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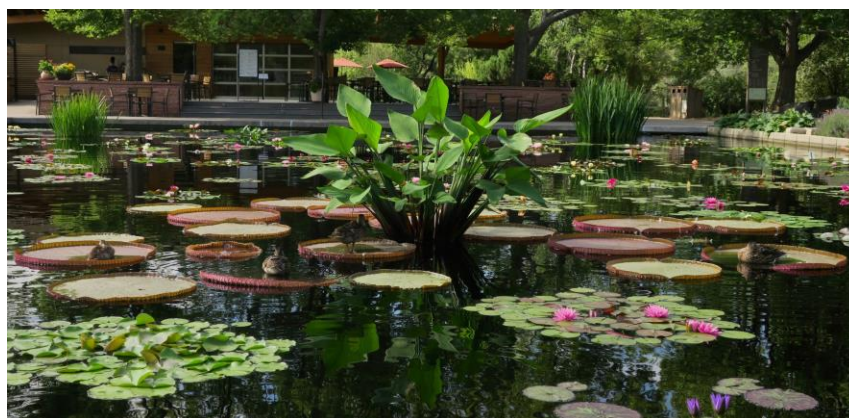
Online Sales ONLY
Denver Botanic Gardens

Pre-Sale, Monday, April 27th
Beginning at 10:00 am
Must purchase a \$25 ticket in
advance

Sale, Tuesday, April 28th
beginning at 10:00 am and
ending on Friday, May 1st at
4:00 pm

Designated Pick Up Times,
Wednesday, May 6th –
Saturday, May 9th

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org



Surrounded by an impressive show of Victoria water lilies and some visiting ducks, the Red Stemmed Thalia, with its height and large leaves, provides a strong centerpiece in the Monet Pool
(photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)

Growing Tropical Marginals in Colorado - Are They Worth the Bother?

by Jim Arneill

When looking for new plants to add to their ponds, many water gardeners look for only those that are hardy and will return year after year. Economically, that makes great sense especially since there is such a large number of exceptional water lilies and marginals from which to choose.

An argument can also be made that complementing the dependable hardies with tropical marginals will add such a special appearance - with splashes of color, a variety of heights, stunningly large leaves, and a longer blooming season - they are definitely worth it!

One of the most popular tropical marginals is the Canna, which comes in a wide range of colors and continues blooming late in the season. Longwood Gardens developed several popular aquatic cannas crossing *Canna glauca*, a native of Brazil, with various terrestrial cannas. As a result, we can enjoy the bright yellow 'Ra', the brilliant red-flowered 'Endeavor', the salmon pink 'Erebus', and the orange-colored 'Taney'.

There are several other varieties of Canna that do well in Colorado, and Tamara Kilbane, Curator of Aquatic Plants at Denver Botanic Gardens, has incorporated many of them into the water features there. Some favorites include 'Chiquita Punch', 'Bengal Tiger', 'Pink Sunburst', 'Flaming Kabobs', 'Tropicana', and 'Paton'.

(continued on page 3)

2020 Board of Directors:

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The Water Garden is published eight times a year and is made available to current members both in printed form and online. Past volumes of The Water Garden are archived online at:

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:
Balance as of March 31, 2020
\$13,193.20**

2020 Committee and Event Chairs:

Newsletter Editor	
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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
Brenda Parsons-Hier	303.278.2106
Hudson Gardens' Volunteers	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137

NOTICE...

We will be transitioning the Newsletter to an **electronic only** version starting **January 1, 2021**

To report a problem with downloading of the electronic journal, reply to Dorothy Martinez:

dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.



The bright red colors of *Canna* 'Flaming Kabobs' add a splash of color to the Monet Pool with the Gazebo in the background at Denver Botanic Gardens, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)



The chartreuse and darker green colored leaves of *Colocasia* 'Mojito' add a striking touch to a water feature, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)



Two *Canna* pots were overwintered in a south facing bathroom and will be brought back out to the pond in early June. The ceramic pot on the right has a taro tuber from an Asian market I started growing at the end of February, (photo courtesy of Jim Arneill)

Growing Tropical Marginals in Colorado - Are They Worth the Bother?

(continued from page 1)

Other tropical marginals that many water gardeners in Colorado like to incorporate are the various members of the *Cyperus* family. Both the Umbrella Plant – *Cyperus alternifolius* and the Papyrus – *Cyperus papyrus* grow well in Colorado ponds. The Mexican Papyrus – *Cyperus giganteus*, which can grow to a height of 12 feet, makes a bold statement in a water feature.

For those who want to add spectacular heights and enormous leaves, the tropical red stemmed variety of *Thalia geniculata ruminoides* is very popular, especially in medium to large water features. Reaching heights of up to 8 feet with a spread of 6 feet, it produces small clusters of purple flowers on slender stems.

Another excellent tropical marginal to grow is the Taro, which can produce large leaves in a variety of colors and patterns. There are several varieties of *Colocasia esculenta*, including 'Diamond Head', 'Black Magic', 'Mojito', and 'Tea Cup'.

So, what happens with these majestic tropical plants at the end of the water gardening season in our Zone 5 climate?

Many people have received enough enjoyment from them and will treat these plants as annuals and compost them. Others like to bring some of them inside their houses and treat them as house plants until they are ready to return outdoors the following June when water temperatures reach about 70 degrees.

Some people will work on overwintering them by placing the rhizomes or roots in peat moss, sand, or other mediums. As long as they don't completely dry out and don't rot, some find placing them in a cool, dry location proves to be successful, especially with Cannas. There are many variations of what seems to work for different people.

As water gardeners, we are like artists and our palette is the many different choices of plants we select. My pond needs the splashes of color, the different heights, the large leafy plants, and the extended growing season that they provide. Art is an individual perception and everyone's own preferences are put into action – good luck with your own masterpieces this season!



Plants that will be available for sale online at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Spring Plant Sale, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)



Plants that will be available for sale online at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Spring Plant Sale, (photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane)

It's Happening! Denver Botanic Gardens' Spring Plant Sale

by Brenda Parsons-Hier

One of the events we look forward to in the spring is the Denver Botanic Gardens' Spring Plant Sale. And the good news is **it will still happen!** Instead of shopping on the Garden's grounds, you will go to the DBG website, see lists of plants that will be available for purchase, make your selections, and pay online. The Garden's staff will package your orders and you will pick them up curbside.

There will be a great selection of aquatic plants to choose from thanks to Tamara Kilbane, Curator of Aquatic Collections. The plants are already in her greenhouse and are growing exceptionally well. Other plant divisions will also have plants available for sale.

A list of the **aquatic plants** that will be available for sale are posted on the Colorado Water Garden Society's website at <http://www.colowatergardensociety.org/files/ItemFileA309.pdf>

How will this online Sale work you ask? An online catalog listing **all** available plants can be viewed at https://www.botanicgardens.org/sites/default/files/blog-photos/2020springplantsale_plantcatalog_2.pdf. Please remember, selections at time of purchase are subject to availability.

If you are not a member of DBG or if you wish to have Pre-Sale access, you will need to purchase a ticket for \$25. After ticket purchase, an online store link will be sent to you and you can start shopping at 10:00 am on Monday, April 27th.

Member and volunteer shopping will begin at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 28th and will close on Friday, May 1st at 4:00 pm. The link for member and volunteer shopping will be provided via e-mail at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 28th. On Monday, May 4th, you will receive an e-mail with your designated pick-up time between May 6th – 9th. Plant pick-up will be rain or shine. No returns or exchanges.

Buying plants, putting them in soil, and enjoying their progress will help in these challenging times. And supporting the Botanic Gardens is another plus!

For more information on the DBG Spring Plant Sale, please go to <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/spring-plant-sale>

For a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please go to <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/spring-plant-sale>

COVID-19 AND CWGS

by Vicki Aber

We sincerely hope this newsletter finds all of our CWGS family healthy. These are scary times and everyone has been touched by this pandemic in some way. Some people have lost income, some are worried about friends or family that are sick or struggling financially. Some people are trying to work from home and also juggling children that are trying to keep up with school work remotely. Some people are 'essential' and have to brave the chance of being infected daily.

Being gardeners, we are at an advantage. We can get out and play in our gardens. The weather has been cooperating lately (that said, as I write this, snow is forecast). If you do have time on your hands, get out and connect with your plants, fish, and fresh air!

What are the Club's plans for getting together this year? That is a very good question. Of course, we do not want to meet and put people at risk. We also are limited by the availability of our meeting places. We have already had to cancel our March, April, and May meetings. The Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) Sale has gone virtual with ordering and pick up. Do try to check it out, I don't know about the other areas, but Tamara has ordered some great stuff.

Unfortunately, we just got word from DBG that they are cancelling all May Plant Society meetings to be held with the gardens, so we will not be able to have our Annual Plant Swap. At this point, we are hopeful to still have our Annual Plant Sale. We have already planted up a large supply of Cannas for the Sale and plan to order plants and have member's divisions. Hudson is a fairly open area and we might be able to handle some distancing, but again it will depend on the state of the pandemic.

The Pond Tour Committee has reached out to some people to be on the Tour, but most are adopting a wait and see attitude. Our two Pond Side meetings are likewise on hold. We are still planning on our fall meetings, including our lecture with Bob Beers on carnivorous plants, but since he is coming in from out of state, it may depend. I really, really hope this isn't still a problem by our Christmas meeting!

Also, the International Waterlily and Water Garden Society has decided to postpone their Symposium that was scheduled July 29th through August 2nd. It looks like it has been pushed back until next year. The dates for 2021 have not been decided upon at this time – stay tuned.

We are all hoping for this crazy world to get back to normal soon, but we all have to do what it takes to keep everyone safe. We will reach out through newsletters and e-mails when we know if a meeting is canceled or a go. We have a Facebook page with few members. I would love to see more people friend us to join us on Facebook. Post pictures of your ponds or questions about plants, fish, hardware, and any problems you may be having. We will try to crowd source a solution. We could even organize some plant trading, especially if we can't do the Swap. I know I have some plants that will be composted if I can't find a new home for them!

Hang in there, we will get through this and be telling our grandchildren and great grandchildren about the great toilet paper shortage of 2020.



Nature Starts Water Gardening Season Without “Get Wet” Event on April 9th

by Jim Arneill

Our annual event to kick off the water gardening season was put on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions and safety concerns. This year’s main topic of “Get Wet - Water Gardening Fun in 2020” was the use of tropical marginals to enhance the beauty of our ponds. One of the featured plants was the Taro, which is grown both for its beautiful foliage as well as its edible roots used in Polynesian cuisine.

With the event having being scheduled for April 9th, the program will now take place next year to kick off the 2021 water gardening season.

In the meantime, it is exciting to observe the beauty of many aquatic plants greening up and producing leaves. The water lilies are beginning to send out their first leaves of the season, and it won’t be long until we get to see the early bloomers like marsh marigold and water hawthorn, as well as the yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), which is listed on the Colorado Noxious Weeds Watch List.

Spending part of our homebound time on our own ponds should make for some spectacular sights later in the season. Hopefully, both the Denver Botanic Gardens’ Spring Plant Sale (see details in article on page 4) and the CWGS Plant Sale scheduled for June 7th will offer some new treasures for this year’s ponds!

Plant Swap 2020 – Cancelled

by Dorothy Martinez

Unfortunately, we will be cancelling the Plant Swap that was schedule for Thursday, May 21st. The Denver Botanic Gardens has cancelled all Plant Society meetings and events to be held within the gardens that were scheduled during the month of May due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We will make a decision as to whether or not we will reschedule this meeting once concerns about the COVID-19 Pandemic have significantly decreased. Also, rescheduling is dependent on the availability of facilities at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

New and Returning Members for March & April 2020

March 2020

Rich & Katy Haas
Morrison, CO

Renewal

April 2020

Jarmila Polacek
Thornton, CO

NEW!

Nancy & George Steinke
Lakewood, CO

NEW!



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Annual advertising in the newsletter also includes a listing on the CWGS website with an active link direct to your commercial webpage.

We also run single-event ads.

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez
dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org*

**Make checks payable to:
"Colorado Water Garden Society"**

**Return this form with your payment to:
CWGS Membership
14837 W. 57th Drive
Golden, CO 80403**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Email* _____

** Required for electronic receipt of Newsletter..
(note: CWGS does not share or sell email addresses)*

___ *Check here if you are also a member of Denver Botanic Gardens*

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.

Annual Membership Fees
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

April 27, April 28 – May 1: DBG Annual Spring Plant Sale

Online Sales Only

Pre-Sale (tickets \$25 each) on April 27th starting at 10:00 AM

Sale from April 28th starting at 10:00 AM – May 1st ending at 4:00 PM

Designated Pick Up Times from May 6th – May 9th

CANCELLED

May 21: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap

Freyer-Newman Center

Denver Botanic Gardens

Potluck 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Plant Swap 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

June 7: 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 20: Pond Side Program – *Water's Edge, Tour and Picnic/Potluck, Elbert, CO, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM*

July 11: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic – *NE Denver Area, Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM*

August 8: Water Blossom Celebration – *Monet Pond Area, Docent Tours, Demonstrations, Information, & Free Carnivorous Pitcher Plants, DBG, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

August 22: Pond Side Program – *Alpine Koi & Reef, Tour & Picnic/Potluck, Fort Collins, CO, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM*

Sept. 17: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, Presentation “Carnivorous Plants” by carnivorous plant expert Bob Beer of the Washington Carnivorous Plant Group – *Freyer-Newman Center, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM*

Oct. 15: Potluck, Program by Board member Peter Hier “Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, NE” & 2021 Planning Meeting – *Freyer-Newman Center, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*

Dec. 10: Holiday Banquet, Volunteer Recognition, & Gift Exchange – *Freyer-Newman Center, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*



FIRST CLASS MAIL

From...

The Water Garden

c/o Dorothy Martinez
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