Carnivores Coming to the Potluck

by John Bayard

Tamara Kilbane has asked me to give a talk on carnivorous plants during the CWGS potluck on March 16th. I have volunteered in the water gardens at DBG since 1998 and that’s when I first was hooked on carnivorous plants, which went far beyond my childhood fascination with the Venus Flytrap. My plant addiction is such that I now have a small collection of carnivorous plants at home and have the privilege of caring for these fascinating beasties at the Gardens.

There are over 600 species of carnivorous plants from a dozen, and debatably more, genera. These exquisitely adapted plants evolved in nutrient poor environments where plants struggle to survive. Carnivorous plants developed the ability to obtain nutrients from insects. Millions of animals eat plants, so it is only fair that a small number of plants turn the tables on animals.

(continued on page 3)
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Feature Articles

Carnivores Coming to the Potluck

Because of a limited fossil record, very little is known about how these plants developed their various present-day forms. Perhaps the most primitive traps are of the pitfall type such as found in *Brocchinia reducta*, a Bromeliad with upright leaves. It is speculated such Bromeliads are where carnivory in plants started.

Since the 1760’s, naturalists have suspected some of these plants were trapping insects to obtain nutrients. In 1860, Charles Darwin began a fifteen-year study of insectivorous plants, especially sundews and butterworts. He published his meticulous research in 1875 in his book *Insectivorous Plants*.

Carnivorous plants are found in both wet and dry environments on every continent except Antarctica. I have been fortunate to have encountered them in the wild in Maine, Oregon, Scotland, and Iceland. There are even two species found in Colorado.

Carnivorous plants vary greatly in appearance. Their traps are modified leaves that take many beautiful forms; they can appear like glistening jewels to hand painted porcelain. Plant lovers the world over grow them primarily for the beauty of their foliage.

Because of their slow growth, poor competitive abilities, loss of habitat, and threats to pollinators, many carnivorous plants are threatened with extinction. Fortunately, the nursery trade has propagated many rare species, and continues to do so. However, it will be the fight to save their habitat that will make the most important contribution to saving these intriguing plants.

So on March 16th, come and meet the carnivores.
DBG Plant Sale Volunteers Needed
by Brenda Parsons-Hier

With the ice on the pond melted, our thoughts turn toward Spring, cleaning the pond, and seeing what fish and plants have survived the Winter. If you enjoy picking out water plants or helping others make good choices, we can use your help at the Denver Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale. CWGS provides volunteers to work in the Aquatics Section, so your pond experience is very helpful.

The first need is for the Preview Party on Thursday, May 11th from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm. We also need people on Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th, the Sale is open to the public (and us) to buy. There are 3 shifts needing up to 6 people each: 7:00 am - 10:30 am, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm, and 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. DBG always treats us well with snacks and beverages. If you work the middle shift, lunch is provided.

If I could put in a request for the weather during the Sale, it would be sunny and the temperature in the 60 -70’s. However, we know it could be sunny, rainy, or snowy and temperatures could range anywhere from the 40’s to the 80’s. No matter the weather, we have a good time interacting with the people who could be new to water gardening or already have experience. If you would like to join us, please e-mail or call me with what specific shift(s) you would like to work. My contact information is: moose.4bph@q.com or 303-8-2106.

Thank you.
2016 Aquatic Gardener’s Association Convention in Denver

by Bruce Ferguson

The Colorado Aquarium Society is hosting the Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention at the end of April (28 - 30) 2017. Some of you may be familiar with their yearly aquascaping contest. The contest has been going on now for over 16 years. People from all over the world compete. Speakers this year come from all over the globe ranging from Brazil to the Netherlands. It truly is an international organization. If you have any questions you can contact me at: bruceferguson4@gmail.com

Come see how plants can thrive even while ponds remain frozen! Take a Wabi Kusa workshop and learn to arrange all your excess cuttings. Lots to see and do. Hope you can make it.

Speakers
Luca Galarraga — Aquabase Aquascaping
Bart Laurens — Dutch Aquascaping
Karen Randall — Sunken Gardens
Ghazanfar Ghor — Bucephalandra sp.
Rachel O’Leary — Shrimp for the Planted Tank

Events
Field Trip
Huge Plant Auction
Aquascaping Demonstration
Cobalt Wabi-Kusa Workshop
Fluval Nano Aquascaping Workshop

Register now for the AGA convention!
Want to learn all about planted tanks? Ready to elevate your aquascaping? Enjoy a weekend of the art & science of planted aquariums: flora, fauna and aquascaping design. Hear, see and meet experts from around the world at the Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention April 28 - 30, 2017 at the Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park. Hosted by the Colorado Aquarium Society. Easy online registration. Please Like and Share!

April 28 - 30 www.aquatic-gardeners.org

The Aquatic Gardeners Association, Inc. is an international nonprofit organization of aquatic plant enthusiasts, which appeals to both beginners and experienced hobbyists alike. The AGA publishes a (paper) quarterly journal called The Aquatic Gardener (or TAG) the only English language journal devoted to aquarium plants and planted aquaria. AGA members receive a FREE subscription to TAG and all special publications. Members can also purchase back issues, DVDs, and t-shirts. We also hold a bi-annual convention and an online aquascaping contest.

For more information or to register, please go to: http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/convention.html
New and Returning Members
for June, November, December 2016 & January, February 2017

**June 2016**  
Carri Currier  *(Returning)*  
Denver, CO

**November 2016**  
Gabriella Bertelmann  *(Returning)*  
Denver, CO

**December 2016**  
Mike & Bonnie Collins  *(Returning)*  
Denver, CO

Gary & Judy Reid  *(Returning)*  
Boulder, CO

**January 2017**  
Ken & Teresa Burkert  *(Returning)*  
Northglenn, CO

Charlie Oleson  *(Returning)*  
Lakewood, CO

**February 2017**  
Jim Carlson  *(Returning)*  
Denver, CO

Dennis & Sue Weatherman  *(Returning)*  
Thornton, CO

**March 2017**  
Chris & Shelley Leinster  *(NEW!)*  
Westminster, CO

Trina Jacobson & Les Petrash  *(Returning)*  
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We also run single-event ads.

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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) ___

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

March 16: Potluck & Presentation featuring John Bayard
DBG Plant Society Building
Denver Botanic Gardens
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Presentation on Carnivorous Plants

April 27: Get Wet Presentation featuring Tamara Kilbane’s 2016 Trip to China – Gates Hall, DBG, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

May 12 & May 13: DBG Annual Plant Sale – Area near Marnie’s Pavilion, DBG, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday

May 18: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

June 4: 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 24: Pond Side Program – Knudson Residence, Picnic Potluck, Boulder, CO, 12:00 AM – 2:00 PM

July 15: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic – Central Denver Area, Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

August 5: Water Blossom Festival – Monet Pond Area, Tours of Aquatic Greenhouse & DBG Gardens, DBG, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

August 26: Pond Side Program – Burkert Residence, Picnic Potluck, Northglenn, CO, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Sept. 21: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, Presentation featuring a round-robin discussion on winterizing your pond, & 2018 Planning Meeting – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Oct. 19: Potluck, Presentation featuring Jim Arneill on the architecture or Jules Jacque Benois Benedict & 2018 Planning Meeting – Great Room, Waring House, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Dec. 14: Holiday Banquet & Volunteer Recognition, – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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

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