

Colorado Water Garden Society
c/o Newsletter Editor
1023 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, Colorado 80017



First Class Mail

September 12
Morrison Center, Denver
Botanic Gardens

- Vote on Articles of
Incorporation Changes
- Board/Officer Elections
- *Elements of Japanese
Water Gardens* - Paul
Swenby, Landscape
Architect, aPR Landscaping

December 4
CWGS Holiday Party
Morrison Center, Denver
Botanic Gardens
More details will be coming

Board Meetings are held at
12:00 pm prior to general
meetings at 2:00 pm.
Members are encouraged to
attend.



The Water Garden

Volume 21, Number 6

September 2004

“Elements of Japanese Water Gardens” will wrap up another year of CWGS programs and learning activities

Paul and Rose Swenby, long-time members of CWGS and builders of many of the ponds featured on CWGS Pond Tours over the years, will present the final educational program of the year at the September CWGS meeting.

Paul, a landscape architect, apprenticed in Japan for two years, so it is only fitting that the topic is “Elements of Japanese Water Gardens.” Following his passion for building ponds, he and Rose are the owners of aPR Landscaping.

Paul and Rose specialize in large water features, utilizing large rocks, multiple



levels, long streams, and lots and lots of plants. They designed two of the ponds on the tour this past July, including the pond above, owned by Jan Davis of Parker.



Visitors to the CWGS Water Garden Spectacular at DBG August 21 enjoyed looking at the water features and plants, all created and maintained by CWGS volunteers. In fact, volunteers gave in excess of 1,000 hours of assistance so far this year. No, these ducks weren't visiting; they're living in the main lily pond. More pics on page 10.

Official
Journal
of the
Colorado
Water Garden
Society

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<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>

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.

--- Every year during Spring and Fall cleanup at the Denver Botanic Gardens, volunteer workers find change in the cleaned and drained ponds. This year we are offering CWGS members the opportunity to win a prize

- a small pre-formed pond. What you do to win is guess how much money will be collected by the end of Fall cleanup, 2004. The Spring cleanup yielded a total of \$2.18, collected after the Gardens drained the ponds before cleaning.

You can e-mail your guesses to Gail Goldberg, Treasurer, at ggold@pcisys.net or hand them in during a meeting. Each member can enter only once. There is a slight advantage to those volunteers that will be helping with the Fall cleanup, so contact Lowell Coon to sign up.

The winner will be announced in the November newsletter, with the pond to be awarded at the Holiday Party. All monies collected will go back to Denver Botanic Gardens.

EXPRESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Fees: \$10.00 Individual; \$15.00 Family

Fees may change without notice

Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;
DO NOT send cash. Thank you.

Return this form with your payment to:

CWGS Membership
1023 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, CO 80017

(Please Print)

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Pond Experience (Beginner) _____ (Some Skill) _____ (Pro) _____

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:

CWGS Sale (June) _____ Pond Tour (July) _____ Outreach _____

DBG Plant Help (Spring) _____ (Fall) _____ DBG Sale (May) _____



At the August 21st Water Gardening Spectacular, CWGS honored its DBG volunteers. In total, they spent over 1,000 hours getting the water gardens at DBG ready this year. Membership information, behind-the-scenes tours of the greenhouses, helpers at each pond, and general pond and plant information were provided.



Future issues of CWGS Governance to be up for vote; the Society's Vice-President explains why

Dear Members:

Your Board of Trustees has been discussing various means of increasing the number, and hopefully, the diversity of the Board. At present, the Board consists of seven members, the Officers (President, Vice Pres., Secretary and Treasurer), Program Chair, two Members at Large and two *ad hoc* members (appointed last year).

In March 2003, Board discussions led to a proposal intended for presentation to the membership with specifics printed in the April 2003 *Water Garden*. The Board was to be enlarged to "a maximum" of 15 members. While the key Board positions would be elected, the arrangement allowed for a number of members to be appointed (not elected). The amendment proposal was determined to need further review. The membership was made aware of the concerns that had arisen at the April 13, 2003 meeting, and the vote was postponed.

In October 2003, the Board President appointed a subcommittee to examine the issues, including Board size and designation. I was appointed to chair the committee and Chuck Hunt, Gail Goldberg, Bill Powell and Ken Lange volunteered to serve as members. This committee held several meetings to discuss the ramifications of the Governance of CWGS.

There was a strong feeling that an increase in membership of the Board would allow inclusion of a more diverse

group, both long-term members and those who have more recently joined. The precise number is somewhat arbitrary, but the committee chose 13 for the number. Note that a quorum to do business is greater than 50% of the board members serving.

A second issue explored was the option of having a committee chair necessarily being a member of the Board. The committee considered the issue and determined there might be a conflict of interest between a dedicated committee chair and the commitment to a Board position. Certainly, it is desirable to have key committee chairs available at meetings of the Board at critical times, but that did not require actual membership on the Board. The increase in number of members of the Board also provides a potential cadre of dedicated persons who would be likely key committee candidates; however, any member who has interest may be considered for committee chairmanship.

The subcommittee felt strongly that the proposed changes in "Governance" of the CWGS Articles of Incorporation provides an opportunity for inclusion of ideas to represent all the members of the Society. Key to the success of the proposals is willingness of members to participate. For the future success of the Society, please call any member of the Board and volunteer your service!

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Future issues of CWGS Governance up for vote this month

Continued from Page 3

A final item the subcommittee recommended was a change in membership dues. Due to continuing increases in printing and postage a five dollar (\$5) increase annually was proposed. This would be the first increase in the dues structure since 1991.

At the August Board meeting approval was given to present the proposed changes for vote as outlined here.

Sincerely,

Duff Kerr
Vice-President

Proposed Changes to discuss for Amendment
ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT.

Sec. 1

The Business of the Society shall be managed by a Board of Trustees.

Sec. 2

The Board of Trustees shall consist of **thirteen (13)** members of the Society who shall be the elected officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and **nine (9)** Members-At-Large.

Sec. 3

The Board of Trustees shall be the Committee of Nominations and shall present a slate of candidates for elections to specific officers or at large positions at the final meeting of the Society. Nominations may be also made from the floor. Such Trustees shall, be elected by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at the meeting.

Sec. 4

Trustees shall hold office for a term of two (2) years with the offices staggered. The President, Treasurer and **five (5)** At-Large Members shall be elected in odd years. The Vice-President, Secretary and **four (4)** At Large Members in even years.

Sec. 5

Officers of the Society may serve **two (2)** consecutive terms; they then will have an absence from **that office** for one (1) year before they can be reappointed. **At-Large members of the Board of Trustees shall not have a limit to number of terms. Two (2)** consecutive absences or excessive absence from Board meetings may require resignation from the Board.

Sec. 6

A quorum of the Board must be present to transact Society business. A quorum of the Board shall consist of **the next whole number greater than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of currently serving Board** members. A simple majority shall prevail in all cases at all meetings of the Society except amendment of the By-Laws or election to Honorary membership.

Final disposition of June Sale plants

A few final words need to be said on this year's plant sale. After 10 years of very successful sales, this is the first year I have to relay that we may have lost money on the sale. On the positive side, we have a great inventory of pots, fertilizer and floating islands for future purchase.

plants as they were closing the store at the end of the season.

During the process of retrieving the plants we were shown a "makeshift" growing area along an inside greenhouse wall with potted plants. We were told they "didn't have room for these plants we didn't want," yet they didn't know which were theirs and ours. They were unable, or unwilling, to say which of their many growing tropical and hardy lilies were from the CWGS plant inventory.

The CWGS Board speculates the decline in support of our annual sale is due to the increase in the number of neighborhood garden centers that have continued to expand their water garden plant stock and supplies. Current economics was also thought to be a contributor.

We were then asked what CWGS was going to pay for the labor costs they incurred to pot up and care for the plants. In exasperation, and desiring to overcome a major confrontation, the plants were left. Within an hour of departure, a call was received relaying Ron wished CWGS to pick up the remaining plants the next day.

It was thought that a small profit could be made from resale of the remaining plants to Ron's Golden Ponds at less than wholesale prices. In a telephone contact we were told they had been "waiting for our call" and they had "\$850-\$1,000 to spend." Our remaining plants were transported to their store at the close of the sale day.

Bagged plants were picked up, as requested, and a quick inventory check determined a number of the marginal plants were returned, but less than 5% of the quality water lilies they had received were returned. It was the decision of the CWGS Board to invoice Ron's Golden Ponds for the verifiable waterlilies that were not returned, based on our inventory of delivered plants.

After seven weeks and several failures of their owners and/or employees to return calls regarding the status of items they had chosen to keep, we received a letter. The letter implied they had never desired to have any of the plants and requested that we arrange to pick them up. Arriving the next day to pick up the plants, we were told no one knew for sure what had been potted by their employees for resale. They had taken an inventory, but would have to review it to determine what they had kept. There were erroneous claims made, with conflicting statements and excuses. They did state that, NOW, they had no need for

Just thought you'd like to know....

Postscript: One good thing came out of all this, however - we had plenty of plants to give away at the August 21 Water Garden Spectacular at Denver Botanic Gardens. Visitors to CWGS' display were ecstatic.

Fall water gardening tasks prepare the pond for winter

Continued from Page 7

sunny window. Remember not to place them directly in front of a south or west window, as this could cause leaf burn. Use an old dishpan or any container that will hold water to set the potted plant in. Keep a sufficient level of water to maintain the plant. The plants do not need to be submerged in the water as they were in the pond, just keep their "feet" constantly wet.

It is a good idea to hang a few sticky fly strips near plants to catch annoying gnats and other flying insects looking for a place to live. It is important to watch for any insect increase that may arise and treat it promptly, before it gets out of control. If any bugs are visible, crush with fingers or, if you are squeamish, use a q-tip. White flies, spider mites and mealy bugs are among the worst to control if you let populations get out of hand. A hard spray of water from the shower should be tried first. A soap-acide can be used as an alternate method. As plants will return to the pond, insecticides should be avoided, and systemic insecticides should NEVER be used.

Cannas can be brought in and grown in a sunny location, or they can be removed from their pots, and the rhizomes stored. Remove all foliage and thoroughly clean away dirt. Store in a plastic bag with slightly dampened peat moss in a location that maintains a temperature around 50 degrees F. Don't make the bag airtight. Check it periodically to remove any portions that may rot.

You should not fertilize again until next spring when you return the plants to the



pond. At that time you may also wish to prune, divide and/or re-pot plants.

Another method used to over-winter many tropical water plants is to take cuttings. Asclepias, Ruellia, Gymnocoronis, and some Hibiscus are easily propagated in this manner. Cuttings can be put in water and placed in bright light. Add water as needed and fully change if it develops an odor. When a good root system emerges at the "jointed" points on the stem of plants, you can then pot them and maintain water as needed, or place them in containers that hold water.

BY-Law Amendment requiring vote of the members

Proposed Membership dues increase

BY-Laws

ARTICLE II

Sec. 1

Dues starting in the calendar year of 1992 will be ten dollars (\$10) per year for a single membership, and fifteen dollars (\$15) per year for a family/couple membership. – As amended September 1991.

Proposed change:

ARTICLE II

Sec. 1

Dues starting in the calendar year of 2005 will be fifteen dollars (\$15) per year for a single membership, and twenty dollars (\$20) per year for a family/couple membership.

PROPOSED Board of Directors Structure

EVEN Year Elections (2-year Elected Positions)

First election - September 2004

Office

Vice-President
Secretary
Member-at-Large 2
Member-at-Large 4
Member-at-Large 6
Member-at-Large 8

Candidate(s)

Duff Kerr (current Vice-President)
Bill Powell (current Secretary)
Chuck Hunt (current *ad hoc* Member-at-Large)
Ken Lange (current *ad hoc* Member-at-Large)
Marge Oleson
Michael Thomas

Nominations from the floor for any of these Board positions will be entertained at the September meeting. A member should acknowledge and accept the nomination to be elected.

In the event the Articles of Incorporation changes outlined above are not accepted by the membership in attendance at the September meeting, the Board will remain as it is currently structured. Officers to be elected will then include Vice-President, Secretary, and one Member-at-Large (#2 above).

Secretary's Note: Continuing service from the odd-year election of 2003 are MAL#1 **Lowell Coon**, MAL#3 **Rebecca Nash**, President **Cyndie Thomas**, and Treasurer **Gail Goldberg**. Cyndie will complete her last year of her two-year term. Because she is on her third term as President, the Board unanimously voted to allow completion of the last year of her term so as to allow for continuity and to simplify this year's election process, already complicated by the proposed Board enlargement. In order to balance the staggered even/odd year classes, **Jim Arneill** will stand for a one-year appointment for the MAL #5 slot. Two one-year appointments for MAL positions would be open to anyone interested in becoming an integral part of the new board, and they would be encouraged to run for a 2-year position at the next election.

Fall water gardening tasks prepare the pond for winter

Shorter days, cooler nights and a decrease in hardy lily blooms are sure signs the end to another water gardening season is almost here.

Until the first freeze arrives, there is a lot of maintenance that needs to be continued. Yellowing lily pads and spent blossoms should be removed at the crown. Any dead or dying plant material in the pond should be removed. If, or when, aphids arrive for their fall feast, dislodge them from the pads with a hard spray of water. Topping off the water level often puts pads under water for a long enough period of time to allow fish (if they are hungry enough) to enjoy a change in diet.

When tree leaves begin falling, remove any that fall or blow into the pond. If deciduous trees are in close proximity to your pond, bird netting can be stretched over the surface to keep leaves from falling in and polluting the pond. This will also decrease work at spring pond cleaning time.

If you are over-wintering fish, the cleaner your pond is going into winter, the less the possibilities for health problems for fish during that time and early next spring. Make sure to keep mechanical filters clean, until they are shut down for the season. When water temperatures drop below 50-55 degrees, discontinue feeding fish.

Well before the first frost, decide if you are going to over-winter any tropical plants inside. Many do very well when cared for as houseplants. After the first significant frost hits, remove all dying plant material in the pond. Lily pads below the surface may be



removed, too. Hardy lilies, lotus and marginally-hardy emergent plants should be placed below the level of the pond surface freeze. If the pond is not of sufficient depth and freezing of plant crowns may occur, move to a basement or garage. You can store the plants in their pots. Wrap with damp newspaper and place in a plastic bag in a dark location. Make sure to keep newspaper and soil damp, not wet.

You can also “heel” in potted plants. Dig a hole deep enough for plants to be placed 12-18” below ground level (frost level). Fill with the dirt you removed. For a bit of added protection, cover with weed cloth and mulch with bark or pine needles. Dig them out in the spring and return to the pond after fertilizing and repotting as needed.

Marginal water plants that are USDA-hardy in Zone 1-4 do not need any special attention. This would include cattails, irises, reeds, sedges, sweet flags and rushes.

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Fall water gardening tasks prepare the pond for winter

Continued from Page 6

Many of these, if cut off below water surface or placed below water surface for the winter, will rot and die. You can leave dead foliage for winter interest and cut back in the spring after new growth appears.

Waterfalls can be shut down; pumps and filters should be cleaned and stored in an area where they will not freeze. If fish are left in the pond for the winter, an area should be prevented from freezing by placing a small pump in the pond with the outlet one to two inches below the surface. This allows for the exchange of gases, eliminating the demise of fish from a build-up of ammonia from excrement or decaying matter. Aerators and surface heaters are also used for this purpose.

If you find life difficult without the sights and sound of your pond during dreary winter days, add a tabletop fountain to your inside décor. Many water gardeners find winter is the time to begin planning where they can build their next pond or add another water feature next year.

Over-wintering Tropicals

Many water plants are perennial plants, meaning they will endure for a number of years, going dormant during the Fall and Winter seasons and returning the following spring season. There are a number of perennial water plants that are not winter hardy in our region due to our temperature extremes. These are often referred to as “tropicals.”

Tropicals can be treated as annual plants and replaced each year, and many can be over-wintered as houseplants through the fall and winter seasons. Prime candidates for this activity are: Cannas, Taros, Blue Bell (Ruellia), Gymnocoronis, Umbrella Palm (Cyperus), Papyrus, and Hibiscus.

The best time to bring in tropical perennials is around mid-September. If plants are left out too long, they begin to start the adjustment toward dormancy. This makes the adjustment to the indoor environment more stressful.

Before you bring plants into the house, inspect them for insects. Most insects can be dislodged with a hard spray of water from the hose. Bring in and place near a bright,

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Colorado Water Garden Society

Welcome to CWGS!!

Renewing Members

- Betsy Fallin
- Georgia Keller
- Kimary Marchese
- Beth Soltis