Still Coming in 2007…

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

Interested in serving on the Board? CWGS needs you! Contact a Board member to discuss options.

Participate in the round table discussion of the recent Membership Survey. Help set goals and directions for next year’s activities and events!

Sep. 30 or Oct. 7:
Fall Volunteer Sundays
Begin at DBG.
Exact date TBD. For more information or to sign up, contact Bill Powell 303.355.8098

Oct. 7:
Board Business Mtg.
2:30 PM, Blubaugh residence
3064 S. Holland Ct., Lakewood
Members welcome!

Dec. 1:
Holiday Banquet
6:00 to 9:00 PM
Morrison Ctr., DBG

Jim or I will be happy to give you information about specific open positions, but in general the duties are as follows:

Board Member Responsibilities
• Attend all Board, committee meetings and functions, including special events.
• Be informed about the organization’s mission, services, policies, and programs.
• Uphold and work to promote the organization’s mission.
• Establish policy, set general guidelines, and coordinate scheduled activities of all Society events.
• Contribute to the development and maintenance of the Society and ensure its financial solvency.
• Board members have a duty of loyalty to the organization and other Board members.
• Solicit input from members of the Society regarding programs and activities of the Society.
• Conduct projects to further the goals of the Society.
• Provide timely reports to the Board of Directors and/or publication in the newsletter.
• Act as an official representative of the Society and its membership only when so designated by the Board of Directors.
• Communicate all information to the Board of Directors pertinent to the functioning of the Society, or having an effect on the Society on an ongoing basis.
• As with committee assignments, additional duties may be “as assigned,” usually meaning as determined by the Board of Directors.

Visit us online at www.colowatergardensociety.org
# 2007 Board of Directors & Committee / Event Chairs

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gary Blubaugh</td>
<td>303.989.4464</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jim Arneill</td>
<td>303.843.9619</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bill Bathurst</td>
<td>303.421.1144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ken Lange</td>
<td>303.393.8410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members-At-Large</td>
<td>Jonathan Hough</td>
<td>303.499.6578</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joyce Blubaugh</td>
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<td>April Hough</td>
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<td>Marge Oleson</td>
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<td>Vicki Aber</td>
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<td>Janet Bathurst</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Cyndie Thomas</td>
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<td>Get Wet Event</td>
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<td>303.834.9619</td>
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<td>CWGS June Plant Sale</td>
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<td>Pond Tour / Picnic</td>
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<td>Water Blossom Festival</td>
<td>Duff Kerr</td>
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<tr>
<td>WebPage / Archives</td>
<td>Cyndie Thomas</td>
<td>303.755.1885</td>
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<td>DBG Plant Sale &amp; Volunteers</td>
<td>Bill Powell</td>
<td>303.355.8098</td>
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**MarketPlace**

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**Feedback Needed:**
Members, do you have thoughts regarding the Water Garden’s MarketPlace section? Tell us how it’s working for you. Contact Bill Powell at 303.355.8098.
Large Turnout Enjoys New Pond Ideas at “Get Wet!”

On the eve of this year’s most miss-predicted snowstorm, approximately sixty-five water gardening enthusiasts and experts assembled in Gates Hall for a fun and informative evening. After nearly two hours of humor and practical tips on enhancing water features, everyone seemed to leave with a feeling of enjoyment and new ideas to apply at home. Many also left with some outstanding door prizes provided by Keith Funk, and still others took home a brand new lotus to feature in their ponds!

As our keynote speaker, Keith highlighted many new products that would benefit our water features or would be just fun to add! He demonstrated many reasonably priced mechanical and biological filters to improve water clarity. …And he showed several types of fountains and misters -- some with Las Vegas-style lighting that would definitely turn a pond into a show palace for those wanting a colorful, glitzy look.

Other information helped participants to understand indicators to look for and which actions to take in response to this past harsh winter. Special thanks to Cyndie Thomas for all her photographs of plants and fish, as well as knowledge and research on this topic!

Joe Tomocik, Curator of Water Gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens, also provided helpful information. Special thanks to Stan Skinger who demonstrated how to plant and care for lotuses. Another “expert-on-hand” Bob Hoffman handled the questions at our Ask the Experts table and also assisted Stan’s demonstration.

Joe Mascarenas demonstrated how to take great pictures of water features. Joe’s handout sheet contained many helpful tips that were clearly manifest in his incredible photographs. What a great inspiration to encourage us all to get out there and photograph! Although Joe does process some of his photos at home, he uses Costco and other commercial resources for most of his production and even for his oversized prints. His results are spectacular and still reasonably inexpensive to produce.

Vicki Aber brought pre-ordered lotuses for pick up. An additional 16 lotuses were (continued on page 4)
CONTACT GARY @ 303.989.4464 TO VOLUNTEER APRIL 11 AT “GET WET”

Welcome New and Returning Members:

Vicki Aber
Arvada, CO

Kiebler (BR&D Landscape, Inc.)
Franktown, CO

Cara Ablin
Littleton, CO

Irma L. Miller
Franktown, CO

Bill & Janet Bathurst
Arvada, CO

Rebecca Nash
Centennial, CO

Gabriella & Mario Bertelmann
Denver, CO

Bill Powell & Bruce Polkowsky
Denver, CO

Deanna & Larry Davis
Highlands Ranch, CO

Chuck & Mary Purdy
Lafayette, CO

Gail Goldberg
Denver, CO

Andrea Sahlen & Dan Fyles
Aurora, CO

Nancy Novinger
Hagerty
Englewood, CO

Joe Salvati
Castle Rock, CO

Melba & Jerry Johnson
Lakewood, CO

Paul Swenby
Longmont, CO

Georgia Keller
Lakewood, CO

Karen Young
Englewood, CO

(Continued from page 3)
answer the question “How do you tell the difference between a damselfly and a dragonfly?”

Professor Cranshaw explained that even after a year of careful observation his study remains a work in progress. Fieldwork will continue. Various options are possible for distribution of the data and conclusions. Eventually the results may be published, or a website may be developed.

After Whitney’s presentation, the 60-plus attendees had an opportunity to enjoy refreshments, order lotus plants, and visit with Whitney. (By the way, the lotus plants can be picked up at the upcoming Get Wet Event in Gates Hall - 7 to 9 PM April 11. Lotus plants are still available for purchase, too! See page 10 of this newsletter.)

While a few lucky individuals left with door prizes, everyone walked away with a better appreciation for the role aquatic insects play in a water garden ecosystem.

How YOU can participate in Professor Cranshaw’s study:
Whitney’s study of aquatic insects and water garden ecosystems will continue. If you are interested in volunteering your pond, and perhaps your own involvement in insect collection, contact Cyndie Thomas at 303.755.1885 and via splaash@comcast.net

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from seed. More seed was obtained and distributed importing plants had failed; so, too, had propagation captivity during the late fall of 1849. Earlier attempts at Victoria was brought to flower for the first time in expensive undertaking, but what better way to suddenly made growth of tropical plants possible in a glass and innovations in metallurgy and space heating technological advances. Increased production of Victorian interest in the exotic was matched by Victorias were a big (literally big) hit in the burgeoning of his Queen. Later the species name was changed named the species regia (or perhaps established the plant as a separate genus Victoria and 1837 John Lindley, the eminent English horticulturist, beginning of the 19th century, it was called – understandably - the "Giant Water Platter." For years the species languished as a memory until it’s repeated rediscovery by both French and English naturalists. In 1837 John Lindley, the eminent English horticulturist, established the plant as a separate genus Victoria and named the species regia (or perhaps regina) in honor of his Queen. Later the species name was changed to amazónica, respecting precedent of an earlier moniker given to the species when it was thought to be the same genus as the smaller Asian Euryale. Despite the confusion over scientific classification, Victorias were a big (literally big) hit in the burgeoning English gardening circles at just the time when Victorian interest in the exotic was matched by technological advances. Increased production of glass and innovations in metallurgy and space heating suddenly made growth of tropical plants possible in a cold climate, at least for the wealthy. It was an expensive undertaking, but what better way to demonstrate one’s erudition and disposable wealth simultaneously? Victoria was brought to flower for the first time in captivity during the late fall of 1849. Earlier attempts at importing plants had failed; so, too, had propagation from seed. More seed was obtained and distributed to the royal gardens at Kew and to the private estate of Chatsworth. After three years of congenital competition, Kew’s director William Hooker succeeded in germinating seedlings first. Hooker generously shared his plantlets with Joseph Paxton, the head gardener at Chatsworth. Paxton, long respected for his horticultural success at the estate, had also become an innovative landscape designer and engineer. His construction, a decade earlier, of Chatsworth’s “Conservative Wall” followed by "The Great Stove" explored new twists on passive solar gardening principles and active space heating as well. The "stove" incorporated cast iron columns, plate glass glazing, central heating, and sophisticated laminated wood rafter purflins that imparted a voluptuous bee hive shape to the enormous hot house. When the prospect of raising seedling Victoria lilies was presented to him, Paxton wasted no time in developing a third glasshouse dedicated to, and inspired by, the vast Victoria waterlily. As the seedlings grew in a special heated tank housed in The Great Stove of Chatsworth, work began on the dedicated lily house. “Taking the form of a large glass box, the new house was just over sixty feet long and forty-seven feet wide, almost completely filled by a large circular tank. Only four very thin wrought-iron beams supported the roof, with very thin wrought-iron beams supported the roof, with eight slender, hollow cast-iron columns to brace the structure, doubling as drains for water. Ventilation was provided by openings in the stone basement and movable roof lights. Air and water temperature were maintained at between 80 and 90 [degrees] F by heating pipes than ran around the outside of the house and through the water in the tank itself. Four little wheels kept the water moving...” Paxton later wrote that the structure of the Victoria leaf inspired the nominally flat "ridge and furrow" design of his unique lily house roof. He had noticed the ribbing and cross-veining of the Victoria leaf gave great strength to its thin membrane. He incorporated a similar structural pattern, albeit in a simplified and orthogonal mode, in the lily house roof. The result was a flat three-dimensional, glass roofed, rudimentary truss of surprising delicacy. motion, to keep pouring and distributing the gel under and on the flower. If you notice a petal that has become flattened or distorted, you can tweak it gently with your finger. As you get to the top of the flower, especially if it has upright stamens, pour the silica gel vertically and directly between the stamens to maintain their position. Complete the process by pouring more silica gel under and on top of the upper petals so that they retain their shape and positions. 6. Cover the container with its lid and allow the silica gel to absorb the moisture from the flower blossom for about 4 or 5 days. The exact drying time will vary with the size and type of blossom. The instructions inside the silica gel container include a flower drying timetable that ranges from 2 to 7 days depending on the type of flower. If you leave the blossom in the silica gel too long, I have noticed that the flowers look more dried up and faded. 7. After a few days, remove the lid and carefully pour out the top portion of silica gel. As you see the dried flower, carefully continue pouring out the silica gel, and at some point, you can gently hold onto the blossom and then shake out most of the remaining silica gel. Some people place the dried blossoms in a rectangular shallow-edged cardboard box (like for cards of 6-packs) for a few more days. As it is gently shaken, the final remaining silica gel crystals are removed from the blossoms. Without the moisture in the petals, they are more brittle so some care is needed when handling them. 8. Voilà – a wonderful remembrance of the lily in your pond! Especially when clustered with other lilies, they add a beautiful touch to any home or patio. The colors may fade some over time, especially if exposed to direct sunlight, but they will still look very nice. I have left my dried flowers as they are, but I have also heard of some people adding a light layer of hairspray or a dried flower preservative. For those who would like to dry their water lilies using a quicker method, you may also microwave the container with the flower and silica gel. It’s recommended that you place a cup of water along side your sealed drying container in your microwave and heat everything for about 3 minutes, although the “cooking” time will vary depending on the microwave and size of flower. You might want to keep a notebook and experiment with the length of time that works best for you. Enjoy the final days of your beautiful water lilies in your pond and maybe afterwards in your home for many more! Safety Note: Especially when pouring the silica gel, there is a very fine powder in the air. The powder may present a health hazard, so exercise care not to breathe this in. Alternatively, purchase a mask that prevents these particles from being inhaled.
Bob Hoffman says it couldn’t be easier.

Those of us who don’t have greenhouses (or any sunny spots left near our windows) face a dilemma every fall — how to over-winter our tropical water plants. Tropical waterlilies are particularly problematic to keep in a state of active growth. High light levels and lots of heated water are required. Maintaining such a volume of standing water inside your home can invite disaster — and unappealing odors.

CWGS member Bob Hoffman has a simple strategy for over-wintering tropical waterlilies in a mostly dormant state. And… the approach has the advantage that it can be done completely outside using readily available products! Bob revealed his tricks during a demonstration at the recent CWGS-sponsored Water Blossom Festival. (Read the companion article in this issue for more on the Festival.)

Toward the end of warm weather and prior to the first freeze, Bob removes all but the smallest leaves from his tropical lilies. To reduce space requirements he often “down-pots” into the smallest plastic pot that will accommodate the leaves from his tropical lilies. To reduce space demands of the container, but Bob has found that a single heater set on its lowest temperature setting (usually around 65 to 70 degrees) suffices to keep the water in his half-barrel from freezing in even the coldest Colorado season. Be sure to operate the heater on a ground fault protected (GFI) circuit. GFI protected outlets are readily available at hardware stores and are no more complicated to install than a replacement outlet.

During our coldest weather the heater may run constantly, but the water temperature will probably remain in the low to mid 40’s. The plant will not flourish, but it will survive and propagate additional plantlets through a natural survival mechanism triggered by reduced growing conditions.

Threatened by cooler water, the plant stores sustenance in one or more tubers that develop below the soil. Around the end of February or beginning of March as days begin to lengthen, Bob searches for viable tubers and plantlets developing from the original plant. He pots these into the smallest plastic pots he has, reserving the original tuber by floating it in the tank. Sometimes as the water warms, the parent tuber generates additional plants still — a perfect spring gift for your water gardening friends! In June Bob up-pots the growing plants for use in his decorative container gardens and later display in his ponds.

Bob reports that some species respond more prolifically under his regimen than others. One unknown blue-flowering tropical lily in his collection (possibly Blue Beauty) routinely generates 15 to 35 plants each year. Not all species are as cooperative, but Bob finds that almost without fail he is able to regenerate at least one plant from each tropical waterlily that he over-winters with this simple, but effective, approach.

Information for this article came from a conversation with Bob Hoffman. He can be reached at 303.978.0124. Additional information can be found online. Sean Stevens, among others, has descriptive instructions that can be retrieved by entering “tropical waterlily propagation” into a search engine.