September Program

The Nymphaeaceae (waterlily) family origins

Andrew Doran, International Registrar for Nymphaeaceae will be our special guest speaker at the September 9 general meeting in the Morrison Center facility, 2 P.M.

Doran will enlighten members on what is thought to be the origin of the water lily. He will discuss how lilies get their names, what the differences are between a species plant and a hybrid plant, common names and botanical names and the importance of lily registration.

The International Waterlily and...
What makes any organization special? Its participants! What makes an organization effective? Its participants. Who are its participants? Those members who indulge in the activities - or active members/volunteers.

Many CWGS members have volunteered numerous hours to the betterment of the organization; a special debt of gratitude is extended to all of them. It is through their efforts that goals set by the organization are met.

With elections to be held at the September meeting, this is an opportune time to for all members to be active, just through their attendance. This is where each member has an opportunity to express ideas for future goals for the organization.

We'd like to know . . .
- What direction would you like CWGS to be going?
- What special activities would you like CWGS to undertake?
- What do you feel is a good meeting time?
- What programs would you like?
- What would you like to do for the organization?

Tell us what you want - it is YOUR organization!

Teacup water garden

What better than an oversized cup and saucer filled with water plants and a small water lily fountain? A teacup water garden.

If you've done a fun container water garden - send us a picture to print in the newsletter in an upcoming issue.
A closer look at the Hardy Nymphaea “hardy water lily”

It is easy to enjoy a lily for its overall beauty with little attention given to what individual parts make it unique enough to have its own name.

Characteristics such as color, shape and size, are primary determinates used in describing all parts of the Nymphaea plant for identification purposes. For a mature leaf both upper and lower surfaces are observed and information recorded. Leaves are classified in two categories - ovate (meaning it is egg shaped, longer than it is wide), or orbicular (being as long as it is wide or circular). Markings, such as blotches, speckles or marbling are also included in descriptions. Similar information is done for young leaves. The attached petiole (stem) is described for its color, length, shape and any special markings.

Flower descriptions are similarly detailed. An overview of a plant’s flower is done based on the mean size and its general shape, such as cup (having an open center with stamens visible) or stellate (star shaped). The flower is then dissected to determine number of petals and sepals. Color match is done using the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Charts to maintain a uniform code. Color is then matched for each of the flower parts; sepals, petals, pentaloid stamens, filaments and anthers. Petal shape is an additional factor that can aid in a more detailed description for identification purposes. Petal count should not be considered a real determinate for identification, as this can differ with each flower on the same plant and can be influenced by temperature, soil and fertilization.

Glossary of Botanical Terms

Flower-reproductive structure of a flowering plant consisting of a pistil and/or stamen, and usually including petals and sepals.

Stamen - male pollen bearing organs of a flower
Anther - the pollen bearing part of the stamen
Filament - part of the stamen which supports the anther
Sepaloid - like a sepal
Petaloid stamen - stamen without an anther
Sepal - outer part of the flower, usually green and formed of several divisions, that protects the bud.

Stigmatic Disc - surface of the reproductive cell whereby fertilization by pollen is affected.

Cupellary Style - connects the stigmatic disc and ovary.
Ovary - the part of the pistil that contains the ovules
Pistil-seed-bearing organ of the flower, consisting of the ovary, stigma, and style when present

Ovule - the body which, after fertilization, becomes the seed.

Illustrations reprinted from Identification of Hardy Nymphaea © 1993 Stapeley Water Gardens Limited with permission from the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society.

The Water Garden
Some of our marginals are not normally thought of as water plants, but they will do very well in our ponds. As a matter of fact, when I visited Maryland Aquatic Nurseries they were trying many garden plants to see what tolerance they may have to a watery environment.

“Tropical Marginals Continued”

Canna: Cannaceae ‘Canna’, will grow nicely in a pond, but one thing to remember they will get tall and tend to blow over in the wind. Large pots and some weight may help. Canna come in many colors red, yellow, and pink. The foliage can be all green or some come in a dark red/purple or green and white variegation. When cutting the old flower stalk cut just above the new flower bud. Canna are tender perennials and need some winter protection. In the fall cut the flower stalk and store the tuber in a cool dry spot.

(Medium to Tall)

Dichromena ‘Star Grass’, This is a nice sedge plant for the pond that can grow to a foot. On green stalks a white flower is produced and this process is continued throughout the season. I have had trouble keeping this plant through the winter.

(Medium)

Marsilea ‘Water Clover’, This plant is floating, but will stand up a few inches if in shallow water. The leaves are like four leaf clover. Plant in a container. If you plant in a stream it can clog a shallow waterway.

(Short to Floating)

Nymphoides ‘Water Snowflake or Water Fringe’, This floating plant has small heart shaped leaves with white or yellow flowers. Some of the plants have green leaves and others have bronze or purplish colored leaves. The flowers stand above the water an inch or two and some are fringed.

(Floating)

Hymenocallis ‘Spider Lily’, The spider lily grows from a bulb like an amaryllis. The flower is white and stands a foot or two. The bulb must be overwintered in a protected place like the canna. I might suggest starting this plant out of water until the plant starts to show leaf growth then place it in shallow water.

(Medium to Tall)

Thalia dealbata ‘Hardy Water Canna’, This may be a hardy canna, but may not be hardy enough here. This plant can be 2’ to 6’ tall with wide leaves so remember the wind when using this plant. It makes a nice screen at the back of the pond. This plant with its purple stem and flower looks tropical in your pond.

(Tall)