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**April 2015**

# The Water Garden

Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society

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### **CWGS Potluck & Get Wet 2015**

**Plant Society Building  
Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Thursday, April 16th  
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Potluck  
7:00 pm – Get Wet “Botanic  
Gardens Around the World”**

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



**Na 'Aina Kai, Kauai Hawaii Botanical Gardens & Sculpture Park,**  
*(photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)*

## Get Wet 2015 Pictures the World

by Bill Powell

Kew Gardens, London...Na 'Aina Kai, Kauai... Butchart Gardens, Victoria British Columbia. Perhaps if you are fortunate you've been to one, or maybe all of these garden destinations. Or perhaps you've always wanted to go and haven't – as yet.

Here's your chance to visit a virtual buffet of international gardens while you enjoy an actual buffet.

Get Wet 2015 kicks off the water gardening season on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> with a potluck and a visual collective experience - “Botanic Gardens Around the Globe”. The destinations and venues will be as diverse as a South Dakota reptile garden nestled in the shadow of Mt. Rushmore or the South Carolina sculpture garden Brookgreen. You are certain to find a garden (or two!) of interest to you in this shared presentation.

(continued on page 3)

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**CWGS Treasurer's Report:**  
Balance as of March 28, 2015 -  
\$11,640.87

**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).

## Get Wet 2015

(continued from page 1)

The food and the fun start at 6:00 pm in the Plant Society building at Denver Botanic Gardens. Bring a dish you enjoy. If your dish happens to recall the trip you are about to share in photos, so much the better! I provided the shots of Brookgreen; perhaps I'll bring shrimp and grits – a favorite of the coastal “lowcountry” that envelops Brookgreen's fine collection of Beaux-Arts figurative sculptures.

At 7:00 pm, we'll enjoy all the photos, commentary and memories that Club members have collected about gardens they've visited. We're sure to see plenty of aquatics. (We are a water garden society after all), but variety has been encouraged. Dry gardens or wet, urban and rural, intimate and quirky as well as world famous destinations are likely to make our wide-ranging itinerary.

The public is welcome. Please bring friends and family...and yourselves! Even if you didn't manage to cobble together photos of your garden trips in time to have them included, you can still contribute with your comments and reminiscence.

Parking will be available adjacent to the Plant Society Building. Enter through the north staff vehicular gate off of York Street. Drive slowly along the north side of the buildings to the end where you'll find parking along the fence line. The Club provides tableware and drinks. For more information, contact Bill Powell at (303) 355-8098 or [wbpow@comcast.net](mailto:wbpow@comcast.net).



## Found and Found Again

*When a plant's “discovery” doesn't stick*

**by Bill Powell**

The story is a familiar one. An expedition travels to a remote location, finds a plant with unfamiliar characteristics, and declares it to be the newest species or genus to have been “discovered.”

In the case of the super-sized *Nymphaea Victoria*, most people know or at least surmise from the attribution that this genus of water lily, the world's largest, was named for the monarch whose given name is now synonymous with the age of English dominion. And we can reasonably deduce the discovery of the namesake plant was likely made by an English expedition. But was it?

The *Victoria* genus and its two species *V. amazonica* and *V. cruziana* have a fascinating and entangled history of discovery (and re-discovery) beginning at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Bohemian/Saxon naturalist Thaddaeus Haenke visited the foothills of the Andes. *“In Moxos ...on one of his forages...Haenke entered a marshy canal connected to the river [and] ...unexpectedly came face to face with a plant...like no other before: a water lily of gigantic proportions.”*<sup>1</sup>

(continued on page 4)

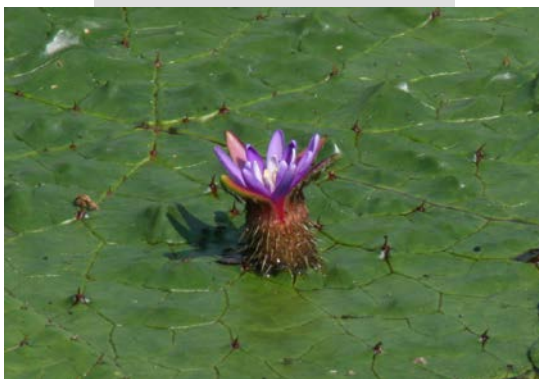


## Found and Found Again

(continued from page 3)



**Victoria cruziana at Bergen Water Gardens & Nursery, Churchville, NY,** (photo courtesy of <http://bergenwatergardens.com/victoria-waterlilies/>)



**Euryale ferox (Gorgon plant),** (photo courtesy of <http://pcweb.hobby-web.net/mizumoto02/2222b.jpg>)



**Victoria amazonica, Manaus, Amazon,** (photo courtesy of [http://www.allposters.com.br/-sp/Victoria-Amazonica-Giant-Water-Lily-Parque-Ecologico-Do-Janauary-Manaus-Amazonas-Brazil-posters\\_i2672234\\_.htm](http://www.allposters.com.br/-sp/Victoria-Amazonica-Giant-Water-Lily-Parque-Ecologico-Do-Janauary-Manaus-Amazonas-Brazil-posters_i2672234_.htm))

Haenke's discovery came toward the end of his mission and was never published. Decades later the French botanist Aime Bonpland recorded a similar discovery – “a magnificent aquatic plant known to the natives by the name of *maiz de agua*...” He “placed it in the genus *Nymphaea*...”<sup>2</sup>. Fifteen years later seeds that Haenke shipped to Europe found their way to the Jardin des Plants in Paris.

Around 1840 along the frontier of Paraguay another French explorer, Alcide d'Orbigny glimpsed “the plant [that Guaraní Indians] called *yrupe* (from ‘y’, water; and *rupe* [meaning] large platter.”<sup>3</sup>. This was probably a re-sighting of the earlier Haenke plants that would eventually be named the separate species *V. cruziana*. A German botanist/geographer Eduard Pöppig also published findings of a large plant called “mumuru” by natives and which he had seen in 1832.

Pöppig placed his discovery to the family Euryale, an Asiatic family that contains the Gorgon plant, which *Victoria* superficially resembles. Pöppig named his find *Euryale amazonica*.

Another German Robert Schomburgk, who was in the employ of the English Royal Geographic Society, proposed instead the plant be named *Victoria regia* in honor of the newly crowned head of the British throne. At this turn, politics and national honor really came into play. John Lindley, a self-trained botanist who was best known for preserving Kew Gardens through political influence and the sheer power of his personality, grabbed onto Schomburgk's moniker as a sure-fired crowd pleaser...in England at any rate.

Ultimately, a European “paper war” ensued. Factions argued the timelines of the various discoveries as well as the scientific attribution of genus and species and the naming rights. It was only after the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 that the matter was resolved.

Tomaz Anisko, author of the authoritative book “*Victoria the Seductress*” observes “*Ultimately no single explorer or ... nation could claim sole credit...*” Bohemia, Austria, and Spain all claimed the original discovery. France claimed credit for the earliest collection of dry specimens, and “*Germany can claim Pöppig's publication as the first description.*”<sup>4</sup> Thanks to Lindley and British dominion during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, England contributed the genus name that persists – *Victoria*.

Another more contemporary lost and found aquatic story was recalled during last summer's IWGS Symposium. Sitting at a table during the festivities at the concurrent Water Blossom Festival I fell into conversation with a Symposium goer from Hawaii. (Unfortunately, I don't remember his name – only that he runs a pond planting and maintenance business.)

The man was talking generally about the difficulties of importing water lily species to the Islands because of quarantine restrictions. He'd taken to sharing and exchanging plants with clients of his maintenance service in order to develop a collection of lilies to draw upon for his plantings.

(continued on page 5)



**Arc-en-Ciel hardy water lily**, (photo courtesy of <http://www.liliumaquae.com/en/gallery/hardy-waterlilies/rose/nymphaea-arc-en-ciel/>)



**Victoria cruziana at Denver Botanic Gardens**, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)

## Found and Found Again

(continued from page 4)

However, clear identification of plants collected from clients was difficult given that most people don't maintain the provenance of their plants. (We all know how frustrating it is to keep a submerged plant labeled. Even when we do attempt to hold onto the name of a plant, sometimes it literally floats away.)

One of the plants this Hawaiian tradesman acquired along the way was named simply "Japanese water lily." He remembered that the well-known hybridizer Walter Pagels had once used that name to describe an early hybrid that was also known by another name. He also remembered that Joe Tomocik, the former Aquatics curator at DBG, might have had some connection to the story.

Fortuitously Joe walked past just then and explained that he had once received a water lily named "Japanese water lily" from Walter Pagels and had been growing it at DBG when Philip Swindells, a noted English water gardener, came by the Gardens one summer. Swindells recognized the "*Japanese Water lily*" as a hybrid previously called *Arc-en-Ciel*." Swindells had not seen the water lily in years and had thought it lost to cultivation until this "rediscovery".

Joe notes that this story "*made a big splash at one of our conferences*" [and] *soon [the plant] was available*"<sup>5</sup> again. Despite its "rediscovery", Arc-en-Ciel was in fact an early and popular hybrid produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac. Forgotten as the plant may have been before Philip Swindells spied it in DBG's collection, Arc-en-Ciel had once been well documented and marketed throughout Europe. Early purchasers included the painter Claude Monet who may have first spied Arc-en-Ciel in pools at the Exposition Universelle of 1889, the international exposition where the Eiffel Tower made its debut.

### Notes and references:

1. from *Victoria: The Seductress*, Anisko, quote from page 19
2. Ibid, page 32 – quote of Ami Bonpland from his letter to Robert Gore
3. Ibid, page 48 – quote of d'Orbigny, 1840
4. Ibid, page 105
5. Quote from Joe Tomocik – from an e-mail of Aug. 28, 2014

## Thank You to Our Sponsors and Advertisers!

by Dorothy Martinez

I just want to say thank you to our various sponsors and advertisers. They all help support the Colorado Water Garden Society. Please help us to help them by supporting and patronizing their businesses throughout the year.

A special welcome goes to three of our newest advertisers Nick's Garden Center & Farm Market, Highlands Garden Center & Nursery, and Art of the Yard.

The next time you need help with your pond or you need pond based products, please consider using one of our sponsors/advertisers first. They would appreciate your business.

thank  
you!

## Upcoming Events and Activities for 2015

by Dorothy Martinez

We have a lot great events and activities planned for 2015. We start the water gardening season with our annual Get Wet event in April. In May, we will have our Plant Swap and in June, our annual Plant Sale. We are also planning a field trip to a local aquaponic facility with an optional tour of The Gardens at Spring Creek. We are bringing back the Pond Tour and Picnic in July. In August, we're co-hosting the Water Blossom Festival with the Denver Botanic Gardens and later we'll be going to Hudson Gardens to celebrate and pay tribute to Bob Hoffman. We'll have our annual elections in September and planning meeting in October. We top off the year with our annual Holiday Banquet and Gift Exchange.

For details about all the 2015 events and activities, be sure to go to the website under "Event Calendar" or for a brief lineup, take a look at the back page of the Newsletter.

## Plant Swap

by Vicki Aber

As I write this, ice is on the pond covering the floating leaves that thought it was spring when the temperatures were in the 60's. There is also about a foot and a half of snow between my wet friends and me. It is hard to think that we need to be planning for spring. I hope by the time you read this, temperatures will be rising again.

Even though it is hard to believe in spring, thinking of it and the gardening season ahead is a pleasant pastime. While you are imagining what you will do with your water feature this year, think of which plants would benefit from being divided. Hate to throw away the divisions? Perish the thought. We are here to help. Our May meeting is our annual plant swap. If you have participated in the past you know this is a must come meeting. Everyone brings plants they have extras of, divisions, or ones that just don't work anymore. For every plant you bring, you get to bring home one someone else brought. If you think there will only be plants that everyone has, you will be surprised. I have been doing this a long time and each year there is always something new. Dream about what you would like to add to your pond to make it perfect, you might be able to find it for the taking.

Details about how this all works will be in the next newsletter stay tuned.

### New & Returning Members for February & March 2015

#### February 2015

**Jim Carlson**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Trina Jacobson & Les Petrash**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Dennis & Sue Weatherman**  
Thornton, CO

*(Returning)*

**March 2015**  
**Vicki & Dan Aber**  
Arvada, CO

*(Returning)*

**Larry Brown**  
Brighton, CO

*(Returning)*

#### March 2015 (Cont'd)

**Georgia Keller**  
Lakewood, CO

*(Returning)*

**Carolyn Lupe**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Charlie Oleson**  
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Hudson Gardens \_\_\_\_  
CWGS Plant Sale (June) \_\_\_\_  
Pond Tour (July) \_\_\_\_  
Water Blossom Festival (August) \_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ ***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 16: Get Wet Event 2015**  
**Plant Society Building**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

6:00 PM – Potluck

7:00 PM – *Botanic Gardens Around the World*

**May 8 & May 9: DBG Annual Plant Sale** – Area near Marnie's Pavilion, DBG, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday

**May 28: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**June 7: 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 20: Pond Side Program** – The Aquaponic Source, Longmont, CO, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Optional trip to The Gardens at Spring Creek, Fort Collins, CO, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**July 18: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic** – North Metro Denver Area, Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**August 8: Water Blossom Festival**, Monet Pond, IWGS Competition Lily Pond, Greenhouses, Japanese Garden, & Bonsai Garden, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**August 22: Robert "Bob" Hoffman Memorial Pond at Hudson Gardens**, Pond Side Meeting, Picnic Potluck, & Fall Plant Swap, The Hudson Gardens & Event Center, Littleton, CO, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Sept. 17: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, & Presentation** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Oct. 15: Potluck, Presentation, & Planning Meeting** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Dec. 17: Holiday Banquet, Volunteer Recognition, & Silent Auction** – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM



Colorado Water Garden Society

FIRST CLASS MAIL

From...

### The Water Garden

c/o Dorothy Martinez, 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.colowatergardenociety.org](http://www.colowatergardenociety.org)