A BIG THANKS TO THIS GUY.
HE IS THE BEST.

Ron Cameron of Ron’s Golden Ponds is pictured with their elaborate water garden display at the 2000 Garden and Home Show last month. The display with five ponds, a stream, cascading waterfall, fish, tropical lilies, plants and extensive landscaping was the CWGS booth volunteers’ clear choice for the “favorite garden award”.

We also would like to express our appreciation to Ron and Mary Cameron for providing water plants and the Tropical Cloud “fogger” which complimented the birdbath we displayed at the show. Andy Crews, owner of Mile-Hi Statuary in Denver, donated the sculptured birdbath for our silent auction to be held in April.

Ron’s Golden Ponds will also be assisting with the CWGS display at the Home and Patio Show, March 15-19 at the National Western Complex. Plan to attend. Make sure to check the box “you will assist with shows” on your application. Volunteers gain free admittance.

“March 12” General Meeting to discuss Pond Wildlife - Beyond Birds and Butterflies

Pond Wildlife - Beyond Birds and Butterflies will give pond keepers a closer look at the predator animals that invade their tranquil habitats.

Water is a life sustaining need for all living things and attracts many of the beautiful living creatures. The birds, butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies visit and provide endless hours of viewing fun. With the balance of nature we also see that a pond attracts herons, raccoons, fox, skunks, deer, and even the mountain lion, depending on your location.

Although the animals are of minimal threat to man, they are a potential threat to pets, the pond inhabitants and plants. Learn about these predators and the many ways to minimize their impacts when they visit your pond.

Pat Dorsey, currently, Special Projects Coordinator with the Education Section of the Colorado Division of Wildlife will share her expertise on urban wildlife. Pat was Manager of Boulder County’s Colorado Division of Wildlife for nine years, providing her with a great deal of experience with wildlife problems in the urban environment.

The March general membership meeting of CWGS will be held in Classroom B, at the Denver Botanic Gardens, 1009 York St., 2:00 p.m.
A survey taken of members last year showed an overwhelming desire for an additional general meeting each year. It was decided an early start on the season would best serve the members, so March 12 was added. Our program Chair, Craig Russell has been hard at work setting up some very special programs and speakers for members. Our focus is to provide educational programs. For our season opener, Pat Dorsey of the Colorado Division of Wildlife will speak about the predator animals that are attracted to the pond. She will be giving some insights to discouraging their feasting on fish, or digging in pots and even doing major damage to liners.

Build it, they will come applies not just to great and late ballplayers being drawn to a playing field in the movie "Field of Dreams," but to the unexpected draw that a pond has to all that nature has to offer, even the not so desirable. It took eight years for a raccoon and a skunk to find our ponds. The raccoon this last summer feasted for a couple of nights on escargot, which were few and far between. Yet the odor from ripened grapes brought him back nightly for over two weeks until he picked the vines clean. The skunk appeared one morning at 6 a.m. as I let our small dog out. Imagine my surprise when I looked out to let the dog back in and saw this black and white animal just about the same size as our dog. Taking a quick second look, believe it or not it just stood 15 feet from me looking at the dog, I then realized it was a skunk. I rushed out on the deck, swooped up the dog and ran back into the house. I don't know if our dog was just slow, plain chicken or maybe smarter than I give credit for, she didn't seem to know it was there. At least I didn't have to find a way to remove a nearly permanent scent. Our skunk visited late in the summer, presumably to look for a winter home. A little discouragement kept him from settling in.

I never thought wildlife would be able to move so freely over or under six foot fences. I really didn't think they would venture so deeply within a developed area. I have since learned these critters live in the inner city, they have adapted, now we have to find a middle ground for coexistence.

Plan on joining us for a program that should be enlightening to all.

**LOTUS SALE**
Watch your mailboxes for our annual Lotus sale flyer that should arrive mid-March. We'll be offering a number of varieties again this year, including the miniatures. Prices will remain at $25 each. Delivery will be at our April 9 meeting.

**DGB May Sale**
A replacement is needed for Ron Bice and Lois Mayerchak. This is their last year and it would be nice if a volunteer could work with them and continue on next year. Please contact Ron at 303 427-6323. Thanks.
A Water Garden Keepsake!!!
It is exciting, a treasure and something you will want to keep.

This year your board has set aside some money to print some color pages.

Why you might ask? We have plans to include in most newsletter issues a center page that will describe four water plants. Each water plant will be one that is known as a good plant for this area. This year we will start out with water lilies, as you might have guessed. Sometime in the year we will also include a color page with each of the lilies described in the previous issues.

We hope that each of you will start your own water garden keepsake. As you might imagine these pages will be in high demand, but unless your are a member they will not be available. Future members will be able to buy back issues at cost, but as current members you will get all issues free just for being a member.

Your board is excited about this keepsake and we hope that you as members will also be happy to have these valuable pages.

Watch for your next newsletters.

Do You Have A Newsletter Comment, Article or Would Like To Help?
Your gracious comments will be accepted with a smile. Other comments will be taken under advisement. All comments to this newsletter should be addressed to the editor. My E-Mail is bhoffman@gateway.net or call me at 303-978-0124. Anyone interested in helping with this newsletter may also contact me.

Thanks Bob.

Silent Auction:
Throughout the afternoon, at our April meeting attendees will have the opportunity to bid on a variety of water garden related items at a silent auction. Items will be displayed in the foyer of the Morrison Center, with information on the contributor, retail value and the minimum bid allowed.

Big Things Happening in April!!!

Ponds . . . Links to Learning Seminar

Are you looking for information on how to add container water gardens for accent? Want to know what plants do well in Colorado water gardens? How water gardening began? Do you want to know how many lilies exist today and what their percentage may be? Answers, to these questions and nearly any question you may have on water gardening, will be available at the April 9, 2000 Ponds . . . Links to Learning Seminar sponsored by CWGS.

Class offerings will include:

Session A - 12:00 - 12:50
Basics of pond planning and construction
Water gardening on the Internet
Container water gardening / Bog gardens

Session B - 1:05 - 1:55
History and evolution of water gardening and the water lily
Filtration - Biological, Mechanical, and Plants

Session C - 2:10 - 3:00
Pond Fish
Plants and propagation
Tropical Lilies and Lotus

Session D - 3:15 - 4:00
The final session of the seminar will offer attendees an additional opportunity for asking a question with all instructors/experts on hand with answers.

Registration for the seminar will begin at 11 a.m. at the Morrison Center Building at Denver Botanic Gardens (11th and York St., Southeast corner); classes will begin at 12 noon. The classes will be free for members and $10.00 (materials fee) for non-members. Memberships may be purchased at registration. Membership is $10 for an individual or $15 for a family.
Spring Pond Clean Up  
By Cyndie Thomas

It is a sure sign Spring has made its return to the pond with the shimmer of sun on the water, lily pads striving to reach the surface, fish seemingly playing tag and birds making their regular visits several times a day.

Water gardening is less time intensive than many other types of gardening, but like all other types, maintenance is a must. Maintenance in spring (as early as you can stand the cold water) plays an important role in general pond health. Even the best-balanced ponds experience some algae until plants begin growth to provide shade and take up nutrients in the water. A little effort now can decrease water “greening” that may be unhealthy to pond life and just plain unsightly.

Using a pump or siphon, remove 20-30% of the pond water. Move potted plants from the pond to a shady area. Try not to stir up dirt and debris any more than necessary so the pond bottom remains visible. Using a fine mesh net, scoop along the bottom and edges to remove leaves, debris and dirt that have blown and fallen into the pond, creating a layer of muck. Remove as much of this decaying organic matter as possible, as this contributes to the growth of algae and deprives fish of needed oxygen. Leave the moss-like algae growth on the pond sides, as this has beneficial microorganisms that help balance the pond ecosystem. Remove any excess “string” or filamentous algae growing in the pond.

Inspect mechanical equipment such as pumps, cords, filters, and tubing for damage or wear: clean and replace as needed. Assess the condition of the liner or preformed pond for possible deterioration from sun or punctures. Check the electric circuit and make sure the GFI (ground fault interrupter) is working properly. If all is well, refilling the pond can commence. Water should be trickled in from the garden hose; this will decrease any rapid temperature change that could affect fish. A dechlorinator and chloramine remover should be used at the rate specified.

Check hardy marginal (bog) plants, trim away any remaining dead foliage, divide and repot as needed. Heavy garden soil should be used to pot all water plants. Potting soil, compost, vermiculite, or perlite should not be used, as they float out and foul the water.

Hardy lilies that have grown out of their pots should be repotted. (See how on Page 5) Remove dirt from the rhizome and roots by flushing with water. Using a sharp knife on a hard surface, cut off any brown and black roots and rotted (mushy) areas from the rhizome. Separate side growth “eyes” from the primary rhizome for propagation. Hardy lilies grow horizontally and should be placed against one side of the pot at a forty-five-degree angle, with the growth tip (crown) above the soil so it has room to grow across the pot.

Fertilize marginal plants now and every 5-7 weeks through the growing season. Lilies should also be fertilized now and every 3-4 weeks, until early August. Tablet or pellet fertilizer for aquatic plants is recommended. These products provide a slow release of nutrients that plants can absorb. Plants can now be returned to their growing spots in the pond.

When pond refilling is completed, filtration and circulation can be started. If a waterfall or stream is included in the circulation, watch the pond water level for several days. If the water level drops, it is likely that ground freezing and thawing has created a problem that allows water leakage.

Tropical water plants can be placed in the pond when day temperatures near 70 degrees and night temperatures do not drop below 50 degrees, usually the middle of June.

Combining these procedures with an adequate balance of water plants will allow for your enjoyment of a healthy, beautiful pond for the growing season.
**Hardy Water Lily**

**Step-by-Step Transplanting:**

1. Fill a two-gallon or larger pot with regular garden soil. Firmly pack soil. Place rhizome of lily with cut end at the pot edge and crown of plant toward the center of pot. Place in the soil at an approximately 45-degree angle.

2. Add dirt to cover the lower section on the rhizome. Leave the crown above soil level. Firm dirt into place.

3. Place 2-3 aquatic fertilizer tablets about two inches from rhizome and push down into the soil about one-half the depth of the soil. Fill depressions with soil. If desired, pea gravel can be put on top of soil to discourage fish from digging in the dirt.

4. Lower slowly into the pond. To encourage early growth, submerge in shallow water then move to a depth of 10-18 inches.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2000**

ALL CWGS memberships expired December 31! Now is the time to renew your membership for 2000, so you can continue to receive the Newsletter, and receive information on the planned activities for 2000. Wonder if you have already paid for 2000? Check the mailing label on this Newsletter! If it has 99, you need to renew; if it has 00 you are paid for 2000.

Any questions call Nancy Jewett @ 303 671-7964.

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**NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

In January the Colorado Water Garden Society web site moved to a new URL:

www.colowatergardensociety.org

At our new address we have an all new look. In addition to a new design, we have a page with all our meeting dates, in-depth program information, membership application and a comprehensive "Pool of Knowledge."

When you drop by make sure to join our e-mail discussion list.
March Doings:

Echter's Garden Fair:
March 3-5th
Times:  Fri. 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm
      Sat. 10:00 am to 5:30 pm
      Sun. 10:00am to 4:30 pm
CWGS will be manning a booth at
this fair.

Home and Patio Show
March 15-19th
Times: Wed. 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm
      Th/Fri. 12:00 am to 9:00
      Sat. 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
      Sun. 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
CWGS will be manning a booth at
this show.

Hudson Gardens Classes
Aspects of Water Gardening
Instructor: Keith Staples
Thursday March 9, 16, 23, & 30
6:30-8:00 pm. Cost $56 Members
$44 Non-Members
Info: 303-797-8565

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER!!!

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences to CWGS members Mary
Shaver, whose husband recently passed
away; to Al Mayer, whose wife recently
passed away; and to Nancy Jewett, whose
mother recently passed away.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy 80th birthday to long time CWGS
member Al Mayer.

PERRY SLOCUM
Perry Slocum, legendary waterlily and
lotus hybridizer, and long time CWGS
member, fell and broke his hip recently. If
you would like to help cheer him up
during his recovery, cards and letters can
be sent to: Perry Slocum, 950 Ave. S, SE,
Winter Haven, FL 33880.

Financials:
12/31/99 Balance: $14869.82
Deposits: $0
Checks: $244.97
Balance as of 1/31/00
$14,624.85

The Colorado Water Garden Society
Speakers Bureau

Your board has decided to start a CWGS Speakers Bureau. Throughout the year
CWGS is asked to suggest speakers for different events. If you would like to be a
speaker please contact Bob Hoffman at 303 978-0124. Also, if you have been ask
to be a speaker for a given function please let Bob know. We will try to give you
publicity in at least this newsletter. The following are some guidelines for the
Speakers Bureau.

Guidelines

1. Speakers will be volunteers from the CWGS.

2. Speakers should have a minimum of one year as an active CWGS member.

3. Speakers should be able to talk for up to one hour and be able to shorten your
talk if necessary on one or more of the following topics:

   a. Water Gardening - General
   b. Water Gardening - Hardy and/or Tropical Lilies
   c. Water Gardening - Marginal Plants
   d. Water Gardening - Bog Plants
   e. Water Gardening - Plant Division
   f. Water Gardening - Pond Construction - Liner or Prefab only unless you have
      experience in fiber grass or concrete construction.
   g. Water Garden - Fish and/or Animal maintenance.
   h. Water Garden - Special Interest (i.e. Victoria lilies, Lotus, etc.)

4. Speakers will be selected on an as available basis for the topic requested.
Also, the speaker will be selected from the area of the engagement when
possible.

5. If a speaker is contacted directly by an establishment to speak on one or
more of the topics above the speaker should contact the CWGS Speaker
Bureau coordinator. CWGS would like to know how many engagements
are being made each year and to pass on any current news or assistance on
your subject.

6. Any expenses (i.e. travel, meals etc.) will be borne by the speaker.

7. Any stipends offered will belong to the speaker.

8. Most engagement will be planned well ahead of time to allow for news
coverage, but spur of the moment engagements can be expected.

9. If you need any assistance or can't make an appointment please contact the
CWGS Speaker Bureau coordinator.