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**Get Wet**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Doors Open at 6:30pm**  
**Presentation at 7:00pm**  
**Sale of Marsh Marigolds at**  
**8:30pm**

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



*Egyptian Tomb Painting of a Residential Garden Pool, (photo courtesy of Ann Komara)*

## Water Flows through Time & Cultures Ann Komara Explores "Fluid Form in the Garden"

by Bill Powell

Water has been used ornamentally in gardens for millennia. Perhaps as early as agriculture first struck upon the idea of digging irrigation channels, gardeners have exploited the aesthetic potential of water.

Reflecting pools, fountains, cascades, and aquatic gardens originated alongside agricultural innovations. The intersection of ornamental landscape design and technology has been reinterpreted and expanded from one culture to the next. The ways in which ornamental water has been used throughout history reveal the values and interests of these cultures and their times. Join us as "Get Wet", our April kick-off event for the 2014 water gardening season, explores and celebrates water in the landscape.

Ann Komara, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver, will present "Water: Fluid Form in the Garden," an overview of the history of water in western garden design. Professor Komara's visually rich presentation will examine "how we have brought water to this use through engineering and design, and how we have celebrated its presence as an aesthetic component of our gardens and landscape."

The presentation will investigate the ways in which landscapes using water have incorporated design principles, scale, ornamental details, and adaptations to varying climates. Along the way, we'll be introduced to some influential garden designers whose works illustrate changing themes in ornamental landscape design. And, we'll be invited to consider ways we, as Front Range gardeners, might bring similar design concepts into our own gardens.

(continued on page 3)

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

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:**  
Balance as of April 1, 2014 -  
\$10,576.75.

**2014 Committee and Event Chairs:**

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Tamara Kilbane	720.865.3556

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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).



**Ann Komara, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, University of Colorado Denver,** (photo courtesy of Jesse Kuroiwa)



**Bird's Eye View of a Contemporary Courtyard Garden,** (photo courtesy of Ann Komara)



**Rill in Parc de Buttes Chaumont, Paris, France,** (photo courtesy of Ann Komara)

## Water Flows through Time & Cultures

(continued from page 1)

Ann is an avid scholar of landscape and garden history. She teaches design studios and seminars on landscape history and theory. Her scholarly works include the 2012 book Lawrence Halprin's Skyline Park, which celebrates an iconic modernist design in Denver. She has also written on public parks in Paris, the landscape projects and work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and American garden practice in the late 19th century. Professor Komara is a 2008 Fulbright Fellow to Finland and Fellow of Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown, Washington D.C.

The doors of Mitchell Hall open for "Get Wet" at 6:30 PM, Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be running a slide show of members' photographs collected for our anniversary calendar. (There are still a few calendars available, by the way).

There will also be representatives from several major garden centers and pond businesses available to answer any questions you may have.

Tamara Kilbane, the Senior Horticulturist in charge of water plants at DBG, will share photos of the winners of the 2013 IWGS New Waterlily competition, and she'll give us some insights to this year's competition. Tamara will also outline the program for the International Waterlily and Water Gardening (IWGS) Symposium that will be held at the Gardens August 14 - 17. Additional detail on the Symposium is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our keynote speaker Ann Komara will begin her audio-visual presentation "Water: Fluid Form in the Garden" around 7:00 PM. Ann's tour through the changing landscape of water across cultures and through the centuries promises to be fascinating and visually beautiful. Please join us.

CWGS is offering early blooming Marsh Marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) for sale at Get Wet. There will be a limited number of plants for sale at Get Wet on a first come, first serve basis after the program scheduled for 8:30 pm. Please note all plants are subject to availability. Cost will be \$10.00 per plant.

Get Wet is a recurring educational event co-sponsored by CWGS and DBG. It is open to the public and free to all. Parking is available in the Gardens' garage across from the visitor's center. Follow the signs to the after-hours Gardens' entrance and Mitchell Hall, located off of the lobby court in the main education building.

Get Wet 2014  
Thursday evening, April 17, 6:30 PM  
"Water: Fluid Form in the Garden"  
Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens

For more information contact Bill Powell at 303-355-8098 or [wbpow@comcast.net](mailto:wbpow@comcast.net)

## Looking for Volunteers to Staff the Aquatics Booth at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Spring Plant Sale

by Bob Hoffman

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Aquatic Plants Booth at the upcoming Denver Botanic Gardens Annual Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend – Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We need help setting-up on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Set-up includes labeling, pricing, and staging plants for the sale. Shifts on Thursday include 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and the Patron's Preview Party from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Volunteers on Friday and Saturday will talk to customers and help them make various plant selections. If you don't have much experience, that's okay as there are plenty of knowledgeable people on hand to answer any questions that may arise. There are several shift choices available on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Shift times for both days include 7:00 am – 10:30 am, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm, and 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm. If you would like to help, please call Bob Hoffman at 303-978-0124.

## CWGS Plant Swap

by Vicki Aber

It looks like spring may finally make its appearance. Hopefully the ice is off your pond and the plants are reaching for the sun. Now is the time to take stock of your plants and see what they need. Do they need a bigger pot? Do they need to be divided? Did they not do well last year and need to be relocated to a different spot? All the fun of getting wet and playing in the pond again! As you are doing all these spring chores, keep in mind two upcoming events.

At our May meeting, we will have a Plant Swap. Bring in plants that have done very well in your pond and need to be divided. Trade them for new ones to try. It is always a fun time and you get to try something new for FREE. You can't beat that! You also get great information. You might have tried a certain plant but never had much luck with it. Maybe someone will bring that plant in and share how they have been successful with it. If you don't have any plants to share, there are usually some left over so everyone goes away happy.

If you haven't gotten around to dividing plants before the May meeting or missed the meeting, don't toss those divisions. The next event is the June Plant Sale. We order in plants for the sale but really count on donated divisions that people bring in. Those donations go a long way toward funding the club for the coming year.

More information to come on both events in the next Newsletter, so stay tuned.



**IWGS Speaker Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, Longwood, PA** (photo courtesy of Daniel Traub)



**Chihuly Green Hornets & Gold Waterdrops, Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden, Dallas, TX, 2012** (photo courtesy of Chihuly Studio, Seattle, WA)

## 2014 IWGS Symposium

by Tamara Kilbane

The Colorado Water Garden Society will serve as one of the local hosts for the 2014 IWGS Symposium along with Denver Botanic Gardens and Hudson Gardens. The symposium is scheduled to take place from August 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. Included below is an outline of planned events for each day of the symposium. For locals who would like to attend, daily registration rates are offered as well as a separate rate for those who only wish to attend the dinner and keynote talk at DBG on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>:** Upon their arrival, attendees may join an optional afternoon tour of the Chester M. Alter Arboretum on the campus of the University of Denver to view the water gardens that run through the property. Once back at the host hotel (the Holiday Inn at Cherry Creek), a meet and greet in the hotel lounge will give attendees the opportunity to socialize before heading out to dinner on their own at one of the nearby restaurants.

**Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:** Symposium attendees will spend the morning learning from industry experts presenting talks at our host hotel. Tentative speakers include Demi Fortuna, a well-known industry expert in pumps, filters, and pond construction and Daikie Tian, who serves as the international registrar for *Nelumbo* (lotus) and has done extensive research on the genus.

In the afternoon, the group will visit Denver Botanic Gardens where we will attend the CWGS Water Blossom Festival. This annual event will include guided tours of the water gardens and behind the scenes greenhouse operations, a tour of the Japanese Garden, demonstrations, and public voting for the IWGS New Waterlily Competition entries. A catered dinner at the gardens will be followed by a talk given by the symposium's keynote speaker, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, author of the newly published book "*Victoria, The Seductress*". Copies of this book will be sold at a discounted price before and following the keynote talk.

Internationally renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's artwork will be showcased throughout the grounds of Denver Botanic Gardens during this time. Bring along your camera to capture the beauty of the water gardens and various themed gardens highlighted by these stunning sculptures.

**Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Morning talks will include a presentation by a panel of water lily hybridizers who will offer the group a glimpse of outstanding new hybrids coming to the market. Aquaponics expert Sylvia Bernstein, author of the best-selling book "*Aquaponic Gardening: A Step by Step Guide to Growing Fish and Vegetables Together*", will give us insight into this increasingly popular form of gardening. A tour of a local aquaponics facility is tentatively planned for the late morning, followed by lunch at the Platte River Grill and a visit to Hudson Gardens. This public garden on the outskirts of Denver boasts multiple water gardens throughout the property, including a Victoria water lily pool and a newly renovated pond filled with hardy water lilies and lotus. Our tour will include a special pond-side hybridizing demonstration given by top water lily hybridizers including Tony Moore, Mike Giles, and Brandon McLane. A catered dinner at Hudson Gardens will end our day.

**Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>:** Rounding out the symposium, an optional day trip to Mt. Goliath, an alpine garden trail maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, will be offered. This guided tour will continue from Mt. Goliath to the peak of Mt. Evans and will give attendees the opportunity to view unique high elevation plant and animal life.

### Additional Details:

Meals provided with conference registration will include lunches and catered dinners on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The separate registration for Sunday's optional tour will include lunch and beer at a local brewery. We will have a hospitality room reserved at the hotel until midnight each evening for attendees to enjoy a drink and socialize after each day's events.

For a registration form, go to:

<http://iwgs.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2014-IWGS-Symposium-registration-form.pdf>



**Chihuly, Thames Skiff, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England, 2005** (photo courtesy of Chihuly Studio, Seattle, WA)



**Chihuly, Red Reeds, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010** (photo courtesy of Chihuly Studio, Seattle, WA)



**Chihuly Turquoise Reeds, 2012 & Blue Marlins, 2008 Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden, Dallas, TX, 2012** (photo courtesy Chihuly Studio, Seattle, WA)

## River of Glass

by **Bill Powell**

Glass and water have an affinity. They reflect and refract light. Both materials assume a variety of forms from flat to sinuous. Glass and water fascinate us in similar ways.

This summer the two media of water and glass will be combined at Denver Botanic Gardens in an exhibition of the work of Dale Chihuly, the pre-eminent American studio glass artist. Beginning in June, large installations of Chihuly's blown glass will dot the Gardens. Many of the pieces will float visually, and sometimes literally, upon the Gardens' waterways.

Chihuly's glass pieces are particularly comfortable in the garden. Inspired by organic forms and the asymmetry of nature, Chihuly's works can resemble blossoms, crustaceans, or gigantic assemblages of vegetation. They catch light and shadow in much the same way as native flora. The fluid interplay of form, color, and rhythm often suggest familiar, if exotic and translucent, growths with an affinity for the natural landscape.

The large size of Chihuly's pieces is unusual among glass artists and has moved his work from the province of craft to that of environmental art installation. If, when you think of blown glass, you envision glass perfume bottles from Murano or the Art Glass of Tiffany and Lalique, Dale Chihuly's work will surprise. Any given Chihuly installation is not one thing, but many (sometimes dozens of) variations on a theme, assembled en masse to create a larger whole.

Absolute symmetry, often the very measure of quality in blown glass artifacts, is largely abandoned. Instead, Chihuly pursues a balanced dynamic consistent with observations of the natural world and with the Modern mid-century aesthetic sensibility arising from painting and sculpture. Chihuly's fabrications of glass reveal another botanically-related influence:

*"Chihuly's lifelong fascination for glasshouses has grown into a series of exhibitions within botanical settings. His Garden Cycle began in 2001 at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. Chihuly exhibited at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London, in 2005."*<sup>1</sup>

Because of space limitations, most of Chihuly's pieces will be displayed outside at DBG along, or nearby, the ribbon of water that connects the gardens. This curation should result in a happy symbiosis with the many waterlilies and flowering plants that will line the water gardens throughout the summer.

"CHIHULY" opens June 14 and continues through the fall. The exhibit is free with admission to the Garden; however docent-guided interpretive tours can be arranged for a fee. Evening Illuminated viewing will also be possible with special ticketing. For additional information, visit the Gardens' website:

<http://www.botanicgardens.org/exhibits/outdoor/chihuly>

References:

1. Quote from authorized biography of Dale Chihuly, [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com)



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*Please call:  
Deidre Parker, 303-494-5817  
Joanne Bowen, 303-786-7350*

## Domestic Koi for Sale

When: Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Where: 3961 S. Birch Street, Englewood, CO  
Contact: Chuck & Jean Mitton  
Phone: 303-758-0306  
E-mail: [mittonhj@gmail.com](mailto:mittonhj@gmail.com)  
Fish range in size from 3" – 15"  
Price per fish \$10 - \$50 **CASH ONLY**

## ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE HERE

*Annual advertising in the newsletter also includes a listing on the CWGS website with an active link direct to your commercial webpage.*

*We also run single-event ads.*

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez  
[dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org](mailto:dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org)*

**Make checks payable to:  
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\_\_\_ *Check here if you are also a member of Denver Botanic Gardens*

**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***

Membership Fees  
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

## THIS YEAR

*A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:*

**April 17: Get Wet 2014**  
**Mitchell Hall**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

6:30 PM – Doors Open

7:00 PM – *Presentation by Ann Komara, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Colorado Denver "Fluid Form in the Garden"*

8:30 PM – *Sale of Marsh Marigolds*

**May 9 & May 10: DBG Annual Plant Sale – DBG, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday**

**May 15: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**June 1: Annual Plant Sale – Business Office/Residence, The Hudson Gardens & Event Center, Littleton, CO, Members only 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, General Public 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**June 21: Pond Side Program – Water Features at University of Denver, Denver, CO, Bring your own picnic to enjoy, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**July 26 & July 27: Pikes Peak Water Garden Society Pond Tour – Colorado Springs Area, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day**

**August 15: Water Blossom Festival, West Terrace/Plant Society Building, DBG, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Sept. 18: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, & Presentation – 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. 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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