



# The Water Garden

Colorado Water Garden Society

Volume 26 Number 1

March 2009

## It's a brand new year...

By Vicki Aber, CWGS Board President

Our ponds are barren and often iced over. The fish are snoozing away on the bottom. There is a kind of beauty in the peacefulness of a winter landscape. We can all sit in our nice warm houses and think about what we are going to do with our water features come spring.

At our first meeting this year (Monday, March 16), Tim Boettcher from True Pump & Equipment in Denver will be giving a program on new pond equipment with a focus on "green" issues. If you are planning to expand your water feature, or build a new one, or you're considering replacing equipment, this is an important meeting to attend. Even if you don't have plans to change anything, it's still a good idea to learn what's available. You never know when a piece of equipment will have to be replaced. See the article on page 3 for more detail.

We're trying something new in conjunction with our meeting - a potluck dinner. Bring a dish of whatever strikes your fancy and join us at 6:00 PM. The club will provide drinks, napkins, plates, utensils, etc. The program begins at 7:00.

The March meeting and several others will be held in our temporary 2009 home, the Fellowship Hall of the Arvada Church of Christ. As you may know, Denver Botanic Gardens is undergoing extensive renovation and construction. So, with a couple of exceptions, many of our programs and

events will be held at the church and elsewhere this year. Directions to the church are included in the article on page 3.

The Board has been busy planning events and programs. Back by popular demand, we'll hold two waterside meetings at Member's homes. And many of the events that everyone has come to love will return as well. In addition to the March meeting, we'll have our signature season kick-off event "Get Wet 2009" in April at Denver Botanic Gardens where we'll also be selling lotus. See pages 5 & 9 of this newsletter for more detail.

**Potluck Dinner and Program**  
Monday, March 16 at 6:00 PM  
Arvada Church of Christ, Arvada

**Tim Boettcher of True Pump & Equipment speaks on why you may want to...**  
... Turn Your Pond Green! See article and meeting location map on page 3.

In May we hold our Plant Swap. The Annual Plant Sale follows in June - this year at Hudson Gardens. We have the Pond Tour in July, and the Water Blossom Festival in August.

We'll also have programs in September and October at our temporary meeting place in Arvada. And, of course, we'll top the year off with our Christmas banquet.

It will be hard to top the Silver Anniversary year but we'll try. Remember, in these tough times, water features can be great stress reducers! ■

Visit us online at [www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)

## 2009 Board of Directors & Committee / Event Chairs

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		Marge Oleson	303.989.4809
April Hough	303.499.6578	<b>Education</b>	
Marge Oleson	303.989.4809	Cyndie Thomas	303.755.1885
Jim Arneil	303.843.9619	<b>Get Wet Event</b>	
Bill Powell	303.355.8098	Jim Arneil	303.834.9619
Michael Weber	303.322.6769	<b>CWGS June Plant Sale</b>	
Lynn Jewett	303.671.7964	Vicki Aber	303.423.9216
		April Hough	303.499.6578
		Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
		<b>Pond Tour / Picnic</b>	
		Michael Weber	303.322.6769
		Jonathan Hough	303.499.6578
		Ken Lange	303.393.8410
		<b>Water Blossom Festival</b>	
		Duff Kerr	303.871.0336
		Jim Arneil	303.843.9619
		<b>Holiday Banquet</b>	
		April Hough	303.499.6578
		<b>WebPage / Archives</b>	
		Cyndie Thomas	303.755.1885
		<b>DBG Plant Sale &amp; Volunteers</b>	
		Bill Powell	303.355.8098
		Marge Oleson	303.989.4809

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## Turn Your Pond Green! Our first program of the year explores the "green" side of new pond keeping technology

Tim Boettcher from True Pump and Equipment in Denver will speak Monday, March 16 at our first program of the year. Tim's engineering background and years of experience offer a wealth of information for us to glean. His powerpoint presentation will focus on new developments in pond keeping technology that help to conserve electricity and water while benefiting the environment.

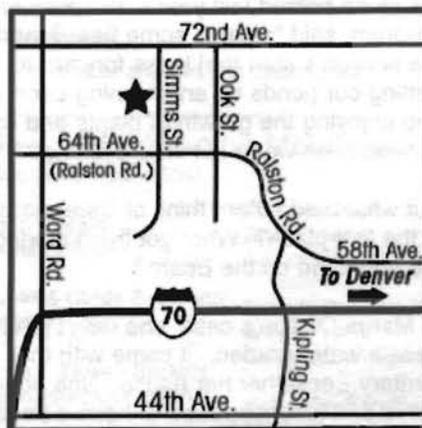
The program will cover information on a range of issues including: pump efficiency, lifetime costs, lighting and solar options, how to minimize water loss by building correctly, rainwater "law", and natural water treatments that minimize damage to the environment.

Tim's presentation begins at 7:00 PM, but join us at 6:00 for a potluck dinner. Bring a dish of your own choosing. The club will provide drinks, cups, plates and utensils, and we'll all share. The potluck is a new twist we're trying during this season while we're transplanted from our usual meeting space at Denver Botanic Gardens.

The potluck dinner and program are being held at our new temporary home, The Fellowship Hall of the Arvada Church of Christ, 6757 Simms Street, Arvada CO. To reach the church, drive west from downtown Denver on I-70 to Kipling Street. Drive north on Kipling, which curves west via Ralston Rd. and becomes 64th. Turn right on Simms. The church is just over the crest of the hill on the left.

The church has a website showing a location map: [www.arvadachurch.org](http://www.arvadachurch.org) The map is also reprinted here.

As you drive in the church parking lot, look left and you'll see three sets of double glass doors. Park close to the doors, walk into the building, walk through the lobby, go up the stairs, and turn right down the hall. The fellowship hall is a large room on the left at the end of the hall. We'll also have signs posted.



**Star shows location of meeting**  
(Arvada Church of Christ, 6757 Simms Street – Arvada, CO)

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of Jan. 31 '09  
\$15,794.44

## Getting To Know The Board

The CWGS Board is made up of members who share your interests, experiences, and some of the same frustrations. Recently I asked the group what had brought them to water gardening and to the Board.

Several people commented upon the attraction of sound and the outdoors. Vicki Aber, the club's President likes "the sound of moving water, the gestalt of water, fish, plants." Jim Arneill, the club's former VP and the muse behind last year's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary program, said "despite some heavy labor at the season's start [he] looks forward to getting our ponds up and running each year and enjoying the growth of plants and sitting outside ...on warm summer evenings."

But what made them think of water gardening in the first place? What got them started in the pond and on the Board?

In Marge Oleson's case, she didn't plan to have a water garden. It came with the territory...or rather her house. She bought a home that just happened to have a pond already in place. But the pond was barren. Marge set out to furnish it with plants and to learn how to keep them alive. Now she co-chairs the Water Plants Division of the Denver Botanic Gardens' May Plant Sale!

April Hough had "always wanted a pond." She and Jonathan started out with a whiskey barrel. It wasn't terribly successful. By luck one day when they were in Eichters, they came upon John and Mary Mirgon (co-founders of CWGS). John and Mary were so



*A partial view of the CWGS Board taken recently during a business meeting at Vicki's home.*

helpful that later that summer when the Houghs traveled to Canada just as one of their new prize lilies was about to bloom for the first time, the Mirgons kept record of the blooms and reported to April.

Lynn Jewett, a long-time member and recent returning Board director, always seemed to have a pond, then two, then three – a common occurrence with pond folk. (Witness Vicki's multiple, ponds, streams, and container gardens!) Lynn, like the Houghs, also came to know and work with John Mirgon. Drawn into club work by John, Lynn was for many year's the club's volunteer coordinator for the Sunday volunteer sessions at DBG where he remembers (fondly now) experiencing one of those frustrations I mentioned: chipping ice from plants caught by a freak October ice storm.

Ken Lange, like Marge, bought a house. His yard had no ready-built pond. But it had lots of weeds just where a pond might go. Ken bought a pond kit at Home Depot and then, like Marge, was faced with planting the void. By luck, about that time he saw a flier for the CWGS Plant Sale. Now, as club treasurer, Ken accounts for money at the same sale.

Janet Bathurst married into the affliction, then caught it herself. You may remember Bill and Janet's recently completed pond and stream from this past year's Pond Tour. We held the picnic there. Janet is the Club's Vice President; Bill is its Secretary.

Michael Weber, a recent addition to the Board, was a gardener of the dry land sort. Back east his specialty was Hosta. After moving to Colorado, Michael quickly discovered Hosta was not the most easily acclimated plant in our alkaline soil. So he tried something new – a pond. Like Ken, Michael joined the club at the Annual Plant Sale in order to buy a few plants to fill out his new experiment. Later he volunteered to the water plants division of the DBG May sale. Now...he's on the CWGS Board!

In retrospect I, like April, must have always wanted a pond. As a kid, I spent much of my time playing in mud puddles. I'm still at it, but these days my puddle is just a little larger and if I'm lucky, it has better water clarity.

*Bill Powell*

Editor, The Water Garden

**BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2009:**

March 15, 1:00 PM - Bathurst residence  
 April 19, 1:00 PM- Powell residence  
 May 17, 1:00 PM- Weber residence  
 June 28 – location and time TBD  
 July 19, 1:00 PM- Lange residence  
 Aug.16 – Denver Botanic Gardens, time TBD  
 Sept. 20, 1:00 PM - Oleson residence  
 Oct. 18, 1:00 PM – Weber residence

**Club members are welcome to attend !**



**Lotus Sale**

Buy yours during  
 Get Wet 2009 -  
 April 20th at DBG

**N. 'Green Maiden'**  
 Available at the sale.

Photo by Craig Presnell,  
 Luster Aquatic Nursery

Everyone loves lotus (Nelumbo). What's not to love? The blooms are spectacular, but even without the blossoms the leaves are enough to make the plant worth growing.

Lotus leaves look tropical and can be larger than dinner plates. As a bonus, the plant is hardy in our climate. If you don't grow lotus, you need one or two. If you have some, you need more. Trust us on this.

To aid in your lotus addiction, we are ordering-in some tubers for your purchasing pleasure. We'll have them at the Get Wet meeting April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are ordering quite a few but last time many varieties sold out, so get there early.

We'll have sizes from miniature to very large. Look for details in the next newsletter, including a little about each variety we're ordering.

*Vicki Aber*

For the Plant Sales Committee

**Focus On:**



Article by  
Bill Powell

Photo by Craig  
Presnell, Luster  
Aquatic Nursery

## **Nymphaea 'Joey Tomocik'**

From time to time this year the newsletter will focus on plants that were identified as Member favorites in last year's "Plant Election". This issue highlights Nymphaea 'Joey Tomocik', the winner of the Hardy Lily category.

N. 'Joey Tomocik' is a free flowering, bright yellow hardy water lily that's a proven performer in Colorado. Hybridized by Kirk Strawn in 1993, the lily (parented by N. mexicana on an odorata rhizome) was named in honor of Joe Tomocik's daughter. Regular readers of this newsletter will recognize Joe as the Curator of Water Gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens. Joe's daughter Joey lives in New York.

'Joey,' as the lily is affectionately known, is always on display at DBG during the summer months. The plant can spread

three to four feet and produces stellate lemon-yellow flowers, four to five inches in size, that hover above faintly mottled leaves. Maryland Aquatics nursery makes special note of the plant's "very long flowering season."

Like all water lilies, 'Joey' loves the sun and ample fertilization during the growing season. It's reported hardy to below 15 degrees and returns dependably when given minimal winter protection by sinking the pot below the freeze level of the pond or even outside the pond when merely covered with bags of leaves against a protected wall.

Division of a healthy N. 'Joey Tomocik' is easy – and even necessary when this vigorous grower crowds your pot. If a club member offers you a division, say yes! And keep in mind that if all else fails, 'Joey' is sure to be marketed at both the DBG and CWGS plant sales in May and June respectively.

### **PROPAGATION AT A GLANCE:**

- N. 'Joey Tomocik' - hardy waterlily
- Light bright yellow, stellate blossom
- Small to medium plant size – 4 ft. diameter leaf spread +/-
- Green leaves, slightly mottled
- Very long flowering season
- Well suited for the front range

## "GREEN" Separates BLUE From BROWN

By Bill Powell

### **An environmentally sustainable venture links beer, clean water, and fish food**

You might wonder what beer, wastewater processing, and fish meal have in common. A venture bio-tech company Oberon FMR, located in Idaho Springs CO, has just won recognition for creatively exploiting the connection.

This past December Oberon won BioWest's 2008 Venture Showcase Competition with a pilot project that "converts wastewater from food and beverage companies into a protein-rich ingredient for animal foods." <sup>1</sup> The proprietary process introduces a further step in cleaning the wastewater stream from food manufacturing plants.

Conventional treatment isolates 90% of suspended solids in the form of waste sludge, which is then composted, used as fertilizer, placed in landfills, or incinerated. 10% of the solids remain in the effluent outflow as suspended particles. These must be treated again and removed downstream as part of municipal treatment of bio-solids.

Oberon's process diverts nutrient-enriched wastewater from food and beverage manufacture to feed "protein-rich microorganisms (SCP)." <sup>1</sup> As a result, a higher percentage of bio-solid is removed from the effluent. Sludge is eliminated altogether as bi-product. The microorganisms that feed on the wastewater are then harvested to produce SCP meal, a protein-enriched ingredient from which fish food can be manufactured.

Wastewater from beer and beverage manufacture is particularly rich in nutrients. As a test, New Belgium Brewery is already operating a pilot FMR (Fish Meal Replacement) effluent treatment program at its facility in Fort Collins in the hope that the process proves practical in capturing nutrients and transforming them to commercially usable protein.

Although removal of unnecessary nutrients from wastewater is helpful to preservation of pristine aquifers, the primary goal of the FMR process is to harvest the nutrients to benefit world hunger.

FMR protein "is in high demand by feed companies – in particular by manufacturers supplying feed to industrial-size fish farms around the world... Oberon's current focus addresses a major problem faced by the aquaculture industry, namely its reliance on a constrained resource: fish meal protein."

*(Continued on page 8)*

### "Green" Separates... *cont. from page 7*

"Fish meal is produced from wild stocks of school fish generally considered undesirable for human consumption. Over the last decade, the supply of fish meal has remained stable, if not declining in the wake of extraordinary pressures placed upon natural marine fisheries.

Nevertheless, demand for fish meal has increased significantly as fish farmers seek to meet a growing human appetite for fish meat, considered as the best food source for improving global diets."<sup>1</sup>

More fish meal will support more commercially-raised fish, thereby reducing demand on unfarmed fish and supplying world need of fast growing tilapia, shrimp, and crayfish whose "carbon footprint" for raising and harvesting is less than wild species.

A novel "green" industry initiative, the Oberon FMR program appears to offer multiple advantages: cleaner water, sustainable aquaculture, and increased savings to industry and municipalities by separating brown sludge from blue water while increasing green (money) on the bottom line of the financial ledger.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> quotes from PRWeb press release online at [www.prweb.com/releases/fishprotein...](http://www.prweb.com/releases/fishprotein...)

### ***In spite of it all... ...Spring Volunteer Opportunities at DBG***

If you've peeked into Denver Botanic Gardens lately, or even if you've only driven by on York Street, you've seen lots of construction activity. Perhaps you've wondered how the excavations will affect the Garden's program this spring? The same question is on the minds of curators and staff, but with spring DBG will blossom regardless and CWGS-coordinated volunteers will be there to help.

At the moment we're unsure how the spring volunteer season may be affected by construction within the gardens. As of this writing we believe the current greenhouses and the Hort. house (where volunteers meet) will still be intact at the end of March or early April when we customarily assemble for our six Sundays of spring work. But who knows for certain where we'll meet and just what we may be called upon to do?

Our schedule and chores may vary this spring, but Sunday volunteer days will still offer lots of occasions for learning and fun with fellow water gardeners. Why not join us? **For more information, contact Bill Powell 303.355.8098 or via email at [wbpow@comcast.net](mailto:wbpow@comcast.net).**

## Get Wet ...2009!

**Get ready for the water gardening season at our special event on April 20!**

Container gardens offer unlimited possibilities for creating beautiful and interesting water features for your home. Whether you're considering planting a ceramic teacup or a large wooden whiskey barrel, the topic is of interest to water gardeners from beginners to advanced.

This year's "Get Wet – Water Gardening Fun in 2009!" features Cyndie Thomas, who will present practical and fascinating information on container water gardens. Her program provides the basics of setting up a container water garden, and it highlights creative ways to develop your own special twist.

"Get Wet" will take place on Monday, April 20 in Gates Hall at Denver Botanic Gardens. Admission to Denver Botanic Gardens for the program is free, as is the program itself!

Cyndie's presentation begins at 7:00 pm, followed by a special session on lotus as well as information about the upcoming water gardening season.

Beforehand, from 6:30-7:00 pm, representatives from major garden centers in the metropolitan area will be set up in the foyer outside Gates Hall. Their displays will include information about water gardening resources and services they can provide for you.

Our lotus session will be presented by water gardening expert Bob Hoffman, who will share his knowledge of lotus growing and also demonstrate how to plant them. One of our door prizes will be the lotus planted at the demonstration!

The club will also be selling a selection of lotus tubers at the event. (For more detail about the sale, see the article on page 5 of this issue.)

From 8:30 - 9:00, you will again have an opportunity to visit with industry representatives, and be sure to "Ask the Experts" your own water gardening questions.

The evening promises to be one of fun, education, and door prizes! We hope you'll mark your calendars and join us for this special evening.

*Jim Arneill,*

Board member and Get Wet Chairperson

### New and Returning Members: (Oct. 2008 – Jan 2009)

**John Bayard**  
Centennial, CO

**David & Cindy Becklund**  
Littleton, CO

**John & Teresa Burkert**  
Northglenn, CO (NEW)

**Larry Brown**  
Brighton, CO

**Jo Ann & Mark Graham**  
Denver, CO

**Joan & Brian Greelman**  
Arvada, CO

**Wanda Grell**  
Parker, CO

**Tom Herbst & Ann Habeger**  
Aurora, CO

**Brenda Parsons Hier & Peter Hier**  
Golden, CO (NEW)

**Bob & Fran Hoffman**  
Littleton, CO

**Kerstin Karloev**  
Lakewood, CO

**Martha Miller & Joel Waszak**  
Louisville, CO

**Terri O'Brien**  
Englewood, CO

**Michael Weber & Sandy Berenbaum**  
Denver, CO

*Welcome All!*

### Express Membership Application

**Membership Fees: \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family**  
Join or Renew Today!

Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;  
DO NOT send cash; Check or Money Order only, please. Thank you.  
Return this form with your payment to:

**CWGS Membership**  
100 Glencoe St.  
Denver, CO 80220

(Please Print)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pond Experience (Beginner) \_\_\_\_\_ (Some Skill) \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

- I would like my contact information included in a membership list that will be distributed only to the members.
- I do not want my contact information published in the membership list.

\* Note: Providing your e-mail address authorizes and enables CWGS to send you notifications of interest from time to time. CWGS does not share e-mail addresses with other entities.

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:

DBG Volunteer Sundays \_\_\_\_\_ Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale \_\_\_\_\_  
Hudson Gardens \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ CWGS Plant Sale (June) \_\_\_\_\_ Pond Tour (July) \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Blossom Festival (July/Aug) \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Party (Dec.) \_\_\_\_\_

Or...Did you know?

**You can now pay your dues online at [www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)**

**using PayPal**

Colorado Water Garden Society  
1210 Clayton Street  
Denver, CO 80206-3214

## ***This Year:***

**Monday, Mar. 16:**

Program on "green" pond  
technology - 6:00 to 8:30

*Fellowship Hall, Arvada Church of  
Christ (ACC), 6757 Simms Street,  
Arvada - North of Simms and 64<sup>th</sup>.*

*Potluck dinner 6:00 - 7:00*

*Program begins at 7:00*

**Apr. 20: Get Wet 2009**

*6:30 to 9:00 PM, Gates Hall*

*Denver Botanic Gardens*

**May 18: Plant Swap & Pot Luck**

*6 to 8:30 PM, ACC Arvada*

**June 7: Annual Plant Sale**

*9AM to 3PM, Hudson Gardens*

**June 28: Waterside Program**

*2:00 at the home of Terry Grisham*

**July 11: Pond Tour/Picnic**

*11 AM to 4PM, Picnic at 5:00*

**Aug. 16: Water Blossom Festival /  
Featured Speaker TBA**

*10AM to 3PM - program at 1PM*

*Denver Botanic Gardens.*

**Aug. 30: Waterside Program**

*2:00 at the home of Doris and*

*Len Freestone*

**Sep. 21: Annual Meeting,  
Elections, & Pot Luck**

*6 to 8:30 PM, ACC, Arvada*

**Oct. 19: Program & Pot Luck**

*6 to 8:30 PM, ACC, Arvada*

**Dec. 7: Holiday Banquet**

*6 to 8:30 PM, ACC, Arvada*

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