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**2012 Annual Get Wet Event
Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Tuesday, April 10 in
Mitchell Hall, DBG**

**6:30 Meet the Vendors
7:00 Presentation
8:30 Meet the Vendors**

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org



Tamara Kilbane, pictured above at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Greenhouse (Photo by Jim Arneill)

Get Wet 2012 Featuring the New Water Lily Competition at Denver Botanic Gardens

by Tamara Kilbane and Jim Arneill

Are you impressed by the display of water lilies, lotuses, and other plants in the summer at Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG)? The spectacle will be enhanced more this year with the addition of the IWGS New Water Lily Competition.

Dozens of newly hybridized water lilies of varying flower shape, size, color, and various leaf patterns will be shipped to Tamara Kilbane, Senior Horticulturist of the Aquatic Collection at DBG. Tamara has agreed to serve as steward of the competition throughout the summer and visitors can view the progression of these hardy and tropical water lilies as they vie for top awards.

This year's Get Wet event on the evening of Tuesday, April 10, kicks off the water gardening season with a presentation by Tamara. Admission to the program is free. When you arrive at the Gardens, enter through the after-hours "group" entrance to the south (left) of the new Visitor Center. Look for CWGS signs directing you to the main education building. Walk through the double set of doors and Mitchell Hall is on your right.

(continued on page 4)

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www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:
Balance as of April 1, 2012
\$10,923.09

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dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.



Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) (Photo from www.plantlife.org.uk)



Double Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris* 'Plena') (Photo from www.fishponds.com)



Water Hawthorn (*Aponogeton distachyos*) (Photo from www.creative-waterfall-pond.com)



Courtesy of Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Close up of Water Hawthorn flower
(Photo from watergardennews.com)

Plants to be Offered for Sale at 2012 Get Wet Event

by Dorothy Martinez

We will be offering a limited number of two early blooming hardy water plants at this year's Get Wet Event to be held on Tuesday, April 10. The two featured plants will be the Marsh Marigold and the Water Hawthorne. Each plant will be offered for sale at \$10 per plant.

The Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is a hardy, succulent perennial found in marshy areas. It is often the first plant to flower in the early spring, usually March to June. Its dark green leaves are heart or kidney shaped and are usually 3" – 5" wide. Their clustered flowers are 1" – 2" wide with a waxy, yellow, cup-shaped flower atop a long stalk.

The Marsh Marigold is hardy to USDA Zone 3 and prefers full sun or part shade, wet, humus rich, acid soil, and a water depth up to 6". They range in size from 12" – 18" wide x 12" – 18" high.

The Marsh Marigold has a moderate growth rate with the entire plant dying to the ground by midsummer. It is an excellent plant for stream banks, shallow pond margins, and wet bog gardens. Its cultivars include the varieties 'Alba', with white flowers and 'Plena', with large double flowers.

Source: Earl J.S. Rook, 2002, www.rook.org

The Water Hawthorn (*Aponogeton distachyos*) is a marginal, perennial water plant. Its leaves are bright green, sometimes brown, oblong, and lance-shaped that float on the water. They have a white, spiked flower with forked anthers. The Water Hawthorn blooms in the spring, usually April, followed by a dormant period in the summer and again in the fall, usually in October. Their flowers have a strong, vanilla scent.

The Water Hawthorn is hardy from USDA Zones 6 – 9. It is not frost tender, but the tubers can have trouble being winter hardy. It prefers full sun to partial shade and does not do well in full shade. It prefers wet soil that is acidic, neutral, or alkaline. The Water Hawthorn prefers a planting depth of 6" – 18". The plants range in size from 2 1/2" – 9" long and 1/2" – 3" wide with flowers ranging in size from 1/2" – 1" long.

Sources: Hughes Water Gardens, 2006, www.thewatergardenshop.com, The Water Garden, LLC, 2006-2012, www.thewatergarden.org, and Plants for a Future, 1996-2010, www.pfaf.org

Get Wet 2012

(continued from front page)

From 6:30 – 7:00 pm, representatives from major garden centers and pond businesses will have displays and information about local water gardening resources and services.

At 7:00 pm, Tamara will begin her presentation titled “Exciting New Developments in Water Lily Hybridization”. Tamara oversaw the IWGS New Water Lily Competition at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham, North Carolina and agreed to continue in this role at DBG.

The evening will also include a limited sale of water hawthorns and marsh marigolds (see article on Page 3). In addition, Jim Arneill will preview upcoming water gardening events in 2012.

From 8:30 – 9:00 pm, you can visit more with the vendors, members from the Colorado Water Garden Society, and DBG.

Just for fun, we'll have complimentary refreshments and drawings for several fun pond related door prizes. We hope you join us for an entertaining and informative evening.

For more information about Get Wet, contact Jim Arneill at (303) 843-9619. ■

Aquatics Division Solicits Volunteers to help with Denver Botanic Gardens' May Sale

By Bill Powell

DBG's May Plant Sale is fast approaching and the Aquatics Division needs your help in setting-up and operating the Aquatics booth.

The Aquatics booth offers a wide variety of hardy water lilies, lotus, floaters, and tropical and hardy marginal plants at affordable prices as well as a selection of water gardening related hard goods. The sale's timing, falling as it does in early May (May 11 & 12), makes it an ideal venue to supply your early-season water-gardening needs. We are also featuring a limited number of the Wanvisa hardy lily at a much reduced price this year.

Each spring CWGS members help to organize, select plants, set-up the Aquatic Sales booth, and operate it during the two-plus day event. Much of the plant selection and planning has already been done, but the Division needs lots of help staging the displays, labeling the plants, and of course staffing the operations of the booth.

We'll be located again this year in the courtyard of the newly-renovated Marnie's Pavilion, just off the main walk. It's a great location. We welcome experienced and new water gardening volunteers alike. Shifts vary in length and include a range of tasks from organizational to helping the public. All shifts will have at least a few old-hands on board, so don't be anxious that limited experience is a problem.

Shifts are currently available for setup on May 9 and 10 and for sales on May 11 and 12. For more information, or to sign up, contact Bill Powell wbpow@comcast.net ■



Denver Botanic Gardens' new Plant Society Building (Photo by Jim Arneill)



View inside new Plant Society Building, from left to right Peter Hier, Brenda Parsons-Hier, Vicki Aber, & Dorothy Martinez (Photo by Jim Arneill)



Vicki Aber with "Mirgon" filter, Bob Hoffman is on the left (Photo by Jim Arneill)



Ken Burkert making his presentation on "Propagation Without Soil", Dennis Coombs is on the left (Photo by Jim Arneill)

CWGS' First Meeting of 2012

by Dorothy Martinez

The Colorado Water Garden Society held its first meeting on Thursday, March 22 in the new Plant Society Building at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The 21 people in attendance enjoyed a very delicious potluck dinner before the meeting. There was time enough before the start of the meeting for everyone to visit and catch up with each other.

The program began at 7:00 pm and included a "round robin" discussion about filtration and propagation without soil. Bob Hoffman spoke about the numerous types of filters he has used over the years, from homemade to professional. He discussed various types of filters, including an up-flow barrel filter, skimmer box filters, bead filters, and wetland/bog filters. Bob also said with improved filtration he no longer needs the UV filter he purchased.

Next, Vicki Aber discussed her various filtration methods over the years. When Vicki and her family first constructed their ponds, they tried to purchase as little as possible, and tried to build things from materials they could easily find. One of her favorites is the "Mirgon" filter (featured on Page 6 of the March 2012 Newsletter). It is simple, easy to construct, and is very effective. Vicki brought one along to show everyone.

Jim Arneill also shared with the group his experiences with homemade filters. Jim constructed his filter with a milk crate or plastic file holder lined on the sides and top with alternating layers of evaporative cooler mat and lava rock. He then puts the pump in the middle and sinks the unit into the middle of his pond. Jim advised not to use the media from furnace filters as there are materials in these that are very toxic to fish.

After Jim finished, Ken Burkert gave an excellent presentation on growing and propagating various water plants, including water lilies, without soil. Ken has limited space in his yard, so his solution is using container gardens for all of his various water plants. He does not use soil which makes Spring and Fall transitions easier, plus it works well with limited storage space.

In not using soil, he has had the best results with a material called "Turface". Its properties are similar to cat litter without any worry about dangerous chemicals or additives. He can reuse the "Turface" and it stores well.

To winter his lilies, he puts the tubers in wet play sand and stores them in plastic boxes with tight fitting lids. To ensure the sand stays moist, he tapes the lids to the containers with duct tape.

For more details, please see a copy of Ken's handout posted on CWGS' website, www.colowatergardensociety.org in the "CWGS Blog" area.



CWGS Volunteers at DBG, pictured from left to right: Bill Powell, Trina Jacobson, Les Petrash, Joe Mascarenas, John Bayard, Ben Coleman, Ken Burkert, Tamara Kilbane, & Bob Hoffman (Photo by Jim Arneill)



Ben Coleman, Trina Jacobson, Ken Burkert, Carla Mascarenas, Dennis Coombs, & Bob Hoffman admiring Victoria Water Lily seedlings at DBG (Photo by Jim Arneill)

Spring volunteerism already in bloom By Bill Powell

Each spring CWGS-sponsored volunteers help with culling, dividing, and planting of hardy lilies stored overwinter in the ponds at Denver Botanic Gardens. We also assist in the propagation of tropical species in the aquatic greenhouse. Volunteer schedules and tasks are weather and need dependent, but the end result is always an extraordinary display in DBG's water gardens.

On March 25, the volunteers held their first Sunday session under the direction of Tamara Kilbane, the Senior Horticulturist in charge of the water gardens. Some people helped with retrieval of lilies and lotus from the ponds; others began repotting. During our break, we admired the Victoria propagation that CWGS President Bob Hoffman and Tamara have begun (from seed!) with the help of weekday volunteers who are also CWGS members. Although the spade-shaped Victoria leaves are small now, they'll quickly grow in their heated tanks and later outside in the sun-drenched garden ponds until they form large "platters" that can reach four feet or more in diameter.

Because of Denver's ever-changing weather and uncertain pond maintenance schedules at the Gardens, the schedule for the spring volunteer sessions varies from week to week, as does the need for volunteers. Sometimes Tamara needs a few people; other times she'll be glad to have all hands on deck. If you're interested in joining the sessions, call Tamara Kilbane at (720) 865-3556.

New & Returning Members for October through March

October

Ben Coleman
Longmont, CO

(Returning)

December

Dennis Albrecht
Aurora, CO

(Returning)

Jan Belmear
Denver, CO

(Returning)

Larry & Keann Brown
Brighton, CO

(Returning)

Michael & Bonnie Collins
Denver, CO

(New!)

January

John Bayard
Centennial, CO

(Returning)

Ken & Teresa Burkert
Northglenn, CO

(Returning)

Margaret & Jesse Kumin
Boulder, CO

(New!)

February

Justin & Lois Krause
Arvada, CO

(Returning)

March

Jim Carlson
Denver, CO

(Returning)

Keith & Terry Grisham
Denver, CO

(Returning)

Trina Jacobson & Les Petrash
Denver, CO

(Returning)

Melba Johnston
Lakewood, CO

(Returning)

Georgia & Rick Keller
Lakewood, CO

(Returning)

Bud & Debbie Kiebler
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Marge Oleson
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(Returning)



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We also run single-event ads.

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez
dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org*

Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
"Colorado Water Garden Society"

Return this form with your payment to:
CWGS Membership
100 Glencoe St.
Denver, CO 80220

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Email* _____

* Required for electronic receipt of newsletter.
(note: CWGS does not share or sell email addresses)

____ Check here if you are also a member of Denver Botanic Gardens

Membership Fees
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

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.

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I've checked below:
 DBG Volunteer Sundays ____
 Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale ____
 Hudson Gardens ____
 CWGS Plant Sale (June) ____
 Pond Tour (July) ____
 Water Blossom Festival (August) ____

Note: Your newsletter will be made available to you electronically unless you check otherwise below.
 I request to receive a paper copy of the newsletter

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

April 10: Get Wet Event 2012
Mitchell Hall
Denver Botanic Gardens

6:30 PM – *Meet the Vendors*

7:00 PM – *Presentation by Tamara Kilbane, "Exciting New Developments in Water Lily Hybridization"*

8:30 PM – *Meet the Vendors*

May 17: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap – *Plant Society Building, DBG 6:00 PM*

June 3: Annual Plant Sale – *West Terrace, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM*

June 23: Pond Side Program – *Hoffman Residence, 2:00 PM*

July 21: Annual Pond Tour & Picnic – *Westminster, Northglenn, Lafayette, Louisville, & Erie, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM*

August 5: Pond Side Program – *Neupert Residence, 2:00 PM*

August 18: Water Blossom Festival, *Monet Water Garden, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM*

Sept. 20: Potluck & Annual Board Elections – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM*

Oct. 18: Potluck & Planning Meeting – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM*

Dec. 20: Holiday Banquet and Volunteer Recognition – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM*



From...

TheWaterGarden
c/o Journal Editor
14837 W. 57th Drive
Golden, CO 80403-3001

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

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