2009 CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic:
This year we're rolling a Lucky 7 on 11
Saturday, July 11

by Michael Weber
Pond Tour Co-Chair

63 S. Fairfax St.
(right) will be on the tour this year

The Club's annual pond tour focuses on the southeast quadrant of the metro area. Our tour offers seven quite different ponds and water features in a compact itinerary bounded on the west by Broadway, on the north by Sixth, on the east by Chambers Rd. and on the south by Evans and Iliff.

The tour starts at 11:00 AM on Saturday July 11 and ends at 4:30 PM. The tour is free and open to all CWGS members and their guests. It's self-guided.

A picnic follows at 5:00 PM at site # 7, 63 S. Fairfax St., Denver. CWGS members, their guests, and, of course, the pond hosts will meet to discuss the day's sights and enjoy a cookout. We'll have hamburgers, veggie burgers, brats, side dishes, drinks, and dessert — all for only $3 a plate for adults. Children under 12 are free. Your plate charge also buys you a ticket for door prizes, which will include potted lotus, several tropical waterlilies, some carnivorous species, and a nice selection of hardy and tropical marginal plants.

If you can, bring a folding chair or beach towel to the picnic for your comfort. We have plenty of lawn, but not so many seats.

The tour includes one pond just east of Washington Park, four ponds between Colorado Blvd. and Monaco Parkway, and two ponds in Aurora just east of I-225, off of Iliff Ave. and Mississippi Ave.

Because of the compact itinerary, your drive time will not exceed 1-1/2 hr., leaving you lots of time to admire the water gardens. Take as long as you like and be sure to ask questions of your hosts. You'll find a range of expertise about plants, water filtration, fish keeping, and wildlife habitat management. Several of the owners have maintained their ponds and water features for decades. Others have only recently finished their ponds and bring fresh perspective.

(continued on page 4)
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The Water Garden is published eight times a year and is made available to current members both in printed form and online. Past volumes of The Water Garden are archived online at:

www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:
As of May 31, 2009: $13,288.94

CWGS Water Garden Fund of the Denver Botanic Gardens Endowment:
Principle as of end of 2008 FY was $32,234. $2,386 was generated in income in 2008.

CWGS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2009:
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!
A New Location Proves Pleasant...
The Club's June Sale runs smoothly at Hudson Gardens

By Vicki Aber
CWGS President and Sale Chairperson

Ongoing construction at Denver Botanic Gardens made it necessary for us to find a different location for our Annual Plant Sale this June, but despite the move and a last minute change of date, everything worked out well. The plants arrived in good condition. Setup went smoothly and we thought the sale ran very well.

Even nature cooperated! With wild weather both before and after the sale day, we lucked out with very good weather the day of the sale. I hope everyone found their way to Hudson Gardens and had a chance to enjoy the gardens while they shopped. Our spot at Hudson Gardens offered a lot of shade and was very plant friendly. The pleasant conditions made for a great opportunity to engage the members and the public. All in all we thought the location worked well. We may decide to do the sale there again. I'd be interested in feedback from members regarding this year's location. Call, email, or contact us through the website with your thoughts.

As always, this kind of major undertaking couldn't happen without many hands. We had great helpers for both the Friday setup and on sale day. Thanks to everyone who participated: the Plant Sale Committee, the Board, the many club members who volunteered, Hudson Gardens, and especially to the people who came and purchased plants (after all that is what the sale is for).

Thanks, also, to those of you who donated plants and equipment. We never know what we'll get with the donations, but the surprise makes it fun. This year we even had some GIANT plants that many people eyed but only a few were brave enough to try. (Thanks Bob, Lois, Nancy, Werner, Joe, and everyone for your contributions!)

... And special thanks to Enery Water Gardens in Arvada for purchasing many of the sale's leftover plants. Janet Bathurst, our Club V.P. negotiated this arrangement with Enery. Thanks, Janet. (By the way, in addition to buying the plants, Enery also made a generous - and unsolicited - donation to the Club!)

Janet and others have also been babysitting some additional choice plans. We'll be offering the plants as door prizes at the picnic after the Pond Tour. The selection includes a potted lotus, a tropical waterlily or two, and some carnivorous plants as well as assorted marginals and barefoot hardy lilies.

Speaking of the Pond Tour, I hope you've read Michael Weber's article on the front page of the newsletter. This year's tour sounds really interesting and, happily, is a very compact itinerary that still offers a wide range of gardens for view. Just the thing to pass the time on a warm summer Saturday. I hope to see you there!
Pond Tour & Picnic (continued from front Page)

This year’s tour offerings include a range of pond sizes and types complete with streams, waterfalls, bog gardens, and assorted specialty features. Some were contractor-built. Many were built by the owners. Brief descriptions of the ponds follow in the Tour Itinerary.

This newsletter includes a “take-along” proximity map and narratives with directions from major intersections for each of the sites, but we recommend that you also bring a Denver map or use an online map service or GPS system for additional detail.

The numbering of the sites suggests an order you might follow, but feel free to visit ponds in any order you prefer. Just keep in mind that the Club Picnic will take place at site #7. Each pond site will be marked with a sign.

As a courtesy to pond hosts, please make bathroom stops before arriving at host yards. Only the yards are open to visitation. The houses are not. Also, please leave sites 1 - 6 by 4:30 PM to assure that everyone, pond hosts included, have time to drive to the picnic at site #7.

2009 CWGS Pond Tour Itinerary:

#1 Jim Carlson - 1675 South Corona St., Denver
Jim's is a mature pond of about 2,000 gallons, containing beautiful fish and a variety of plants. The pond is heated during winter and the water quality is closely monitored. If you have problems with water clarity, Jim is just the person you'll want to talk with. He can explain in detail various techniques for maintaining a clear and balanced pond that includes both plant life and fish. And...he can tell you how to set up and operate a UV system!

Enter down the driveway.

#2 Jan Belmear - 1701 South Ivy St., Denver
Jan's installation includes an integrated wetland with multiple streams and waterfalls enclosed in an extensive garden. It even includes a putting green! The property is surrounded by a large white fence.

Please enter from the side gate on Mexico Ave.

(Note: Pond #2 and #3 are very close by – perhaps only 3 or 4 minutes apart.)

#3 Jude Capozelo - 1538 South Jasmine St., Denver
Jude’s pond was installed in May 2006. Its 1,800 gallons are home to 3 comet goldfish and about 14 Koi of varying sizes. The pond contains a variety of plants including variegated water celery, lotus (Chawan Basu), Gamecock Iris, and a monkey plant.

Jude’s pond attracts a good deal of wildlife. It’s been visited by a sharp-shinned hawk, foxes, a black-crowned night heron, and two mallards this spring. Take care not to disturb the ducks if they are still nesting when you visit.

#4 Lynn & Nancy Jewett - 14406 E. Warren Pl, Aurora
East Warren Pl. is a cul-de-sac. Enter the backyard on the right side of the house.

Take your time viewing the ponds and gardens as there are several surprises throughout the landscape. Nancy and Lynn have two ponds with a few goldfish in the larger one; Shubunkin & Rosy Red minnows, in the other. The ponds don't have filters as they were built to grow plants, not fish. There are over 20 different hardy waterlilies.

The ponds are 29 & 20 years old with the original liners. They may be old, but there has never been a problem. Enjoy!

#5 Mike and Cyndie Thomas
1023 S. Kittredge Way, Aurora
Mike and Cyndie Thomas have been water gardeners for nearly 18 years. They currently have two large ponds and numerous in-ground and container water gardens.

The large ponds - one for koi and one for goldfish - are complimented by a small pond with a stream, a large above-ground tropical pond, and two in-ground lotus pots. In addition, a bird-friendly pond, in-ground miniature lotus pots, and waterlily pots greet visitors in the front yard.

Cyndie and Mike have a variety of unique terrestrial plants surrounding their waterscapes. Hand-crafted statuary and garden art pieces and a large wind chime collection add an artistic flair to this designated Natural Wildlife Habitat garden.

#6 Ken Lange and Vince Pesce
100 Glencoe St., Denver
After purchasing their house in 1996 with only weeds in the backyard, the landscaping work began. Faced with either ordering another truckload of fill dirt or filling the void with a water feature, the pond was created. A pond kit was purchased at Home Depot in 1998 and the fun began. The pond was dug and a small river built for water circulation. After attending a CWGS class, a handmade bio filter was built.

After ten years of service the rubber pond liner gave out, and in 2008 the pond was enlarged a bit and a new liner was installed along with a skimmer. This year the circulation pump will be replaced.

The 900 gal. pond became the centerpiece of the yard. It attracts birds, squirrels, fox, raccoon, and Heron!

(Note: Pond #6 and #7 are very close by – perhaps only 3 or 4 minutes apart.)

#7 Sandi Berenbaum and Michael Weber
63 South Fairfax St., Denver
This is a 2 yr old, 2,000 gal pond fed by two waterfalls tucked into the corner of the backyard. Michael likes gardening and has started surrounding the pond with trees and plants. Please enter through the gate by the garage.

The picnic will be held here at 5 PM.
New Media / New Format

By Bill Powell, Editor

I’m sure you’ve noticed the substantial changes to the layout of The Water Garden. They’ve not been made on a whim.

The Journal’s previous booklet format served us well since it was first created by the previous Editor Mike Thomas. In many ways, Mike’s format was very user-friendly. It was a handy size. It read like a book. And...its folded pages clung together naturally without any mechanical fasteners. When I took over as Editor a couple of years ago, I kept Mike’s thoughtful (and award winning) design. Why change?

With minor tweaks, The Water Garden’s format and look has persisted – I hope successfully - but technology now argues for a change. With the recent re-imagining of the Club’s website, new possibilities present themselves. One that the Board has decided to pursue is mounting the newsletter online, not just for archival purposes, but as the primary media for current communication.

By the end of this season, The Water Garden will switch largely to electronic publishing. “Hard” (printed) copies will still be available for members who want or need to receive the newsletter that way, but we hope to be reaching most of our readers online. If the club’s membership follows national demographics, 80 to 85 percent of you should be happy to receive the monthly Journal electronically.

The change will bring a number of advantages: resource savings (all that postage!), less effort (all that folding!), quicker receipt of the newsletter, and possible future expansion of the newsletter since size of the on-line version will not be limited. For those of us who would rather not read text on a computer screen, the newsletter will, of course, be down-loadable for printing at home.

Because the primary mode of delivery will be electronic and will produce a sequential stream of pages, I’ve determined that the format of the newsletter needs to change to favor electronic delivery.

The current booklet layout produces sheets in which the pages do not read sequentially unless the booklet is assembled. (It’s a bit hard to visualize, but you’ll see the problem of online posting of the booklet layout if you look at past newsletters that are archived on the website. Or if you have one of the recent booklet newsletters lying about, take it apart.) Each side of each legal-size sheet contains two text pages, and the two pages are not usually sequential. Page 5 could be on the right half of a sheet with page 8 on the left. When assembled, the booklet scans perfectly, but shown sheet by sheet online, the newsletter would be very hard to read.

The new format of this newsletter is completely linear and therefore readable in both media. But it’s not perfected yet, and the logistics of electronic delivery have not been fully worked out. As a test, we’re sending this issue out electronically to member email address we have in hand. Anticipate changes over the remainder of this year.

If you have thoughts about the new look or the process, please share them! Over the next few weeks one of the Directors will contact you to solicit your interest in switching to electronic receipt of the newsletter. We hope you’ll value the advantages for you, the Club, and the environment by participating in electronic receipt of The Water Garden.

Partners in Education

As part of our outreach effort about the Club and water gardening, CWGS is approaching contractors and vendors to make sure they and their customers are aware of the Society and the resources we bring. We’re sending letters and samples of our new brochure to a wide range of vendors, and we’re offering to provide them with more brochures if they feel, as we do, that their customers would benefit by learning about CWGS.

The Society is also working with the organizers of local pond tours to provide educational booths at their coming events. The Rocky Mountain Waterscapes Pond Tour and the Parade of Ponds are coming up soon. CWGS will provide educational information at both. When you attend either of these tours, look for us. But more importantly, this joint educational effort hopes to reach water gardeners who are not aware of CWGS – folks who are interested in water gardening and might be looking for a source of information and expertise.

CWGS is happy to partner with commercial interests for the purpose of education. If you know of a vendor who is holding a tour or event that might benefit from an educational component, contact one of the Board members. From time to time the Club operates informational booths at local gardens, nurseries, shows, and, now, pond tours!
Pondside at the Grishams'

By Bill Powell

Thirty club members enjoyed beautiful Sunday weather at the Elbert County home of Terry and Keith Grisham.

Once everyone had a chance to explore the Grisham's handsome pond, Bill Bathurst presented the club's first waterside program of the season. Bill's program "Frogs and Toads of the Denver Area" explained the differences between these often-confused species and told us something about their place in, and importance to, the aquatic environment.

Almost any well-balanced water feature can provide habitat for frogs and toads, and certainly Terry and Keith's large pond with it's naturalized marginals and bog bio-filter is particularly well suited to amphibians and other wildlife. (The Grisham's property is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat.)

Bill's program focused on nine species of frogs and toads that are found in the western plains and along the front range. All are not indigenous; some have been introduced from wetter, eastern habitats. Man-made pond environs provide a much needed micro-niche that these amphibians are quick to exploit...that is IF your pond is healthy.

Amphibians are sensitive indicators of good water quality. If you have frogs or toads you know your pond is not polluted because they are particularly sensitive to toxins. Trace amounts of "Round-up," for example, will kill these amphibians long before the toxin affects fish. Unfortunately, there's one environmental factor you can't protect amphibians from: excessive heat. Bill explained that it's believed that frog populations are decreasing worldwide because of Chytrid Fungus that is believed to be spreading as a result of global warming.

Bill concluded his program with recordings of calls of local frogs and toads. I hope we'll have a chance to post Bill's printed program on the club's website. (The program included photos and much more information than there's room to cover here). Perhaps we can post the calls, too. And maybe Bill will have a chance to write a particular recollection with which he amused the Waterside crowd. It seems Bill and Janet's cat once had a memorable encounter with a toad. I wish we had video to post! Don't worry, kitty survived, but he suffered an appalling feline indignity: He had his mouth washed out.

August Brings...
the Water Blossom Festival

by Duff Kerr, Event Chairperson

The 2009 Water Blossom Festival is coming up on Sunday, August 16. Denver Botanic Gardens' ponds should be in prime shape then. If early cold doesn't slow blooming, mid-August is showy, especially for tropical waterlilies.

The Festival offers a chance to educate the public about water gardening through distribution of informational brochures, planting demonstrations, guided tours of the aquatic gardens, and personalized help from experienced water gardeners.

This year the Water Blossom Festival will also include a special program in Gates Hall. The program speaker and topic are not quite confirmed. We hope that Jim Wullschleger, who has a long association with the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS) will be available to speak. Look for detail about the program and Festival logistics in the August newsletter.

I'll be soliciting volunteers during the coming weeks to help with demonstrations and tours. If you're interested, call me at (303) 871-0336.

While this year's Festival will not be as elaborate as last year's 25th club anniversary celebration, we hope to have activities and a program of interest to new and experienced water gardeners alike.
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Need to renew this month?

Renew your membership online at www.colowatergardenssociety.org or call Ken Lange 303.393.8410 to obtain a membership form.

Related Events

Link to Events:
A calendar of non-club water garden related activities

July 18/19
Rocky Mountain Koi Club Tour
July 25/26
Pikes Peak Pond Tour
Aug 8/9
RMW Water Garden Tour
Aug 22/23
Colorado Parade of Ponds

CWGS-sponsored activities are listed in the club calendar on the outside of this newsletter.
THIS YEAR
A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

Saturday July 11: Annual Pond Tour/Picnic
11 AM to 4 PM, Picnic at 5:00
Location descriptions and “Take-Along” map enclosed

Aug. 16: Water Blossom Festival
Featured Speaker Jim Wullschleger
10 AM to 3 PM - program at 1 PM
Denver Botanic Gardens.

Aug. 30: Waterside Program
2 PM at the home of Doris and Len Freestone

Sep. 21: Annual Meeting, Elections, & Pot Luck
6 to 8:30 PM, Arvada Church of Christ, Arvada

Oct. 19: Program (TBA) & Pot Luck
6 to 8:30 PM, Arvada Church of Christ, Arvada

Dec. 7: Holiday Banquet
6 to 8:30 PM, Arvada Church of Christ, Arvada

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
2009 POND TOUR / PICNIC

TOUR MAP - PAGE 2
LOCATION NARRATIVES

Each of the tour's seven sites is keyed by number to the Tour Map on page 1 (flip). Use the Tour Map in conjunction with a detailed city map to determine your tour route.

The following narratives will help to locate sites from their nearest major street intersection and with respect to each other if you are following the tour route numerically.

SEE PAGE 1 FOR POND TOUR MAP

4. Lynn and Nancy Jewett
   14506 E. Warren Place
   Aurora

   From the intersection of I-225 and E. Iliff Ave., drive to the third cross street. Turn left (north) onto S. Sable Blvd. Drive to the third left turn. Turn left (west) onto E. Warren Place, a dead-end street.

   The house is at the end of the cul-de-sac.

   To depart for site 5, retrace your route to the intersection of Warren Place with S. Sable and turn left (north). Drive north on Sable. Turn right (east) onto Mississippi Ave.

5. Mike and Cyndie Thomas
   1023 S. Kittredge Way
   Aurora

   From the intersection of E. Mississippi Ave. and S. Chambers Rd., drive east on Mississippi to S. Kalispell St. Turn left (north) onto Kalispell. At "T" intersection, turn right (east) onto E. Tennessee Ave. In one block turn right (south) onto S. Kittredge way. The house is on the right.

   To depart for sites 6 & 7, retrace your route to Mississippi and turn right (east) onto S. Kittredge Way. Turn right (north) onto S. Kittredge Way.

6. Ken Lange and Vince Pesce
   100 Glencoe St.
   Denver

   From the intersection of Monaco Parkway and E. Alameda Ave., drive west on Monaco. In 10 blocks turn right (north) onto Grape St. Drive north on Grape 4 blocks. Turn left (west) onto E. 1st Ave. Drive 1 block and turn right onto Glencoe. The house is on the northeast corner of the intersection of 1st. Ave. and Glencoe.

   To depart for site 7 and the picnic, drive west on 1st Ave for 2 blocks. Turn left onto S. Fairfax St.

7. Sandy Berenbaum and Michael Weber
   63 S. Fairfax St.
   Denver

   From the intersection of Monaco and E. Alameda drive west 14 blocks to S. Fairfax Street. Turn right (north) on Fairfax. The house is on the left (west side of street) beyond crossing with Bayaud Ave.

   If coming from site 6, the house is on the right side (west side) of Fairfax St. between Ellsworth Ave. and Bayaud Ave.

   The Picnic will be held here, beginning at 5:00 PM.
Picnic will be held at site 7, 63 S. Fairfax St., Denver. Picnic begins at 5:00 pm.

This proximity map gives only a schematic depiction of the tour site locations. Use it in conjunction with a detailed city map. See page 2 (flip) for directions that will help you locate each site with respect to it's nearest major street intersection.