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**CWGS Board Elections &  
Board Meeting  
Plant Society Building  
Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
Potluck  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Board Elections and Meeting  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

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Online at:  
[www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)

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**CWGS 2013 Water Blossom Festival at Denver Botanic Gardens (from left to right: Tamara Kilbane, Ben Coleman, Vicki Aber, Brenda Parsons-Hier, Dorothy Martinez, Teresa Burkert, & Jim Arneill), (photo courtesy of Bill Powell)**

## Festive Day Pond Side with History and (Maybe!) the Next “Big” Lily

by Bill Powell

The recent Water Blossom Festival at Denver Botanic Gardens provided a colorful occasion for tours of the water gardens and for reminiscing about the founding of CWGS thirty years ago. Both Club members and the public were treated to docent-guided tours of the water features, loads of information, and a special presentation on photography of water-related subjects.

Jim Arneill, who is both a CWGS Board member and a DBG docent, conducted two detailed aquatic garden tours during the Festival. His fascinating commentary covered the ponds' history and design, facts about the origin of the collection, and the propagation of aquatic plants currently on display, as well as insight into the volunteer effort that makes the recurring annual aquatic displays possible. Jim also threw in some facts about the seasonal exhibit (“Catalyst – Colorado Sculpture”) that dots the ponds.

(continued on page 3)

**2013 Board of Directors:**

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Vicki Aber	303.423.9216
<b>Secretary</b>	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Jim Wohlenhaus	303.429.9119
<b>Members-At-Large</b>	
Lynn Jewett (MAL1)	303.671.7964
Jim Arneill (MAL2)	303.843.9619
Ben Coleman (MAL3)	303.772.7220
Bill Powell (MAL4)	303.355.8098
Brenda Parsons-Hier (MAL5)	303.278.2106
Janet Bathurst (MAL6)	303.421.1144
Peter Hier (MAL7)	303.278.2106
Bill Bathurst (MAL8)	303.421.1144
Fran Hoffman (MAL9)	303.978.0124

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

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:**  
Balance as of September 15,  
2013 \$11,820.72.

**2013 Committee and Event Chairs:**

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>Membership</b>	
Ken Lange	303.393.8410
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>Publicity &amp; Outreach</b>	
Jim Arneill	303.843.9619
Brenda Parsons-Hier	303.278.2106
<b>Get Wet Event</b>	
Jim Arneill	303.843.9619
<b>CWGS June Plant Sale</b>	
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**Remember...**

Unless you have specifically requested receipt of The WaterGarden in paper form, you will receive it electronically.

To request a change in delivery, report a change in email, or to report a problem with downloading of the electronic journal, reply to Dorothy Martinez:

[dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org](mailto:dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org).

## Festive Day

(continued from front page)



**CWGS Dedication Plaque near the Monet Pond at Denver Botanic Gardens, (Photo courtesy of Bill Powell)**



**2013 Water Blossom Festival Tour led by Jim Arneill, (Photo courtesy of Bill Powell)**



**One of the IWGS Competition Lilies at DBG During the Water Blossom Festival, (photo courtesy of Bill Powell)**

Joe Tomocik, the former Curator of DBG's aquatic displays, was on hand to recall the decades-long relationship between Denver Botanic Gardens and CWGS. The Club traces its founding to the interest of volunteers who gathered to help Joe and DBG realize the early planting of the pools. Largely the Gardens' broad system of concrete water basins originally operated as reflecting pools. Joe and his volunteers began a transformation. (Think of the long, rectangular reflecting pool on the national Mall in Washington DC, for an apt comparison of the original waterways with DBG's current aquatic profusion.) Labor, intuition, and experimentation by these early Club members created an entirely different impact in the ponds – one perhaps less serene than originally envisioned by the Garden's landscape architect, but arresting and profuse.

People at the Festival who were interested in capturing the Gardens' current riot of aquatic blooms, but who felt cowed by the technical challenges involved in photography of reflecting and moving water, were rewarded by Club member Joe Mascarenas' video presentation. Using examples from his personal experience, Joe explained some basic concepts of good photography, but with a focus on water-related themes and associated pitfalls. Effective framing, handling of reflections (both desirable sparkle and blinding glare), and selection of shutter settings to freeze a drop in mid-air or to show the silken flow of water in motion, were demonstrated with examples of visual "do's" and "don'ts." In addition, for those of us struggling with the complexities of digital smart cameras more smart than ourselves, Joe was happy to offer hands-on tips for automated as well as manual settings of camera platforms from point-and-click to the most sophisticated SLR.

Although the Water Blossom Festival is a relaxing day by the pond for its stagers and participants, effort and coordination is required to bring the event to the Gardens each summer. Jim Arneill, in addition to leading tours, promoted the Festival with timely press releases to print and radio media. Tamara Kilbane, the DBG horticulturist in charge of the Water Gardens, helped with provision of services from the Gardens. Tamara also gave pond-side commentary about the ins and outs of the New Waterlily Competition currently sponsored by the IWGS (International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society). Joe Tomocik went out of his way to gather historic materials from the early years as well as to engage the passing public, and Dorothy Martinez provided logistical help and general coordination with DBG, the Festival's co-sponsor. Thanks also to Vicki Aber, Brenda Parsons-Hier, Peter Hier, and other members who brought plants for distribution or who helped with staging.

The Festival is over, but the aquatic season continues at Denver Botanic Gardens as Tropical lilies and many hardies continue in robust bloom. If you'd like to vote for a favorite new hybrid, and perhaps influence the next "big" water lily to come to market, the IWGS New Waterlily Competition continues. Why not visit the aquatic displays at DBG one day soon for a festival of your own?

## Winterizing Your Pond

by Dorothy Martinez

Even though we are having a warmer (and rainier) September than normal, soon Fall and Winter weather will be heading our way. Here is some information and tips about how to make the process of Winterizing your pond a bit easier. The following information is from a presentation by BR&D Landscape at a CWGS meeting held on September 12, 2009.

The number one cause of poor water quality is leaves and debris. Try to remove as many leaves and debris from the pond as possible. High concentrations of leaves and debris will make ammonia compounds and leave your water tea-colored.

To restore water quality, always dechlorinate first, and then change out 10% – 20% of your water. Activated charcoal filters and skimmer boxes work well to help restore water quality. Sometimes, it can also be helpful to add protective netting to aid in keeping out leaves and debris.

As far as plants go, before the first hard frost you need to decide what to do with your tropical plants. If you have tropical marginal plants, you can move them indoors and treat them like you would houseplants. If you want to save tropical water lilies, you will need to cut the foliage back and bring the plant into a cool, dark place where the plant won't dry out or freeze (such as an insulated garage or crawl space). As for hearty marginal plants, you treat them similar to how you would perennials – that is cut them back to about 2" of the water surface. For marginal plants such as iris, rushes, and grasses, trim those back 2" – 12".

For hearty water lilies, they will die back on their own as the weather cools down. Leave the hardy water lilies in their pots and cut back all foliage and spent blooms. To determine if a bloom is new or dead, if you squeeze the bloom and water squirts out, it is dead. Cut back stems to 2" – 3" above the base of the soil. Don't cut back new red leaves; leave them for the following Spring. The crowns of the lilies should be 8" or below the water surface, deep enough so the crowns won't freeze.

As for fish, most goldfish and Koi are Winter hearty. Once the water temperature reaches 50 degrees, you need to switch their diet to a low temperature food that is easier for them to digest (typically a wheat germ based diet). Stop feeding the fish altogether when the water temperature reaches 40 degrees. To survive, fish generally need 2' of water depth, oxygen, and a proper gas exchange. To maintain a proper gas exchange, put a bubbler in front of your skimmer box to maintain an opening to allow CO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia to dissipate.

You can leave the pond running all Winter or you can turn it off. If you choose to turn it off, you will need to Winterize it. To Winterize, remove all the water from the pipes. Remove, clean, and inspect the pump(s). Store the pump(s) in a frost-free location and submerge the pump(s) in a bucket of water to help maintain seals and gaskets. Remove and store mechanical filters in a dry location. Remove and clean biological filters. Biological filters will need to be cleaned once per year, preferably in the Spring. Pressurized filters will need to be drained and stored empty.

If you have a waterfall, it may be more beneficial for your fish if you bypass the waterfall because when water recirculates through the waterfall, it also recirculates the outside air temperature into the waterfall and then into the pond, thus circulating colder water into your pond. It is most beneficial for your fish if you maintain as constant a pond temperature as possible. Consider bypassing your waterfall and putting in a bubbler instead.



## Leaf Casting Class a Success

by Dorothy Martinez



**CWGS Leaf Casting Class (from left to right: Risa Hoffman, Mike Hoffman, Dorothy Martinez, Theresa Rounds, Vicki Aber & Janet Bathurst), (Photo courtesy of John Funk)**

The Leaf Casting Class held on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> was quite a success. The class had a total of five attendees. This turned out to be a perfect number because each student was able to get much better hands on instruction from Theresa Rounds. Everyone really enjoyed the class and was very pleased with the results.

In addition, since the class was smaller, each person was able to cast between two to four leaves each. We will all be getting together again sometime in the next month to paint the leaves. Theresa has generously offered to help with this.



**CWGS Leaf Casting Class (from left to right: Mike Hoffman, Vicki Aber, Dorothy Martinez, Theresa Rounds, & Risa Hoffman), (Photo courtesy of John Funk)**

Theresa's background is in horticulture and landscaping design. She discovered leaf casting with an artist friend and has been hooked ever since. Examples of leaves we cast during the class were Macleaya (Plume) poppy, Grape, Canna, Lotus, Rhubarb, Taro, and Zucchini.

Theresa said she has had great results with just about any leaf she has tried. The minimum size she would recommend is about 4 inches in diameter. The trick is getting the thickness of the cast just right. The proper thickness should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Any thinner and the concrete becomes too brittle and breaks during the reveal process.

Several people have expressed an interest in holding another class. Unfortunately, with Autumn soon approaching, it is too late in the season to host another class this year. If we can generate enough interest, Theresa would be willing to teach another class next year. Since larger leaves are easier to cast, it is best to hold the class either the end of July or in August when larger leaves are more prevalent. Hudson Gardens has expressed a possible interest in hosting this class next year.



**Rhubarb Leaf after the Casting Process, (photo courtesy of John Funk)**

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in a future leaf casting class, please let Dorothy Martinez know. She can be reached at (303) 279-3137 or [dam@johnfunk.com](mailto:dam@johnfunk.com).

## September Board Elections

by Dorothy Martinez

We have several Board positions whose term ends in September 2013. We will be holding elections at the September 19, 2013 meeting for the following positions:

President – Bob Hoffman – eligible to run for another two-year term  
 Treasurer – Jim Wohlenhaus – term limited  
 MAL (1) – Lynn Jewett – term limited  
 MAL (3) – Ben Coleman – eligible to run for another two-year term  
 MAL (5) – Brenda Parsons-Hier – term limited  
 MAL (7) – Peter Hier – term limited  
 MAL (9) – Fran Hoffman – eligible to run for another two-year term

## Upcoming Meetings and Events, Mark Your Calendars

by Dorothy Martinez

We will be hosting a Potluck and Board Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The primary focus of this meeting is future meeting and event planning. We would welcome any suggestions you may have as to speakers or if you are interested in hosting a Pond Side meeting. The Pot Luck starts at 6:00 pm and the meeting will follow at 7:00 pm.

As to not encounter calendaring conflicts with the DBG Plant Society Building, all CWGS future meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month. We need speakers for March (third Thursday), April (third Thursday – Get Wet Event), and August (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Water Blossom Festival). We are also looking for Pond Side hosts for June (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) and August (1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday).

The Holiday Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. We are hosting this event at the DBG Plant Society Building and will also hold the very popular white elephant gift exchange, so be sure to be on the look-out for a good water or pond themed gift. During the festivities, Volunteers will be recognized for their contributions to both CWGS and DBG. As in the past, CWGS will provide the main dish (ham and turkey). If you plan to attend, please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

### New & Returning Members for August 2013

#### August 2013

<b>Jim &amp; Tudi Arneill</b> <i>Centennial, CO</i>	<i>(Returning)</i>
<b>Bill &amp; Brinda Henley</b> <i>Louisville, CO</i>	<i>(Returning)</i>
<b>Rebecca Nash</b> <i>Centennial, CO</i>	<i>(Returning)</i>
<b>Werner &amp; Nancy Neupert</b> <i>Boulder, CO</i>	<i>(Returning)</i>



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Membership Fees are \$15 Annually for an Individual and \$20 Annually for a Family  
Please make checks payable to "Colorado Water Garden Society"

## THIS YEAR

*A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:*

**September 19 (Thursday): Potluck, Annual Board Elections, and Board Meeting**  
**Plant Society Building, Denver Botanic Gardens**

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Potluck

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Board Elections and Meeting

**Oct. 17: Potluck & Planning Meeting** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Dec. 19: Holiday Banquet and Volunteer Recognition** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM



*From...*

**TheWaterGarden**  
c/o Journal Editor  
14837 W. 57<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)

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