



Colorado Water Garden Society

# The Water Garden

Volume 20 Number 6

September 2003

## 2003 Expo promises something for everyone

Landscape designers, local pond product distributors and water gardening experts will be at the second annual Water Gardening and Pond Expo on Saturday, September 20, in Mitchell Hall at Denver Botanic Gardens.. Eight seminars packed with information will also be presented during the four-hour event beginning at 12 PM.

If you are trying to find someone to build a pond for you, want to add another pond yourself, or are just looking for more information, you should be able to find excellent information and assistance at the Expo.

Learn "how-to" build a pond, find a leak, choose a pump and filter, determine the best plants to use, maintain a balanced pond, care for your fish, create a container water garden and fountain, or apply the principles of Feng Shui in your garden. Each seminar will provide approximately 40 minutes of instruction and 15 minutes of questions and answers. Seminars will be held in two designated areas in Mitchell Hall.

### Seminar Schedule

| Time      | Lily Pavilion                 | Lotus Pavilion                      |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12 - 1 PM | Feng Shui in the Garden       | Pond Fish Care                      |
| 1 - 2 PM  | Building A Pond               | Find a Leak in your pond            |
| 2 - 3 PM  | Maintaining a Balanced Pond   | Container Water Gardens & Fountains |
| 3 - 4 PM  | Choosing Plants for your Pond | Pumps and Filtration                |

Four metro area pond product retailers will be exhibiting and selling the latest in pond technology, and each will be able to help determine what products will best meet your needs from filters to fish.

CWGS will have a number of great door prizes, free samples and seasoned experts to answer all your questions.

*Continued on Page 2*



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# Board Elections also to be determined at 2003 Expo

*Story continued from Page 1*

Tell all your friends and co-workers who are interested in water gardening about the Expo. Admission is free for CWGS and DBG members (you MUST show your CWGS membership card at the gate); all other guests will be subject to the nominal DBG entrance fee.

CWGS elections for next year will also be held during the Expo. All CWGS members are encouraged to attend the Expo to cast their ballots for candidates for the organization's leadership. This year, an increase in the Board will include the addition of two new *ad-hoc* Member-At-Large positions. It is the hope of the current Board to identify ACTIVE members to fill future Board positions.

The slate being presented by the Board for the 2003 Elections:  
President - Cyndie Thomas (one year)

Treasurer - Gail Goldberg (two years)

Program Director - Rebecca Nash (two years)

Member-At-Large - Lowell Coon (two years)

*ad-hoc* Members-At-Large - Ken Lange, Chuck Hunt

Additionally, Kathy Childs has agreed to take the Pond Tour Chair position. CWGS members to chair the Membership and Publicity Committees are still being sought. These are Board-appointed positions; if you are interested, please contact a Board Member.

## *From the President....*

As with all non-profit organizations, members are the key to its success. Members ARE the organization. If members are active in sharing their desires for programs and activities and volunteering to assist - everyone benefits. Often times too few members are willing to commit to assisting with activities, leaving the burden with a handful of overworked members.

THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION - Participate to make it all that it can be.

*Cyndie Thomas*

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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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# West Nile Virus, Mosquitoes and Pesticides

Source:  
Colorado State University

Aside from the irritation and annoyance that mosquitoes inflict upon humans and livestock alike, the threat of disease pathogen transmission is always present as the current outbreak of West Nile Virus should remind us. Mosquitoes spread this virus after they feed on infected birds and then bite people, other birds and animals. It is not spread by person-to-person contact and there is no evidence that people can get the virus by handling infected animals. Many birds – especially crows – die from West Nile infection and are an indicator of the presence of the virus. To report a dead bird in Colorado, contact the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at (303) 692-2700 or complete a dead bird submission form ([www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/deadbirdsubmission.pdf](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/deadbirdsubmission.pdf)) and ship the dead bird to the Program for testing.

## Mosquito Prevention and Control

Adult mosquitoes prefer to rest on weeds and other vegetation. Homeowners can reduce the number of areas where adult mosquitoes can find shelter by cutting down weeds adjacent to the house foundation and in their yards, and mowing the lawn regularly. Mosquitoes go through their entire life cycle in as little as four days or as long as one month, depending on temperature and species characteristics. Under optimum conditions, they go from eggs to larvae in two days. Mosquito larvae develop in standing water. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to find and eliminate their breeding sites. Homeowners can



take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their own property:

- Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers and check uncovered junk piles
- Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures, or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or eliminate puddles that remain for several days
- Empty accumulated water from wheelbarrows, boats, cargo trailers, pet dishes, toys, and ceramic pots. If possible, turn these items over when not in use
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, ornamental pools, water gardens, and swimming pools or their covers
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock with fish
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools when not in use
- Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days
- Alter the landscape of your property to eliminate standing water. *Keep in mind that during warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle of water*
- Consider using larvicides when standing water cannot be eliminated

## Protect Yourself from Bites

Mosquitoes can travel 2-3 miles from their breeding site in search of a blood meal. The following tips can help to reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito:

- Install screens in windows; make sure screens are “bug tight”
- Use the proper type of light outside: incandescent lights attract mosquitoes, whereas fluorescent lights neither attract nor repel mosquitoes
- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening when mosquitoes are most active. If you must go outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- Use mosquito repellents sparingly and strictly according to the label instructions

## Repellents

Insect repellents can be effective at reducing mosquito bites and, therefore, may reduce the risk of getting some diseases, such as West Nile Virus. When applied (sparingly) to exposed skin insect repellents deter mosquitoes from biting. Spray thin clothing with repellent because mosquitoes can bite through them.

Repellents commonly available to consumers contain the active ingredients DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin or botanical oils and are formulated and sold as aerosols, creams, solids (sticks) and liquids. All insecticides must have the name and amount of active ingredient (AI) on the label. Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to carefully read and follow the manufacturer’s DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the pesticide product label. No pesticide is 100% safe and care must be exercised in the use of any pesticide.

Insect repellents do not provide complete protection against West Nile Virus or other insect-borne diseases. You should avoid areas with high populations of mosquitoes when possible, especially at peak biting times; use protective clothing (light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants with bottoms tucked into boots or socks), and seek prompt medical attention if disease symptoms appear.

## DEET

For more than 40 years, DEET has been the standard in mosquito repellents. DEET concentrations range from a low of about 5% up to 100%. Skin reactions (particularly at DEET concentrations of 50% and above) and eye

irritation have been the most frequently reported adverse effects. The use of DEET products primarily results in exposure from skin contact, although unintentional exposure by breathing and ingestion can also occur.

By using products with lower concentrations of DEET and by applying as little of the product as needed for your outdoor activities, you can reduce your exposure to DEET. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that repellents used on children contain no more than 10% DEET.

DEET products can be applied to clothing, but may damage some synthetic fabrics and plastics, especially products with very high DEET concentrations. Launder treated clothing separately from other clothing. Frequent reapplication or saturation is unnecessary for effectiveness. Use only what is required to maintain protection.

## Botanical products

Insect repellent products containing botanical (plant-based) oils, such as oil of geranium, cedar, lemongrass, soy or citronella, are also available. There is limited information on the effectiveness of botanical oils individually or when combined with other ingredients to make repellent products. Available information, however, indicates that, compared to the effectiveness of DEET or permethrin, botanical oils generally do not provide the same duration of protection. Because many botanical oils are regulated differently than DEET and permethrin, most have not been tested for their potential to cause short- or long-term toxic or reproductive effects, birth defects or cancer.

Oil of citronella is the active ingredient in many of the candles, torches or coils that may be burned to produce a smoke that repels mosquitoes. These are useful outdoors only under windless conditions. Their effectiveness is somewhat less than repellents applied to the body or clothing.

## Permethrin products

Permethrin is highly effective as an insecticide and as a repellent. Permethrin kills insects that come in contact with treated clothes. Permethrin-containing repellents are recommended for use on clothing, shoes, bednets, and camping gear. Permethrin repellents do not offer any protection from mosquitoes when applied to the skin. If permethrins are not used according to label directions they can cause eye irritation. **(EDITOR’S NOTE: This product is HIGHLY-TOXIC to fish!).**

Some recommendations for proper use are:

### • **TREAT CLOTHING ONLY - DO NOT APPLY TO SKIN**

- Read carefully and follow manufacturer's recommendations for application
- If you accidentally get the product on your skin, immediately wash with soap and water
- Apply to clothing in a well-ventilated outdoor area, protected from wind
- Only spray permethrin repellents on the outer surface of clothing and shoes before you put them on - do not apply to clothing while it is being worn
- Only spray enough product to lightly moisten the outer surface of the fabric causing a slight color change or darkening; do not saturate clothing
- Do not exceed recommended number of sprays
- Pay special attention while treating socks, trouser cuffs and shirt cuffs to ensure proper coverage
- Hang the treated clothing outdoors and allow to dry for at least two hours (four hours under humid conditions) before wearing
- Do not treat unwashed clothing more than once every two weeks
- Launder treated clothing, separately from other clothing, at least once before retreating
- Keep treated clothes in a separate bag.

### **Repellent Safety Precautions**

Particularly with children, try to reduce the use of repellents by dressing them in long sleeves and long pants tucked into socks or boots when possible or by applying repellent to clothing instead of to skin. Use repellents only in small amounts, avoiding unnecessary repeat applications.

- Keep repellents out of the reach of children
- Do not allow children to apply repellents themselves
- Do not apply repellents directly to children. Apply to your own hands and then put it on the child
- Do not apply near eyes, nose or mouth and use sparingly around ears. Do not apply to the hands of small children because this may result in accidental eye contact or ingestion
- Avoid use of DEET products on skin damaged by sunburn, cuts, rashes or other skin conditions, such as psoriasis or acne
- Particular care should be taken to avoid breathing in DEET when applying products, especially sprays. Do not apply repellents in enclosed areas or directly on the face (prod-

ucts can be applied to adult hands and then rubbed on the face)

- Do not use sunscreens or moisturizers that also contain DEET if the repellent is not needed
- Avoid prolonged and excessive use of DEET products. Use just enough repellent to cover exposed skin or clothing, and do not treat unexposed skin (skin covered by clothing)
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water.
- As with chemical exposures in general, pregnant women should take care to avoid exposures to repellents when practical, as the fetus may be vulnerable.

**Regardless of which repellent product you use, carefully read and follow all directions on the label before each use.**

### **Adverse reactions**

Using any of these repellents is not without risk of adverse reactions, especially if used in large amounts or applied improperly. If you suspect that you or a child is reacting to a repellent, wash the skin that has been in contact with the repellent, remove any treated clothing, and call your doctor or the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (800-332-3073). If you go to the doctor, take the repellent with you. If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician. Launder treated clothing, separately from other clothing, before wearing again.

### **Insecticide & Repellent Registration**

Pesticides sold in the United States, including those used for mosquito control and as repellents, must be registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the exception of some minimal risk products. The State of Colorado requires that all pesticides, including EPA exempt products, be registered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The active ingredients for all products should be stated on the labels. EPA reviews health and environmental risk information before deciding whether to register a pesticide.

EPA also reviews the label directions of each pesticide product to ensure that when applied according to the label, the risks of human exposure and adverse health and environmental effects are minimized. However, no

pesticide is 100% safe. Great care must be taken to apply pesticides strictly according to the label directions, and people should avoid any unnecessary contact with pesticides.

### Electronic Devices and Traps

Insect electrocutors (bug zappers) and mosquito trapping devices are available for purchase that claim to attract, repel or kill outdoor infestations of mosquitoes. They should be thoroughly researched before being purchased.

Mosquito traps are designed to mimic a mammal (horse, cattle, man and domestic pets) by emitting a plume of carbon dioxide, heat and moisture, which is often combined with an additional attractant, i.e., octenol, to create an attractant to mosquitoes, no-see-ums, biting midges and black flies. After drawing the insects to the trap, a vacuum device sucks the insects into a net or cylinder where they dehydrate and die. No electric killing grid or pesticides are used.

Scientific data relative to the effectiveness of these devices is sparse so be sure to review all the information available before purchasing one of these. In addition, some of the mosquito traps are expensive. The American Mosquito Control Association ([www.mosquito.org/](http://www.mosquito.org/)) has a position paper on mosquito traps at [www.mosquito.org/MosqInfo/Traps.htm](http://www.mosquito.org/MosqInfo/Traps.htm).

### For more information:

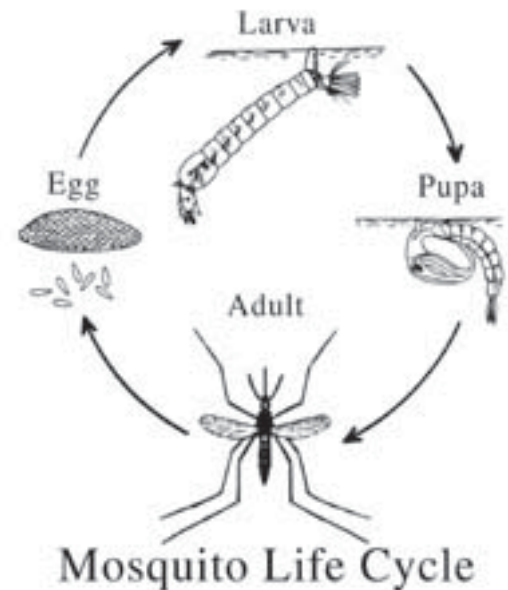
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Zoonotic Diseases: Encephalitis – <http://www.cdph.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/zoonosis.asp>

Colorado State University – detailed information on mosquito management around the home, family protection, insecticides and mosquito habitat modification – [www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/INSECT/05526.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/INSECT/05526.html)

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) has mosquito information on their website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/skeeters.htm>

For more information regarding the federal pesticide regulatory programs, contact: EPA *Office of Pesticide Programs*, Telephone: 703-305-5017, Fax: 703-305-5558,



E-mail: [opp-web-comments@epa.gov](mailto:opp-web-comments@epa.gov); web site: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

Information on mosquito control programs can also be obtained from the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) web site: <http://www.mosquito.org>

National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), a cooperative effort between Oregon State University and the US Environmental Protection Agency, can address health-related concerns raised by the public regarding: 1) insecticides to control mosquitoes and 2) preventative applications of mosquito repellents (including DEET). NPIC provides objective, science-based information related to pesticides – including mosquito repellents and insecticides that are used in controlling mosquitoes. NPIC also provides information on federal, state, and local mosquito control programs. Additionally, the NPIC web site offers a West Nile Virus Resource Guide with information on West Nile Virus (Guide <http://ace.orst.edu/info/npic/wnv/>); contacts at local, state, and federal agencies; and maps and statistics. Visit NPIC on the Web at <http://npic.orst.edu/> or contact NPIC via a toll-free telephone number 1-800-858-7378, or E-mail at [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - West Nile Virus Information – <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/wnv/>

US Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey - West Nile Virus Information – [http://www.usgs.gov/west\\_nile\\_virus.html](http://www.usgs.gov/west_nile_virus.html)

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

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# Colorado Water Garden Society - Meeting Dates 2003

**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.



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