DON BRYNE  
from Suwannee Labs, in Lake City Florida  
Speaker for May 20th Meeting

The CWGS Board is excited to bring you Don Byrne. Don's company, Suwannee Labs, will be shipping 80 tons of water plants this season and some of these plants were a result of Don collecting them from different parts of the world. Most of the plants Don collects and are shipped from his company are tropical.

The title of his presentation is "Ornamental Tropical Water Plants" and after his talk he will entertain questions. His presentation will include slides of water plants he has collected around the world. Some CWGS members know Don because he has organized trips to the Amazon to see and collect seed from the Victoria Lily. I remember Don on my trip to the Amazon as a person knows his plants and is cool under fire. With forty people on two boats there were always problems that fell on Don's shoulders.

**CWGS June 3rd Sale**

Don't check the mailbox for your lily order form this year. We decided that instead of having you preorder from a small select list we will give you the opportunity to choose from a large selection of tropical and hardy lilies at the annual sale on June 3. We will be displaying photos of each lily offered for purchase to assist you in your selections. These select lilies will not be just a living rhizome, but a thriving plant with pads and often buds. These are ready to pot and grow at a cost of only $25. We will have a limited number of viable living rhizomes available for purchase at prices from $5-20 (these are not the "iffy" kind you can buy packaged in dry peat at hardware and discount stores).

Members will have the opportunity to begin shopping at 9 a.m. this year. This is a half an hour earlier than past years. The sale will open to the public at 10 a.m. In addition to the lilies, we will have a great variety of marginal plants. We will have tropical and hardy varieties, and a number of new varieties. This year we will be featuring a small collection of native Colorado wetland plants. Floating and submerged plants also will be available. We hope to have critters - snails, fish and tadpoles or frogs. As container water gardens are "in," we will be offering ornamental small "spitters," containers, pumps and special instruction on how to make your own creation. Nancy Styler will be doing several demonstrations during the day on how to create your special container garden.

Your June edition of "The Water Garden" will have more details on our annual sale you won't want to miss.

**Membership**

If you have not renewed now is the time before the June sale. We hope to see you all at the next meeting and the sale.

**KOI**

If you would like to go to the Rocky Mountain KOI Club Auction it will be at Arapahoe Community College on Saturday May 19 starting at 10:00 A.M.
Thank you,
Thank you to the 22 members who joined the Educational Volunteer Activities at Denver Botanic Gardens on April 8. I hope each of you will return and others will come Sundays each week to work at painting an even more "impressive" Monet water lily garden for 2001.

April's Ponds...Links to Learning Seminar was again a huge success.
The primary complaint from attendees were, "a desire for longer class sessions" and "too many good class choices." We had nine fabulous presentations by excellent speakers. "Thank you" to each of them and to all who assisted with membership, registration and monitoring. If there is anyone who would like to assist with planning next years Seminar please contact me (303) 755-1885.

Cleaning your pond and dividing plants and lilies?
REMEMBER we will cheerfully accept your donations for the Annual Sale on Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Plant donations can be bare root, in pots, in clumps - anyway you wish to provide them. Plant divisions can be easily held for several weeks by placing in a tub of water in the shade. If you have to many fish (any type accept grass carp) and you would like to donate them to the sale, please contact me to make arrangements we would love to have them to adopt out.
The Annual Plant Sale is our primary fund raising activity each year. These funds and your membership allow us to provide great educational presentations at general meetings and support water gardening, research and education at public gardens.
If anyone failed to check the box that they would volunteer for the sale and would like to help please call Cyndie Thomas at (303) 755-1885.

Desperately seeking a volunteer for Membership Committee Chair position.
Nancy Jewett has asked the board to find someone to fill her shoes, Nancy has been Membership Chair for numerous years and is "retiring to spend time with family." Her enthusiastic efforts over the years are, and will continue, to be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Stan Skinger we will have a new data base to work with memberships, volunteers and other record keeping requirements, to be maintained at one location. This will eliminate the "work" for a new Membership Chairperson, as they will not be responsible for the records. what they will need to be available to do is attend meetings, the annual sale and picnic to greet and encourage application for membership. Also, we would like to have someone willing to contact new members to follow-up on volunteer interests. If this is something you feel you would be interested in, please contact me.
Dropsy

Possibly a Cure?

by

John Mirgon

Can we cure Dropsy? Possibly. Maybe even probably, if we know a correct method and what medication is really needed. In this article I'm passing on what I experienced with this fish disease this spring. (March/April 2001)

After the ice melted off this spring, I noticed one of the shubunkins was showing a fairly heavy coat of cotton fungus (columnaris). With my own experience, black fish seem to be more subject to fungus than fish of other colors. The fish that had a heavy coat of black with a bit of red colors mixed in.

I brought the fish in and placed it in a tub and treated with Jungle Pond (Commercial Trademark) Pond Fungus Eliminator on March 4. This product is also supposed to help treat dropsy. Of course, I brought water in with the fish, from the pool, to start the treatment. The water temperature from the pool was 48 degrees. The temperature in the tub then rose to the room temp of 70 degrees over a couple of days time. Then my practice is to change the water completely every other day which is 5 gallons a change. Also the medication is renewed with each water change. During the first hours of treatment the fish is watched rather closely to see when and if it is going to show signs of being ready to eat. Usually this doesn't show until the water temperature has warmed up to like the mid to high 60's. Then I treat with "Tetra Medicated Food" for the treatment of bacterial and fungal diseases. This is a treatment of (Tetracyclino Hydrochloride). The fish was fed with the Tetra medicated food as per prescribed by Tetra.

By March 7 the treatment had started the removal of the fungus coating. Also, the fish was becoming much more alert and active. At this time I noticed that the fish was showing obvious symptoms of dropsy. The scales were standing out quite definite. My thoughts were; "Oh boy, here we go again with another dropsy case and possibly a lost fish." With these treatments I had always place an air stone in the water as I felt it would help the fish.

On the eve of March 9, I left the air stone out of the tank to test my theory. The next morning, March 10 when I checked the fish, it was at the surface to get air. So the airstone is needed and I now will always leave it in when doing the treatment. Also I noticed the dropsy was subsiding some.

The bloat was lessening and the scales weren't standing out quite as much.

March 15 the treatment was reduced with the water change in the morning. At this time the fish appeared to be healthy, but still a slight bit of bloat from the dropsy. At this time the fish is changed from the medicated food to regular fish food.

March 19 the fish appears to be healthy and shows no more bloat from dropsy. From all appearances the fish has returned to full health and is very active. March 20 the fish was placed in a holding tank to be to be observed to be sure the fungus or dropsy does not reoccur.

After the first week in April the fish still seems to be totally treated and ready to be returned to the outside pools. Now taking into consideration to what degree had the dropsy effected the fish - Had the dropsy infected the fish a short time prior to finding it and beginning treatment? Or was it as it appeared, being pretty advanced when noticed. So will this give a clue to the treatment of dropsy? I have no idea, but it did work (it seems) this time. In past years when I treated and worked with fish having this problem and I was never able to cure them. I had used some of the same medications then, as now, but with no results.

Should I have another fish with the dropsy problem (I hope not), I'll go through this again to see if the results are again positive. Of course treatments and water amounts would be variable. Should any other CWGS members have any experiences with these diseases or others, please pass it on to the editor for publication.

The Water Garden
Rob Proctor Energizes CWGS Board

DBG Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor gave an illuminating and inspiring talk at the April CWGS Board of Directors meeting. Rob expanded on the progress at the Gardens as well as the efforts to take the Gardens to the community. This includes display gardens along the South Platte River and at Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

A major event this year is hosting the ABBGA (American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta) in July.

Rob acknowledged the long time support of CWGS and welcomed further participation.

Joe Tomock invited the society to commit to playing a major role in this year’s displays. Assistance is needed in maintaining 81 containers for water plants. Joe asked the society to for water garden donations.

The society volunteers (21 helpers) came out in full force Sunday April 22nd to help divide and repot 257 marginals.

Water Lily Nomenclature Summit #1 Comes to Denver

The first ever water lily nomenclature summit was hosted by DBG and CWGS. Notables in attendance were Piers Trehane from England, Kit Knott from Florida, and Walter Pagels from California. Sessions included DBG’s Registrar of Water Lilies Andrew Doran. Piers Trehane discussed herbarium specimen and plant registration. This was a very special event for all attendees, which include Colorado Water Garden Society, Denver Botanic Gardens and the International Water Lily Society. The next summit has not been announced.

Membership:

Membership for 2001 is 142 (that includes our honorary members).
Family Memberships: 70
Single Memberships: 72
Memberships from our Links for Learning seminar were 32:
Renewals 19
New 13

Financials:

Balance as of 2/28/01 equaled $15,672.33
Deposits $0
Checks ($714.78)
Balance as of 4/1/01 equals $14,957.55
This page will be the Marginals that are sort of a mixed bag. Many of these plants you will recognize because they fit in most pond surroundings.

**“Hardy and not so Hardy Marginals”**

**RUSHES**

PICKEREL RUSH: *(Pontederia)* Will exhibit colors from blue, lavender, white or pink. Pickerel rush will range in the hardiness zones from 3 to 8. This will mean that some used here will be considered tropical. They can grow to a foot to five feet. But, here in Denver not much more than 3’.

*Pontederia cordata* ‘Pickerel Rush’. This is the hardy (zone 3) lavender flowering plant that is best grown in full sun, but can take some shade. Cordata can also come in pink flowers.

(Medium)

*Pontederia cordata* ‘var. alba’, This is the same looking plant, but has a white flower. This plant is not as hardy (zone 6) and doesn’t grow as tall as the lavender.

(Small to Medium)

*Pontederia lanceolata & Pontederia dilatata* ‘Tropical’, These plants come in the same colors as *cordata*, but the plant is tropical (zone 8). These plants tend to get larger than *cordata*, but with our short growing season they may not attain the 3’ to 5’ as advertised.

(Tall)

HORSETAIL: *(Equisetum)* Known for it’s segmented or jointed stems this is a very nice plant for the pond. This plant would rather have it’s feet damp not wet and it can take some shade. *Equisetum hyemale* ‘Horsetail’, the plant can get to 3’, but normally is 2’ here in Denver. The plant is hardy to (zone 5).

(Medium)

*Equisetum scirpioides* ‘Dwarf Horsetail’, a smaller version of hyemale (6” to 8”) and the segments are not as well defined.

(Small)

SPIKED RUSH: *(Eleocharis)*: Within the family of spiked rush is Chinese Water Chestnut and as you may suspect the tubers are edible. *Eleocharis montevidensis* ‘Spiked Rush’ A small attractive plant with small brown tufts in the summer. This is a hardy (zone 4) plant that can take some shade, but likes full sun.

(Small)

*Eleocharis tuberosa* ‘Chinese Water Chestnut’ A small well formed plant. I found two references to hardiness and one was tropical (zone 8) the other hardy (zone 2) so take you pick?

(Small)

*Eleocharis quadrangulata* ‘A miniature rush’ This is a small rush of only 2-4’ with a square stem and a zone of 7.

**Baumea rubriglossa** ‘Variegated Striped Rush’ This is a tropical in a zone 8 so it must become an indoor plant for the winter. Can get to 2’ tall and will take full sun to part shade.

**Butomus umbellatus** ‘Flowering Rush’ A foot or two plant that has pink flowers, lives in zone 4 and need sun to part shade.