We need your Help! Volunteers!!!

The plant sale is our big money maker for the year and it takes all of us to make it successful. If you can help please call one of us or just show up we can use the help.

Thanks:
Contacts for the sale are:
Cyndie Thomas: 303-755-1885
Bob Hoffman: 303-978-0124
Stan Skinger: 303-237-0071

Schedule of events:

Saturday: June 3rd.
Donations: Delivered to DBG 10:00 to 2:00
Volunteers Help pricing and tagging at DBG 10:00 to 2:00.

Sunday: June 4th.
Volunteers Help to set-up 8:00 to 9:00
Volunteers Shop 9:00 to 9:30
Sale opens to Members Only 9:30 to 10:00
Sale opens to General Public 10:00

Over 2000 Marginals and 60 Lilies have been ordered for this sale. We have a new item called Junior plant tabs for your hard to get to Marginals.
Officers and Committee Chairs for 2000

President
Cyndie Thomas 303 755-1885

Vice President
Stan Skinger 303 237-0071

Secretary
Nancy Jewett 303 671-7964

Treasurer
Mike Gibson 303 986-7895

Programs
Craig Russell 303 443-7877

Members-at-Large
Carla Littlefield 303 399-7946
Bob Hoffman 303 978-0124

Committees:
Membership
Nancy Jewett 303 671-7964
Volunteer Coordinator
Lynn Jewett 303 671-7964
Publicity
Nancy Styler 303 850-7150
Historian
Lois Mayerchak 303 798-1779
Speakers Bureau
Bob Hoffman 303 978-0124
DBG May Plant & Book Sale
Ron Bice 303 427-6323
Lois Mayerchak 303 798-1779
CWGS June Plant Sale
Cyndie Thomas 303 755-1885
Stan Skinger 303 237-0071
Bob Hoffman 303 978-0124
July Pond Tour & Picnic
Craig Russell 303 443-7877

Newsletter Editor
Bob Hoffman 303 978-0124

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Waterline - June 2000

Finally, the growing season has arrived. At least, the plants seem to think so - I hope they know more than the weathermen. Growth seems to be at a very exaggerated rate this year, maybe due to the Zone 7 winter we had. I was lazy at the end of last year and didn't remove all the primrose creeper in the pond and, to my surprise, it has put on new leaves and has several blooms almost ready to open. The Mrs. Perry Slocum Nelumbo has 22 leaves; 14 of them are already aerial. Maybe this will be our lucky year to have a lotus bloom. Even just one will do, I won't be greedy.

Each year it is such a thrill to see which of the lilies will show their color first. Last year N. 'Colorado' provided the first bloom. This year it was N. 'Attraction' that led the race. I often wonder if it is the luck of the draw that decides who goes first. Do they all draw straws and the one who gets the short one has to strain and work to put up that first bloom? They don't have a thought process, but one has to wonder, when they get equal care and sun. The garden is truly the painter's palette, ever changing, with the blending of colors and movement of water and wildlife.

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Cleaned your pond and don't know what to do with all your plant divisions? Just put them in water and save them to donate for the plant sale. Donations will be accepted Saturday, June 3rd from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Morrison Center Building, Denver Botanic Gardens 11th and York St. Our "Members' Corner" plant sale items are an important part of our sale. Don't throw it away, support CWGS and bring it for our sale.

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DON'T MISS IT! CWGS Annual Plant Sale on Sunday, June 4. CWGS members will be able to shop beginning at 9:30 a.m., the public will be allowed in at 10 a.m. As in past years, we will have a variety of hardy and tropical (Nymphaea) lilies, Nelumbo (lotus), and a huge selection of Marginal, Floating and Oxygenating plants. We will have pots, fertilizer, critters and fish (subject to availability). The selection is awesome and most items are below average retail prices.

As a special offering we have invited the various manufacturers to display their pond product lines. Learn about the latest pond liners, pumps and filtering systems. This provides the opportunity to ask questions and learn what products may be of use to you. No items will be available for sale; information on local retailers, which carry products, will be available.

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Volunteers are needed for our June Plant Sale. If you are interested in helping with pricing on Saturday, June 3 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) or set-up and sales on Sunday (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.) contact Bob Hoffman at 303.978.0124.
POND TOUR

This year the CWGS Pond Tour July 9th will be in the Boulder, Broomfield and Superior areas. The picnic will be in the backyard of Paul and Jane Oerter’s starting at 2:30pm. The tour will begin at 10:00am and end at 2:00pm. Seven ponds are on tour with the smallest being 250 gallons and the largest being 20,000 gallons. Remember only the ponds are on tour so plan your breaks at a local restaurant or gas station. Further information on the ponds and locations will be in the July newsletter.

COMING WATER GARDEN EVENTS:


An evening with Monet: DBG is planned on July 28 an evening with Monet. The Gardens would like 8 to 10 CWGS volunteers from 6:00 to 7:30 to answer questions on the Monet watergardens. Period dress is encouraged but not required. Please contact Cyndie Thomas at 303-755-1885 if you would like to participate.

2000 Parade of Ponds: Saturday August 26, 2000 from 9:00 to 5:00. Buy tickets at True Pump, Arapahoe Acres Garden Center, or Tagawa Garden Center for $10 per Adult. The Styler is just one of 20 ponds on the self-guided tour this year. Proceeds to benefit Hudson Gardens.

FINANCIALS:

Previous Balance: $13,768.30
Deposits: $4,764.84
Checks: $762.84
Balance as of 4/2/00: $17,769.96

Whose been sitting on you pad lately? This guy or the big blue heron?

Have you seen this guy in your pond? Check out John Mirgon’s article on Leeches.
Leeches
by
John Mirgon

The most often seen leech by the pool owner is the Helobdella stagnalis or commonly called, fish leech. This one, color wise, is white skin tone. Over the years I've been visited by them off and on. Getting rid of them usually is no easy task. The snail is the common host for the leech.

A method for checking snails in your pond for leeches is to add enough potassium permanganate (available at pet stores) to a small container of water to make it a pinkish color. Drop in the snail and watch for a spell. After a bit the snail will come out of the shell as usual and if a leech is present they will be seen coming out of the snail and leaving it.

Potassium permanganate can make it a bit discomforitng for them and usually it will start them on the move. If strong enough they will succumb with its use. Leeches carry the young on their under side. Quite often one can see them by placing the leech in an aquarium or anything with a flat section of glass. When the leech is moving on the side of the tank where one can see and view it, take a tool such as a knife blade or some other such edged tool, not necessarily sharp, and press the leech with it. Watch closely for if the leech is carrying young they will scatter in every direction. They are extremely small at this stage so look very closely.

This leech really is more of a nuisance to the fish but can be a problem occasionally. Back when I did taxidermy work while mounting fish I'd find damage to the fins where the leech had been attached and destroyed the derma. I never found them in the gills but not saying they won't attack the gills and gill plates.

The large leeches such as Macrobdella decora I have seen occasionally swimming in the ponds in the city of Denver and in ponds around the State. They are fairly good at swimming when they choose.

When in water where a leech takes a liking to you, I'll have to admit, it can be rather difficult to keep your composure. For the larger leech, before it can get well attached, take hold of it and pull loose. The same for the so called fish leech But once in a while one will attach itself pretty well. To detach, try running very warm water over it. If that doesn't make it come loose then hit it with a bit of ammonia. I've never had one to withstand the ammonia treatment.

While on field trips to ponds, carrying ammonia along for "just in case" isn't really too bad of an idea.

Treating a pool with Malachite Green usually will get rid of leeches as well. It is very important to read and be sure instructions for its use are completely understood and followed. Otherwise go another route and use Potassium permanganate. It's use also should be well understood for it too may kill the snails in the pool. If used correctly or by doing possibly light treatments over a number of times, the leeches will die or leave and most snails will survive.

Since leeches are blood suckers raw meat may be placed in a container and placed in the pool to attract the leech and make it so they may be lifted from the pool. To rid a pool this way will require patience and may take considerable time. So don't be in a hurry.

Courtesy: Booklet - Pond Life by George K. Reid, Golden Press
Exotic Aquarium Fishes by William T. Innes
City Park Lily Pond

The Lily Pond at City Park is in the process of being restored. The Department of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with a $38,000 grant from the Colorado Historical Fund is funding the repair of the 80 year old lily pond. The pond replaced an earlier lily pond located at what is now known as the “Sediment Pond” near 17th Avenue. The original pond was established in the 1900s and had stone walls and planters. An elegant brick and wood pergola stood at the edge of the pond, creating a popular backdrop for photographs.

In 1918, the lily collection from the late Rev. John Houghton was given to the city for planting in the pond. The sides of the pond were planted with Moses’ bullrushes, or Egyptian papyrus, catalpa tree and other unique species.

The current pond was designed with some of the same qualities as the original pond. It has two levels connected with a small waterfall. The upper pond is made of concrete, ringed with formal stone walls. It flows into a lower pool which has a more naturalized edge of rocks interspersed with planting beds and an earthen floor. It was once lush with lily pads and other water plants but it was abandoned in the 1970s when maintenance funds were in short supply. Since then the stone walls and planters had fallen into disrepair and the water system serving pond was antiquated and not functioning.

The pond is part of the larger waterway that flows through the park called the DeBoer Waterway which begins at the Box Canyon feature designed to represent a mountain waterfall and stream. The waterway was constructed in the 1950s as part of the original Denver Botanical Gardens development. Approximately 100 acres of City Park was set aside for the Botanic Gardens and designed by noted Denver landscape architect S.R. DeBoer. The master plan contained a rose garden, an evergreen garden, lilac lane and collection of ferns and a typical mountain garden with a canyon (Most of these elements still exist in the park today). The waterway connected the Lily Pond into the overall development of the Botanical Gardens. In 1956, the botanic garden foundation chose to leave the park and develop a new Botanical Garden at the current location at 9th and York Streets.

The Parks Department is restoring the entire waterway by combining grants, private funding, volunteers and city maintenance funding. A new water pump system was completed last spring for the waterway which supplies the pond with recirculating water pumped from the lake. This month a volunteer effort was completed at the Box Canyon to add new rocks, install new trails and planting of over 100 trees and shrubs.

Last fall, the stone structures at the pond were repaired. Stones were replaced, and walls repointed and patched. This spring the pond was filled with water and is flowing nicely through the two ponds. The Denver Botanic Gardens will provide water lilies for the cement pond. The next step is to plan the permanent plantings. If you would like to be on the Planning Committee please contact Helen Kuykendall at 303-964-2478 at city park.

At the completion of this project, the lily pond can again flourish as an attractive feature in the park.