

Colorado Water Garden Society
c/o Newsletter Editor
1023 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, Colorado 80017



First Class Mail

Coming in 2005!!

- **April 1-3** - Denver Flower & Landscaping Show & Sale, Colorado Convention Center
- **April 23** - 'Ponds: Links to Learning', 9 am-5 pm, 2001 E. 58th Ave., Denver
- **May 15**, 'Above-Ground Water Gardens', 2-4 pm, Morrison Center, DBG
- **June 11** - Tropical Lily/ Marginal Plant Swap and Sale, 9 am 'til Gone, 2001 E. 58th Ave., Denver
- **July 31** - Annual CWGS Pond Tour, map & details later
- **Mid-August** - CWGS Water Garden Spectacular at DBG
- **September 11**, 2-4 pm, Morrison Center, DBG, program to be announced
- **December 3** - Holiday Party, Morrison Center, DBG

CWGS will be at the



FREE Ticket enclosed!



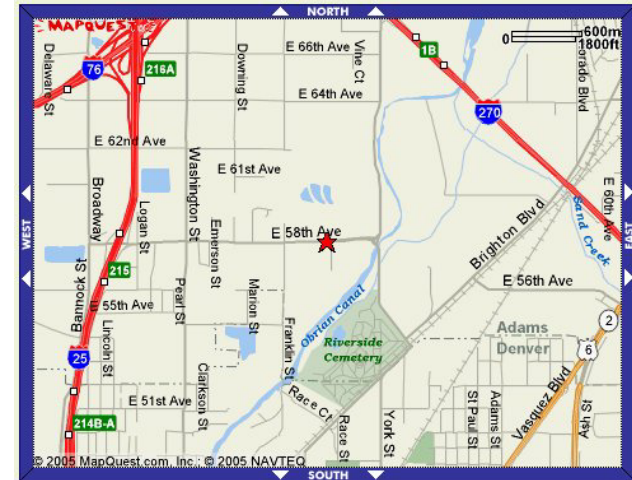
The Water Garden

Volume 22 Number 2

April 2005

'Ponds..Links to Learning' returns

Learn from the experts at the Colorado Water Garden Society sponsored seminars to be presented at **'Ponds . . . Links to Learning'** on Saturday, April 23, 9 am – 5 pm at 2001 E. 58th Ave. (one mile east of I-25). Complementing the seminars, a limited selection of plants, pots, mosquito bits, and aquatic fertilizer will be available for purchase. Demonstrations on planting waterlilies, marginal plants and lotus will be conducted throughout the day.



Seminar Schedule

- 10 am – 11 am**
Water Gardening Basics
- 11 am – 12 pm**
Pond Plants and Planting Your Pond
- 1 pm – 2 pm**
Pond Fish – Selection and Care
- 2 pm – 3 pm**
Carnivorous Plants for the Bog Garden
- 3 pm - 4 pm**
Container Gardens & Fountains

Official Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society

CWGS will be at the



Colorado Convention Center Booth #1265

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<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>



Colorado Water Garden Society

Welcome to CWGS!!

Renewing Members

Mo Belisle, Denver
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Gary & Judith Reid, Boulder
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James & Marilyn Wilson, Denver

New Members

Deanna Hickman

Express Membership Application

Membership Fees: \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family
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Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;
DO NOT send cash; Check or Money Order only, please. Thank you.

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100 Glencoe St.
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(Please Print)

Name(s) _____

Street _____

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Home Phone () _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Pond Experience (Beginner) _____ (Some Skill) _____ (Pro) _____

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:

Flower & Plant Show (April) _____ Plant Societies, Hudson Gardens (April) _____

Plant Exchange/Sale (June) _____ Water Garden Spectacular (August) _____

Pond Tour (July) _____ Holiday Party (Dec.) _____ DBG Volunteer _____

Japanese Gardening 101 - Part 1

by Michael Thomas

Source: *Creating Japanese Gardens*, Alvin Horton, Meredith Books, Ortho All About Series, 2003

Over the centuries, the Japanese have developed a gardening style that has provided inspiration to gardeners the world over. Found in all sizes, and based in practicality, Japanese gardens provide tranquil sanctuaries from which to contemplate nature, including plants, animals, AND human beings.

In the earliest history of Japanese gardens, the garden itself was “sacred,” and was separated from the “profane” world outside by stones, a straw rope, or a fence of some kind. To this day, serenity comes from the collaboration of art and nature in the garden. In other words, a garden is a “work of art that celebrates nature by capturing its essence.”

The garden responds to many natural influences, among them space and form, the

landscape itself, the sky above it, the sea around it, and stones, plants and streams within it. It is also a response to time, the shifting light during the day, the changing seasons, and to people, who create and behold the garden as part of nature.

The landscape of Japan itself is distinctive, with its coastline dotted by numerous islands, huge rock formations, and cliffs and crags rising suddenly into the air. The wind shapes the trees, while the interior is covered with steep mountain ranges blanketed by forests, yet broken by rivers, streams, and fields.

Japanese gardens were originally influenced by the picture-perfect landscapes of China, but a Japanese garden suggests a complete, cohesive landscape, unified by the subtlest of patterns and forms. Successful Japanese gardeners are practiced observers of nature and all that it holds. We will examine those skills in future issues and, you, too, may become “one with nature.”

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Up and Running – You and Your Pond!

by Jim Arneill, Member-at-Large

Who needs to join a health club when you have a beautiful pond in your yard to take care of? Fortunately, there are ways to stay on top of what needs doing so that the necessary tasks aren't too demanding and physically draining. Again, planning what needs to take place, perhaps with the use of a calendar, can assist you in getting your pond up and running.

Each pond is different in terms of what tasks need to take place each spring, but there is generally common ground in the following areas:

- Pond Structure
- Mechanics (pumps, filters, etc.)
- Water Quality
- Plants (e.g. dividing, repotting)
- Fish

When you accomplish each task will depend on your own schedule, as well as the weather and corresponding temperatures. It is often helpful to be aware of what needs to be done first, and then start finding those warmer, pleasant Colorado days to plug away at what makes sense. Making a list of the tasks and having the additional satisfaction of checking them off as you complete them can be very pleasing and reinforcing.

Pond Structure

Over the winter, some of your rocks or other features around your pond may have moved out of place and need adjusting. Taking part of an afternoon and walking around your pond to inspect it is a useful initial step. Besides possibly repositioning objects, this is a great time to make sure you don't have any leaks in your liner or spills from your waterfall or other water features. Beyond the normal drop in water level due to evaporation, most water loss is from

waterfalls, so they should be checked first. You may want to run a large aquarium pump in your pond to help your fish, and then turn off your waterfall to see if the water level drops as quickly.

As we approach another season of possibly high water rates, it is very important not to waste any additional water beyond normal evaporation. Also, water gardeners often pride themselves on following water conservation principles.

Mechanics

This is also a great time to check the operation of any pumps and filters, especially if they were not running during the winter. Some water gardeners have also installed ultraviolet clarifiers to help minimize algae bloom. Cleaning any pump intakes and filters will improve water clarity and the overall beauty of your pond.

Water Quality

Many ponds experience an algae bloom each spring due to the increase in temperatures and available sunlight. When you see your water turning green or notice bits of string algae, this is normal and any steps taken may depend on its severity and your own tolerance for it. In our pond, we have had some success by adding a barley ball and waiting for the surface of the pond to be covered by the waterlily leaves and other various floating plants.

Making sure your filter is operating efficiently is also important, as is removing any sludge of decaying leaves and other organic matter from the bottom of your pond. We use a small snow shovel to extract much of this debris whose nutrients help feed the algae. Also, adding oxygenating plants such as Hornwort or Anacharis helps with algae control. When temperatures reach about 60 degrees, you can add water hyacinths, which not only help cover

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Up and Running – You and Your Pond!

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the surface of the pond but also filter your pond's water with their extensive root system. In addition, there are non-toxic algaecides you can add to your pond, and some water gardeners dye their water, a practice recently observed at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Water gardening experts also recommend testing your water for pH, ammonia, and nitrates, and making any adjustments as needed. Many suggest having a dechlorinator on hand, especially if you have to add a lot of water.

Plants

Getting your plants ready for your pond may be the most strenuous task of all, but also the most gratifying. So pull up those sleeves and get an early start on a beautiful Colorado spring day! All winter your hardy plants may have been resting on the bottom of your ponds, and now is the time to bring them up and set them just below the surface.

By taking all of your pots out of your pond first, you have the opportunity to clean off the accumulated sludge at the bottom of your pond and divide your waterlilies and other plants so they can grow and bloom successfully all season long. It depends somewhat on the size of the pot, but lilies generally do best when there is one plant per pot. The leaves will grow larger, and flowers will appear more frequently.

Lilies should be divided approximately every 2-3 years; just using common sense by evaluating the size of the plant in relation to the pot is the best guideline. Some plants will need to be cut with a sharp knife or other tool, while others may just be placed intact in a larger pot with additional soil added.

Don't forget to allow enough room for your lilies to spread out when you place them in your pond. The general guideline depth is approximately 18 inches, although you may want to bring them to 3-4 inches from the water's surface initially since the water is warmer there. After several leaves appear, you may wish to gradually lower them to their regular depth. Don't forget to wait until the water temperature, as measured from mid-depth level, is approximately 70 degrees before adding your tropical plants.

Lilies, lotuses, and marginals also will get off to a great start by adding fertilizer tablets to their pots. Follow the directions provided by the fertilizer manufacturer. Generally, that means fertilizing your plants 1-2 times a month during the growing season.

Fish

The fish in your pond, especially goldfish, are generally very hardy, but there are certain guidelines when to begin feeding them. Feeding your fish before the water temperature reaches 50 degrees is harmful because their metabolism is still slowed by the colder water and they are unable to digest food. When the water temperature reaches 50 to 60 degrees, you may start feeding them a high carbohydrate food, and then change to a high protein food as soon as the water temperatures climb above 60 degrees. Be careful not to overfeed them and only feed them an amount they can immediately eat.

All of the above steps involve time and effort, but being aware of what tasks need accomplishing and spreading them out over time on pleasant days will help keep you from saying, "Whose idea was this pond, anyway?" Even so, it won't take long to see all your efforts pay off with the myriad of colors and textures you will be able to enjoy all season long in your own yard

10 Commandments for Maintaining Optimum Water Quality

1. Know the requirements of the species of fish being kept.
2. Be sure your filter system is adequate for the population and size of your pond.
3. Regularly maintain your filter system.
4. Test water on a regular basis, but especially when starting a new system.
5. Record your test results to determine any trends that may require attention.
6. Do not overfeed or overcrowd your fish.
7. Test water before introducing it into the pond if you aren't sure of the source.
8. Perform partial water changes on a regular basis (25% at the beginning of the season, and again at the end should be sufficient for a well-balanced pond).
9. Be sure any chemical test kit components are fresh and have not expired.
10. Store test kits in a cool, dry place away from pets and children.

Source: The Wardley Corporation



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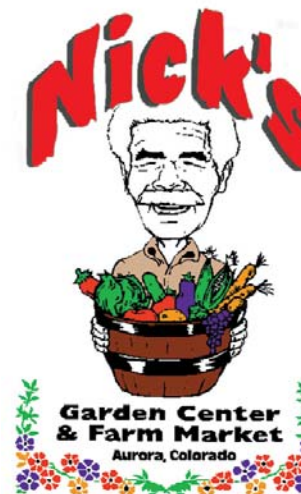
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Plant Swap and Sale June 11 – Don't throw anything away!

This year's plant sale will take on a new flavor. When you do your pond start-up, working to divide and repot waterlilies and marginal plants, make sure you keep the divisions to swap on June 11. Give those "extra plants" special care; the better they look, the more likely they will be to meet the intake group's rules to qualify for swap tickets.

Label your plants with a name (if you know it); if you have a flourishing plant you don't know the name of, bring it to the plant swap

and we'll see if we can help you identify it. Put down any specifics you remember, such as when it flowered (if it did) and the color.

Don't have anything to swap? No problem, we will sell tickets to purchase swap plants and will have a very limited number of special plants available brought in from growers.

This is a fundraiser, so there will be a nominal fee to participate. Watch for more details in the May **Water Garden** newsletter.



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Disease Control in the Water Garden

by John Mirgon


Plants such as the nymphaeas and the nelumbos, for the most part, are fairly free of diseases. Large numbers of plants are being relocated from one part of the world to another. With this large-scale movement, it is a good possibility that somewhere, somehow, a disease is going to be transported. A gardener must be alert should a new one appear.

Insect damage, as well as human damage, can make it possible for some form of disease to enter the plant. This may show up as fungus, bacteria, or virus. Unnecessary damage to the plants should always be a

consideration during the handling process. Sound sanitary practices are always advisable when working with the plants. Running newly-purchased plants through a weak solution of potassium permanganate before potting is usually a good practice, as well.

Two of the earliest fungi problems the gardener will be faced with are leaf spots and Cerosporae. Leaf spots - *Ovularia nymphaerum* - or dark patches show up on the foliage during hot, humid summer weather. These dark patches will rot through and cause the leaf to disintegrate. When it is first noticed, quickly pick the leaves and

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Colorado Convention Center
Friday, April 1, 1 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, April 2, 10 am - 7 pm
Sunday, April 3, 11 am - 5 pm

Adults \$9.50, Seniors 55+ \$8.50
Kids 6-12 \$4.50, Under 5 Free

Disease Control in the Water Garden

Continued from previous page

stems it show up on immediately dispose of them.

Cerosporae, in its various species, will show as leaf spot, as well, and can be quite destructive. The foliage being affected will turn brown, dry at the edges, and then waste away. Again, picking and destroying the leaves and stems is one of the best controls for it. A weak solution of Bordeaux mixture sprayed over the foliage is suggested to check this disease once it has spread.

A water lily root rot is cause by a Pythium species. This shows as leaf and flower stalks becoming soft and blackened, with rotting, smelly, gel-like areas in the roots.

Crown rot will occasionally show up in water lilies as yellowing and dying leaves, with black streaks in the flower and leaf stems. Observe the rhizome and the growing tip(s) will be brown and dead material. It will have a very strong stench, and the roots of the new growth will have turned brown and fall off or pull loose from the rhizome very easily.

Any water lily plant with either of the rots found in them should immediately be destroyed.

Water gardeners should acquaint themselves with the natural and unnatural odors of the nymphaea, and make a habit of smelling them in the potting container any time they are being worked with. Any strong, unnatural smell will usually mean a problem.

Certain viruses are thought to be spread by insects, and these will be noticed as either yellow-green rings with wavy patterns in the leaves, or a deformation of the plant. Destroying the plants is the only solution.

Fasciation will make its presence known by the flower and leaf stems becoming flattened and distorted. The flowers and foliage can become deformed and produced in large numbers. Multi-headed blossoms is common, with the blossom being incomplete and misshapen. This problem is usually found in an individual plant and does not spread to other plants in the pool. When found, a healthy eye or growing tip from the rhizome can be cut away and potted up with no evidence of it showing up in the newly-potted plant.

Bryozoa is not a disease but, rather, an animal. It is seldom seen by the average water gardener. Plumatella is the most common species of so-called moss animals. they colonize on water lily stems or containers, or on the leaves. When found, it will appear as brown moss.

Sponges also form on the underside of lily pads. Depending on the species, sometimes the whole underside of the leaf will be covered. Coloration of the mass will depend on the countless cells of algae present, especially where growth is entwined around the petiole exposed to sunlight. They are generally dark brown, tan, gray, or flesh-colored. Neither Bryozoa or sponges harm the lily, and are best left alone.)

TREASURER'S REPORT
BANK BALANCE
(MARCH, 2005)
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WANTED

As you begin to do your spring clean-up, remember the CWGS Sale/Swap in June. We can use any plants and fish you have decided to dispose of. All plants should be properly labeled. For more information, contact Cyndie Thomas, 303-755-1885.

MarketPlace

Sell anything you want in this space for only \$15 per issue (or \$90 per year), pre-paid. Enclose copy and payment, and send to:
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