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Get Wet Event
Kelly Billing – Renowned
Speaker on Lotus

Mitchell Hall
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, CO

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Park in the Parking Garage
between York Street and
Josephine Street and enter the
Gardens through the Pinion
Gate, located just North of the
Visitor Center entrance.

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org



Kelly Billing of Maryland Aquatic Nurseries, (photo courtesy of Kelly Billing)

Kelly Billing, National Lotus Expert, to Speak at Get Wet

by Vicki Aber

We have a special treat in store for our March meeting. Kelly Billing will be speaking about lotus and a little about banned species on Thursday, March 17th at 6:30 pm in Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens. Since the meeting is after hours, you can enter the Gardens through the Pinion Gate, located just North of the Visitor Center.

Kelly is a nationally recognized expert on all things lotus. She co-wrote the book "Lotus, Know it and Grow it" with Paula Biles and the "Water Gardener's Bible" with Ken Helm. She also writes frequently in trade magazines such as "Pond Trade" and "IWGS Journal". Kelly has been working in the water garden industry for over 30 years (hard to believe when you meet her, she must have started in her infancy). She has also been a manager at Maryland Aquatic Nurseries for most of that time.

Kelly is a frequent speaker at many venues from small groups like ours to regional meetings and international groups. I have heard her speak twice and she is a very energetic and passionate speaker.

Lotus has always been Kelly's special interest because of their beauty, mystery, and versatility. She has recently branched out into making art with lotus leaves. Please bring any questions you might have about lotus to the meeting, I'm sure she will be able to answer them. There will be a question and answer period after her presentation.

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www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:
Balance as of February 25, 2016
- \$11,140.12

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dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.



'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' Lotus Bud, (photo courtesy of Joe Mascarenas)



'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' Lotus, (photo courtesy of Joe Mascarenas)



'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' Lotus Bud, (photo courtesy of Joe Mascarenas)

Kelly Billing, National Lotus Expert, to Speak at Get Wet

(continued from page 1)

At some point Kelly got involved in the very convoluted world of controlled plant species. When I say convoluted, it is no exaggeration. Many levels of government have decided it is their duty to say what plants we can and can't grow. Some regulations make sense, others not so much. Protecting native species from invasive introduced species is something I think we can all understand. Banning Water Hyacinth in climates (like ours) where there is really no chance of overwintering makes less sense.

Kelly has kept a list of what plants are controlled and where they are controlled. Needless to say, this list is a moving target. She compiled and maintains the Aquatic Plant Regulated & Invasive Species List for the nursery trade in the United States. Kelly will also speak briefly to us on this topic.

In addition, we will also have Robert Walters from the Colorado Parks & Wildlife speak about the State's Aquatic Nuisance Species list. Robert will give us a short explanation of what aquatic plants are controlled in Colorado. Colorado Parks & Wildlife really wants to team up with various Pond Clubs to explain and educate everyone about Aquatic Nuisance Species. Please, no throwing rotten fruit! After all, he is just the messenger.

Be sure not to miss this meeting, I'm sure it will be quite informative!

A Note from the President

by Brenda Parsons-Hier

The Winter of 2016 has been a season of extremes. The national political scene has been wild, and so has our weather. We had weeks of snow and ice, then record heat, and recently... such wind! Once again, snow is on the way. I'm just happy to enjoy the view from my window for once and not see ice. Watching the fish moving to the surface is wonderful, and it reminds me that Spring isn't too far away.

With Spring comes everything we water gardeners love – the return of color to the garden, an annual explosion of life in our ponds, and water gardeners coming together to share ideas and plants. The annual Plant Swap (May 19th) is always a motivator to clean up our plants and look forward to getting some new ones. Peter wants to know where WILL I put them all?

(continued on page 4)

A Note from the President

(continued from page 3)



'Pekinensis Rubra' Lotus, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)

Our recurring Club Pond-Side meetings are a time to socialize and enjoy each other's efforts. And the CWGS Pond Tour! What can I say? I'm so happy to report that plans are already in the works for a Pond Tour of Aurora and southeast Denver area. Thanks Rebecca, Sue and Dennis for taking this on! Also, thanks to member Robert Kahn.

First though, I'm really looking forward to meeting and hearing Kelly Billing, our initial speaker of the season. The club is flying her in from Maryland to speak at the Club's "Get Wet" event at Denver Botanic Gardens. By the way, this year "Get Wet" falls a month earlier than usual in March. That's nearly here!

Kelly is the nursery manager for Maryland Aquatic Nurseries. She's a regular columnist for several publications, an award-winning writer, and by all reports, Kelly is a really dynamic speaker. Her presentation on March 17th in Mitchell Hall will focus on lotus (see Vicki's article in this issue for all the details).



'Rosy Clouds' Lotus, (photo courtesy of Bill Bathurst)

While I know something about lotus, I can't always grow it successfully. Mine don't always bloom; do yours? Maybe Kelly will have a few tips to encourage lotus at our higher altitudes.

Speaking of lotus, there should be many new and interesting lotus varieties on sale at the Aquatics Division of the DBG May Plant Sale. Many have been ordered directly from China. And once again this year, the Club will be holding our own popular Sale in June at Hudson Gardens. It's a great and convenient location, and the Sale offers the chance to buy tropical lilies that aren't widely available at affordable prices.

The CWGS 2016 calendar is packed with these, and even more, events – potlucks, video presentations, and get-togethers. It's "just plain fun." Join us, and I'll see you soon!



'Chawan Basu' Lotus, (photo courtesy of Bob Hoffman)

April Meeting – Video Presentation from Water's Edge

by Vicki Aber

Looking ahead to our April 21st meeting, we have a taped talk - but it is a good one. During the Denver IWGS Symposium meeting in August 2014, Deb Spencer and Susan Davis from Water's Edge gave a very lively talk on using plants in ways you might not have thought of.

Deb and Susan have some great original ideas, and in many cases, have used plants you might not think of as aquatic. I was making notes right and left during the talk and came away with many new ideas. Peter Hier was kind enough to record the talk from the Symposium, so we may view it.



'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' Lotus at Hudson Gardens, (photo courtesy of John Funk)



'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' Lotus at Hudson Gardens, (photo courtesy of John Funk)

April Meeting – Video Presentation from Water's Edge

(continued from page 4)

Deb and Susan own and operate Water's Edge, a pond related business located in Lawrence, Kansas. According to their website "Water's Edge is committed to providing the best pond related plants and materials and assisting their customers with the information needed to build and maintain healthy ecosystems. Water's Edge also assists customers with design ideas and can offer technical advice when needed." Their website is an excellent resource and has a lot of useful information. The website is located at <http://watersedge.com/>.

If you want new ideas for your pond, please join us for the April 21st meeting! Meeting details will be in the April issue of *"The Water Garden, a Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society"*.



New Security Procedures at Denver Botanic Gardens

by Dorothy Martinez

The new Security Procedures regarding all upcoming CWGS meetings held at the Denver Botanic Gardens is all gates and entrances will be locked after the Gardens close to the public. The only way to access the Gardens after closing time is to contact a CWGS member or Security. For the Winter/Summer (September 26th through May 7th), after hours is any time after 5:00 pm. For the Summer/Fall (May 8th through September 25th), after hours is any time after 8 pm.

Only those members who are loading, unloading, or have a handicap placard will be allowed to park in the North Staff Parking Lot near the Plant Society Building. All others will be required to park in the Parking Garage located between York Street and Josephine Street and then will have to walk over to the North Staff Parking Gate to be let in by Security.

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New Security Procedures at Denver Botanic Gardens

(continued from page 5)

If you are entering the Gardens during normal business hours, you can enter through the Visitor Center. To access the Gardens after normal business hours, you will need to contact Security at (303) 472-1288 to get in. Depending on where the Security person is when you call, it may take up to 10 minutes for them to let you in.

For our meeting in March, the Pinion Gate, located just North of the Visitor Center, will remain unlocked from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. It is not clear at this time if the Pinion Gate will be open from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm for our April meeting. We'll keep you posted as information becomes available. Since our October meeting is at the Waring House, you will enter the Waring House from 9th Avenue and not have to go through the Gardens for access. We are not sure what the procedure will be for the December meeting, we will have more information as that date approaches.

We are very sorry for this inconvenience, but this has been a decision of Denver Botanic Gardens to address issues related to maintenance, safety, and security. Changes were necessary to increase safety and prevent unauthorized persons from entering the Gardens after hours. Plant Societies were not consulted before this change was made. We are in ongoing communications with the Gardens concerning this change.

New and Returning Members for Nov. & Dec. 2015, January, February, & March 2016

November 2015

Larry Wiberg
Denver, CO

(**NEW!**/Returning)

February 2016

Trina Jacobson & Les Petrash
Denver, CO

(Returning)

December 2015

Larry Brown
Brighton, CO

(Returning)

Art of the Yard

Highlands Ranch, CO

(Returning)

Susan Davis & Deb Spencer
Lawrence, KS

(**NEW!**)

Jared's Nursery, Gift, & Garden
Littleton, CO

(Returning)

January 2016

Jana & Lew Artelli
Littleton, CO

(Returning)

Nick's Garden Center & Farm Market
Aurora, CO

(Returning)

Ken & Teresa Burkert
Northglenn, CO

(Returning)

Rocky Mountain WaterScape
Erie, CO

(Returning)

Charlotte Knudson
Boulder, CO

(Returning)

Tagawa Gardens
Centennial, CO

(Returning)

Justin & Lois Krause
Arvada, CO

(Returning)

True Pump & Equipment
Denver, CO

(Returning)

Dierdre Parker
Boulder, CO

(**NEW!**/Returning)

March 2016

Charlie Oleson
Lakewood, CO

(Returning)



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We also run single-event ads.

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez
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Golden, CO 80403**



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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.

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Membership Fees
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

March 17: Get Wet Presentation featuring Kelly Billing
Mitchell Hall
Denver Botanic Gardens

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM, Presentation on Lotus and Aquatic Nuisance Species

April 21: Potluck & Video Presentation by the Water's Edge –
Cottonwood Classroom, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

May 6 & May 7: DBG Annual Plant Sale – Area near Marnie's Pavilion,
DBG, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday

May 19: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap – Plant Society Building, DBG,
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

June 5: CWGS 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 25: Pond Side Program – Neupert Residence, Picnic Potluck,
Boulder, CO, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

July 16: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic – Southeast Denver & Aurora Area,
Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

August 6: Water Blossom Festival – Monet Pond Area, Tours of
Aquatic Greenhouse & DBG Gardens, DBG, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

August 27: Pond Side Program – Bathurst Residence, Picnic Potluck,
Arvada, CO, 11:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sept. 22: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, Presentation, & 2017
Planning Meeting – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Oct. 13: Potluck & Planning Meeting – Great Room, Waring House,
DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Dec. 15: Holiday Banquet & Volunteer Recognition, – Plant Society
Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM



FIRST CLASS MAIL

From...

The Water Garden

c/o Dorothy Martinez, 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