December 4
CWGS Holiday Party
Morrison Center, Denver Botanic Gardens

$8 per person, $4 children under 10
Reservations are required; see pre-payment form inside this newsletter.

Last Name A-L - bring Dessert
Last Name M-Z - bring Salad

Coming in 2005!!
(All dates tentative)

- February-March - Lotus/Hardy Waterlily Orders and Pre-Sales
- March meeting - Growing Your Lotus
- Early April - Denver Flower, Plant & Landscaping Show & Sale at Convention Center
- Early May - Metro Area Plant Society Weekend at Hudson Gardens
- Mid-June - Tropical Lily/Marginal Plant Exchange and Sale (Sale pre-orders in May)
- Mid-August - Water Garden Spectacular at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Late July - Annual CWGS Pond Tour
- December - Holiday Party

Keep your eyes out for this newsletter!!
Members will vote on annual dues increase this month

CWGS members are receiving this edition of *The Water Garden* for several reasons - to announce the details of the annual holiday party, to offer our members a few unique gift products we are using as a holiday fundraiser, and to gather member input on an important issue - the increase of membership dues for the first time since 1991.

Any special interest group, including CWGS, needs an ongoing source of funding to make it possible to provide the best in educational programs and communicate with its members. We are constantly seeking ways of making money to offset expenses. Hence the annual plant sale, the Expo each spring, plant orders and pre-sales, society and membership outreach at trade shows, and similar events many of you have participated in over the years.

CWGS has gone from good profits to no profit in the past few years as the result of competition from local garden centers and home improvement stores selling water garden plants, forcing dramatic changes in CWGS’s efforts. We have found we could distribute a full-color publication for about the same cost as contracting with the old black and white version to a commercial printer ($1,400-$1,750 per year, depending on size). Mailing costs remain fairly constant, based on minor fluctuations in postage rates change, as they have at least three times since member dues were last increased.

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A successful vote on the dues increase will allow us to continue to take steps to restructure our programs for members, and their related expenses. As our future financial needs change, the CWGS Board is committed to making CWGS activities self-supporting, to the extent possible. You, as a member of CWGS, should expect nothing less.

Thank you,

Michael Thomas
Board Member-at-Large/Newsletter Editor
The CWGS Board of Directors met early in November to determine activities for the Society in 2005. Responding to member input over the past few years, variances from meetings the second Sunday of the Month mark the new year. Major changes in what are considered “traditional” activities of CWGS are also evident in the new schedule. Preliminary plans at this writing include:

**Sunday, March 13, Morrison Center, Denver Botanic Gardens - “Growing Lotus”**
Tentative plans include a presentation by several CWGS members who have successfully grown lotus to bloom, followed by an open forum comparing other members’ experiences. A lotus and hardy waterlily pre-sale will take place about the same time, with plants to be available for pick up in late April.

**Friday-Sunday, April 1-3, Colorado Convention Center - “Denver Flower, Plant and Landscaping Show and Sale”**
For the second year, CWGS will participate in this large show, drawing builders, designers and landscapers from around the region. A water garden display will be built, and CWGS members will be available to answer questions and offer advice throughout the weekend.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 23-24, Hudson Gardens, Littleton**
Plant societies from the metro area will join together for two days, offering a series of special seminars and guest speakers, a gardening-related craft show, and informational exhibits. Pre-orders for tropical lilies and hardy marginal plants will also be done through the newsletter this month, with delivery scheduled in mid-May and also mid-June.

**Sunday, May 15, Waring House, Denver Botanic Gardens - Program TBA**

**Sunday, July 31, CWGS Pond Tour, locations TBA**
Note the change of date from mid-July to late in the month. Heat earlier in July, the potential for bad storms in June and July, family summer vacations, and the general condition of water gardens during this time prompted moving the tour back about two weeks. Gardens are expected to be in better overall condition at this time, and the weather is not expected to be as much of an issue.

**Sunday, August 21, Water Garden Spectacular, Denver Botanic Gardens**
Returning for its second year, the Spectacular offers the best view of the year of the water gardens at DBG as summer begins to wind down.

**Sunday, September 11, Program TBA**

**Saturday, December 3, Holiday Party**

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**Features**

**CWGS activities for ‘05 offer several changes from the past**

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**YES, I agree that an increase in CWGS dues is necessary at this time. I understand the dues will be increased (effective January 2005) from $10 to $15 for individual members, and from $15 to $20 for a family membership.**

**NO, I am not in favor of an increase in CWGS dues at this time.**

**NOTE: NOT voting on the issue of a dues increase demonstrates your ACCEPTANCE of the increase.**
YES, I (we) will be attending the CWGS Holiday Party on December 4th. I am enclosing $_________ payment (check or money order) for: _____ adults at $8.00 each and _____ children under 10 at $4.00 each.

NO, I (we) will not be attending the holiday party.

I would like to purchase the following items:

_____ (qty) CWGS 2005 Wall/Pocket Calendar sets $15.00 per set + $1.50 Shipping/Handling per set

_____ Pond and Fish T-Shirt - $19.00 each + $5.00 S/H first item, $2.50 S/H each additional item Indicate size(s) and quantity(ies) below:

Small ___ Medium ___ Large ___ X-large ___

_____ (qty) Pond and Fish Carryall - $19.00 each + $5.00 S/H first item, $2.50 S/H each additional item

$ ______ Payment enclosed (check or money order)

If you are ordering any of the gift items above, please complete the information on the reverse side before you mail it back to us.

If you would like to vote anonymously on the Dues Increase issue, detach this lower section of the page from the rest and mail it separately to the address above.

NOTE: NOT voting on the issue of a dues increase demonstrates your ACCEPTANCE of the increase.

Shirts are made of 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Bag dimensions are 18” x 15”.