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Annual Plant Sale Sunday, June 12 9AM - 2PM or sold out! (9-10 - CWGS members only)

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The Water Garden

Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society

Next ... Our Annual Plant Sale

By Vicki Aber, CWGS President

With all the rain we've been getting, everyone's water features must be full to over-flowing. Now if we can just get enough nice weather to get out and enjoy our ponds!

If you were at the Club's swap, you probably have some new plants. (I hope you have been able to get them planted.) Weren't at the swap? No problem. There will be lots of great plants to tempt you at the plant sale.

The Annual CWGS Plant Sale takes place Sunday, June 12th at Denver Botanic Gardens. This year we will actually be in the Gardens, not the parking garage. Access to the sale should be very convenient, but it is a bit tricky. From York St. turn right into the staff/delivery entrance before you get to the Gardens proper. This is the first driveway cut to the right after crossing 11th. Ave.

This is a gated entrance, but the gate will be open. Although you will see a parking area right there, drive past. Follow the jogs in the drive and continue all the way back along the side of the buildings until the pavement terminates at a "hammer-head" turn-around just beyond the end of the new greenhouses and storage areas.

Park anywhere in the spaces near the "hammer-head". The Sale will be under the large white tent on the new, elevated "West Terrace" just to the west of the greenhouses. The terrace is reached by stairs from the building side of the parking area. Come up the stairs and you're there. (A photo of the terrace and tent viewed from the parking area follows on page 7. We'll also post small directional signs along the drive.)

CWGS members can begin shopping at 9 AM; the public, at 10 AM. We will have a large supply of both commercially purchased plants and also divisions from members' gardens. We will have hardy and tropical lilies and hardy and tropical marginal plants. Maybe a few lotus. We will also have fish and tadpoles. There is something for everyone! (For a complete list and photos of tropical waterlilies that will be sold, see the article on page 3 of this newsletter.)

Speaking of plants from members' gardens, we need your extra plants! If you have plants to donate, it is best if you can bring them Saturday. If you can't bring them Saturday, contact one of the plant sale committee members listed at the end of this article. If at all possible include a label with the name of the plant (either scientific or common name). For lilies include the name of the variety or, if you don't know, list the color of the flower and any other information you have.

It takes a lot of people to stage our annual sale. We need lots of help on the day before the Sunday sale unpacking, labeling, and setting up. We will start work on Saturday the 11th at 10 AM. There will be coffee and donuts for workers.

We will work until set-up is finished on Saturday but are usually done by 3 PM at the latest. If we work through the noon hour (as we usually do), lunch will be provided. We welcome volunteers for any amount of time you can spare. (continued on bottom of page 7)

2 Club Governance

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www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report: Balance as of May 1 \$10,529.72

Need to join or renew?... ... The application is on page 9

Does CWGS have your current email address? If you're not sure, contact us.

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Remember...

Marge Oleson

Unless you have specifically requested receipt of The WaterGarden in paper form, you will receive it electronically.

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To request a change in delivery, report a change in email, or to report a problem with downloading of the electronic journal, reply to Dorothy Martinez:

Dorothy.Martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.

Photo courtesy of Water Gardeners international



Above:

N. 'Stan Skinger,' one of ten tropical waterlilies that will be available at this year's CWGS sale.

Photos of the other nine follow below.

Photo courtesy of Florida Aquatic Nurseries



Above: N. 'E.G. Hutchings'

Below: N. 'Marian Strawn'



Photo by Lou Belliosy, courtesy of Victoria-Adventure

The Tropical Allure

By Bill Powell

Even experienced water gardeners are sometimes intimidated by the thought of growing tropical waterlilies. And inevitably the question arises, "What will I do with a tropical when winter comes?" (For some ideas about that and the rewards of overwintered tropicals, check-out Vicki Aber's article on page 7.)

Given the angst over tropical lily cultivation, one might expect a clear-cut botanical division between hardy and tropical Nymphaea. Home gardeners in cooler climates certainly take a large distinction, often viewing hardies as perennials and tropicals as annuals. But the botanic distinction is less clear. All waterlilies are perennials given suitable temperatures and for that reason the plants are merely separated for convenience into categories of hardy and tropical. (At least one species *N*. Mexicana seems to straddle the division. Although it's been crossed with numerous oderata hardies to produce hybrids that survive down to zone 4, Mexicana itself is, by Colorado's perspective, a tropical.)

Still, there *are* obvious differences in growth habit and appearance between hardies and tropicals. Hardies bloom only during the day. Tropical lily species are more varied. Some tropicals bloom by day; others open at night although the blooms may persist into the morning daylight before closing.

A difference of great interest to home gardeners is that only tropical waterlilies produce a blue bloom (with the possible exception of the hybrid blue hardy lily that hybridizer Pairat Songpanich produced in Thailand several years back. The plant remains under cultivation and evaluation. As yet it's unclear if the plant can be replicated for sale in its true, and blue, form.)

Tropicals have other defining characteristics that set them apart from hardies besides a larger bloom-color range and differing growing temperature requirements. Tropical lily leaves (pads) are frequently serrated whereas the edges of hardies tend to be smooth and not as big. The flowers of tropicals are generally larger and often held higher above the water than are hardy blossoms. And it is the tropical lily category that is more likely to contain viviparous plants – plants that are capable of generating new plantlets either from their blossoms or leaf interstices. For most backyard water gardeners a plant's viviparity may not matter much, but it's interesting to note that a number of sources draw a connection between viviparous behavior and strong plant vitality in tropical nymphaea.

Tropical lilies are also often fragrant but perhaps the most valued characteristic is that tropicals bloom late into the season.

Because they require warm water to survive and bloom (above 70F water temperature), tropicals usually aren't planted out-of-doors in Denver until mid-June. Still developing while the hardy lilies have begun to flower, the tropical lilies burst into bloom in

(continued on page 4)

Below: N. "Midnight"



Photo by Craig Presnell courtesy of Luster Aquatic Nurseries

Photo from Wikipedia



Above: N. 'Colorata

Below: N. 'Anconas'



Photo by Craig Presnell courtesy of Luster Aquatic Nurseries

The Tropical Allure

(continued from page 3)

the warm waters of late July or August just as the hardies' display has begun to fade because of diminishing sunlight after the summer solstice.

In a mild year, tropical lilies can continue bloom through September and even into October in Denver. This late bloom habit, along with the wider color range of tropical flowers, the attraction of night-blooming cultivars, and fragrance explain why many water gardeners, even those who garden in the cool of Colorado, love the challenge of growing tropical Nymphaea.

Tropical lilies to be offered at the CWGS June sale:

N. 'Stan Skinger,' named for CWGS' own Stan Skinger, has a yellow, somewhat changeable, bloom that deepens toward orange on successive days. A day-bloomer, 'Stan Skinger' is a medium-sized plant with green and maroon flecked leaves. We received a couple of the plants at the last minute for last year's sale, and they sold quickly. It's back by popular demand this year. (Photo on page 3.)

N. 'E.G. (Emily Grant) Hutchings,' a reliable performer hybridized by George Pring in 1922, has dark pink flowers held high above the water. The plant is medium in size and has olive-green leaves. A special treat: 'E.G. Hutchings' is a night-bloomer! The flowers open in early evening and persist until early morning so it's a great choice for people who work during the day, or for people who want to extend the bloom period and variety of their garden. (Photo on page 3.)

CWGS member Bob Hoffman has had particularly good luck holding 'E.G Hutchings' over winter. With his heated tubs and south-facing porch, Bob is able to over-winter a number of tropical lilies in a dormant state, but he's found that not all tropicals perform dependably to his process. 'E.G Hutchings' is a tropical that Bob finds sufficiently vigorous to be "worth the effort."

CWGS President Vicki Aber has also had good luck over-wintering E.G. Hutchings. For her tips on how she does it, read her article in this newsletter (Top of page 7.)

N. 'Marian Strawn' holds its large white star-shaped blooms well above the water. It's a medium-to-large day-blooming plant with flecked green leaves. Another proven performer (hybridized by Kirk Strawn in 1969), 'Marian Strawn' is said to be more shade tolerant than many of the tropical lilies. (Photo on page 3.)

N. 'Midnight', another hybrid from George Pring, has deep blue-violet / purple blooms during the day. The flower initially is more cup-shaped before it opens fully to present a star-like blossom. (The stamen tops have evolved to become small petals, accentuating the fullness.) 'Midnight' is medium in size and the leaves are bright green. The blossoms have a slight fragrance and it's said to be very free flowering.

N. 'Colorata' is a small/pygmy "species" plant that's native to east Africa, which means of course that it is a naturally occurring plant – a species, rather than a hybrid. First described by A. Peter in 1928,

(continued on page 8)



President Vicki Aber welcomes people to our May 19 plant swap.

Swap & Wash

Our Plant Swap and potluck weathers the storm

It was a night well suited to water gardening - so wet after three days of rain that we hardly needed to wrap our plants in damp paper. Still, over two dozen members met in Gates Hall to share dinner, gardening advice, and lots of plants.

This year's swap items were unusually diverse. We had hardy lilies, of course, but also an extensive selection of tropical lilies that club members had over-wintered. A few lotuses were exchanged, and we also had both hardy and tropical marginals. Even a few terrestrial plants found homes.

If you missed the Swap and have extra water garden plants without good homes, consider donating them to the CWGS Sale. Deliveries will be accepted from 10 AM – 1 PM on Saturday, June 11. Drop-off of plants will be accepted at the large white tent on the west terrace. It's accessible by car via the north service drive. See Vicki's article on page 1 and photo on page 7.

Follow-up on Washington Park IIIy pond restoration

Last fall we reported on the Washington Park Neighborhood Association's interest in partnering with CWGS to restore the lily pond in Washington Park. Located in the northeast corner of the park, the pond was part of the original plan conceived shortly after the turn of the 20th century by German landscape architect Reinhard Schuetze.

The lily plantings, known to have been installed around 1908, have long been lost, probably because of periodic fluctuations in water levels in the pond. The lily pond is now part of Denver's metropolitan water supply system and is subject to dramatic water level fluctuations through the year. The Association had hoped to study the change in water levels through the winter season when levels are usually the lowest and pursue replanting if the project was found to be practical.

Despite a dry season, some water remained in the pond over winter. The Washington Park Neighborhood Association pursued permission from City agencies to attempt a pilot project with lilies to be donated by members of CWGS. The proposal met with resistance from one or more city agencies charged with preservation of the park and the municipal water. Inadvertent spread of invasive aquatic species was cited as a concern.

At the moment, it appears the project will not proceed. For the record, Colorado does not currently list any Nymphaea on its noxious weed inventory, although at least one nearby state (Texas) has considered restricting certain Nymphaea species.

New and Returning Members for May:

Janice Barbee & Carolyn Norblom, Morrison, CO

Carla Littlefield Denver, CO

James Howell

Correction: Last month we misspelled the names of two renewing members. Our apologies, Joan and Brian Greelman. Also, it should have been Mary, not Mark, K. Brengosz.

Denver, CO

Majestic Turtles

June 26 program at Arvada's Majestic View Nature Center will focus on turtles and their rescue

by Bill Powell

Photo by Lannie Hagan



Above:

An underwater shot Lannie Hagan took while scuba diving during one of her many world-wide trips studying turtles in the wild.

The Club's first "waterside" outing of this season will include a presentation on turtles and a turtle rescue program operated by CWGS member Lannie Hagan. The hour-long presentation will begin at 2:00 PM in the Majestic View Nature Center (7030 Garrison St., Arvada.) The Nature Center, which includes wildlife exhibits and teaching spaces, is part of an 80-acre park that also encompasses wetlands and sizeable lakes. The lakes are home to some of the turtles we'll learn about.

Lannie Hagan's love of turtles has driven a life-long interest in the creatures and their habitats. She's worked with the Majestic View Nature Center since it's founding, and she's been instrumental in developing the adjacent lakes as a refuge for turtles. She's also spent years at CU teaching classes on herpetology and educating the public about turtles, amphibians, and other "weird animals". (There's more about Lannie following this article.)

Lannie's presentation will include information about turtles, their needs and habitats, the animal's place in the ecology, and experiences Lannie's had photographing turtles all over the world – in Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. And, she'll have some live turtles for us to examine first hand!

Through the years Lannie has released 30 rescued native turtles into the waters at Majestic View. After Lannie's program, weather permitting, we can stroll along a path to the lakes. If we're lucky we might catch glimpse of turtles in the wild, basking on a log that the city of Arvada anchored (at Lannie's request) in the middle of one of the ponds.

About Lannie:

Club member Lannie Hagan has been interested in turtles since high school. Her interests deepened during college and early adulthood, leading her to teach classes on herpetology at CU for 15 years where she also ran the Science Explorers program.

Lannie writes, "Turtles (reptiles and Amphibians) have been a focus of the classes I taught along with Marine Biology and Bats... I became a Reptile and Amphibian rehabilitator for the Colorado Division of Wildlife after many people were bringing me unwanted pets and hurt animals that they found."

Lannie is retired but works part time for Rocky Mountain WaterScape.

Time, directions, and logistics:

2:00 PM Sunday, June 26 Majestic View Nature Center building 7030 Garrison St., Arvada

When approaching from Denver, take Wadworth Blvd. north to 68th. Avenue (the corner at the Arvada Center.) Turn west (left) on 68th, crossing Carr (there's a slight jog to the north at Carr). Continue on 68th to Garrison St. Turn north (right) on Garrison. Follow Garrison to a dead end at the Nature Center. Parking is available. The Nature Center building will be open for the duration of our hour-long program and there is no admission charge. Restrooms are available. The lakes are accessible by footpath.

When it comes time late this fall....

... Wait! Don't toss those tropical lilies!

by Vicki Aber

In case you're worrying that by buying a tropical waterlily you're just buying a pricey annual, consider that some CWGS members have had good luck over-wintering tropical lilies.

This is my method: In the fall I bring the plants into the house in the pot they were grown in. I put the pots in an aquarium with water over the top, but not a lot more. (I have also used a child's wading pool to house the lily pots.)

I don't heat the water, so the lilies go into a semi-dormant state. The plants have a few very small leaves or sometimes no leaves at all. If you are lucky, the plant makes little tubers along the roots, much like a potato.

Towards spring, about April, I put an aquarium heater in the water and start heating the plants. All of a sudden bare dirt is spitting out new growth! After the danger of frost is passed I bring the pots outside to a small pond that I have heated to about 70 degrees. Either at this point or a little later, depending on when I have time, I divide the plantlets to leave only one in the pot. If you leave several in the same pot they will compete with each other and not do well. Find new homes for the extra plantlets.

The potted plantlets stay in my heated pond until the main pond's water temperature is getting up to 70 degrees naturally, then the plants are placed in the pond for the rest of the summer.

One advantage to over-wintering your tropicals is that they usually bloom before any you purchase because they don't go through the initial shock the way new lilies do.

Some varieties seem to be more cooperative in this over-wintering treatment than others so another member and I are starting a list of lilies that have worked well. My list includes: Mrs. E.G. Hutchings, Texas Shell Pink, and Blue Star. I had Trudy Slocum for the first time this year and it survived. I tried Anconas for the first time, and it didn't.

If you have over-wintered tropical water lilies, I invite you to share your successes and failures. You can write an article for the newsletter, post on the web site, or talk to me and I will record your information. Several minds working together are better than each reinventing the wheel.



Location of this year's plant sale is under the tent on the west terrace of the new greenhouses at DBG, shown above.

Park at end of service drive (foreground) and go up steps to terrace. Drop-off of donated plants is also here on Saturday beginning at 10 AM.

... Our Annual Plant Sale (continued from front page)

We can also use volunteers to help on sale day. We need the largest number of helpers first thing at 8 AM to do the last minute set-up and staging. The plus of working early is once the sale is set up, you get first dibs on the plants!

We will also need people for the rest of the day to help with running the sale. The sale officially ends at 2 PM, but we often start packing up before then if we aren't getting any more customers or the plants are mostly sold.

As on Saturday's set-up day, we provide drinks, donuts and lunch on sale day as well. The best news for volunteers either day is that for every hour you spend helping at the sale, you get a "lily buck". Lily bucks can be used for your purchases at the sale!

If you can help at the sale please contact one of the following:

Vicki Aber (303-423-9216) docvicki@msn.com

Janet Bathurst (303-421-1144) jebathurst@aol.com

Dorothy Martinez (303-279-3137) dam@johnfunk.com

Below: N. 'Wood's Blue Goddess





Courtesy of Florida Aquatic Nursery

Above:

N. 'King of Siam'

Below: N. 'Tina'





N. 'Green Smoke'

The Tropical Allure

(continued from page 4)

'Colorata' has cup-like violet blue flowers that pale toward the base of the bloom. The plant is day-blooming and said to be free-flowering and mildly fragrant. Its small plant size makes 'Colorata' ideal for tub and small water gardens. 'Colorata' is also said to continue flowering after the water temperature drops to 65F, which may recommend the plant as a way of extending bloom in our cooler Colorado fall season. (Photo on page 4.)

N. 'Anconas', a 2006 hybrid from Craig Presnell of Luster Aquatics, has intense blue flowers, borne in the day. 'Anconas' is a medium-sized plant with rounded, maroon pads that are mottled with green. It's recommended by some sources as more shade tolerant. An interesting aspect of 'Anconas' is its viviparous growth habit which enables the plant to generate new plantlets from the blossom or, more frequently, from the interstices of the plant leaf. Some sources believe that viviparous plants are inherently more vigorous than non-viviparous. (Photo on page 4.)

N. 'Wood's Blue Goddess', hybridized in 1989, has deep skyblue petals that contrast dramatically with "very dark, almost black, violet stamens." It's day-blooming with the blooms held high above the water, and the plant is said to be free flowering. 'Wood's Blue Goddess' forms a large plant with nearly round, sharply serrated olive-green leaves that are purple-blue underneath. Waterford Gardens (the source of the quotes above and following) recommends the plant for it's fast growth and sturdy leaves that make it less susceptible to damage by "problem koi or large frogs."

CWGS President Vicki Aber learned recently from the IWGS (International Water Garden Society) website chat room that some growers believe 'Wood's Blue Goddess' to be more cold tolerant than many tropicals – a characteristic that might help to extend blooms later in the season or make over-wintering in a dormant state in cool (but not freezing) temperatures a possibility should you have interest and accommodations for such.

N. King of Siam', hybridized by C. Thamasuwan in 1998, has deep purple and very full blooms that are the result of stamens that have evolved into quasi-petals. The plant is day-blooming and of medium size. The leaves are dark green flecked with brown.

N. 'Tina' is a product of Van Ness Water Gardens in 1974. It has deep violet-purple, cup-shaped blooms during the day and is said to be very free flowering. The blooms are held above the water. The plant is of medium size and the wavy, oval—to-round leaves emerge bronzy in tone fading to a light green. 'Tina' is viviparous, meaning that it can bear new plants from the interstice of the leaves. It's also reported to be somewhat shade tolerant.

N. 'Green Smoke' has cup-like blossoms with greenish-yellow (chartreuse) inner petals and bluer outer petals. A day-bloomer, 'Green Smoke' is a medium sized plant with wavy green leaves that have faint maroon flecks. It was hybridized in 1965 by Martin Randig. It's said to be fragrant and very free-flowering.

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We also run single-event ads.

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THISYEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

June 12: CWGS Annual Plant Sale

Tent, West Terrace, DBG Members' only from 9-10AM, Public 10-2 or until "sold out"

June 26: Waterside Program on turtles

Majestic View Nature Center, Arvada

Program at 2 PM in Center

Waterside walk at 3, weather permitting

July 23: CWGS Annual Pond Tour and Picnic

Aug. 6: Water Blossom Festival – Dan Johnson speaks on the

place of water in the dry landscape, DBG

Aug. 28: Waterside meeting, Coleman home, Longmont **Sept. 15:** Potluck dinner and Annual Board Elections, DBG

Oct. 20: Potluck dinner and meeting, DBG

Dec. 15: Holiday Banquet, DBG



From...

The Water Garden

c/o Journal Editor 1210 Clayton Street Denver, CO 80206-3214

The Colorado Water Garden Society (CWGS) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1983 to encourage appreciation and interest in the use of water in the landscape.

To learn more, visit us at www.colowatergardensociety.org

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