

## IN THIS ISSUE:

June Pond Side Meeting at Werner & Nancy Neupert's Home ..... 1  
*by Werner Neupert*

- Board Members & Chairpersons ..... 2  
- Treasurer's Report ..... 2

2016 Pond Tour ..... 3  
*by Dorothy Martinez*

2016 Plant Sale Thank You ..... 3  
*by Janet Bathurst*

Planting at Altitude - Helvola, the Little Lily that Could ..... 4 - 6  
*by Bill Powell*

New & Returning Members ..... 6

- Market Place ..... 7 - 8

CWGS Membership Application ..... 9

This Year:  
CWGS Calendar ..... back page

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### **Pond Side Meeting & Picnic Potluck**

**Werner & Nancy Neupert's Home**  
**333 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Boulder, CO**

**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Parking is available along S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street or on the lawns and driveway on the North side of the house.**

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

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*Neupert Pond 'Before', (photo courtesy of Werner Neupert)*



*Neupert Pond 'After', (photo courtesy of Werner Neupert)*

## **June Pond Side Meeting at Werner & Nancy Neupert's Home**

**by Werner Neupert**

The Colorado Water Garden Society's first pond-side meeting and pot luck of the year is coming up on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the home of Nancy and Werner Neupert at 333 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder, Colorado starting at 11:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm.

The large and rather unkempt pond that you may remember from a pond-side meeting in 2012 is no more. Although it provided a great environment for water plants of many sorts, it was difficult to maintain, especially during droughts. We now have a smaller lined pond, about 1,000 square feet in area, designed and constructed by Paul Oerter of South Creek Gardens here in Boulder. Terraces at various underwater levels accommodate our water lilies, lotus, and marginal plants; native flowers and native tall grasses are planted along the shore.

Werner and Nancy will give short talks after our pond-side lunch. This is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Werner will discuss the construction challenges of the pond and Nancy will talk about the interesting geology that we uncovered. We also have a sunken pool and container garden on the patio on the Southeast side of the house.

Parking is available along South 68<sup>th</sup> Street or on the lawns and driveway on the North side of the house. Folks who have difficulty walking should park on the front driveway and use the walkway by the screened porch. If you have any questions, please call Nancy or Werner at (303) 543-0228.

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

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:**  
Balance as of June 17, 2016 -  
\$12,145.03

**2016 Committee and Event Chairs:**

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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).

## 2016 Pond Tour

by Dorothy Martinez

Mark your calendars! This year's Pond Tour is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm with a picnic to be held afterwards at a member's pond from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

This year's Tour will be in Southeast Aurora and Centennial area. We have approximately ten ponds lined up. There will be a wide variety of ponds to view. Some larger, some smaller, some pondless, some with waterfalls, and some with Koi and goldfish.

This is a great opportunity for members to get ideas, make new friends, and catch up with old ones. The next issue of The Water Garden (July) will include the logistics and details about the Tour ponds, addresses, suggested routes, times, etc.

So, mark July 16<sup>th</sup> as taken, so you can visit a variety of water features at homes in the Southeast Metro area. In addition, after the Tour, the group will host a Picnic for all those who attended or participated, for only \$5 per head.

So pack up some cold drinks, snacks, and get on the road July 16, 2015 and enjoy various water features in Aurora!



## 2016 Colorado Water Garden Society Plant Sale Thank You!

by Janet Bathurst

This year's Plant Sale was quite successful. Again, we received many positive comments about the location at Hudson Gardens and will likely have next year's Sale there again.

First, a big thanks to everyone who helped make this Sale a success. Special thanks to Hudson Gardens and their staff who helped market the Sale, moved plants, and assisted with set-up. Also, a big thank you to everyone who came out and purchased plants. Since this is our main fundraiser for the year, you really helped to financially support our Club.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers who staffed the Sale, helped people select the right plant, and answered questions.

Again, without your support, the Plant Sale would not be possible. THANK YOU!



## Growing at Altitude

### *Helvola - The little lily that could*

by **Bill Powell**

I'm sure you're thinking "*There's nothing particularly remarkable about raising the tough little pygmy *Nymphaea Helvola* at Denver's elevation...or even higher.*" And you're correct. But my story is a tad (pardon the pun) *elevated* above typical expectation – three stories to be exact.

A couple of years back we sold our house. It had a pleasant backyard containing a small, if somewhat too shady, pond. My little thousand-gallon water feature held Koi, marginals, and a few hardy water lilies that bloomed sporadically depending upon how recently we had paid out "big bucks" to thin an overarching ninety-year-old silver maple. We moved to an even less promising water gardening venue – a flat on the third floor of a downtown mid-rise condominium.

Our flat has a single balcony, barely larger than a picnic table, but it receives a fair amount of sun. So it came to pass that Club President Brenda Parsons-Hier posed the question "*Wouldn't you like to raise something...How about a Helvola?*"

I had grown Helvola in my Clayton Street pond with some success, although by the time we moved downtown the lily had disappeared, possibly a victim of rooting Koi, my inattention to repotting, or the shade. I had enjoyed Helvola's compact appeal and its pale yellow blooms that lightened the shady side of the pond. The Missouri Botanic Gardens website notes that Helvola will bloom with "*as little as three hours of sunlight a day.*" Helvola's tidy purple-splotched round green leaves were appealing as well.

Although the Royal Horticulture Society describes Helvola flowers as "*sulfur yellow with orange stamens,*" mine always seemed paler, but lovely nevertheless. And the plant was, as the LilyPons website notes, "*...a true miniature...that does well in lower light.*"

So I took Brenda up on her offer, reasoning that if ANY lily would grow "up here" it would be Helvola. We're now beginning the third year of joint parenting of my third story display. Brenda over winters the plant for me and I grow it out in a pot three stories up.

Despite Helvola's reputation for being free blooming and relatively tolerant of shade, the first year of growing the plant on my balcony was a bit of a bust. Late in the season, the plant produced one bloom bud – initially promising, but perpetually submerged. Then came a sudden frost.



*'Helvola' Hardy Water Lily, (photo courtesy of Bill Powell)*



*'Helvola' Hardy Water Lily (forefront of picture) at Denver Botanic Gardens, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)*

(continued on page 5)

## Growing at Altitude

(continued from page 4)

Last summer (my second year), I moved the plant from its original exposure on the Southwest facing balcony to a Southeast facing “balconette” that’s suspended over the railroad right-of-way. Accessing my balconette requires scuttling through a window three feet above the concrete ledge and lowering myself gingerly (with the Helvola) onto projecting concrete that’s barely wider than the plant. The ambition of the water gardener can’t be easily thwarted.

Fortunately, watering the container once it was on the ledge was comparatively easy. I cranked open the window and poured the water directly into the basin while restraining my cats from leaping out the opening and, potentially, onto a passing southbound coal train destined for Pueblo.

Happily, Helvola bloomed repeatedly in its new exposure. I rarely had multiple blooms simultaneously, but I had a generous profusion of successive blooms. Perhaps by the second year the plant was more developed. LilyPons notes that Helvola seems to “*perform best when allowed to establish two to three seasons.*”

Growing the smaller varieties of water lilies in pots really isn’t that demanding. Many hybrids of smaller species will grow well in relatively small pots. Club member Ken Berkert grows a huge selection of lilies in pots, keeping many hardies over winter packed in damp sand in his garage. (The lazier among you may prefer – as I do – to depend upon your friends to sink your hardy plants in their ponds during dormancy). Now it’s true you can’t grow a giant water platter (Victoria) in a pot ... but who, other than a botanic garden curator, can grow Victoria even in a pond?

Despite the extreme difference in scale, Helvola has nearly as splashy a history as does Victoria Amazonica. The Victoria species were first grown by Joseph Paxton in the late 1840’s at Chatsworth House on the Duke of Devonshire’s English estate. Paxton’s close gardening associate - the person actually charged with day-to-day raising of the Victorias - was Eduard Ortgies who was later “lent” to the Belgian plant collector Louis Van Houtte. In 1851, Ortgies was the first person to hybridize two hardy lilies. They weren’t Victorias, though ... that cross came a century later at Longwood Gardens.

Other crosses by other hybridizers followed, and a quarter century later, a French lawyer-turned-horticulturist Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac began a profusion of hybridization that culminated in a colorful display at the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris. The Eiffel tower was constructed for this world exposition. It was also the exposition where painter Claude Monet first encountered water lilies, soon to be a major subject of his late, large impressionistic canvases.

N. Pygmaea Helvola was one of Marliac’s early successes (along with N. Chromatella, still a big seller). Both were likely part of the 1889 Exposition exhibit. Hybridized in 1879, Helvola was a cross of the Central American species N. Mexicana (the pollen parent) and another plant that was perhaps itself a cross-derived from Tetragona, a North American native.

(continued on page 6)

## Growing at Altitude

(continued from page 5)

Although extremely vigorous, Mexicana's sub-tropical heritage may make its hybrid offspring a tad less cold hardy than some. Still, Helvola survives quite well in most Denver area gardens. It prospers in Golden for Brenda, and increasingly Helvola succeeds three stories up in downtown Denver.

We'll see what a third season of co-parenting brings. Tiny pads have already formed in my balcony container.

### New and Returning Members for May & June 2016

#### May 2016

**Victoria Joyce**  
Lakewood, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Carla Littlefield**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Patricia Roth**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Joe & Kathy Springer**  
Lakewood, CO

*(Returning)*

#### June 2016

**Craig & Deb Dawson**  
Highlands Ranch, CO

*(Returning)*

**Don & Sue Elo**  
Littleton, CO

*(Returning)*

**Ed Glassman**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*

**Keith & Staci Harmon**  
Denver, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Renata Hill**  
Golden, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Barbara & Jim Lawler**  
Denver, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Karen Lee**  
Centennial, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Sara Mosca**  
Littleton, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Anne Raffarty**  
Lone Tree, CO

*(NEW!)*

**Joseph Salvati**  
Castle Rock, CO

*(Returning)*

**Sandra Smith**  
Conifer, CO

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**Carol Tuttle & Lynn Bartelt**  
Denver, CO

*(Returning)*



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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:*

**June 25: Pond Side Program & Picnic Potluck**  
**Neupert Residence**  
**Boulder, CO**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Program & Potluck

**July 16: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic** – Southeast Aurora & Centennial 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. 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)