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Water Blossom Festival

West Terrace
Denver Botanic Gardens

Friday, August 15
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org



Japanese Pond at Denver Botanic Gardens with Chihuly Boat and Chihuly Walla Wallas, (photo courtesy of Bill Powell)

Summer Color, Free Tours, and Just a Dash of “Wabi-Sabi”

The Water Blossom Festival Returns

by **Bill Powell**

Familiar favorites in full bloom; dazzling installations of Chihuly glass; cutting edge genetics of sub-genera hybrids; behind-the-scenes peeks; internationally known hybridists, and Japanese aesthetics...

The annual Water Blossom Festival at Denver Botanic Gardens combines all these attractions and more. Timed to coincide with the IWGS Symposium and the height of this summer’s New Waterlily Competition, the Water Blossom Festival will be co-sponsored by CWGS and Denver Botanic Gardens on Friday, August 15th. This recurring annual event promotes water gardening in the Front Range while celebrating the profusion of blooms made possible at DBG by a legion of devoted aquatic volunteers.

The Water Blossom Festival runs from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Friday Aug 15th and is free to the public with general admission to the Gardens. The Club will staff a daylong information center on the West Terrace where members and local vendors will offer hands-on assistance to water gardeners and answer your questions about aquatics.

(continued on page 3)

2014 Board of Directors:

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|----------------------------|--------------|
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| Vice President | |
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| Secretary | |
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| 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

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:
Balance as of August 10, 2014 -
\$11,775.62**

2014 Committee and Event Chairs:

| | |
|--|--------------|
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| Membership | |
| Ken Lange | 303.393.8410 |
| Dorothy Martinez | 303.279.3137 |
| Publicity & Outreach | |
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| Pond Tour / Picnic | |
| Dorothy Martinez | 303.279.3137 |
| Water Blossom Festival | |
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| Holiday Banquet | |
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| Janet Bathurst | 303.421.1144 |
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| DBG Plant Sale & Volunteers | |
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| Tamara Kilbane | 720.865.3556 |

Remember...

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dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.

Water Blossom Festival

(continued from page 1)

At 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, the Club will offer free DBG docent-guided tours of the Gardens' extensive aquatic displays. These hour-long tours should be particularly interesting. Each will include a behind-the-scenes peek at the Gardens' aquatic greenhouse that is normally closed to the public. Tamara Kilbane, Senior Horticulturist in charge of the Aquatics collection will join the tours along the way to offer insight on both the IWGS New Waterlily contest entrants and the operations of the Aquatics program.

Tour docents will also offer interpretation of the extraordinary Dale Chihuly environmental glass installation on display at DBG this summer. Many of these exuberant creations are in or close by the ponds because of the artist's attraction to water as both a medium and context for his work. DBG's many waterways mirror (often literally) the colorful translucence of Chihuly's large fabrications.

At 2:00 pm Ebi Kondo, Curator of the Japanese Garden at DBG, will conduct a tour and walking program through Sho-Fu-En, the garden of the pines and wind. This presentation, which is being done in conjunction with the IWGS Symposium, offers a rare chance to experience what may be DBG's most important landscape garden as seen through the eyes of its curator.

Designed by the noted landscape architect Koichi Kawana in the late 1970's, Sho-Fu-En was conceived as a western reimagining of a traditional and rustic Japanese provincial strolling garden. The garden's sensibility, derived from a blend of native Colorado plantings and Asian species, recalls the ruggedness of the mountains near Nagano, Japan as well as the terrain of Colorado. Ebi notes, "*Japanese gardens encourage the use of native plants. We have about 50 percent natives in this garden.*"

A large, naturalized lake is the focus of the garden. An expression of the importance of the sea to the Japanese, the undulating and reflective body of water organizes the space and the use of the garden. Visitors are forced to move laterally and thoughtfully around the perimeter. The shimmering water at the garden's center reflects the cloud like motif of 130 surrounding wind-swept Ponderosa character pines as well as the passing clouds. The effect is of tranquility, the transience of seasons, and the beauty to be found in the imperfection of nature.

By comparison with the nearby riot of color from the aquatic plants and bright Chihuly "Fiori" in the Monet Garden, Sho-Fu-En is deliberately quiet, always soothing, and at times a bit melancholy – a beautiful expression of the very Japanese aesthetic of "Wabi Sabi" in which "*nothing lasts, nothing is finished, nothing is perfect.*"

This summer though, the Japanese Gardens is – for the first time – serving as a platform for the transitory Chihuly glass exhibit. Artist Dale Chihuly and Curator Ebi Kondo have selected a palette and forms that perfectly compliment the garden and extend its Japanese aesthetic.

The tour of the Japanese Garden has been arranged as part of the Symposium offerings, but is available without charge to all visitors. However, space for this very special curator-led tour will be limited. Sign-up early on the 15th at the Club's booth on the West Terrace.

For more information on the concurrent IWGS (International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society) Symposium, visit <http://iwgs.org/events/>. A detailed list of programs, schedules, and registration prices for the Symposium is included on the web page. And you'll find information about the IWGS sponsored New Waterlily Competition that's underway at the Gardens.

For additional information regarding the Water Blossom Festival, visit the Club's website and select Latest Happenings or August from the calendar. You can also contact Bill Powell (303-355-8098) or by email at wbpow@comcast.net.



Pikes Peak Water Garden Society Pond Tour

by Dorothy Martinez

The Pikes Peak Water Garden Society's Pond Tour took place on Saturday, July 26th and Sunday, July 27th. I attended both days and ran into some familiar faces along the way. I was able to see all 12 ponds. The first day I concentrated on the North side of Colorado Springs and was able to see 5 ponds. The second day I focused on Central and South Colorado Springs and saw the remaining 7 ponds. Ponds were located as far North as Baptist Road and Highway 83 and as far south as the Security area just southeast of the Colorado Springs Airport.

There was quite a variation in pond sizes and types. I saw several ponds where the emphasis was on their fish, others the plants, some ponds were quite complex, and others quite simple.

Several yards had numerous water features between the front and back yards including pond less features, Koi ponds, streams, and larger ponds.

The several ponds featuring streams were quite intricate and most of the streams meandered throughout their properties. One smaller pond had a beautiful statue fountain at one end. The pond at the Union Printers Home was in a very beautiful, park-like setting and had many varieties of hardy water lilies.

It was interesting to see how ponds and water features were skillfully constructed to fit into the yards in which they were located. One water feature had a very large waterfall that nicely blended into the existing natural hill sloping upward from the pond.

Another yard featured some very unique yard art of various "found" items. One "water feature" was themed around water, yet contained no water. It featured all blue "found" items to mimic water right down to the miniature pond and stream.

I want to send a special thank you to the Pikes Peak Water Garden Society for organizing and hosting this year's Pond Tour. Without your hard work and planning for this event, the Tour would not have been successful. Also, a big thanks to everyone who opened up their yards and ponds for two days.

Everyone's hospitality and willingness to share tips about algae problems, fish, plants, and how to mitigate problems with animals like raccoons and blue herons was just phenomenal. I really enjoyed sharing my joy with others in owning and having a pond. What can I say; pond people just get other pond people and our crazy obsession about our ponds.



Ray Armstrong & Barbara Dawson's Pond in Colorado Springs, (photo courtesy of Dorothy Martinez)



Richard & LaNell Williams' Pond in Colorado Springs, (photo courtesy of Dorothy Martinez)



Michelle Ditto's Waterless Water Feature in Colorado Springs, (photo courtesy of Dorothy Martinez)



Ken Burkert taking a well deserved rest at the 2014 CWGS Plant Sale at Hudson Gardens,
(photo courtesy of Bill Powell)

Ken Can! ... and he does

by Bill Powell

"Whether he is defending aquatic plants from geese or figuring out the best solution for transporting and installing heavy or awkward display elements," Ken Burkert is a star volunteer in the aquatic gardens.

The quote is from Tamara Kilbane via a recognition drafted by Denver Botanic Gardens, but anyone who knows Ken also knows this to be true: he is untiring and determined; Ken excels in the ponds at DBG.

During this summer of Chihuly and unprecedented crowds at the Gardens, Ken may occasionally grow weary of yet another visitor asking, *"How deep is THAT water?"* Nevertheless, Ken never tires of his horticultural tasks. Sometimes the work is repetitive, like deadheading spent blooms and fertilizing. Other times Ken is faced with a challenge. Whatever his mission, Ken works faithfully at DBG twice a week, (or more) year around, and he often volunteers with his wife Teresa during seasonal sessions that the Club sponsors in spring and fall.

Recently, Ken was recognized by Denver Botanic Gardens with multiple awards for his exceptional service. Ken's 425 hours of volunteerism in 2013 earned him national recognition through "The President's Volunteer Service Silver Award". He was also selected as DBG's "Outstanding Horticulture Volunteer" with his receipt of the newly established "Lanie Jackson Award", which *"serves to recognize an outstanding volunteer in horticulture who works to keep our gardens beautiful while acting as a model for other volunteers."*

A sprightly and wry curmudgeon, Ken often teases Curator Tamara Kilbane. Ken receives as graciously as he gives, and is treasured by all those at DBG and in the Club who are lucky enough to know and work with him.

Congratulations, Ken on some well deserved recognition. Now,... get back to work!

A Tribute to Bob Hoffman

by Dorothy Martinez

Our President, Bob Hoffman passed away on Friday, July 18th. Bob actively volunteered at Hudson Gardens and Denver Botanic Gardens caring for their various water features. Bob has been involved with the Colorado Water Garden Society for at least 21 years and was first elected to the CWGS Board as an At Large member in 1993. He has volunteered at Hudson Gardens for over 14 years and for 24 ½ years at the Denver Botanic Gardens with over 1,430 hours of service at DBG.

When he first started volunteering on Wednesdays at Hudson Gardens, there were three Bobs. To keep them straight the group came up with nicknames; there was Amazon Bob, Quiet Bob, and Tall Bob. If you knew Bob at all, you know he was Tall Bob.

How do you begin to pay tribute to such a tremendous person?

Here are just some of the words that come to mind when I think of Bob: kind, generous, devoted, humble, easy-going, gentle, warm, open, giving, and diplomatic.



Fran Hoffman, Bob Hoffman, & Dorothy Martinez at the Hudson Gardens Victoria Pond, July 2014,
(photo courtesy John Funk)

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Tribute to Bob Hoffman

(continued from page 5)

Bob had a quiet and calm demeanor. He also had a subtle, yet great sense of humor. I cherish every day I knew Bob and the time I spent with him. I relish in the many great memories he has left with me.

Bob was such an inspiration for me. He was always willing to help others and was such a treasure trove of knowledge and information. His vast knowledge of Hudson Gardens, the lilies, lotus, and the myriad of hardy and tropical plants was sometimes hard to fathom. I learned so much from Bob, and yet realize, I only know a fraction of what he knew. I can only hope I will make Bob proud in carrying on his incredible legacy at Hudson Gardens. I literally and figuratively have some large shoes to fill.

One thing Bob and I shared was our love of plants. For those plant lovers like us, it's hard to explain our obsession with plants and their fantastic variety. It was always a pleasure spending time with him and Fran on their patio enjoying all the wonderful diversity of plants and animals that Mother Nature had to offer.

Bob, I'm really going to miss you, especially at Hudson Gardens, but when I think about it, not really – after all, when I am at Hudson Gardens I see and feel you in every water feature there!

God speed to you.



Bob Hoffman with a Victoria Leaf at Hudson Gardens, (photo courtesy of Fran Hoffman)

Beyond the Backyard at our September 18th Meeting

by Brenda Parsons Hier and Peter Hier

This is the time of year we enjoy all of our efforts put into our water features. Yet, we do have to leave this beauty and go other places for various reasons. Let us take you “Beyond the Backyard” on September 18th. We will show you places you might visit when you are out and about, that have either manmade or natural water features. Some are in the Denver area. There is one in Colorado Springs at the Union Printers Home where the Pikes Peak Water Garden Society houses their extra water lilies.

In Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), there are one or more lakes where you can find our native Rocky Mountain cow-lily (Nuphar lutea or spatterdock). Did you know there is a mountain marsh marigold that is white? It can be found in RMNP along with some really loud chorus frogs. In the Brainard Lake Recreation Area, you will see some other aquatic plants in addition to the cow-lily. Wyoming and Florida also offer wild areas with the cow-lily and other aquatic plants.

If you have found water features in your travels, wild or manmade, bring your experiences, and share how to get there. In the end, we want to give you a list of places and instructions on how to get to them. Please join us as we go “Beyond the Backyard”.



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dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org*

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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***

Membership Fees
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

Friday, August 15: Water Blossom Festival
West Terrace, DBG

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sept. 18: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, & Presentation “Beyond the Backyard” – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM*

Oct. 16: Potluck, Presentation, & Planning Meeting – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*

Dec. 18: Holiday Banquet and Volunteer Recognition – *Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 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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