



# The Water Garden

November 2006



*Celebrate!*

All members and their families are welcome and invited to join us at our annual "Holiday Banquet" as we **celebrate** another successful season of water gardening!

This event is a wonderful way to share water gardening experiences, show appreciation to our volunteers, and meet other members while enjoying a delicious meal.

The banquet will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Morrison Center of Denver Botanic Gardens. The Morrison Center is located at the

southeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and York. There is no charge for the banquet and dress is semi-casual. The main entrée of turkey and ham, drinks and dessert will be provided, but please bring a salad or side dish to share.

The evening will include a slide show of various water gardens from Colorado and around the world. If you have a JPEG photo of a water garden (190 KB or larger) you would like to share with us, please send it to Gary Blubaugh at [gblubaugh@comcast.net](mailto:gblubaugh@comcast.net).

RSVP by Nov. 28 to ...  
**Joyce Blubaugh 303-989-4464 or**  
**April Hough 303-499-6578**

We look forward to seeing you on December 2nd!

*Joyce Blubaugh &*  
*April Hough*  
Celebration Co-Chairs

Visit us online at <http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>



*One of Vicki & Dan's wonderful ponds*

## **CWGS Annual Meeting Sparks Member Survey**

At the September 10 Annual Meeting held at Vicki and Dan Aber's home, much was accomplished in addition to the sheer enjoyment of viewing many beautiful water features created by our hosts on their patio and in their yards.

Several attendees remarked how beneficial it was to hold meetings at a member's home. We appreciate and learn from others' ponds, plants, and creative touches in their landscape.

Despite being late in the pond season, there were still many flowering waterlilies in the largest pond, and the other water features, from container gardens to cascading waterfalls, were also quite spectacular!

The meeting incorporated a group of water garden enthusiasts ranging from prospective and new members to long timers, including co-founder Mary Mirgon, past president Cyndie Thomas, and recent DBG award recipients Doris and Len Freestone.

With a very pleasant fall afternoon in a beautiful setting, the meeting included the election of board members for 2007, business items, and an open forum about future CWGS events and activities.

The following were elected to board positions:

Jim Arneill – Vice President  
Bill Bathurst – Secretary  
Janet Bathurst, Marge Oleson, and  
Bill Powell – Members at Large

Other Board members already serving in their positions include: President Gary Blubaugh, Secretary Ken Lange, and Members at Large Vicki Aber, Joyce Blubaugh, April Hough, and Jonathan Hough.

During the open forum, many suggestions and ideas were brought forth for future CWGS activities. While these were all noted and will be discussed at upcoming meetings, the need for a survey seeking input and ideas from all CWGS members was strongly felt.

Using the discussion topics that were identified in the forum, we've since developed a Members' Survey. A copy of the survey is enclosed as an insert to this newsletter.

The survey is designed to be quick and easy to complete online or by mail.

**To complete online, visit the CWGS website:**  
[www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org).

**Or if you prefer, return the enclosed Self-addressed paper survey to Jim Arneill.**

**Just fold the pull-out lengthways to expose the address and seal the survey. Add a stamp, tape the open edge, and you're done!**

**The deadline for receipt of your response is Tuesday, November 28.**

**If you submit your survey electronically, please do not mail the paper copy.**

The CWGS Board strives to tailor activities to the interests and needs of its Members. By doing so, we hope to encourage active participations by all members.

We need your ideas! Please take a few minutes to complete the Member Survey!

Thanks,

*Jim Arneill*

CWGS Vice President.

## Destination Bangkok

CWGS members who help maintain water features and displays at Denver Botanic Gardens are accustomed to having their efforts seen by a wide public. This fall, though, our Sunday work sessions went international!

The Botanic Gardens was asked to assist in a collection of waterlily cultivars from around the world. The Gardens' Water Garden Curator Joe Tomocik reports, *"The plants will be part of an international display created by the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS). This historic display will be created at King [Suan Luang] Rama IX Public Park."*

Rama IX Park is situated on 200 acres in Bangkok, Thailand. The park, dedicated in 1987, contains the first comprehensive botanic garden in Thailand. It also includes a water garden covering some 16 acres. Rama IX Park will host the IWGS symposium this coming summer.

CWGS volunteers' role in preparing cultivars for the Bangkok symposium was

modest, but important: Members of our Sunday crew harvested tubers from the Gardens' tropical lily collection. We also collected rhizomes from hardy lilies.

Selections were stripped of growth, carefully scrubbed, and shipped to Florida Aquatic Nursery where they received a "Final Sanitary Certificate" prior to reshipment to Thailand.

The IWGS display is supported by twelve North American sources, including Longwood Gardens, Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Victoria Conservancy -- also based in Denver.

Eighty varieties of water lilies will be included in the permanent display's North American collection, but many additional selections will be displayed from five other regions of the world.

The IWGS Symposium runs July 16 – 22 in Chaing Mai and Bangkok, Thailand.



## Extreme Pond Plants

By Rowena Burns

Waterlilies are the archetypical extreme plant. Thought by the ancients to be the home for water fairies, or water nymphs, the flowers typify the emergence of beauty out of the primeval mud.

The botanical name of waterlilies—*Nymphaea* (from the nymph or fairy)—reflects this ancient belief. I haven't seen any winged water nymphs around my waterlilies lately, (dragonflies make a fair substitute) but the flowers always attract admiration and amazement.

Waterlily species grow throughout the world from cold climates to the

warmest. They inhabit a niche in the pond environment where very few other plants thrive—and produce stunning, large blooms throughout their growing season.

*Nymphaea* don't just grow in and above the water; the waxy leaf tops help them to use the water's surface as part of their support system. Waterlilies can thrive with their roots in nearly anaerobic conditions in black pond "goo." In fact, hardy waterlilies survive for several months without an oxygen source through the winter.

As in many water plants, the stomata, or pores of the leaves are on the upper side of the pad, and draw the essential oxygen down through the stem to the rhizome all summer.

Fluctuating water levels are one of the facts of life for waterlilies—and they have several mechanisms to deal with this. The stems (or petiole) of a waterlily leaf are usually longer than is necessary to reach the surface—sometimes much longer, so if the water depth varies somewhat, the floating leaves adjust automatically. However, with

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a more drastic change, waterlilies can elongate their stems extremely rapidly. Often within 48 hours they can increase the length by one to two feet. Strong winds or passing wildlife can also give the leaves problems by turning the pads upside down. Remarkably, the waterlily can twist its stem to turn the leaf over to the correct side—usually overnight. It is thought that the waterlily does this by elongating the cells alternately on each side of the stem, making it twist and flip over.

The common wisdom is that hardy waterlilies cannot survive if their rhizomes freeze. Further research needs to be done in this area, since it is not unusual to hear of lilies surviving in areas that should have been frozen solid. Often the older Marliac varieties seem to be more cold tolerant. Incredibly, waterlilies, both tropical and hardy, have also been known to survive periods of drought encased in mud for months at a time. Though the waterlily family is considered one of the oldest forms of plants, it is superbly adapted to survive adverse conditions.

*Reprinted with permission from the IWGS Water Garden Journal (21:3)*

## True or False?

**“CWGS has been SOoo swamped by prospective editors for ‘The Water Garden’ that we’ve been unable to settle on a single candidate.”** *(Answer at end.)*

The qualifications for Editor are daunting: You must be alive.

And, it really would help if you have a computer, a high speed internet connection, and an interest in writing and graphic design. But mostly you just need to be living.

Actually, even zombies and the marginally undead are welcome. (CWGS encourages diversity in its volunteers.)

Apply today!  
Call Bill @ 303.355.8098

*Answer: Do I have to spell it out?*

## MarketPlace

*Your ad here!*

Need a *holiday present* for a gardening friend? Why not give a CWGS membership?

Single memberships cost only \$15; family memberships, \$20. Purchase online today!

### **CWGS needs...**

...some space in which to store the Society's goods. Do you have a spare room or shed? Space 5 ft. X 5 ft. would do.

Contact Gary Blubaugh  
(303) 989-4464 or  
[glubaugh@comcast.net](mailto:glubaugh@comcast.net)



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## *Ahead ...*

**December 2, 2006**

*Celebrate!*

**Holiday Banquet:  
6:00 to 9:00 PM at the  
Morrison Ctr., DBG**

## ***Coming in 2007...***

**Mar 11:** Gen. Mtg., 1:30 PM  
Gates Hall, DBG

**April 11:** "Get Wet"  
Gates Hall, DBG

**May 6:** Gen. Mtg., 1:30 PM  
Gates Hall, DBG

**June 9/10:** Plant Sale/Swap  
Morrison Ctr., DBG

**Plus ...Pond Tour and Picnic,  
Water Blossom Festival, and  
MORE!**

## ***'07 Board of Directors***

### ***Officers:***

President – Gary Blubaugh  
Vice Pres. – Jim Arneill  
Secretary – Bill Bathurst  
Treasurer – Ken Lange

### ***Members at Large:***

Bill Powell  
Janet Bathurst  
Marge Oleson  
Joyce Blubaugh  
April Hough  
Jonathan Hough  
Vicki Aber