Annual Sale will be held June 6th

The Colorado Water Garden Society’s annual fundraiser, its Waterlily and Plant Sale, will be held in the Morrison Center at Denver Botanic Gardens on Sunday, June 6. The Center is located at 11th Avenue and York Street, directly east of DBG.

This is the premier event of the season, with many members holding off on planting until they can check the sale. Over the years, the Sale has brought in hundreds of different types of plants from around the country. This year, the sale will feature a wide range of waterlilies, both hardy and tropical, plants native to Colorado, emergent (bog) plants, floaters and oxygenators, and specialty items.

Plant donations are still being sought from members, and volunteers are needed on Saturday, June 5, to help with plant preparation and setup for Sunday’s sale. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, contact Cyndie Thomas, President, at 303-755-1885. See you there!

Inside: Special Color Supplement
Hardy Plants for the Colorado Water Garden
Officers & Committee Chairs

President
Cyndie Thomas          303.755.1885
Vice President
Duff Kerr          303.871.0336
Secretary
Bill Powell          303.355.8098
Treasurer
Gail Goldberg          303.329.6624
Programs
Rebecca Nash          303.766.2863

Members-at-Large
“Moe” Belisle          303.744.0745
Lowell Coon          303.427.8532

ad hoc Board Members-at-Large
Chuck Hunt          303.399.9729
Ken Lange          303.393.8410

Newsletter/Membership Database
Michael Thomas          303.755.1885
michael.thomas@comcast.net

Volunteer Coordinator
Lowell Coon          303.427.8532

CWGS June Plant Sale
Cyndie Thomas          303.755.1885

July Pond Tour & Picnic
Kathy Childs          303.221.5407

DBG May Plant & Book Sale
Bob Hoffman          303.978.0124
Carla Littlefield          303.399.7946

Archivist
Mary Mirgon          303.922.9559

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Upcoming Events

--- Coming in December 2004 ---
An exclusive CWGS calendar featuring YOUR photographs. The photos that appear in the calendar will be selected by the CWGS Board, and all photos submitted will be put on the CWGS website. Send your pictures in digital format to: michael.thomas@comcast.net
If you don't have a digital camera, we can scan photos and convert them to digital format. All photos become property of CWGS.

--- Rose Swenby and Cyndie Thomas will present “Ponds and Water Conservation” on behalf of CWGS at Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 S. Parker Rd., on Saturday, May 22, 1-2:30 p.m. Good tips on conserving water with a pond.

CWGS volunteers were hard at work May 2 trying to get the final plants in the DBG ponds. Everyone felt it was a good learning experience.

Market Place

--- POND SERVICE ---
Cleaning and maintenance
Repairs and rebuilds
Call 303-660-5015 to schedule a technician
BR&D Landscape, Inc.
www.coloradoparadeofponds.com
**Market Place**

**WANTED**
As you begin to do your spring clean-up, remember the CWGS sale in June. We can use any plants and fish you have decided to dispose of. We will remind you again before the sale, and we can even arrange to pick up your items, if necessary. If possible, all plants should be properly labeled for maximum saleability. For more information, contact Cyndie Thomas, Plant Sale Chair, at 303-755-1885.

**Market Place**
CWGS Members - use this space to TRADE or DONATE water garden plants and supplies. Let us know what you have too much of, don’t need anymore, or would like to have. We’ll put your request in the next issue. michael.thomas@comcast.net

**Alpine Koi & Homescapes**

**Water Garden Center**
* Quality Pond Supplies
* Large Selection of Aquatic Plants
* Show Quality Japanese Koi * Domestic Koi * Goldfish
* Pond Maintenance Service
* Wild Bird Food, Feeders & Houses
* Wall, Tabletop & Bonsai Fountains
* Unique Yard Accessories
* Gift Certificates & MORE!

2715 E. Mulberry (Mulberry & Summit View)
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970-224-3663

* Summer Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am-6 pm  Sunday Noon-5 pm

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**Features**

**CWGS scores well at Plant Show**

With over 700 booths represented at the recent Denver Flower, Plant and Landscaping Show and Sale at the Colorado Convention Center, CWGS earned one of only 20 Awards of Excellence for its display of container gardens, disappearing fountain, and small backyard pond with waterfall. Designed and created by CWGS members, it was the largest and most comprehensive display created by the many plant societies in attendance. The entire project, created by Mike and Cyndie Thomas, Paul and Rose Swenby, Bill Powell, Duff Kerr, Mo Belisle, Bo Lindsey, Chuck Hunt, and Damon Ginnow, took less than five hours to complete, and even less time to dismantle Sunday evening after the show closed.

During the show, the display was inspected and admired by a steady stream of visitors for three full days, and resulted in the largest number of new members ever from such a CWGS outreach effort. Thanks must go to the many CWGS members who helped answer questions and handed out materials during the show - Marge Oleson, Gail Goldberg, Mary Mirgon, Vicky Aber, Lowell and Laurissa Coon, and Bob and Fran Hoffman. Also, thanks to those who supplied goods and/or materials for the display - APR Landscaping, Best Block, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Rocky Mountain Tree Care.

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On the Road Again - CWGS goes to Nick’s

The April 29-30 snow was beginning to melt May 1 as Mike and Cyndie Thomas packed the CWGS brochures and portable signs to travel to Nick’s Garden Center in Aurora for an open house. Nick’s sponsors the annual event to give customers a chance to talk to the many vendors that supply plants and landscaping materials at the garden center. Despite the fact the calendar said it is spring, the weekend for the open house has traditionally been one of the worst of the season, with cold temperatures, cold rain, cold wind, or whatever was available over the years. This year, however, proved to be an exception. The snow stopped late Friday evening, the sun came out Saturday morning and, by the time everything was set up at Nick’s, it was warm enough for a light jacket or sweatshirt, a good day to answer customers’ questions about fish, water plants, pond construction, and general gardening topics.

CWGS and the Rocky Mountain Koi Club were the only “societies” invited to the event, and took advantage of the opportunity to share their hobbies with interested customers. Delicious Mexican food was provided for participants, and a Mariachi band played new and traditional music much of the day.

CWGS attends a number of similar events throughout the year, and is always seeking interested members who would be interested in helping “spread the word” about the benefits of water gardening. Membership in the Society is a soft-sell, and a membership brochure is only given to a person if it appears they are serious about joining or attending such events as the Plant Sale or the Pond Tour. Otherwise, just sharing your knowledge is all that’s required. If you think you might like to help, contact Cyndie Thomas, or check the space on your membership application when you renew.
Nip Censorship in the bud! Make this publication YOURS! I dare you!

Let’s make one thing clear from the start - this newsletter is YOURS! It belongs to the members of CWGS as a means of communication. The web site dictionary.com defines communication as:

communication n. The act of communicating; transmission. The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, writing, or behavior.

Interpersonal rapport. The art and technique of using words effectively to impart information or ideas.

That means this publication is a way of exchanging thoughts or information in an effective manner (I hope!) with you, the CWGS member and reader. There are other people who read this newsletter, too, but they’re not the ones it’s being aimed at.

Let’s go back to the first sentence in the paragraph above - “...way of exchanging thoughts or information...” and use that as the ONLY viable reason this publication exists.

Ah, but there’s the problem - we’re not exchanging! I’m writing some things and editing a few more, but I’m not sharing YOUR thoughts and information with other CWGS members, am I?

Let’s be honest here - I could sit and come up with all sorts of things I think are important for you to see and read. There’s a word for that - CENSORSHIP! Censors usually put themselves up as “experts” and the only ones who could possibly know what is “right” for others to learn about.

Still being honest, I’m NOT an expert. I do surprise myself with the knowledge I have when I begin talking to someone who is thinking about building a pond, but I’m far from an expert. Experts are people like John and Mary Mirgon, one of whom we don’t get to learn from too often anymore due to health problems. Experts are members like Len and Doris, and Lois, and Ellen, and Carla, and Nancy and Lynn, and Bob, and Cyndie, and the other names most of you would easily recognize.

We quite possibly are all experts in some aspect of water gardening, and every expert has a story (or stories) to share. How about sharing with us and letting everyone know? If you have an idea for something you’d like to see in this publication, let me have it. If you have an opinion about water gardening, share it. If you have a photo you think others might enjoy, let’s print it. Another example of how you can get involved - we have a calendar project underway right now to collect pictures for a 2005 calendar. Last time I looked, there were 12 months in a year, but I only have two pictures submitted by members so far. I take photographs, Cyndie does, too, as so do most of you. Maybe you’re an expert in water garden photography and don’t even know it. Let the CWGS Board decide if you are or not, but at least give it a try!

The only other option is to print two months from the photos we have so far and do the other 10 from pictures Cyndie and I have taken. Do you hear how ludicrous that sounds? All I’m asking from you is a little sharing of thoughts and information - make my job as newsletter editor easier and more fun by sharing your expertise in something, anything, that other members might enjoy and learn from.

Mike Thomas, Editor

Water Garden Society Contacts

EDITOR’S NOTE: The addresses below that include an asterisk (*) have been recently verified. In the process of updating our courtesy mailing list, we discovered a few changes that need to be corrected. If you have a contact to add, or a correction to make, please send it to me. Thanks. -- Mike Thomas

** Delaware V alley Water Garden Society J. E. Rabian 207 Chestnut Newtown Square, PA 19073 **

** Florida West Coast Koi & Water Garden Club P.O. Box 7554 North Port, FL 34287 **

** Green Country Water Garden Society Joe Van Hook 16125 E. 460 Road Claremore, OK 74017-5356 **

** Idaho Water Garden Society P.O. Box 6060 Boise, ID 83707 **

** Internation Waterlilly and WaterGarden Society Paula Biles 6828 26th St W Bradenton, FL 34207 **

** Lone Star Koi Club Dan Robinson 16126 Lafone Drive Spring, TX 77379 **

** Minnesota Water Garden Society John Scully 2500 Flag Ave. S St. Louis Park, MN 55426 **

** North Texas Water Garden Society P.O. Box 9127 Dallas, TX 75209-9127 **

** Pikes Peak Water Garden Society 2485 Haystack Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80922-1314 **

** Royal Horticultural Society 80 Vincent Square London SW1 2PE UK **

** Santa Fe Pond Society PMB # 286 Alice Ames 223 N. Guadalupe Santa Fe, NM 87501 **

** Springfield Water Garden Society Linda Silke 2538 W. Republic Road Springfield, MO 65807 **

** Saint Joseph Area Water Garden Society Steve Ayers 4301 Green Acres Road St. Joseph, MO 64506 **

** Wabash Valley Water Garden Society Debbie Nelson 806 S 16th Street Terre Haute, IN 47807 **

** Washington Koi & Water Garden Society P.O. Box 148 Bothell WA 98041 **

** Wabash Valley Water Garden Society Steve Ayers 4301 Green Acres Road St. Joseph, MO 64506 **

** Washington Koi & Water Garden Society P.O. Box 148 Bothell WA 98041 **

** Water Garden Society of Greater Kansas City Ted Tschirhart 4954 Marsh Avenue Kansas City, MO 64129-2111 **

** Water Garden Society of Oklahoma Laura Gustafson 1128 Kingsway Avenue Yukon, Ok 73099 **

** Wisconsin Water Garden Society Steve DeBaker 8150 River Road Greenleaf, WI 54126 **
So, you think you’re serious about fish, huh?!?

Serious enough to equip your yard or deck with a 4-foot high chiminea in the shape of a Koi? Just the ticket for those brisk evenings outside, this clay monster goes for the price of only $170. Smaller replicas (offspring, maybe?) can be used as planters, candle holders, or .... Hurry, though, rush over to Nick’s Garden Center in Aurora - this is the only one we’ve seen in town!!

Sleeping on a bed of lilies...

Created in February, 2000 by long-time CWGS member Alice Miller

Renewing Members
John Alden
Aquademic
Janice Barbee
Gabriella & Mario Bertelmann
Ron & Betty Lou Bissonnette
Gary & Julie Bolopue
Ron & Mary Cameron
Steve & Rose Carson
Lowell & Larissa Coon
Larry & Deanna Davis
Gene, Dan & Gail Goldberg
Lynn & Nancy Jewett
Ken Lange
Carolyn Lupe
Dennis Martin
Pam Maxwell
Elaine Menter
Carolyn Norblom
David & Jill Pepper
Tom & Judy Richter
Craig & Millie Russell
Allen & Andrea Schultz
Elliott & Betty Sutta
Diane Thompson
Margaret Toth
Nancy Tucker
James & Obie Waples
Jim & Betty Wibby
Beth Wright

New Members
James Ciarlo
Barry & Toni Fox
Charlotte Knudson
Linda Krueger
Maudie Lofton
Eric Martin
Gary May
Katharine Rase
Casey & Hanna Sparks
Eric & Amy Tease
Mark & Nikki Tomlin
Richard & Marie Unger
Darla Wolcott

Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York Street
720-865-3500
Upcoming free days are:
April 19, May 17, August 16, October 18, November 1