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Board Elections & Planning Meeting

**Plant Society Building
Denver Botanic Gardens**

Thursday, September 20th
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Planning Meeting & Ghost Tour of Waring House

**Great Room, Waring House
Denver Botanic Gardens**

Thursday, October 18th
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org



The Monet Pond stands out as one of the most beautiful parts of the Gardens every summer, (photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)

Board Elections and September 20th Meeting

by Vicki Aber

For our next meeting, we will be at the Plant Society Building at Denver Botanic Gardens. You will need to park in the parking garage and enter through the Pinion Gate to the north of the main entrance. We will gather at 6:00 pm for a delicious potluck (at least they always have been delicious). Bring a dish of your choosing to share. The club will not be providing drinks, so please bring your own. We will spend the next hour eating and having some social time.

At 7:00 pm we will have our elections. We have 9 Members-at-Large (MAL) and the Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). Each term is for 2 years. The Members-at-Large can have as many terms as they wish, but half must be re-elected every 2 years. Half of the Executive Board is up for election every year. The Executive positions have a term limit of 2 terms (4 years).

This year the MAL positions that are up for re-election are currently held by: Jim Arneill, Sue Weatherman, Janet Bathurst, and Teresa Burkert. All these people are willing to stand for re-election except for Janet. That leaves one opening on the Board. Of the Executive Board, the Vice President (Vicki Aber) is term limited, so we will need a new Vice President. The Secretary (Tamara Kilbane) is up for re-election but can be elected for another two-year term. We will take nominations from the floor at the meeting. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions, have questions about the Board duties but won't be at the meeting, please contact Vicki Aber at either (303) 423-9216 or docvicki@msn.com. Being on the Board is some work, but mostly, it's a lot of fun and good fellowship.

(continued on page 3)

2018 Board of Directors:

President	
Brenda Parsons-Hier	303.278.2106
Vice President	
Vicki Aber	303.423.9216
Secretary	
Tamara Kilbane	303.865.3556
Treasurer	
Trina Jacobson	303.871.8135
Members-At-Large	
Dennis Weatherman (MAL1)	303.457.1783
Jim Arneill (MAL2)	303.843.9619
Gabriella Bertelmann (MAL3)	303.777.7774
Sue Weatherman (MAL4)	303.457.1783
Rebecca Nash (MAL5)	303.921.8144
Janet Bathurst (MAL6)	303.421.1144
Peter Hier (MAL7)	303.278.2106
Teresa Burkert (MAL8)	720.219.6481
Dorothy Martinez (MAL9)	303.279.3137

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CWGS Treasurer's Report:
Balance as of August 31, 2018 -
\$13,602.49

2018 Committee and Event Chairs:

Newsletter Editor	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
Membership	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
Publicity & Outreach	
Jim Arneill	303.843.9619
Get Wet Event	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
CWGS June Plant Sale	
Vicki Aber	303.423.9216
Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
Fran Hoffman	303.978.0124
Brenda Parsons-Hier	303.278.2106
Tamara Kilbane	720.865.3556
Pond Tour / Picnic	
Rebecca Nash	303.921.8144
Dennis Weatherman	303.457.1783
Sue Weatherman	303.457.1783
Fran Hoffman (Picnic)	303.978.0124
Vicki Aber (Picnic)	303.423.9216
Water Blossom Festival	
Teresa Burkert	720.219.6481
Holiday Banquet	
Teresa Burkert	720.219.6481
Sue Weatherman	303.457.1783
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Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
DBG Plant Sale & DBG Volunteers	
Tamara Kilbane	720.865.3556
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Hudson Gardens' Volunteers	
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dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.

Board Elections and September 20th Meeting

(continued from page 1)

After the elections, we will have a round table discussion. These have been very popular with everyone sharing a lot of information that gets passed around. The topic this year will be looking back at the 2018 growing season. What did you do that worked or didn't? What new plant did you try? Did you like it or not? How did the weather affect you? Come willing to share your thoughts and take notes.

If anyone would like to participate in a mini plant swap, please bring any plants you have an abundance of or if you have something you don't want to try to over-winter, you can bring them as well.

See you on the 20th!



Macabre History of Cheesman Park/Denver Botanic Gardens and the October 18th Meeting by Dorothy Martinez

Please join us for a very special evening with Kyle Burnett, former night security guard at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The meeting will be held in the Great Room of the Waring House on Thursday, October 18th starting with a potluck at 6:00 pm, then a brief planning meeting at 7:00 pm. After the planning meeting, Kyle will share his stories about his supernatural experiences in the Waring House.

To give you some background about the macabre history of Denver Botanic Gardens, I did some research online and found this great article from Kelly Jensen of KUSA/9 News published on November 22, 2016. She obtained much of her information from History Colorado and the Denver Public Library.

The 80 acres of Cheesman Park where today dog-walkers, joggers, and outdoor enthusiasts gather, lies on top of what was once Denver's first cemetery. Where the lovely Denver Botanic Gardens sit, used to be a Roman Catholic burial ground.

It was a 90-year journey from cemetery to conservatory. The land we know today as Cheesman Park, just east of Capitol Hill, was sold to the city of Denver in 1872 for \$1.25 an acre for burial purposes. Long before that, the land had been an Arapahoe Indian burial ground. The cemetery was eventually divided into sections: Roman Catholic (Mount Calvary), Masonic and Improved Order of Odd Fellows, Jewish (Hebrew Burying and Prayer Ground) and Mount Prospect or Prospect Hill.

Mount Prospect, later called City Cemetery, had areas set aside for burials of paupers, Chinese, and members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War Union veterans' organization. Among Calvary Cemetery's most famous burials was billionaire-miner Horace A.W. Tabor and his wife "Baby Doe" Tabor.

Denver's City Cemetery had no water for irrigation, and soon became a dry eyesore compared to the Riverside Cemetery, near 52nd and Race, the first to have trees and a lawn thanks to water from the South Platte, and Fairmount Cemetery, which opened in 1890, and was watered by the High Line Canal.

The City Cemetery continued to be used, although in 1880 it was sold to some sub dividers who began building homes in the neighborhood, and residents complained it was becoming an eyesore. They complained about the headstones and the condition of the land, which by now held 626 documented bodies beneath it.

Growth in the city of Denver was skyrocketing: From 1880 to 1890 the population increased from 36,629 to 106,713 people. There were 2,328 homes built in 1890. The cemetery's land and its surroundings were prime building ground. Complaints mounted over the way bodies were buried, especially those of the poor, sometimes two stacked in a plot together. Rotten remains were dug up and never taken care of. In an effort to beautify the area, Colorado Senator Henry M. Teller, in 1890, promised congress if they allowed the cemetery land to be transformed into a park, in gratitude, Denver would name it Congress Park. It worked. Six months later, burials were declared unlawful, although by that time the only poor souls who were laid to rest at City Cemetery were the poor and hospital-stricken.

(continued on page 4)

Macabre History of Cheesman Park/Denver Botanic Gardens and the October 18th Meeting

(continued from page 3)

That summer, families were given 90 days to remove their loved ones remains from the cemetery. Some did, others did not. 788 bodies were moved to Riverside Cemetery. When Mount Olivet Cemetery opened in 1890, bodies from Calvary Cemetery were transferred there. Burials stopped altogether in 1909, and the City of Denver was paid \$80,000 to remove the bodies. The work took months.

In 1893, an undertaker by the name of McGovern was hired by the city to remove the rest of the remains and take them to Riverside Cemetery. Its estimated he left about 4,200 behind. Since he was being paid by the box, \$1.90 in fact, he instructed his workers to use small boxes and distribute remains of corpses into different containers to be moved. The town was outraged as his scheme was uncovered by a local paper and exposed in gruesome detail. His terrible efforts were never truly finished, and the park land was left in disrepair with holes and sunken graves. It is rumored many of those lost and forgotten souls still haunt the park.

Eventually in 1900, improvements began with the hiring of landscape architect Reinhard Schuetze, who also was hired to re-plan City Park and lay out Congress Park as well as Washington Parks and landscape the capitol building. The park's name was changed to Cheesman Park in 1907, after Mayor Speer signed an ordinance. Walter S. Cheesman was a prominent drugstore owner and railroad tycoon, and his widow and mother had given the city a sizeable donation to build a marble pavilion in his honor at the park.

By 1913, thousands of the 6,000 bodies buried in the original cemetery had been moved. The remaining area wasn't fenced, and neighborhood kids would play there, where flowers grew abundantly. They would take handles from coffins and even make off with smaller headstones. There was a tale of a grown man who lived for two months in a sunken grave.

The Jewish Cemetery took up ten acres of land east of what is now the north part of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Today, what rests there, perhaps above hundreds of poor souls, is two streets and a parking lot. Burials began there in 1865, and lasted until 1910. The Jewish community bought land at Riverside Cemetery and Fairmount Cemetery in 1896, so bones were dug up and moved there until 1923.

In 1924, the land that was once their cemetery was bought by water commissioners. During renovations to install sprinklers in 1976, a metal hinge from a child's coffin was discovered by an excavator, among other morbid archives.

Decades later, in 1958, Dr. and Mrs. James Waring bought a house at 909 York Street and gave it to the Denver Botanic Gardens Foundation to become their headquarters. Today, the gardens sit atop land which was once Mount Calvary Cemetery, on the west edge of Cheesman Park today.

In the 1880s, the area where a parking lot sits today, between York and Josephine Streets, was once a place known as the 'Pest House,' where those sickened by smallpox and other contagious diseases were quarantined and left to die. It was burned to the ground in 1886. Behind the building was the Potter's field section of the graveyard, where the vast majority of the dead were buried in mass graves. It can be hard to believe an area today that is meticulously maintained and groomed was once in such disrepair and was the eyesore of a growing city.

This is your chance to hear some of the ghost stories relating to the Denver Botanic Gardens and in particular the Waring House.

If you have any questions, please contact Tamara Kilbane at either (720) 865-3556 or tamara.kilbane@botanicgardens.org.



Water Features at Denver Botanic Gardens are Still Stunning at the End of the Season

by Jim Arneill



In the Romantic Pool, the Cruzianas have put on quite the display this summer, (photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)



In the Rocky Mountain Legacy Collection Pool, the beautiful waterlilies are complemented by the arrangement of Cardinal Flowers encircling the Cannas, (photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)



The 'Bob Hoffman' tropical water lily near the Zen sculpture rekindles fond memories of our friend and former CWGS President, (photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)

What a pleasant surprise to stop by Denver Botanic Gardens recently and find the water features looking so magnificent this late in the season! While the waterlilies, lotuses, and many other aquatic plants typically peak at the end of July and early August, the beauty of the Monet Pool and other water features embellished with flowers and foliage remains one of the best parts of the entire Gardens.

The many visitors who attended the Water Blossom Celebration on August 4th witnessed perhaps hundreds of water lilies in bloom, and while not as many are flowering now, the Cannas and many other hardy and tropical marginals also add to the splendor.

The recent stars of the pools in the past weeks have been the Victoria water lilies. Tamara Kilbane, Senior Horticulturist of the Aquatic Collection, has been growing two varieties this summer, the *Victoria cruziana* and the *Victoria* 'Longwood Hybrid.' The Longwood Hybrid, developed at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is a cross between *Victoria cruziana* and *Victoria amazonica*. Both of these are native to different regions of South America, and the Longwood variety normally does better in cooler water temperatures like ours.

This summer the Cruzianas have been more prolific than the Longwoods. CWGS member and DBG docent Bill Powell reported "the two Cruziana in the Romantic Pond have been unusually vital since they first went in. They were the first Victoria to bloom this season (week of Aug 7th) and they've bloomed freely since."

The Longwood Hybrids have just started to bud, so we can soon expect some beautiful white fragrant flowers that will open up in the evening.

Bill dons a pair of waders weekly and measures the span of each Victoria as well as the diameter of the leaves. He indicated that both of these aren't approaching the historic records measured previously at the Gardens.

"In the past I have recorded a Longwood leaf diameter of 54"; this season the largest leaf (interestingly on a Romantic Pond Cruziana) was 42". Dimensions are decreasing now as the water cools."

For those interested in being part of the action as Tamara transitions to fall, the Sunday volunteer sessions usually begin toward the end of this month or early October. Please contact Tamara if you would like to be on the volunteer help list. Besides helping, it is amazing how much you can learn from these mornings.

Every year Tamara does an incredible job of planning and preparing for each year's spectacular display. She not only understands the science and techniques of being able to grow aquatic plants so successfully, but like an artist, she also designs each pool in a masterful way.

So, it is not too late to come to the Gardens and enjoy the beauty of the water gardens - come soon though, things may change quickly with our unpredictable Colorado weather!

Recap of 2018 Pond Tour and Picnic by Rebecca Nash

The Pond Tour Committee would like to thank everyone involved with the Pond Tour this year, including all of the hosts who allowed us into their gardens to see their water features, as well as all those who assisted with the Picnic following the Tour. The Pond Tour is something we all look forward to and many of us came home with ideas to try out in our own ponds in the future.

It's very interesting to see the different types of ponds and how they are all situated within various backyard settings. It's always fascinating to find out how people have worked through various challenges with issues relating to water quality, plants, and fish. After losing several of my largest fish to a great blue heron this summer, I learned from a Pond Tour host how the blue herons walk up to a pond, regurgitate into it, and then wait for the fish to come looking for what just fell into the water. I didn't know that!

Please consider being a Pond Tour host in the future! It's a rewarding opportunity to show others what kind of water feature you've created within the space you have to work with. We all have various tastes in pond styles, as well as different topography around our homes, and it's interesting to see what people have come up with in their unique situations.



New and Returning Members for July, August, & September 2018

July 2018

Teri O'Sullivan
Denver, CO

Renewal

September 2018

Lorna Moore
Denver, CO

Renewal

August 2018

Larry & Rose Glass
Lakewood, CO

Renewal

Kim May
Denver, CO

NEW!

Rebecca Nash
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Nancy & Werner Neupert
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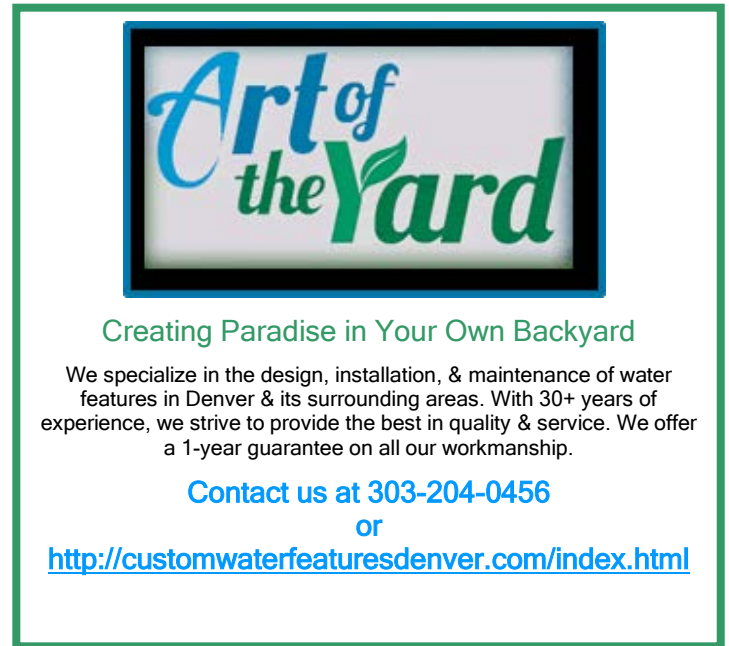
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- Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale _____
- Hudson Gardens _____
- CWGS Plant Sale (June) _____
- Pond Tour (July) _____
- Water Blossom Festival (August) _____

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Annual Membership Fees
 \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family
 Printed Copy of Newsletter (Annual)
 \$25 Individual; \$30 Family

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

**September 20: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, & Presentation featuring a Round Robin discussion on pond experiences & favorite plants
Plant Society Building, Denver Botanic Gardens, CO**

Potluck

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Annual Board Elections

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Presentation

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**October 18: Potluck, 2019 Planning Meeting, & Ghost Tour of Waring House
Great Room, Waring House, Denver Botanic Gardens, CO**

Potluck

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

2019 Planning Meeting

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Ghost Tour of Waring House

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Dec. 13: 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