“May 21” General Meeting!!!

Note: Because of Mothers Day We Meet the Third Sunday In May

Our speaker this month is well known to most of the members of CWGS. Nancy Styler is a well-informed speaker on many subjects of water gardening. She is well known for her work with the Victoria Water Lily. This month Nancy is going to provide us with a presentation on the History of Water Gardening.

Nancy will relate the global heritage of the water lilies from its very early beginnings to the modern hybridizing methods used today. She will also relate the early historical activities or water gardening here in Colorado. As most of you know CWGS was the first official water garden society established here in the USA. The founders of CWGS helped establish many other societies all over the globe.

Much of the work the society does today benefits not only local parks and gardens, but many overseas gardens receive water plants from the Denver Botanic Gardens. These plants are propagated and maintained by members of CWGS.

We are very fortunate to have Nancy talk to us about these subjects and many more.

Colorado Water Garden Society
2000 Plant Sale
Sunday, June 4, 2000
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (or when sold out)
Morrison Center Building
Denver Botanic Gardens
SE corner at 11th and York St.

- Lilies (hardy & tropical)
- Plants (hardy & tropical)
- Lotus
- Pots
- Critters
- Fish
- Fertilizer

This is the one you have been waiting for.
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

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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
Crag Russell 303 443-7877

Newsletter Editor
Bob Hoffman 303 978-0124

The Water Garden

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Waterline - May 2000

The Ponds - Links to Learning Seminar was a tremendous success due to the invaluable efforts of all our volunteers. A special thank you to those individuals who organized and publicized the event, taught our classes, handled registration and membership, assisted with setup and provided audio-visual equipment. Without you it could not have happened!

Welcome to the many new members who joined CWGS at the seminar. You are in for a fun learning opportunity. Our programs are educationally oriented to provide you with assistance to enjoy successful water gardening. Many of our volunteer activities offer hands-on learning opportunities. Our plant sale in June provides the largest selection of water plants available for sale anywhere at extremely reasonable prices. Our annual Pond Tour/Picnic in July provides an exciting opportunity to see other members' ponds. A great opportunity to get ideas of how to plan your second, third or fourth pond.

Our silent auction was a huge success. It raised $1200 for our education fund. I would like to express thanks to Sandy Duncanson for her donation of two beautiful stained glass lilies; Henri Studios, Inc. for their Create-A-Pond Kit; Nick's Garden Center for The Master Book of Water Gardens by Phillip Swindell; Mile-Hi Statuary for the bird bath; Nancy Styler for the handmade Lily Note Cards, Victoria Conservancy for the Victoria seedlings; Ron's Golden Ponds for the complete Beckett Pond Kit; Duval and Koenig for the Little Giant Pond Light Kit; Andria Thomas for the handmade Beady Bubbles; Jim Wullschleger, for the Aquamat; True Pump for the oil-less 1950 gph pump; Aquademic for the Fountain and Statuary pump; Highland's Garden Center for the Beckett Patio Pond Kit; Tetra for the Luftpump, Fish Food, Pond Test Kit, two books; and Water Gardening Magazine for their one, two and three year subscriptions. Thank you all, for your support.

IF YOU THOUGHT LAST MONTH WAS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER YOU GOT ONE MORE CHANCE TO RENEW, BUT THIS IS IT.

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.
Scavenger of the Pool

by

John B. Kirgon

One scavenger that can be found in any ornamental garden pool is the snail. The old sayings and writings make claims that they help to keep the pools clean and tidy. Another "old" idea is that the snail helps to keep water staying sweet. I'm afraid I would question all of the claims just a bit. They do eat some algae and fish offal, scraps of food, and the dead fish that may sink to the pool bottom unnoticed. Snails can help us in understanding what is going on in the pool, primarily the health of the pool. Snails are a living meter, that most often will react drastic chemical change taking place in the pool. The water becoming slightly acid will cause the snails shell to become pitted and scored, though healthy for the fish. This is general indication the pool is healthy. Though extremely acid water is dangerous to fish and will kill the snails.

Snails clinging to the surface rim of the pool for long as a day, may mean the water is out of balance. If in checking the water you find it is foul, change it. Should the water not be cloudy and have no odor, the snails could be objecting to an exceptionally high oxygen content or high acidity. Neither will be dangerous to the fish.

Now, just a few tid bits about snails. Snails are a shell-bearing gastropod mollusk living in sea and fresh water and even some on land. The majority belong to two orders, Pulmonata and Prosobranchia. The majority of land and fresh water snails are hermaphrodites, sea snails, the sexes are often separated. In general most snails lay eggs but in certain species the young are born alive. Snails are anything a 16th of an inch to two feet long. What we are writing about here are the general pool snails and so, no -- two footers.

Species and Varieties

African Paper Shell Snail. This is a pretty formed snail of medium size, somewhat flattened shape, with attractive brown markings on a horn-colored background. One of the better ones, this one is a good scavenger and one that won't attach the aquatic plants. For those wishing to breed snails, include this one, as it is quite useful. Every time the pool is cleaned empty shells will be found of this species, for it comparatively short lived.

Australian Red Snail. One of the smaller species, with a conch-shaped shell, bright orange-red. Very useful, of average hardness, and reproduces in the pool without special conditions.

Japanese Snail. Also called Great Japanese Snail, and Trapdoor Snail. One of the largest and one of the best scavengers. It often grows to the size of a golf ball, is very hardy and has a long life. The pea-sized progeny are born alive, too big for fish to eat.

Potomac Snails. Resembles the Japanese Snail, except for three brown stripes running parallel to the spiral of the shell. It is sometimes sold as the Japanese Snail, but is far inferior. Practically inactive, and does little good.

Limpet. Small snail about the size of a match head, with flat semi transparent shell, rather attractive. Turns up occasionally in pools and sometimes in considerable numbers, having apparently gotten there as a stowaway on some newly purchased aquatic plant. This one is not only harmless but useless.

Pond Snail. This small snail is hardly as large as the end of a little finger. Easily identified because the spiral of the shell is the reverse of most other snails, might be called "the snail with the left-hand thread". Breeds prolifically, and the hard shells of the very young protect them from fish. Called the best of all the scavengers, it is a busy and thorough feeder. The small size enables it to move easily among the more slender plant stems in search of algae, feeding locations that other snails are usually too large and too heavy for.

Red Ramshorn. Also called Coral Snail, Copenhagen Red Snail. An excellent scavenger with a large, flattened, orange-red shell shaped like the horn for which it is named. Does quite well in pools, where it can be seen. Considered the most handsome snail.
Black Ramshorn. Black-shelled, medium sized snail, similar in shape to the Red Ramshorn and just as good a scavenger. Common in European water gardens but scarce in the United States.

White Ramshorn. Similar to the Black Ramshorn, but with a white shell. Common in Europe but rare in the United States.

On an average, snails are seldom culprits of eating the aquatic plant life in the pools. Many, at times, may be seen feeding on the edge of a leaf or pad that has started to die away material wise. This is normal and one of their given jobs by the creator. BUT! Some snails will get carried away with the job and some will attack the plants and this will have to brought under control in a hurry. The snail, Lymnaea stagnalis (Giant Pond Snail). It is thin shelled to 2.5 inches and has a very pointed shell end), by all means needs to be avoided. It will feed on and eat away aquatic plants rather quickly.

Should the snail population get carried away, and it will, floating lettuce leaves and other soft plant materials on the waters surface will attract them and one can then lift them out and dispose of them. Watch for flat jelly-like strips on pots and plants. Keep as much as possible of these eggs cleaned from the plants. Clean all now plants of eggs before placing in the pond. I have, at times, found eggs so thick on a plant parts, that the whole thing needed to be disposed of. Nip the pad at the base of the petiole (stem) and if on the peduncle or flower, treat the same. Any part of either will only remain on the plant base and rot. So try to avoid dead plant material in the pool when possible.

To clean the plants of snail eggs, use the thumb nail and gently slide or push under the jelly-like material holding the eggs detaching it, then throwing away. Once plants and pools are established, snails for the most part are tolerated. To a point.

Sources:
Colliers Encyclopedia
Goldfish Pools Water-Lilies and Tropical Fishes by Dr. C.L. Thomas, Jr.
Ponds and Water Gardens by Bill Heritage
Pond Life by George K. Reid - Golden Press