

Coming in 2007...

**March 11: Gen. Mtg.
1:30 PM Gates Hall, DBG**
Program: Whitney Cranshaw, Phd. speaks about his aquatic insect study funded by CWGS

**April 11: Gen. Mtg.
7:00 PM Gates Hall, DBG**
Program: Keith Funk hosts "Get Wet 2007"

**May 6: Gen. Mtg.
1:30 PM Gates Hall, DBG**

June 10: CWGS Annual Plant Sale -- 9 AM to 3 PM Morrison Ctr., DBG

July 14: Pond Tour and Picnic -- 11 AM to 4 PM
Location to be announced

Aug. 11: Water Blossom Festival 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM Monet Pond, DBG

**Sep. 9: Annual Mtg.& Board Elections
1:30 PM Gates Hall, DBG**

**Dec. 1: Holiday Banquet:
6 to 9 PM
Morrison Ctr., DBG**



The Water Garden

Volume 24 Number 1

March 2007

Voracious Order - Life in your garden

By Cyndie Thomas

Our water gardens contain more than what we see and feel from the casual observance. It is its own ecosystem. Through our eyes we see the sparkle of the sun on the water, fish lazily moving about, hear the sound of the water and the chatter of birds. Yet, within the water, there is an entirely different environment, with voracious predators and survival of the fittest - an order of life.

Whitney Cranshaw, Entomology professor from Colorado State University, will bring this fascinating world of Colorado Water Garden Insects to you in a special program to be presented at the March 11 CWGS General Meeting. The program will be at 1:30 pm, in Gates Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

"Water gardens are rapidly increasing as features of Colorado yards. These create new kinds of small ecosystems that not only include plants but also a wide variety of insects and related creatures," stated Cranshaw. "A tiny number of these are pests; many more have useful, important functions in the water garden – and all

have interesting stories behind them," Cranshaw emphasized.

Whitney's presentation will provide you with an in-depth view into what the small animals in the water garden do, how they live, and what you need to do to encourage them to live in your pond while discouraging the pests. Cranshaw will describe characteristics to provide assistance in identification, helping to eliminate the mystery of what is in your water.

Program March 11, 1:30 in Gates Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens

Whitney Cranshaw, CSU Entomology Professor, speaks about his CWGS-funded aquatic insect study.

Cranshaw's program is an outgrowth of a study he initiated last spring. After contacting the Colorado Water Garden Society and soliciting pond owners willing to participate in the study, his team sampled ponds throughout the Denver metro and front range areas. CSU graduate student Greg Walker, Professor Boris Kondratieff and Cranshaw visited ponds during the growing season, collecting specimens for identification.

Each collection pond yielded an ongoing variety of "small animals" and insects for study. According to Walker, many specimens

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CWGS still has need for some storage
space. 10 ft. x 10 ft. x 8 ft. high would do. It
needs to be dry, secure, and protected
against freezing.

If you have some spare room and donate it to
the Society, you may be able to claim a tax
deduction for donation to a 501-c-3.

Contact: Gary Blubaugh 303.989.4464

*Coming next month - an Ad by
our supporting retailer:*

**TRUE PUMP and
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1429 S. Broadway
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1-800-999-9021 or 303-744-3505
support@truepump.com

*Thanks, True Pump, for supporting
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Eighth Page Ad:
4 issues - \$50
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Small Water Gardens Bring Life To Any Garden

By Bill Bathurst

The simple construction of a small water garden or water feature attracts a wide variety of life to any garden. Not only does water add a variety of plants such as dwarf papyrus and waterlilies that you cannot get any other way but it brings wildlife to your garden.

Water can attract all kinds of life from dragonflies and butterflies to drinking squirrels and bathing birds. The addition of fish to your water garden provides movement and continual enjoyment to a garden.

Many people think a water feature might be hard to maintain. This is a common misconception. A small tub is easy to set up in the spring and requires little or no maintenance in the summer.

When water is added to a garden in the form of a small whisky barrel pond or other feature, the first thing that is noticed is that new forms of life suddenly appear. Water, the basis of all life, is a treat that attracts life that is not commonly seen. Dragonflies are usually the first visitors to arrive. They make an aerial dance with their four shimmering wings as they flit around your water garden. They are attracted because they need to lay

their eggs in the water. In return for your gift of water they flit around your flowers and other plants eating many pest insects.



*The "gift" of water offers rewards
in even the smallest places*

photo courtesy of Bill Bathurst

Bees and butterflies are other insects attracted by water in the garden. A bee needs several drops of water for every drop of honey it produces. It's not uncommon to see a flight path of bees coming from the direction of their hive to the edge of a lily pad. Butterflies are attracted because they, too, like to draw long cool drinks with their proboscis.

Garden creatures will appreciate your gift.

It's not uncommon to see a whiskey barrel topped off with a squirrel, its bushy tail flitting as it drinks.

Birds also relish tub gardens. They love to drink as well as bathe, and the water garden

is always there for them, unlike some birdbaths that can dry up.

Fish are an exciting addition to a water feature. Options range from simple gold fish, purchased for a nickel, to your valued tropical fish receiving a summer vacation out doors.

With aerator plants such as Elodea, a small number of fish can live happily in your tub water garden over the summer. Wild foods will find their way into the water; the only reason to feed your fish companions is to call them to the surface so that you can say hi!

The natural warmth and environment of a small outdoor water garden makes it possible for many tropical fish to breed successfully. It is not uncommon for a couple of Mollies to become twenty or even fifty by the end of the summer!

It's best to purchase light colored fish such as Danios, guppies, or Betas so they can be seen as they swim lazily about. Happily, come fall it's easy to bring all of these tropical fish indoors.

Small water gardens are deceptively simple to make. Although they can be made from virtually anything that will hold water, the most common container is a lined whisky barrel.

For about 50 to 60 Dollars you can get started. Your local garden shop should have half whisky barrels and liners. Non-draining ceramic pots work too, but you may have to seal the interior.

With a little effort a small water container garden can bring such a variety of life to your garden that you will wonder how you ever got along without it! ■

Are You Being Served?

With credit (and apology) to PBS...

By Bill Powell

New members may have questions about the Society and what we do, or you may have particular questions about specific plants and pond practices. Either way, we're eager to help you.

Feel free to contact any Board member with your questions or concerns. You are welcome to attend Board business meetings. (See page 4 of this issue for the 2007 dates and locations.) One of the best ways to learn both about the Society and water gardening practices is to attend the programs and events listed on the outside of the newsletter.

Events and Programs will be highlighted throughout the year in our issues of "The Water Garden." Also, please join us during our spring and fall volunteer sessions at Denver Botanic Gardens! Look for more on this opportunity in the next issue of the newsletter. ■

A Message from the Frozen Kid On the Block

By Gary Blubaugh



"If we had no Winter, then Spring would not be so much a pleasant surprise." author unknown

As I write this article, it is a balmy 7 degrees at my house. Ice still remains on my street since its arrival 43 days ago. Remember the first snowstorm that arrived on Wednesday, December 20th? Since I ordered my wife's Christmas present in November- a pair of LL Bean Snowshoes, I am being blamed for this snowstorm that dropped 28 inches around and in our pond.

Speaking of the Blubaugh Pond, the stock tank heater I placed in front of my skimmer was frozen solid 4 weeks ago so I purchased a second one, placed it beside the frozen one and plugged it in. Success! Some of the ice actually melted after two hours or so. Funny thing, when I turned on the downstairs
(continued on pg 8)

Welcome, New and returning Members:

Lynn Novitsky, Littleton CO
Larry Brown, Brighton CO
Betsy Fallin, Littleton CO
Denis Albrecht, Aurora CO
Bob and Fran Hoffman, Littleton CO
Martha Miller & Joel Waszak, Louisville CO
Kerstin Karloev, Lakewood CO
Duff Kerr, Denver CO
Wanda Grell, Parker CO
Ben Coleman, Longmont CO
Beth Soltis, Boulder CO
Elaine Menter, Greenwood Village CO

CWGS Board business meetings in 2007:

The Board will meet as follows. All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

March 11: 12:00 PM in Gates Hall, DBG
(preceding the scheduled 1:30 program)

April 1: 2 PM Waring house, DBG.

May 6: 12:00 PM Gates Hall, DBG
(preceding the scheduled 1:30 program)

July 15: 2:00 PM Waring House, DBG

Sep. 9: 12:00 PM in Gates Hall, DBG
(preceding the scheduled 1:30 program)

Oct. 7: 2:30 PM at the Blubaugh's home
3064 S. Holland Ct., Lakewood

Express Membership Application

Membership Fees: \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family
Join or Renew Today!

Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;
DO NOT send cash; Check or Money Order only, please. Thank you.
Return this form with your payment to:

CWGS Membership
100 Glencoe St.
Denver, CO 80220

(
Please Print)
Name(s) _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____
E-Mail * _____
Signature _____
Date _____
Pond Experience (Beginner) _____ (Some Skill) _____ (Pro) _____

* Note: Providing your e-mail address authorizes and enables CWGS to send you notifications of interest from time to time. CWGS does not share e-mail addresses with other entities.

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:
DBG Volunteer Sundays _____ Hudson Gardens _____ Newsletter _____
Plant Exchange/Sale (June) _____ Pond Tour (July) _____
Water Blossom Festival (Aug.) _____ Holiday Party (Dec.) _____

Or...Did you know?

You can now pay your dues online at www.colowatergardensociety.org

using PayPal

Lotus Sale – Buy NOW and SAVE

Back by popular demand! We have a limited number of lotus for sale to be picked up at the **Get Wet** event March 11th. We will be selling them for only \$20.00 per lotus tuber. **Reserve your orders now.** We expect to sell out before the event, but if any are left they will be available to purchase that night for \$8.00 more. We had to order early to bring you this great deal so orders will be prioritized by date received. If we run out of a variety, we will contact you to discuss a refund or an alternative lotus. We will be having a demonstration at the **Get Wet** event on potting lotus and will discuss care and answer questions.

| | Indicate number ordered: |
|---|--------------------------|
| Chinese Double Rose Small to medium size pink | _____ |
| Empress Large single white with red edges | _____ |
| Evening Shower Small double pink, 30" tall | _____ |
| Momo Botan Small double pink | _____ |
| Mrs. Perry D. Slocum Large single changeable | _____ |
| Perry's giant sunburst Large single yellow | _____ |
| Red Scarf Small to medium single dark pink | _____ |
| Selected Chinese varieties Mixed colors | _____ |



Photo courtesy of Gary Blubaugh
...of a lotus from HIS garden
purchased through CWGS!

Mail this order form to: Ken Lange 100 Glencoe St., Denver, CO 80220

Name _____

Telephone _____

or Email _____

Total number ordered _____ @ \$20.00 each _____

Please enclose check for total amount.

For more
information contact:

Vicki Aber:
303.423.9216
or
Cyndie Thomas
303.755.1885

(continued from front page)

were common to all ponds and some were only found in some locations. Cranshaw will provide insights into how garden design and planting affects populations. CWGS supported this study with a \$1,000 grant.



Can you identify these critters?
Learn the answers on March 11.

Photos courtesy of Cyndie Thomas

Cranshaw is an integral part of the CSU County Extension Service in the state, and is deeply involved in research and teaching, such as developing pest management practices for insects in Colorado horticultural crops. He is a published author and recipient of several awards, including Green Industries of Colorado Person of the Year and the Most Valuable Professional for the Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals. He received the 2006 Best Teacher Award after overwhelming nomination by students in his Insects, Science and Society class. Students state his passion for teaching and insects is inspiring to their desire for learning. ■

Books authored or co-authored by Whitney Cranshaw:

(Several are a must for the complete garden library)

- **Field Guide to Colorado Insects** by Boris C. Kondratieff, Whitney Cranshaw
- **Garden Insects of North America : The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs** by Whitney Cranshaw
- **Garden Insects of North America : The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs** by Whitney Cranshaw
- **Insects and Diseases of Woody Plants of the Central Rockies** by Whitney Cranshaw, Paul Opler, David Leatherman, William Jacobi, Boris Kondratieff
- **Pests of the West : Prevention and Control for Today's Garden and Small Farm** by Whitney Cranshaw
- **Bagging Big Bugs : How to Identify, Collect and Display the Largest and Most Colorful Insects of the Rocky Mountain Region** by Whitney Cranshaw, Boris Kondratieff
- **Pests of the West : Prevention and Control for Today's Garden and Small Farm** by Whitney Cranshaw



Continued from page 4

bathroom lights the bathroom went dark. Not only that, but the pond pump stopped working. Alas, the electrical supply to the pond and the bathroom are on the same circuit. With the addition of the second stock tank heater another 1500 watts was added to the demand on the circuit. This threw the breaker on that circuit darkening my downstairs bath and shutting off my pond pump. After deciding that I did not want to add a dedicated pond circuit (it's way too cold out outside by the breaker box), I opted to go with the one heater.

The pond's pump is now circulating water so I'm hoping my wet friends will greet me this spring, whenever that arrives. I do recall Keith Funk's story (the Garden Wise Guy) regarding the ice forming in front of his skimmer and the loss of all his Koi one winter. I understand Keith invested in a pond heater. How are your Koi doing, Keith?

On top of my worry that my wet friends may not make it, I've recently learned that this winter's unusually high number of subfreezing days and nights might mean that pond owners might loose some beloved water plants. My tropical water plants are safe in our sunroom, but I do have a few lotuses stored under bags of leaves in our very, very cold garage.

Does anyone else have lotus plants stored under leaves in their garage? Do not despair

Treasurer's Report

CWGS balance

as of Jan. 31, 2007:

\$16,178.10

lotus plant lovers! If you need a few, CWGS will have an opportunity for you to purchase new lotus plants soon. Read the article announcing the Lotus Sale in this newsletter and learn how you can make a purchase! pick up your new lotus plants and be ready to put them in your pond when the water temperature climbs to 68-77 degrees Fahrenheit- maybe late July this year.

If you're wondering about the photo of me fishing, I was experiencing a bit of cabin fever one day and, no, I did not have a hook on my line and my wet friends are safe.

Hmmm... I think I'll put on the old snowshoes and check out the ice on the pond. I'll see you at the General Meeting on Sunday, March 11 at 1:30pm in Gates Hall and the Get Wet Event on Wednesday, April 11th in Gates Hall. Keith Funk will be the Guest Speaker at the Get Wet Event. Ask him how his Koi are doing. ■

"The main purpose of a water garden is to give its owner the best and highest kind of earthly pleasure. CWGS's goal is to help insure that this is realized."

Gear Up for the Season at Special Event on April 11

By Jim Arneill

Are you looking for ways to get your pond looking even better this year? On Wednesday, April 11, "Get Wet – Water Gardening Fun in 2007!" will offer a fun and informative program to help kick-off the upcoming season. At this event held in Gates Hall at the Botanic Gardens, you will be among a multitude of water gardening experts and enthusiasts who will share lots of helpful information and practical tips on how to improve your water gardens.

Admission to Denver Botanic Gardens for the program is free, as is the program itself! When you arrive, walk past the main entrance gate, enter the building, and walk straight to the north end to Gates Hall.

From 6:30-7:00 pm in the foyer outside Gates Hall, representatives from the major garden centers in the metropolitan area will be set up with displays and information about the resources related to water gardening they can provide for you.

Then, a very special program inside Gates Hall begins at 7:00 with KEZW's "Garden Wise Guy" Keith Funk, who will provide valuable information about new products to enhance your water features. Afterwards, past CWGS President and water gardening

expert Cyndie Thomas will share practical information about our how our ponds, plants, and fish have been impacted by this past unusually cold and snowy winter and ways to respond to it. In addition, Joe Tomocik, Curator of Water Gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens, will address important water gardening issues.

From 8:30-9:00, you may take part in several demonstrations on topics that range from digital photography of water features, planting and dividing lotuses, and "Ask the Experts" for any of your own water gardening questions, or again visit with the major pond centers and businesses in our area.

The evening promises to be one of fun, education, humor, and even door prizes. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us for this special evening!

P.S.: A limited number of lotuses will be available for sale at this event. Many water gardeners consider the lotus as the central focus of their ponds, and you can learn how to plant and care for your lotus at the demonstration offered at the conclusion of the formal program. ■

Editor's note:

See Page 10 of this newsletter for information on how you can purchase lotus from CWGS for only \$20 / tuber