



Colorado Water Garden Society

# The Water Garden

Volume 20 Number 5

August 2003

## 2003 Pond Tour and 20th Anniversary picnic are tremendous successes!

Nearly 150 people participated in the tour of six West Metro Area homes, and then over 100 of them came to Hudson Gardens to celebrate CWGS' 20th Anniversary.



If you missed the tour, you can take a virtual tour on the CWGS web site. All photos were taken by Len Freestone.

## Officers & Committee Chairs - 2003

### President

Cyndie Thomas 303.755.1885

### Vice President

Duff Kerr 303.871.0336

### Secretary

Bill Powell 303.355.8098

### Treasurer

Mike Gibson 303.654.7578

### Programs

Beau Lindsey 303.753-6620

Carla Littlefield 303.399.7946

### Members-at-Large

"Moe" Belisle 303.744.0745

Lowell Coon 303.427.8532

### Newsletter Editor/Membership Database

Michael Thomas 303.755.1885

*michael.thomas@comcast.net*

### Volunteer Coordinator

Lowell Coon 303.427.8532

### CWGS June Plant Sale

Cyndie Thomas 303.755.1885

Bob Hoffman 303.978.0124

### July Pond Tour & Picnic

Craig Russell 303.443.7877

### DBG May Plant & Book Sale

Bob Hoffman 303.978.0124

Carla Littlefield 303.399.7946

### Archivist

Mary Mirgon 303.922.9559

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## Feng Shui in the Garden will be discussed at the August CWGS meeting

Kathy Quinn, CWGS member and owner of Home and Garden Feng Shui LLC, will present a short course in Feng Shui at the August 10 meeting, 2:00 pm, in the Morrison Center at Denver Botanic Gardens. She can present herself best, so in her own words: "After over 25 years of working in a law office, I decided to leave the craziness of downtown and pursue a career I loved. I had been gardening for over 25 years and had studied a little bit about Feng Shui. I

*found Feng Shui fascinating, especially for outdoor spaces, so I attended the Western School of Feng Shui in San Diego founded by Terah Kathryn Collins to become certified as a practitioner. I have done consultations for residential, business, non-profit and landscape clients. A Feng Shui consultation can improve your life dramatically just by becoming aware of your environment and making a few simple changes."*



## Out-of-towners help CWGS celebrate

Members of the Minnesota Water Garden Society and the International Water Garden Society joined CWGS leaders and volunteers at Denver Botanic Gardens for wine, cheese and conversation at the gazebo next to DBG's Monet Pool, Saturday, July 12.

The visitors made a special trip to Colorado to share CWGS's 20th Anniversary celebration, tour DBG and then went on the Pond Tour and shared lunch at the picnic at Hudson Gardens.

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If you have renewed your membership or joined recently and didn't get a name tag yet, please drop us an e-mail and we'll get it off to you. Thanks... ***michael.thomas@comcast.net***

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## Water Garden Problem Solver



***Cute, isn't he??***

**Q.: I think I may have a raccoon coming through my yard at night. Is this a problem and, if so, how can I prevent any damage it may cause?**

**A.:** Yes, it's a problem, but there are steps you can take to minimize a raccoon's impact on your yard, gardens and ponds.

Raccoons breed from December to June, with most babies (two to five per litter) born in April or May. At about eight weeks of age, they leave the den and begin moving with the mother. Some leave in the fall or early winter, or they may stay with the mother until the following spring. Raccoons are nocturnal, and are usually found on their travels in the late night or early morning hours.

Raccoons are attracted to your yard for a variety of reasons, maybe as simple as "just passing through" and finding some attraction you've left for them. These may include providing outside food sources such as dog food or bird food that is readily available. Feed your pets outside and then remove the remnants.

Trash containers that are readily accessible are just as much a problem; keep tight lids on them to prevent access to other critters, such as cats or skunks. Also keep BBQ grilles clean and stored in a secure place to avoid access.

If you see a raccoon in the yard, turn on the lights, go outside making noise, wave something like a broom, and try to scare it off. You might also try to spray it with a water hose, but don't corner it! They will defend themselves if they feel the need. Flood lights and motion detector lights also seem to work fairly well at keeping

raccoons out of the yard after they enter the first time. You might consider investing in an electric perimeter fence, running the wire around the top of the fence. If the raccoon can go under the fence, put the wire there, too. Look for a high voltage/low amperage model so your pets (or YOU) can't be hurt if you come into contact with it by mistake.

In the garden or around the pond, try using two Scarecrows (tm) - a motion-activated water sprayer (from members' experience, two are more effective than one) - and move them around frequently. The raccoon will still outsmart the scarecrows quickly, but they will work for a short time and may be enough to deter the lone raccoon that finds your yard. It simply becomes easier to move on to another yard where no one has done anything to keep it out.

An electric fence around the garden or pond, as well as the flood lights and/or motion detector lights, will also work here (for at least a short while!). If the pond is relatively small, you might also try building a screen or mesh cover for it - the added advantage here is that the cover becomes an aid in the fall when leaves begin to fall.

As a further deterrent, there are chemicals that can repel raccoons, but Cayenne pepper or hot pepper sprays may work just as well, and are far cheaper. Just treat the areas where the raccoon tends to go, the paths it follows, the porch roof, stairs and decks, etc.

A raccoon's "territory" depends on how much food is found there. The usual territory is about one square mile. Raccoons usually don't make their own homes, but prefer to live in dens created by skunks or foxes, and they usually sleep in fallen logs or trees.

In urban areas, raccoons can cause substantial damage to buildings (attics and roofs), gardens, fruit trees and vines, lawns, garbage cans, and trash containers of all kinds. They are also known carriers of rabies, canine distemper, encephalitis, tuberculosis, roundworms, mange, and a host of other unpronounceable diseases. They are oftentimes infested with fleas, ticks, lice, and mites, all disease carriers in their own right. Children and pets are at particular risk.

The information provided here is adapted from the following online resources. The complete text of the references can be found at these addresses:

**[www.holoweb.com/cannon/raccoon](http://www.holoweb.com/cannon/raccoon)**

**[www.urbanwildliferescue.org/evict/raccoons](http://www.urbanwildliferescue.org/evict/raccoons)**

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*If you have questions regarding water gardening, send them to: **michael.thomas@attbi.com**. They will be answered in future newsletters.*

# Bats are not unheard of around these parts

Bats, the only mammals capable of sustained flight, belong to the order *Chiroptera*, which means “hand-wing”. Of the 900 bat species known in the world, about 40 species, mostly insectivorous, are found in Canada and the United States.

While some species can be larger, bats are usually not much bigger than a house mouse. Bats are loyal to their birthplaces, often returning to the same roost site year after year. A bat can live more than 10 years.

Bats emit high-frequency sounds inaudible to humans. These sounds bounce off objects in their paths to enable them to avoid obstacles and detect flying insects. Sometimes bats can be seen around outdoor lights, which attract insects. Contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind. In fact, some species have excellent vision.



This small bat, with a wingspan of about six inches, was an obnoxious visitor to the DBG Gazebo before the CWGS visit with out-of-town guests. When it was approached, it bared its fangs, above. Security personnel later arrived to move it to another location. At that time, we learned that bats can't “take off” from the ground but, rather, must be in a tree or other high location in order to begin flight. That explains why it simply hopped across the floor of the gazebo a few times.

To save energy, bats have the ability to enter a dormant state which makes them appear to be sick, asleep or dead. They may also bare their teeth and squeak loudly, leading many people to believe they are vicious. In reality, the helpless creature is only trying to ward off a possible attack.

Bats must also avoid the watchful eyes of their many predators, which include hawks, falcons, owls, cats, snakes, and humans.

**Source:**  
<http://www.batcontrol.ca/biology.html>

For more information about bats, raccoons, skunks, snakes, squirrels, or other wildlife issues, contact your CSU County Extension Office at the number below and ask to speak to a Wildlife Master.

## ***CSU Cooperative Extension Wildlife Masters***

**Arapahoe County** -- 303-738-7919 -- available 24x7

**Boulder County** -- 303-776-4865 -- Monday - Friday, calls directed to voice mail

**Jefferson County** -- 303-271-6620 -- Monday-Friday, calls directed to WMs or voicemail

**Weld County** -- 970-356-4000 x 4465 -- Monday - Friday, calls directed to voice mail

## **2003 Colorado Parade of Ponds tours South Metro Area**

The 2003 Parade of Ponds will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24, in the South Metro area. Sponsored by BR&D Landscape, Inc., over 50 ponds are open to visitors. Hours Saturday are 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, and 11:00 am - 5:00 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 per person through the month of July (children under 15 free), or \$15 in August.

The tour is self-guided, with maps of ponds available when you purchase tickets, and a guided bus tour is also available for Saturday only. Proceeds benefit Denver Botanic

Gardens and Hudson Gardens.

Maps and tickets may be purchased at True Pump & Equipment, Inc., 1429 S. Broadway, Denver; Arapahoe Acres Garden Center, 9010 S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton; Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 S. Parker Road, Aurora; Denver Botanic Gardens; or Hudson Gardens.

Go to <http://www.coloradoparadeofponds.com> for more information.

# Online Gardening Resources - Take 1

## General Gardening Information

Sod/Turf Information

[www.csuturf.colostate.edu](http://www.csuturf.colostate.edu)

Xeriscape Information

[www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)

Gardening Information for Coloradans

[www.coloradogardening.com](http://www.coloradogardening.com)

CSU Cooperative Extension

[www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)

Local Weather Forecasts

[www.crh.noaa.gov/den/forecast.html](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den/forecast.html)

Colorado Nursery Finder

[www.findnurseries.com](http://www.findnurseries.com)

Plant Finder

[www.plantsdatabase.com](http://www.plantsdatabase.com)

Plant Hardiness Zone Map

[www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html](http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html)

Water Lily Resources (List of cultivars, photos, etc.)

[www.victoria-adventure.org](http://www.victoria-adventure.org)

## Plant Societies

Colorado Dahlia Society

[www.dahlia.net](http://www.dahlia.net)

Colorado Native Plant Society

[www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

Denver Rose Society

[www.denverrosesociety.com](http://www.denverrosesociety.com)

Mile High Daylily Society

[www.mhdaylily.org](http://www.mhdaylily.org)

Rocky Mtn. Chapter, N. American Rock Garden Society

[www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)

TO BE CONTINUED

## Water Garden Tour slated for Aug. 23rd in Grand Junction

The Western Colorado Gardening Foundation is conducting a Water Garden Tour, including an Ice Cream Social, 9:00 pm to 3:00 pm, on Saturday, August 23. Eight ponds have been selected on the Redlands and near the Mesa Mall. Tickets may be purchased in advance at all City Markets for \$8.00 or at the Girl Scouts headquarters for \$10.00 on the day of the event.

The tour will begin at the Girl Scouts headquarters at 580 24-1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, across from the East entrance of the Mesa Mall. Tickets, information and tour maps will be available at 8:30 am on Saturday, August 23. Tour participants can then use the maps and follow signs to tour the eight water gardens, in any order, on their own. From 1:00-4:00 pm ice cream and cookies will be served at the final water garden on the tour, where participants can also meet with other pond enthusiasts.

This is a fund-raising venture by the Western Colorado Gardening Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for educational/charitable purposes. Money raised by the Foundation is used to fund projects that beautify our communities and to educate and promote sound gardening practices in our area. More information about the Foundation may be found at <http://www.wcgf.org>.

### ADVERTISEMENT

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For Information Please:

Call Ron's Golden Ponds 303-233-5335

Check web site: [www.ronsgoldenponds.com](http://www.ronsgoldenponds.com)

# CWGS Elections to be held in conjunction with Water Gardening and Pond Expo in September

Annual election of CWGS officers will be held during the September Water Gardening and Pond Expo., September 20, 12 noon to 4 pm, in Mitchell Hall at Denver Botanic Gardens. Make sure to stop at the CWGS table to cast your vote and register to win one of the numerous door prizes.

The positions of President, Treasurer, Program Coordinator and Member-At-Large need to be filled. Cyndie Thomas and Mike Gibson are stepping down due to term limitations built into the CWGS Constitution. To date, Lowell Coon has thrown in his hat for the Member-At-Large position. Lowell was appointed to the position in March to fill a vacancy. Lowell also took the position of Volunteer Coordinator, beginning this past Spring at Denver Botanic Gardens.

At present, we have not had anyone express interest in running for President or Program Coordinator. If you are interested in running for any position, or coordinating a committee, or want more information, please contact a current board member, or Cyndie Thomas at (303)755-1885.

All positions are for a two-year term, with a maximum of six years serving on the Board. The only requirement to

become a Board member is a sincere interest in participating and a small amount of time. Board members usually hold their planning meetings prior to the regular CWGS programs on Sunday meeting dates. A full slate (hopefully) will be presented to the membership from the Board in the September newsletter.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for September 20 and plan to attend the Water Gardening and Pond Expo. There will be a program for everyone, from beginners to seasoned water gardeners, with the opportunity to talk to pond and landscape designers and vendors about all the latest products. A complete listing of businesses, products and seminars will be included in the next newsletter.

## ***DID YOU KNOW...?***

... the Rocky Mountain Koi Club held its first meeting in March, 1988?

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# Welcome to CWGS!!

## New Members

Hannah Cook  
Scott Fowler  
Sue Gasiorowski  
Phil & Jackie House  
Kimary Marchese  
Liz Paul

## Renewing Members

Marlene Bainbridge  
Gabriella Bertelmann  
Kathy Childs  
Bev Counce  
Diana Cross  
Velma Disbrow  
Craig & Deb Dawson  
Bob & Joy Dore  
Alan & Joan Garrett  
Mike Gibson  
Larry & Rose Glass  
Jonathon & April Hough  
Steve & Carol Johnson  
Georgia Keller  
Pat & Kate Maley  
Jamie Mangone  
Scott & Cyd Norris  
Jim and Rosemary Probst  
Ron & Karen Shaw  
Mary Anne Smith

Tom Stratton  
Renewing Members (cont.)  
Trey & Nancy Styler  
Andria Thomas  
Lee & Louise Thomas  
Micaela Thomas  
Mike & Cyndie Thomas  
Jack & Ann Ver Linden  
Jack Walter

## -- POND SERVICE --

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**BR&D Landscape, Inc.**

[www.coloradoparadeofponds.com](http://www.coloradoparadeofponds.com)

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yard listed as a  
Backyard Wildlife  
Habitat**

[www.nwf.org/education](http://www.nwf.org/education)

go to: "backyard habitat  
wildlife program"



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\* Summer Hours: Mon-Sat 10-6 Sunday Noon-5

## **Colorado Water Garden Society - Meeting Dates 2003**

**August 10, 2003** - 2:00 pm, Morrison Center, 11th & York St., Denver Botanic Gardens

**September 20, 2003 - Annual Pond Expo** (Discuss water gardening with contractors and vendors)  
12:00 - 4:00 pm, Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens

**December 6, 2003 - Annual Christmas Party**

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



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

**First Class Mail**