heavy clay soil and is much better to use than potting soil which contains light ingredients such as peat and perlite that float to the surface and dirty the water.

Place the cut end of the rhizome upwards at a 45-degree angle at the edge of the pot with the growing tip facing toward the center. For tropical water lilies, roots should be placed in the center of the pot.

Spread out any light-colored roots after removing any dead or dark ones, and then add more soil to cover them. Add enough soil to cover the rhizome and leave the growing tip so it is just barely exposed. Then add one or two fertilizer tablets, depending on the size of the pot, near the bottom of the pot. To settle the soil in the pot, tamp it on a hard surface.

Finally, add a layer of gravel on top of the soil and make sure it is not harming the tender growing tip. When you put your waterlily in your pond, you may want to place it about four inches from the surface to give it more light and warmth to help it grow initially. After two to three weeks, you can lower it to its regular depth of 12-24 inches. During this time, the leaf production will indicate the roots have been established.

*Continued on next page*

# When should you divide marginals?

*Continued from previous page*

### **Marginal Aquatic Plants**

When dividing hardy marginals, remember these plants are generally very strong and hearty. There are two basic types with different growth habits, which affect your repotting method. Some marginals are upright and clumping, while others are horizontal and running.

For the upright, clumping plants - rushes, sedges and umbrella grass - the healthy part(s) you remove should be planted in the center of regular pots with the plant's crown level the soil's surface. Use a sharp cutting instrument (I have found the serrated blade of a small saw works very well), and remove one-third to one-half of the original plant. This will make a good sized plant and allow for enough new growth in its new pot.

These plants also benefit from having fertilizer tablets added at this time. Again, place some gravel on top of the soil and position the pot near the surface to up to 6 inches in depth. Using smooth gravel, such as one- to two-inch river rock, is preferable in case the pot tips over. That way no sharp edges of your gravel will damage your flexible liner or other pond material.

For the plants that have fast-growing horizontal rhizomes, such as irises, cattails, pickerels, and sweet flags, it is helpful to use a wider pot so they don't "jump" your pot by season's end. Again, use a sharp cutting tool and, as with the waterlily, place the cut end of the rhizome against the edge of the pot, allowing for the new growth toward the center.

The running types of marginals - water clover, floating heart, bog bean, and water snowflake - should also be planted in wider-sized pots with shallow soil. Again, add fertilizer to these pots, and top off with a layer of smooth gravel. Place near the surface of your pond.

If you find you have too many new plants for your pond after you have divided them, place them, either potted or bare-rooted, in a shallow tub outdoors with good sunlight. Depending on the amount of water in the tub, crush two to three large fertilizer tablets and add them to the water.

Even though dividing plants can be a messy job, think of all the benefits your plants and pond receive from your efforts!

**Note:** For most water plants, repotting should take place when there are signs of new growth. It is recommended that lotuses be divided somewhat earlier, before they show signs of growth due to their tender growing tips.

Some marginals, such as pickerel and thalia, benefit from having some initial growth first, so their repotting might be delayed until the end of May. To receive as many blooms as possible from iris, they are best divided in the summer or early fall so they can use their stored energy to bloom early the following spring.

For further information on dividing your plants, read the "Aquatic Plant Propagation" pamphlet on the CWGS website:

<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>

# Japanese Gardening 101 - Part 5

by Michael Thomas

Source: *Creating Japanese Gardens*, Alvin Horton, Meredith Books, Ortho All About Series, 2003

### **Basic Garden Styles - Courtyard Style**

The final style of Japanese garden this series will cover is the Courtyard Style, once the style reserved for the Japanese imperial family and high ranks of nobility. The sharp split between upper and lower classes in Japanese society dictated that one class could create gardens, the other could not.

It was not until the creation of a middle class that society-at-large was able to enjoy gardening as an activity. Many were richer than their social superiors, and found they had to hide their new-found affluence, hence the courtyard garden.

Courtyard gardens, historically, had been viewed from rooms or apartments, or in monasteries or temples, and were intended to provide a peaceful area for meditation, or as the inner portion of a tea garden. Even in the smallest of urban households, a tiny courtyard garden still provided enjoyment of the natural world outside.

Building on the Japanese tea garden, courtyard gardens shared three traditional tea garden elements - stepping stones, water basin, and stone lantern. In the courtyard garden, however, they are always

ornamental, and no one ever walks in the garden itself.

Most courtyards use shade-tolerant evergreens, some only use a stone lantern with a few plants and moss or gravel, some use plants and a basin, and still others rely on a simple grouping of plants, such as bamboo. Zen-inspired courtyard gardens use only rocks, gravel and moss.

All components of the garden are full-sized; any miniaturization would destroy the illusion of the courtyard being part of a larger garden just out of view. Usually only open to a small patch of sky, the courtyard feels more like an indoor space than one outdoors. Shadows, wind, large trees and, above all, water reinforce the size of the garden.

Careful maintenance of the garden is required; otherwise the garden appears unappealing. The presence of water eliminates dullness in the space, and frequent dampening of the plants provides an ongoing freshness to the overall atmosphere, similar to the feelings evoked following a rain shower.

For Americans, courtyard gardens provide a wide range of possibilities. Small patches of land next to, or behind, houses, or in an atrium, can be cultivated and decorated to simulate a much larger landscape. The well-planned courtyard garden, however miniscule it may be, will still appear to be an extension of the living space attached to it, and is an extension of the natural world.