Three Glass Houses & One Cold Room

by Peter Hier

We all know what role and function glass houses play in a botanical garden but what the heck is a Cold Room?

To find out more, you will have to attend the club meeting on Thursday, September 22nd, starting at 6:00 pm at the Plant Society Building within Denver Botanic Gardens.

After the potluck dinner and Board elections for 2017, sit back and enjoy a DVD presentation of me and my wife Brenda's trip to Australia last October where we visited two botanical gardens.

The first botanic garden, Adelaide Botanic Gardens in South Australia, is home to three exquisite glass houses including the Bicentennial Conservatory, Palm House, and the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion.

German architect Gustav Runge designed the Palm House. The sophisticated engineering techniques used in its construction make it a benchmark in glass house design. The hanging glass walls are similar to those used in today's city buildings and were very advanced for the time. This sophistication, and Adelaide's dry climate, probably account for the building's survival.

(continued on page 3)
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Three Glass Houses & One Cold Room

In 1986, corrosion of iron glazing bars made the Palm House unsafe for public use and it was closed. A full restoration was ordered in 1991 and completed in 1995.

The Palm House features a wonderful collection of plants from the island of Madagascar. The plants require warm and dry growing conditions, which also aids in the conservation of the building.

The Bicentennial Conservatory was built in celebration of Australia’s 1988 Bicentenary, and designed by South Australian architect Guy Marron; it is the largest single span conservatory in the Southern Hemisphere.

The building is curvilinear in shape – 328 feet long, 155 feet wide and 88 ½ feet high. An elegant steel superstructure supports the 26,200 square feet of toughened glass, which forms the roof, walls, and doors. Its glistening and distinctive shape is a landmark, particularly for visitors flying in to Adelaide.

Inside the Bicentennial Conservatory, you'll find a lush display of lowland rainforest plants from northern Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the nearby Pacific Islands. Many of these plants are at risk or endangered in their natural habitats.

The Amazon Waterlily Pavilion was built in 2007 to replace the original Victoria House. The lily’s giant leaves inspired the design of the energy efficient glass house, and the original pond from the Victoria House remains as the centerpiece of the new pavilion.

An interpretive gallery inside the pavilion explores the unique form of the water lily, interprets its remarkable biology and sex life, and explores its cultural and symbolic significance. The landscape surrounding the pavilion includes bromeliads, orchids, and begonias.
Three Glass Houses & One Cold Room

(continued from page 3)

The first lily to bloom in the new Amazon Waterlily Pavilion was on January 1, 2008. It produced a spectacular flower measuring almost 12 inches in diameter and 4 ¾ inches in height. The largest lily pad was 65 inches in diameter.

From Adelaide, we traveled to the second botanic garden, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens located on the island state of Tasmania. The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are home to the Sub Antarctic Plant House (Cold Room). There is no other collection like it anywhere in the world.

The Sub Antarctic Plant House opened in October 2000. It displays a selection of the flora of the Sub Antarctic region, with emphasis on the plants of Macquarie Island. The curved inner walls are painted with a mural depicting the various environments of the island, while the landscape has been recreated using plants, mosses, and rock collected from Macquarie Island.

Plants from the Sub Antarctic islands in high southern latitudes are displayed in a climatically controlled environment, where chilly fogs and mists mirror the wet, cold conditions of their remote homes.

An immersive audio soundtrack of the Macquarie Island environment adds to the illusion of traveling to this remote region and visitors will hear the sounds of wildlife from the Island, including elephant seals, penguins, albatross and skuas, as well as the ever-present wind and rain.

Both Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are steeped in history. The Tasmanian Gardens are the second oldest Botanical Gardens in Australia.

Please join us on September 22nd to be entranced by all the beauty that the botanical gardens of Southern Australia and Tasmania have to offer.

Information about the glass houses and cold room are courtesy of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens websites.
Colorado Water Garden Society
2016/2017 Board of Directors’ Elections

by Brenda Parsons-Hier

It’s that time of year again. We will be holding our Annual Board Election at our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Positions up for election/re-election are:

President
Treasurer
Member at Large (1), Member at Large (3), Member at Large (5), and Member at Large (7), and Member at Large (9)

If you would like to run for any position, please notify our President, Brenda Parsons-Hier at (303) 278-2106 or moose.4bph@q.com.

2016 IWGS Symposium in Mexico

by Vicki Aber

The 2016 International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) Symposium is coming up in October. It is scheduled for October 25th through the 28th. It will be held in Mérida, Yucatan Mexico. Mérida is a cultural center for the area and a place that natives go to vacation. It has the honor of being the second safest city in the Americas behind Boise, Idaho.

There are many activities planned from swimming in a cenote to visiting Mayan ruins. There will be music and entertainment plus lectures from renowned experts in all things water gardening. Last but not least, food and drink. If I have learned nothing from hanging out with this group, I have learned they know how to party. There are plans to have a separate trip after the symposium looking for wild Nymphaea.

For more details, see the article published in the August 2016 Newsletter or go to the IWGS website at: http://iwgs.org/iwgs-2016-symposium/.
Remaining Events for 2016

by Dorothy Martinez

Here is a schedule of the remaining Colorado Water Garden Society events for 2016:

Thursday, October 13th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Potluck, Presentation by Board member Jim Arneill on the history and architecture of the Waring House, & 2017 Planning Meeting
Great Room, Waring House, Denver Botanic Gardens
*This meeting is open to all members. Please let us know what events you would like to see planned for next year – we value your input.

No meeting is scheduled for November

Thursday, December 15th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Annual Holiday Banquet, Volunteer Recognition, & White Elephant Gift Exchange
Plant Society Building, Denver Botanic Gardens

New and Returning Members for June & August 2016

June 2016
Charles & Jean Mitton (Returning)
Englewood, CO

Therese-Marie O’Sullivan (Returning)
Denver, CO

August 2016
Jim & Tudi Arneill (Returning)
Centennial, CO

Susan Davis & Deb Spencer (Returning)
Lawrence, KS

Ken Lange (Returning)
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Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I’ve checked below:

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Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale ___
Hudson Gardens ___
CWGS Plant Sale (June) ___
Pond Tour (July) ___
Water Blossom Festival (August) ___

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Membership Fees
$15.00 Individual; $20.00 Family
THIS YEAR
A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

September 22: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, Presentation
Denver Botanic Gardens, Plant Society Building
Denver, CO

6:00 PM – Potluck
7:00 PM – Board Elections
7:30 PM – Presentation by Peter Hier titled “Three Glass Houses & One Cold Room

October 13: Potluck, Presentation, & 2017 Planning Meeting
Denver Botanic Gardens, Great Room, Waring House
Denver, CO

6:00 PM – Potluck
7:00 PM – Presentation by Jim Arneill on the history and architecture of the Waring House
7:45 PM – 2017 Planning meeting

No meeting scheduled for November

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

From…

The Water Garden
c/o Dorothy Martinez, Editor
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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