Plan to attend the Second Annual
Ponds . . . Links to Learning Seminar

Everyone is invited to attend this half-day seminar, April 8, on various topics related to water gardening, sponsored by Colorado Water Garden Society. Registration for seminar classes is from 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM at the Denver Botanic Gardens - Morrison Center, 11th and York. Class sizes are limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. A $10 materials fee will be required for non-members of the Colorado Water Garden Society, or this fee may be applied toward an individual one year membership in the organization. Attendance is free for Colorado Water Garden Society members.

There are three sessions with three different class offerings each hour. Registration is required for all participants.

See the complete class listings on Page 3

Volunteer work and learning opportunities at DBG this month

Beginning April 1 and continuing through May "start-up" activities will be in full swing in the aquatic area at Denver Botanic Gardens. Each Sunday, with the exception of April 15, volunteers will be needed from 8:30 am until 12 noon to divide and plant lilies, lotus, and marginal plants for this year's display. Work days are cancelled if the temperature is expected to stay below 40, or it is snowing or raining. In addition to the muscle work, logging of each plant name will be completed by volunteers to create new signage.

Damon Ginnow, CWGS Volunteer Coordinator, said "there will be plenty of work for everybody." All members who noted on their application that they would assist with work in the Spring will be contacted. Anyone who did not sign up can do so by contacting Damon at (303) 480-9544 or email him, dminnow@mindspring.com.

Not only do CWGS volunteer efforts ensure the organization a place to have meetings, but it also provides a learning opportunity. This year a special emphasis will be placed on providing a short program to volunteers each week.

The special topics will include:
- Growth Habits of Marginal Plants
- How to tell the difference between a weed, cattail, and rush.
- Basic anatomy of a waterlily
- Care and propagation of tropical lilies
- Planting a lotus

Everyone is encouraged to come and bring a neighbor or friend. It is also a good idea to bring your waders, gloves and a pair of pruners. Doughnuts will be provided!
Did you know the Colorado Water Garden Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization? We exist to provide education to improve your water gardening experience and to further an appreciation in the general public for water plants and water scapes.

As with any nonprofit volunteer organization, it is those who are willing to give their time to the efforts, who gain the most. They gain the satisfaction of learning and sharing with other members willing to give their time. With the many who assist with Denver Botanic Gardens’ aquatic work efforts, they can visit throughout the season and boast about how “their garden looks!”

Volunteer rewards are special. Anyone who has actively participated in a volunteer group knows that a full meeting room, the ability to donate money to other entities in support of the goals of the group, to have a successful fund raiser are the ways to obtain that special reward. Ironically, the most active participants are not persons with a lot of time on their hands, but rather those with no time - just a willingness to share what little time they have.

Why not make a special effort to share your time to help CWGS reach its greatest potential. BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT and you, too, can see the benefits!!!

Open letter from Joe Tomocik, Aquatic Manager, Denver Botanic Gardens

Initially, I would like to recall some of the contributions of the Colorado Water Society over the last year. There was a contribution of $1,500 for the registration of water lilies and another donation to the Endowment Fund. Volunteers played a major role in setting up our display in the spring and taking it down in the fall.

Water lilies were grown and fertilized on Sundays. Other areas of assistance include water lily trials, container gardens, propagation and maintenance of water lilies, assistance and teaching of classes, plant sale, renovation of City Park ponds, and growing of Victoria water lilies.

Not so pleasant activities such as sweeping, stacking pots, and weeding can be added to the list. I was comfortable that a number of CWGS volunteers were a phone call away to help with emergency situations. Thank you very, very much.

I apologize for being a bit bashful in providing opportunities and seeking your help. I will rectify that this year as we plan for our most magnificent display ever. A bonus-aquatic reflection garden, eighty-one container gardens, plant registration, and new-improved labels, are several of our goals.

Too, there will be new opportunities in bridging. Let’s accept the challenge of working more effectively with each other locally, nationally, and across the planet. It all started here, did it not?

Possibly the greatest benefit one gets in volunteering for us is the inherent joy of being part of something wholesome and magnificent. Skills learned include propagation, potting and maintenance of water lilies and marginals, and plant selection. And of course we always do manage to have a bit of fun.

Again, I do challenge CWGS to show up as they have before. Big time, for what will be our biggest year ever!

Thanks,

Joe
Ponds... Links to Learning Seminar

Session 1 12 noon - 1 PM
Aquatic and Wetland Installation
Learn the methods for installing a pond or wetland area in your yard.

Anthony Smith, Quality-Water Biosystems, Broomfield, Colorado

Landscaping to be in Harmony with Nature
How to make the man-made pond look like nature built it, using proper landscaping techniques and plantings. The more natural the setting, the more nature it will bring.
John & Hilary Horan and Tom Zingaro - Blue Lotus Designs, Littleton, Colorado

Introduction to Nomenclature
Enjoy an introduction to how plants are classified and how they receive their botanical names. A popular lecturer worldwide, Threane is well known for his informal and witty style. He makes the complex field of horticultural nomenclature not just understandable to the lay person, but enjoyable, as well. He was chief editor of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (1995), a work which distilled and clarified previous versions of the Code for use by even the average gardener.

Piers Truane, from Witchampton, Wimborne, Dorset UK is Chairman of the ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science) Commission on Registration and Nomenclature.

Session 2 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM
Fish Care
Pond fish have special care requirements. Learn when to feed and not to feed. Learn about the complete pond habitat and how imbalances can effect fish.

Ray Smith, Co-Owner of The Koi Lagoon, Inc. in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Pond Plants
Learn about submerged, emergent (marginal), and floating plants. Information on planting and placement of plants in the pond and their growing requirements will be provided.

Nancy Styler CWGS

Pond Filtration
Learn about different methods of pond filtration, from plant to mechanical methods and their application.

Ron Knutson Water Creations

Schedule of class offerings (continued from page 1)

Session 3 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Water Plant Propagation
How to divide lilies and emergent plants and determining the best time for optimum growth.

Bob Hoffman CWGS

Aquatic Ecological Importance and Water Pollutants
A presentation on our resources - ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands, how they operate together and how pollution can effect them.

Paul D. McIver, Public Outreach Coordinator, Wetlands and Watershed Unit, Ecosystems Protection Program, United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Ponds and Birds
Ponds are a natural attractant for birds; learn how to increase their numbers for enjoyment.

Kathy Dressel, Co-Owner of Wild Bird Centers of Littleton and Boulder, Colorado

How to make home-made stone
By Scott Jeffries
If you've built a rock waterfall, you know that large, well-shaped rocks are difficult to find, much less transport. One solution to these problems is to make your own rocks.

The September/October 1989 issue of Fine Gardening contained an article on making concrete material that looks very much like natural stone. In this instance, it's used in making large plant containers, but there seems to be no reason why it couldn't be useful in some aspects of pond construction.

The material is called hypertufa. To make it, mix portland cement, sand, and peat moss in a 1:1:2 ratio by volume, and add enough water to bind the material together. A concrete dye (available at building supply centers) may also be added. Then shape or mold the material as you wish. Before it has completely hardened, brushes or other tools or running water may be used to modify the surface. Getting it exactly as you want it will take some experimentation.

However you end up using hypertufa, remember that it is porous. Apparently, the peat moss, which gives it its texture, also leaves small holes for water to travel through. Also, like any concrete material, it will be the source of considerable alkalinity until completely cured.

Note that portland cement is not concrete redi-mix; redi-mix is a mixture of portland cement, sand, and gravel. Use of redi-mix instead of portland cement will result in an undesirable gravelly, concrete-like texture. Note also that concrete dyes may work better with white portland cement than the standard gray.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001

Use the enclosed Membership form to do it today, so you don't miss special sales, important meeting dates and the newsletter, with informative articles. Make sure to complete the volunteer interest selections. This information is used to contact you for a small time commitment to help us succeed! If you have any suggestions, make sure to note them on your form too! We're listening. If you don't remember if you have renewed, check your mailing label on this newsletter. If it has "00" you need to renew.

The Water Garden
As we did last year with hardy water lilies, this year we will investigate marginals/bogs/floaters. I have given some thought to how to start and decided to go by species. I will not keep to an order, but I will try to stay with height and hardiness. Most water plants are listed with a hardness zone where they are best grown, but with some care most water plants can be kept year round. Most water plants are listed as hardy or tropical. For us in Metro Denver, depending on our winter, “hardy” translates to mean zone 5 or 6. A tropical to us is normally zone 7. What that means is any plant with a zone 7 or higher must be protected and 6 is borderline. Protection can mean protection from freezing to treating the plant as a houseplant for the winter.

Bob Hoffman

“Tall Hardy Marginals”
RUSHES AND REEDS

CATTAIL: *Typha*: All are aggressive and grow from a horizontal rhizome in a spreading fashion. If you are looking for the natural look, with some control, pot your plants. All cattails will take sun to part shade. They will take water depth from 2’ to 12’.

*Typha domingensis* ‘Giant Cattail’ - if you have a large pond or lake this plant can grow 8 to 11 feet tall, but the saving grace is that it is not hardy here (zone 7 to 11).

(Very tall)

*Typha latifolia* ‘Cattail’ - because of the size, is best used as a screen. If you want to reduce their size, plant in a smaller pot. These plants will grow up to 7’.

(Tall)

*Typha angustifolia* ‘Narrow leaved’ - this is a narrow leaf cattail with narrow catkins. This plant will reach 4 to 5’.

(Medium)

*Typha laxmannii* ‘Graceful’ - this plant is also used for screening, but is more for smaller ponds. This plant can reach 3’. It also has smaller catkins.

(Medium)

*Typha minima* ‘Miniature’ - you may want to call this dwarf cattail because it only gets to 12”. It also has very tiny catkins.

(Small)

BULrush: *Scirpus*: Bulrush, like cattail, come in many sizes from 20’ to 1’. Bulrush will take some shade, but like sun. Animals may find these plants tasty. Rushes can be very attractive as a background. *Scirpus albus* ‘White Rush’ a pretty light colored plant that gets tall 4’ to 6’. This is not a fast grower in the pond, but does survive the winter. Zone 5-9

(Tall)

*Scirpus cypressioides* ‘Wooly Rush’ - will get a brown tassel in the summer and grows to 4’. Zone 3-9.

(Medium)

*Scirpus validus* ‘Soft Rush’ - another tall rush that grows 2’ to 6’. These tall plants need large containers, because they will blow over in the wind. Zone 3-11

(Tall to Medium)

*Scirpus vietillatus* ‘Bulrush’ - this is an aggressive plant that can grow to 3’ to 6’ tall.

(Tall)

*Scirpus zonarius* ‘Zebra Rush’ - white bands along a tall 4’ to 6’ green stem. These bands can fade over time. Zone 5-9.

(Tall)