1210 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80206-3214

**Colorado Water Garden Society** 

# This Year:

CONGO at 25

**Our Silver Anniversary** 

Aug. 17, 2:00 pm:

Waterside Program by Abbot Martin Mosko at the Hakubai **Buddhist Temple meditation** garden and pond at 1275 Cherryvale Road, Boulder.

Following Mr. Mosko's program and a tour of the Temple grounds, we will visit CWGS Member Deirdre Parker's "eclectic" water garden located nearby.

Sep. 14: Program, Annual Mtg., and Board Elections 1:30 to 3:30. Gates Hall Denver Botanic Gardens.

Interested in being on the Board? Contact any Board Member.

Program topic: Winterizing your pond

Oct. 5: Possible Extra Mtg. Time, location and Program to be determined

Dec. 7: Holiday Banquet 6:00 - 9:00 Morrison Ctr., DBG



Volume 25 Number 6

25th Anniversary

August 2008

# **Summer Tranquility:**

Our August Waterside Program will visit the meditation garden of the Hakubai Temple. By Bill Powell

By now you may be frazzled from the many activities you've already squeezed into your summer schedule. (I know that those of us who were involved in staging and attending our recent Water Blossom Festival have yet to catch our breath.) Still, the club has one more summer activity to tempt you. Paradoxically, this may be a case where more entails less, because our upcoming visit to the Hakubai Temple gardens promises to lessen stress and cleanse our minds.

Sunday Aug 17 the Abbot (Zenji) of the Hakubai Buddhist Temple in Boulder will host a private. waterside tour of the Temple's meditation grounds and its beautiful water feature. Zenji Martin Mosko will reflect on the purpose of the meditation garden within the Zazen tradition of "sitting meditation," and he'll speak on the origins of the garden and the planting of the pool, which was undertaken by CWGS member Deidre Parker.

" 'Za (sitting) means not to give rise to thoughts (no delusion) under any circumstances. Zen (meditation) means to see your original nature and not become confused.' Zazen offers an opportunity to step back from the busy and distracted everyday life, and to find out who we are and why we are here." For those of you interested in more photos of the gardens or additional information on the Hakubai Temple and Zen, visit www.hakubaitemple.org

Sneak a peek at our... Waterside Program Sun, Aug 17 2:00 pm in Boulder



Landscape Architect and Buddhist Abbot Martin Mosko will speak in the gardens of the Hakubai Buddhist Temple. Boulder. Afterwards, we visit Deidre Parker's eclectic and creative water garden.

the organization's website from which the above quote was lifted.

Mr. Mosko is also a landscape architect who operates Marpa and Associates, a design/build firm with many notable gardens and ponds to its credit.

Following Mr. Mosko's program and a tour of the gardens and associated yurts, Deidre will lead (continued on page 6)

### MarketPlace

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#### Please Note:

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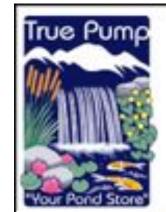
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Features

# Market place

#### And More Thanks...

...to the many donors who helped to underwrite the cost of Water Blossom Festival 2008 through their contributions to the Silent Auction:

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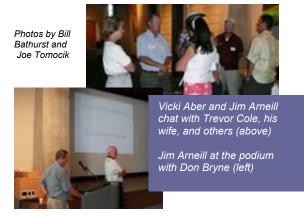
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Water Garden Tour Saturday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9-5 Sunday, Aug. 10, 10-5



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# Water Blossom Festival Honors CWGS Silver Anniversary!

by Jim Arneill, CWGS Vice President and Event Chairperson

This year's Water Blossom Festival provided a special opportunity to celebrate both the beauty of the water gardening season and the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Over the weekend of July 26 and 27, CWGS and Denver Botanic Gardens co-presented an array of programs and activities in and outside the Gardens. Professionals from Florida and Alabama joined local authorities to speak on a range of water gardening topics. Local garden center staff and club members worked together to offer informational seminars and tours to sites of interest. And with the generosity of event sponsors, local retailers, and our own membership, the club held a successful silent auction to help underwrite the cost of the event.

The Festival opened on Saturday with a short welcome by CWGS President Vicki Aber. Joe Tomocik, Curator of Water Gardens at DBG, followed with some observations about the Gardens, its historic connection to CWGS, and a tantalizing hint about renovations to the DBG aquatic greenhouses, scheduled to begin this fall

Don Bryne of Suwannee Laboratories in Lake City Florida gave the morning program. Don is known both for hybridization and exploration of indigenous water plant species. The subject of Don's PowerPoint program (a recent research trip to Amazonas, Brazil) may constitute a very significant horticultural discovery – a possible new, dwarf species of the genus Victoria. The plant is currently under evaluation, and if found to be replicable may be of particular interest for smaller garden ponds in cooler climates.

Morning breakout sessions offered a variety of water gardening related seminars on pond insects, container water gardens, digital photography of water features, koi husbandry, tours of DBG's greenhouse water garden program, and water quality and filtration, among other topics. Following Lunch, Denver Botanic Gardens Director of Horticulture Sarada Krishnan spoke on "Urban Gardening: The Art of Creating Inspiring Gardens." Sarada's presentation explored the possibilities of gardening with water in small spaces and with limited means.

After a second breakout session, Saturday's events concluded with a look back. Members Nancy Styler and Lois Mayerchak presented a "History of Water Gardening in the Denver Area," a fascinating compilation of early water gardening. Former CWGS President Cyndie

(continued on next page – page 4)

#### Features

#### Water Blossom Festival...

(continued from page 4)

Thomas followed with a comprehensive review of the Society's history from its inception in 1983 to the present. A celebratory toast commemorated the Society's Silver Anniversary as the first day of the Water Blossom Festival drew to a close with the announcement of the silent auction winners.

As part of our Silver Anniversary toast, longtime club members Nancy and Lynn Jewett were recognized for their many contributions to the Society and were awarded Honorary Life Memberships in CWGS. Because the Festival was conceived in part to bridge our past to our future, we were particularly honored to have Cofounders Mary Mirgon and Joe Tomocik with us on both days. Honorary Life Members Ellen Westbrook and Lois Mayerchak also joined us.

Sunday began with a continental breakfast (complete with samples of water-related foods including lotus and water chestnuts.) Breakfast was followed by Nancy Styler's presentation on "The Victoria Waterlily, Its History & Lore." Nancy explained the history of Victoria's discovery and propagation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, subsequent hybridization of the famed Longwood hybrid, and her own experience hybridizing Victoria. Recalling Don Bryne's morning program on the Amazon, Nancy reminisced about her trips to the region and concluded with a revealing look at the process she uses each year to grow Victoria anew from seed. (A resident of Greenwood Village, Nancy Styler is internationally renown for her expertise with Victoria and her operation of The Victoria Conservancy, a seed bank dedicated to the protection of the species and education about Victoria.)

Festival welcome address at Denver Botanic Gardens (right)
Marge Oleson, Lynn Jewett, Mary Mirgon, and Nancy Jewett (from left to right below)

Photos by Bill Powell and Joe Tomocik

Trevor Cole, owner of Across The Pond - a garden center in Huntsville, shared how his childhood experiences on a farm in Cambridgeshire England tweaked curiosity that eventually led to his water gardening operations half a world away – and "across the pond" - in Alabama. Trevor's enthusiasm for engaging the imagination of children who enter his shop was equally infectious with Festival adults. His strategies for attracting wildlife to backyard water gardens delighted the audience.

After lunch the Festival dispersed as people readied for two final sessions of visits to water gardening destinations around Denver.
Participants departed for guided tours of DBG, Best Way Imported Koi, Enery Water Gardens, Hudson Gardens, the Styler Gardens, and the University of Denver Campus Water Gardens, and the two-day Festival concluded.

#### Many Thanks... (continued from page 5)

Debbie Weingardt provided valuable information about koi both in Saturday sessions and by hosting tours.

In addition, we had experts from local garden centers sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm - Dee Beckham from Tagawa's and Zack Ploen from Highlands Garden Center. Zack also invited Shane Hastings from P3 Ponds and Adrian Megan from Emperor Aquatics.

Thanks, also, to Hudson Gardens, Enery Water Gardens, Best Way Imported Koi, University of Denver, Styler Gardens, and Denver Botanic Gardens for hosting our tours.

We had excellent support from Denver Botanic Gardens, specifically Joe Tomocik, Jermaine Brown, Sarada Krishnan, Matt Cole, Celia Curtis, Kellyn Smith, Meghan Kavanaugh and Kelly Ortmeier.

Our final thanks go to everyone who helped fund the Festival 2008 - our event sponsors, silent auction donors, and participants. Without their backing, we would not have been able to present this program in honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (Lists of sponsors and donors follow this article.)

We hope that everyone who attended The Water Blossom Festival enjoyed the program offerings. Perhaps some seeds were planted that will bring about other special activities in the future. As is the case when dividing waterlilies, sometimes in cultivating one plant (or event) small, almost hidden, growths are freed that one day can grow into magnificent and, even unexpected, new creations.

#### Thanks...

...to our event sponsors who made Water Blossom Festival 2008 possible though their generous financial and staff support:

#### **GARDEN CENTER SPONSORS:**

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#### OTHER EVENT SPONSORS:

- BR&D Landscape
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- Hudson's Gardens

#### And our apologies...

....to True Pump and O'Toole's for omitting your names from the first run of event brochures. It was an editing oversight. "You supported us from the beginning!"

ingredient in almost any sweetener used in the United States.

Aside from the inflationary impact of diverting food commodities to bio-diesel, the cost of their production has to be factored into the ultimate cost of any fuel they produce. To grow corn and soybeans in the large quantities that current farming practices enjoy and depend upon, great amounts of cheap fertilizer are required. The source of synthetic (non-organic) fertilizer is, ironically, petroleum. So, to raise lots of corn and soybean for use in biofuel production, one must first have lots of cheap fertilizer, the source for which is currently a byproduct of the petroleum industry. Furthermore, farming is labor intensive, and uses a great deal of energy in operating machinery for planting, fertilizing, pest control, and harvesting.

Land is also an issue. Only good, nutrient-rich and amply watered soil can produce corn and soybean in abundance. Good farmland and abundant water are in short supply themselves.

Other less demanding sources of biofuel are under investigation - including the use of switch grass and byproducts from timber production, but Algae would seem to offer the best option for commercial development.

Algae reproduces quickly, doubling its mass in about a day. It doesn't require arable farmland for propagation, and certain strains are particularly rich in energy, producing "high concentrations of oil when compared to other biofuel sources."\*

Algae doesn't even require clean or fresh water. It can be grown successfully in brine. Seaweed, after all, is merely a marine form of Algae. And

it doesn't require arable land, or even land at all.

Despite promise, challenges remain in the development of commercially viable biofuel from algae. While we may think of algae as a single, simple life form, it's actually "a large and diverse group of simple, typically autotrophic organisms ranging from unicellular to multicellular forms."\*\* Like modern agriculture of corn and soybean, in order for harvesting of algae to be commercially productive of bio-fuels, the crop would need to be a clean monoculture of a single, selected algae strain, which DNA has been manipulated to produce the requisite energy-rich oil.

Maintaining a consistent monoculture of algae soup is problematic. Believe it or not, algae is subject to bacterial and viral attack (particularly when raised as a single monoculture), and there's always the possibility of contamination with other, less productive, strains of algae.

The challenges are great, but if algae can be developed as an alternative source for biobuel, algae has the further advantage of a particularly low "carbon footprint" in that its life cycle locks up "free" carbon, and on an acre by acre basis is thought to be capable of producing "30 – 100 times the oil yield of soybeans on marginal land and in brackish water. The biomass left-over from oil pressing can either be fed to cattle as a protein supplement, or fermented into ethanol."

...And here we thought Algae was just a plague upon our ponds!

#### References:

\* From

www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/07/30/roadtrips.algae.fuel

\*\* From Wikipedia entry on Algae

\*\*\* From http://gas2.org/2008/03/29/first-algaehiodiesel

# Many Thanks from Jim:

As event chairperson, I have many people to thank for their wonderful help. Please know if you are not mentioned that your contributions are greatly valued and appreciated.

Bill Powell spent an enormous number of hours providing practical ideas and wisdom, editing, developing crisp communications and graphics, and taking charge of a well run silent auction.

Vicki Aber, Ken Lange, and Marge Oleson carried out major components of the event, helping it to run smoothly. Behind the scenes, each worked quietly on time-consuming jobs too numerous to list.

Several people helped with refreshments, the silent auction, and other needed tasks. Thank you Janet and Bill Bathurst, April and Jonathan Hough, Joyce and Gary Blubaugh, and Gabriella Bertelmann.

Cyndie Thomas not only did outstanding presentations on container gardens and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program and Toast, but helped order the specially etched wine glasses. She also contributed her technological expertise throughout, most particularly in mounting information about the Water Blossom Festival on the Society's website. In addition, Cyndie organized the sampling of water-related food items as part of Sunday morning's refreshments. Mike, Cyndie's husband, did extensive research on each type of food and set up the extensive display.

Special thanks to all of our speakers. Don Bryne and Trevor Cole had to travel the farthest to share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

Sarada Krishnan supported our program and gave special focus to "Urban Gardening."
Nancy Styler's Victoria and history presentations were fabulous as usual. Whitney Cranshaw presented another captivating program on pond insects.

**Features** 

Terri King, a DBG volunteer, demonstrated her talents with the designs of the event brochure and the accompanying posters, both of which set high standards as models for future events.

Starbucks on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Clayton generously provided all the coffee on both days.

Photos by Bill Bathurst and Gary Blubaugh



Breakout learning session at DBG (above)

Gary Blubaugh stands on a Victoria leaf at the Styler Gardens (left)

The following CWGS members helped with the informational sessions, gave tours, or assisted in other ways: Tudi Arneill, John Bayard, Doris and Len Freestone, Fran and Bob Hoffman, Trina Jacobson, Duff Kerr, Bud and Debbi Kiebler, Carla Littlefield, Carla and Joe Mascarenas, Lois Mayerchak, Mary Mirgon, and Les Petrash.

(continued on page 13)

#### **Features**

# Summer Tranquility...

(continued from front page)







Photos by Deidre Parker

the group to her home, a short drive from the Temple grounds. Deidre calls her water features eclectic and a bit guirky, designed to "make the most out of my urban property." Despite space limitations, she's developed a small pond and multiple features using cleverly repurposed found objects.

Deidre's design "was completely inspired and furnished by my local salvage yard, Resource 2000. I had tons of green marble sitting around my deck for months, scratching my head, trying to figure out how to design the ponds in such a small space. Then I had a dream that was absolutely clear and specific, down to the copper plumbing. That was the beginning. I have trouble staying out of the salvage yards, so I recently found an old, hand carved marble sink, probably from the turn of the century. I am in the process of building yet another water feature in this very small yard."

The club will provide refreshments at Deidre's. The outing will conclude with a short discussion about this season's programs and activities. It's free. Why not take some time to relax and enjoy a Sunday afternoon with friends by cooling waters?

#### **Summer Tranquility August 17 Waterside Program**

#### Time and Place:

Sunday, Aug 17, 2:00 PM in the meditation garden of the Hakubai Temple 1275 Cherryvale Road, Boulder (look for the tiled sign reading "Marpa".) If you require seating, bring a folding chair or blanket.

#### Directions:

From Denver, take Route 36 west to the Foothills exit. This exit has two branches: take the one on the left leading to Foothills Parkway. Once on the Parkway, proceed to the stop light at Arapahoe Road, and turn right. Follow Arapahoe past 55th Street to the stop light at Cherryvale Road, and turn right. Follow Cherryvale approximately one-half mile, and turn into the last driveway on the right BEFORE the stop sign. (You will see a tiled sign reading "Marpa" on the right, and an arrangement of very large rocks on the left of the drive.)

From Boulder, take Arapahoe Road east to Cherryvale Road, and turn right. Follow Cherryvale approximately one-half mile, and turn into the last driveway on the right BEFORE the stop sign. (You will see a tiled sign reading "Marpa" on the right, and an arrangement of very large rocks on the left of the drive

#### Parking:

Follow the drive (between the "Marpa" sign and arrangement of very large rocks) around to the left, and park perpendicular to the green fence surrounding the Temple grounds. Please do not park near the house at 1275, or enter or exit by its drive.

# Water To Burn Pond algae offers potential as a source of bio-diesel

Bv Bill Powell

One of the most common and prolific of water plants - and one of pond keeping's more aggravating pests - may soon be raised commercially. Tightening of world petroleum supplies and increasing unit costs have recently breathed life into the search for alternative fuels from botanic sources.

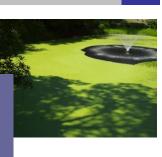
Starting in the early 1980's NREL, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, located outside of Golden CO. began to study the feasibility of developing algae to produce botanically-derived fuel oil or bio-diesel as it's come to be called. The project stalled and was eventually abandoned in the mid-1990's when NREL "concluded the costs were too high for practical use. The price of oil at the time was about \$20 a barrel."\*

Although crude oil now goes for more than six times its 1995 price, repeated cuts in NREL's budget have prevented the Lab from resuming study of algae's potential as a source of biodiesel. However, university studies "using an NREL model for algae production estimated a cost of \$308 billion to build enough farms in the United States to 'replace petroleum transportation fuels with biodiesel.' An additional \$46 Billion would be needed to maintain them, the study concluded."\*

Development costs exceeding \$350 Billion would seem to be prohibitive, but CNN reports that "In the wake of the current energy crisis, those numbers are beginning to look like a bargain. The United States imported more than 10 million barrels a day last year at an average price of \$72 a barrel and the average price of crude oil has

Photo by Bill Powell

Algae flourishes in the brackish water of this storm water drainage pond at Hunting Island State Park – a barrier island off the coast of South Carolina.



hovered above \$100 dollars a barrel for the past few months..."\* The time and finances may be right for breakthroughs in the production of alternative biofuels.

For some time energy has been harvested from corn and soybeans for use in bio-diesel. Since the advent of cheap synthetic fertilizers in the 1970's, these large mono-cultured crops have generated surpluses beyond the need for human and animal food. Experimentation in the last ten years has proved the utility of biologic crops in producing bio-diesel, a fuel that can be run in any diesel engine. However, bio-diesel is not the first and best use for crops of corn and soybean.

Both corn and soybeans are food stocks for man and animals. Diverting unused stocks of these commodities to bio-diesel may be cost effective while surplus lasts, but producing trillions of tons of additional corn and soybeans for the purpose of conversion to bio-fuel is not.

A hot market for corn and soybeans as bio-fuel means tightening competition and rising prices in the traditional food-based markets for these commodities. Both corn and soybeans are basic to our food chain. Both are used to feed cattle and poultry. And corn is the principal

(continued on page 12)

# "Whew..." ....the President breathed

Does anyone else feel like the summer is racing by? Those of you with school age children are especially feeling the clock ticking.

We've had quite a lot going on with CWGS recently. Hopefully, you were able to partake of some of our offerings this summer. The Water Blossom Festival was fantastic, thanks mostly to our Vice President Jim Arneill. He had lots of help but was the one that did most of the work and kept the rest of us on track. The Festival was a great highlight to the season and a memorable celebration of the club's 25 years, but now it's time to look forward.

Very soon we'll hold our second pond side meeting. (See article on the front page of this newsletter.) This program promises to be quite a rare treat. We not only get to see beautiful water features; we learn a little about another culture. Please join us.

Our September meeting will be back at the Botanic Gardens and we will discuss getting your water garden ready for winter. Come with your questions or ideas to share. We'll also hold the Society's annual Board elections at that time.

Please consider running for a position on the Board. We have several open slots. Our club runs on volunteer juice and we are running a little low after all the effort expended so far this summer. We could really use some new blood so to speak. No, we don't bite and we aren't vampires!

Next year we're faced with a challenge in that we can't be assured of meeting space at Denver Botanic Gardens. The Gardens will be under major reconstruction, and it's not taking facility requests for the coming season. I imagine we'll be doing a lot more pond side meetings, but other ideas for programs and venues are welcome.

If you have suggestions or would like to know more about serving on the Board of directors, get up with me or any Board member. Contact information is listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Or, better yet, join us on August 17<sup>th</sup>. After the program at the meditation garden, we'll visit Deidre Parker's pond where we will have a short discussion on the direction CWGS should take in 2009.

Keep Blooming,

Vicki Aber

**CWGS President** 

# **New and Returning Members**

William Bittman Arvada, CO

Scott Figler (NEW) Lakewood, CO

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Lannie Hagan (NEW) Westminster, CO

Fred Hall (NEW)
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Duff Kerr Denver, CO Joe & Carla Mascarenas Lakewood, CO

Chuck & Jean Mitton Englewood, CO

Mark Russo Rocky Mtn WaterScape Erie, CO

Trey & Nancy Styler Greenwood Village, CO

Tim, Sue and Austin Van Dyke (NEW) Lakewood, CO

# 2008 CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic Enjoyed By All

If you weren't around for the CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>, you missed a fabulous array of plants, ponds, and water features. (And some good food, too!) Thank you, pond hosts, for allowing us to visit your water gardens!

This year 12 ponds were on the tour. Visitors selected which areas they wanted to visit from the selection of Centennial, Denver and Arvada water gardens.

For our picnic Bill & Janet Bathurst opened the beautiful backyard of their newly constructed home which overlooks their brand new pond! (Several guests wished they could pan for gold in the winding streambed that cascades from the corner of the house down the steeply sloped walkway to the pond below.)

Following the cookout of hamburgers and brats, everyone had an opportunity to take home at least a couple of gift water plants.

Until next year, enjoy the following photos of the ponds on the 2008 CWGS Pond Tour.

# Gary Blubaugh

For the 2008 Pond Tour and Picnic Committee.

# Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 31, 2008: **\$21,116.37.** 

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