

Colorado Water Garden Society
1210 Clayton Street
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Still Coming in 2007...

**Dec. 1
Holiday Banquet
6:00 to 9:00 PM**

*Morrison Center
Denver Botanic Gardens
SE corner of 11th and York St.*

*Free for all members:
Food, Fun, and a return to
childhood!*

*Join us as we recognize the
accomplishments of our many
Water Garden volunteers.*

*RSVP today at 303.329.6624 or
via email ggold@pcisys.net*

And, in 2008...

CWGSat25

Our Silver Anniversary

A year of celebration!

*In addition to all our usual
annual activities and events, in
mid-summer as part of a special
weekend we hope to host a
keynote speaker of international
prominence in water gardening.*

*Details to be announced in the
Spring.*



The Water Garden

Volume 24 Number 8

December 2007

December 1
*You're Invited to
A Holiday Banquet...*



Join us for a plateful of fun. See page 3

Visit us online at www.colowatergardensociety.org

2008 Board of Directors & Committee / Event Chairs

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Vice President Jim Arneill	303.843.9619
Secretary Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
Treasurer Ken Lange	303.393.8410
Members-At-Large Jonathan Hough	303.499.6578
Gail Goldberg	303.329.6624
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Marge Oleson	303.989.4809
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Thanks!

Thank you, all of our 2007 newsletter advertisers. We hope you will continue to support The Water Garden in the club's Silver Anniversary year of 2008.

Membership

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 Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale
Hudson Gardens Newsletter CWGS Plant Sale (June) Pond Tour (July)
Water Blossom / Anniversary Festival (July) Holiday Party (Dec.)

Or...Did you know?

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

Features

*...A Holiday
Banquet unlike any
in the past.*

We'll Be Traveling Back
to Your Childhood!

The fun starts at 6:00 on Saturday, December 1 in the Morrison Center at Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Morrison Center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Eleventh and York Streets. Some parking is available in the lot immediately adjacent to the Center and along the public streets. More parking is available in DBG's main lot to the south.

Please join us as we celebrate the season, the Society's accomplishments, and the hard work of our many volunteers.

On behalf of the 2007 Banquet Committee,

Gail Goldberg

April Hough 

This year the CWGS holiday banquet will be all about childhood memories. We're serving "Sloppy Joes," and asking everyone to bring their favorite childhood side dish to round out our fun fare. Dessert and beverages will be provided. There's no cost for the dinner.

What do children like best of all? Presents!! To honor the child in all of us, we'll hold a round-robin gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift with a water garden theme. Suggested value is \$5 to \$10. The connection to the water garden theme can be as loose as you like. Some suggestions are Holiday ornaments, pond services (i.e., dividing & repotting lilies or dividing and repotting marginals), or pond decorations.

There will be a few gifts available for purchase at the banquet for those of you who forgot to bring one. These will be yours for a \$10 donation to the CWGS, and you will have no idea what's inside!

PS:

If you can see that you'll be able to join us, please RSVP so we can develop an approximate count of attendance. But, if you decide at the last minute to come, don't be concerned that you didn't respond. We'll have room for you!

Also, we need volunteers to help with set-up and clean up.

Please call or email Gail (303.329.6624 or ggold@pcisys.net) to RSVP and to volunteer.

Greetings from Vicki Aber, *Incoming President for our Silver Anniversary Year...and Beyond.*

I want to thank the CWGS membership for placing your trust in me to lead you for the next two years. (It might have been better to have a few more people to voice opinions at the Election.) In any case, I'm flattered. Of course the President's job is the easiest job when there is a great Board of Trustees. Luckily we do have a great board, and I plan on taking a lot of credit and letting them do all the work!

We will miss Gary and Joyce Blubaugh on the Board but hope to see a lot of them at events and general membership meetings. They both did a wonderful job. Gary, as President, left the club in a great position to move forward.

Move forward we will! The Board has been discussing some really exciting programs for 2008. It's our 25th anniversary as a club. We're planning a big summer event as the centerpiece of a yearlong celebration. Stay tuned for all the details. I'm sure the membership will be as excited as the Board.

If anyone has any suggestions on programs, or ways to celebrate the club's silver anniversary, please let me, Jim Arneill, or any of the board, know.

We start the year this December 1 with a very special Holiday party. See you all there!

Vicki Aber

CWGS Board President

PS: Be sure to read the article on page 3 of this newsletter for the particulars of the upcoming Holiday Banquet. It's free and fun!

Board Election Results

At the September 9 Annual Meeting, the following slate of candidates was elected to fill open positions announced in the September issue of The Water Garden:

President: Vicki Aber
Treasurer: Ken Lange

Members-at-Large:

April Hough
Jonathan Hough
Gail Goldberg

Terms are for two years and are staggered. Each year approximately 50% of the 13 Board positions are open for election. At present three Member-at-Large positions remain open and can be filled by appointment of the Board for the remainder of the slot's term.

Mark Your Calendar!

July 26/27, 2008

The weekend of July 26th and 27th, in conjunction with the Society's 25th anniversary, CWGS will host one of the most spectacular water gardening events to take place in Denver in many years.

The activities are still being conceived, but early plans envision speakers of international prominence, exciting hands-on learning, fun tours of local water gardening venues, a silent auction, a delectable wine and cheese tasting, and a special toast to the founders of CWGS and other noted water gardening contributors!

If you have suggestions for topics of the breakout sessions, ideas for local tour sites, or anything else to share about making the event as successful as possible, please contact Jim Arneill at (303) 843-9619.

Also, if you would like to be involved in helping with the event, please contact me. There are several aspects for which support from CWGS members would be greatly appreciated. And you'll have fun, too!

On behalf of the Festival planning committee,

Jim Arneill

Farewell and Happy Ponding

(continued from page 5)

I will also be continuing my volunteer work with Jefferson County Open Space as a naturalist/ Pine Valley Ranch Open Space Park Host.

I'll volunteer as a West Denver Trout Unlimited Fly Tying/Fly Fishing instructor in the summer at Pine Valley Ranch Open Space Park.

...And, in order to fund travel for Joyce and myself, I'll be working sporadically as a high school science substitute teacher. (We've made it to Scotland and Italy thus far!)

I'll see you at the Holiday Banquet at the Morrison Center in December! Meanwhile, good luck with winterizing your pond.

Gary Blubaugh

Treasurer's Report

CWGS Balance
As of Oct 31, 2007
\$ 19,190. 09

over the past year, we have noticed the names of new and returning members, some from our own community of Boulder, whom we have not had the opportunity to meet at various society meetings and work sessions. Although we all have a common interest in water gardens, we are also all very busy so it's understandable that not all folks have gotten to know one another, especially the newer members. Some of us also live quite far from central Denver.

Wouldn't it be fun and useful to have some regional (e.g., northern or southern counties) informal get-togethers (all CWGS members or interested people welcome) just to talk about our current projects, successes, and problems? That might be especially useful to newer members. Sunday afternoon get-togethers for coffee or a cool drink and pond talk would work, but others might have alternative formats and more appropriate times. Please contact a board member with comments or suggestions, or with an offer to host such an event, if you think it a useful idea for the society.

New and Renewing Members:

David and Cynthia Becklund
Littleton, CO

Joe and Kathy Springer
Lakewood, CO

Carol Tuttle and Lyn Bartelt
Denver, CO

Michael Weber
Denver, CO

Evolution of a Container Water Gardener

By Joseph V. Tomocik



I started with three half-barrels that I displayed at the south end of the Monet Garden pool for many years. I was in love with those half-barrels, and I used my favorite plants ceremoniously.

My waterlily selections were the hardy *Nymphaea* 'Laydekeri Rosea' (hybridizer: Latour Marliac) and the small, powder-blue, viviparous, tropical *N. Daubenyana*. The dwarf cattail (*Typha minima*) worked well and duckweed (*Lemna minor*) was a lot of fun.

I marveled at these little gems and the Gardens' visitors loved them as well. I was so enthralled that I eventually purchased twenty-four whisky barrels from Ace Hardware, bringing them to my backyard and doing my own research.

After a number of years I moved on to something else - plastic containers. I soon forgot about the half-barrels as the plastic containers offered longevity; they did not fall apart after winter storage.

I began to experiment with different plants and techniques. Favorite plants expanded to taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), umbrella plant (*Cyperus alternifolius*) and aquatic mint different forms, sizes and colors.

Later, I worked a bit more loosely. I was now using more plants and creating fuller displays.

Aquatics with non-floating leaves (marginals) could be planted directly into soil and did not have to be submerged. Maintenance was easier and many more plants could be used.

By now we were using glazed containers of various sizes, colors, and shapes. The numbers increased dramatically, peaking out in 2003 when a record breaking eighty-one aquatic container gardens (dubbed "Project 81") graced DBG.

Finally, let me note that my container water gardening evolution would never have materialized without the encouragement and help of so many CWGS volunteers!

"Little things... can be monumental"

**Sunday, March 9 at 1:30 PM
Gates Hall, Denver Botanic
Gardens**

The program will cover the basics of container water gardening, but also some tricks of the trade. Curator Joe Tomocik will discuss recommended plant species, container types, planning and planting strategies, techniques, and maybe a few hints that will surprise.

"Sometimes," Joe says, "the secret lies in little (minuscule, seemingly unimportant) things!" Joe should know. He's perfected the art of container water gardening through years of trial and error. Read about his experience in the accompanying article.



Cattails flourish in the gardens at DBG

Cattails: Superb Reproducers

**By Luke Tembrock, Horticulturist
Denver Botanic Gardens**

Cattail is an overarching common name given to all species in the genus *Typha*, which is the sole genus of the family Typhaceae.

Cattails come by their common name because of the large apical inflorescence that resembles the bushy tail of a feline. This inflorescence should not be overlooked but, instead, revered for its fecundity, efficiency, economic usefulness, and simple grace.

Undoubtedly fecund, the female portion of the inflorescence (which is borne below the male segment of the inflorescence, sometimes separated by a bare space) produces hundreds of thousands of seeds. A single flower produces a single seed, known as a follicle. In mass, follicles produce the cottony discharge seen

floating airborne from cattail colonies alongside ponds, lakes and streams. The seeds need only find themselves on moist soil that is not exceedingly saline in order for them to germinate. Try germinating cattail cotton sometime; it's easy! (Just ask Denver Botanic Gardens' Mike Bone or Joe Tomocik).

Efficiency is also an easy case to make for the cattail. A single female *Typha* flower gives rise to a single seed, and as noted before, an inflorescence can bear hundreds of thousand of seeds. This means that a single "cattail" is made up of hundreds of thousands of flowers. The architecture of a cattail clearly optimizes space to the advantage of reproductive capacity.

Cattails achieve such an amazing rate of reproduction by discarding all of the typical floral vanities that are hugely energy-consumptive. If one were to dissect a *Typha* flower, the nectaries, flower petals, multiple flower parts and other typical flower parts (calices) would not be found.

Because cattails do not possess all the insect-attracting frills of many flowers, they must rely on the wind to do the work to which bees are usually consigned. Wind pollination has become an efficient strategy for the *Typha* because pollen from male flowers (making up the upper third or so of the tail) is also produced in massive abundance. In fact, the pollen from cattails is dispensed so abundantly that people of

indigenous cultures the world-over utilize it as a food source.

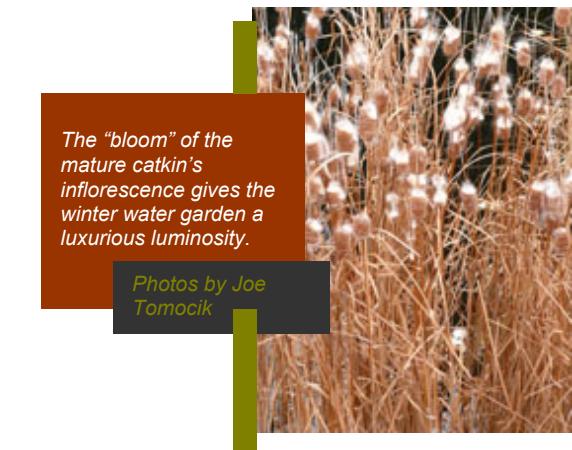
In addition, Paleobotanists can understand past climates and plant populations by excavating swamp bottoms and deciphering the strata produced by *Typha* pollen. Only plants that produce prodigious amounts of pollen are capable of depositing distinct seasonal strata that can be studied thousands of years later.

Two economic aspects of *Typha* pollen were mentioned above, but the cattail's "cotton" also has specific uses that include tinder (for igniting fires) and insulation in such things as pillows, quilts, toys, diapers, and life preservers.

The case for grace is subjective, but it's not difficult to prove, for why would cattails have risen to such ascendancy in the water gardens of so many admirers except for the plant's grace? And why do children spend entire afternoons spreading cattail cotton throughout their neighborhoods in what is likely their first biological dissection? Or why have horticulturists cultivated and hybridized the cattail for so many years?...Because long ago in her pursuit to reproduce, to replicate, and to burgeon forth in multifarious propagules, Nature found a superb model in the ways of *Typha*!

References:

- <http://www.efloras.org/florataxon>
- <http://delta-intkey.com/angio/wwwtyphacea.htm>



The "bloom" of the mature catkin's inflorescence gives the winter water garden a luxurious luminosity.

Photos by Joe Tomocik

Did you know...? the meaning of:

"Apical"

Of or pertaining to the top, located at the top, or constituting the apex of....

"Inflorescence"

The budding and flowering of a plant, particularly structure that consists of more than one distinct, individual flower.

"Calices"

Groups of sepals (leaf-like structures) arranged around the outside of a flower to enclose and protect the bud.

"Propagules"

Parts of a plant, such as the buds, that become detached to form a new organism.