The August meeting/cookout will be at Hudson Gardens!

The August CWGS meeting will be held at HUDSON GARDENS. They redid their entrance and now have an address of 6115 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, CO.

The gardens are located 1/2 mile south of Bowles Ave. on Santa Fe. (Those of you who went on the pond tour passed it twice on the Santa Fe leg of the pond tour. It is south of the old Riverfront shopping center and across from Arapahoe Community College. They have just redone the entry and parking.)

THERE IS A CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE and TIME! The General meeting is at 4:00 p.m. and there is a cookout to follow.

The CWGS Board will meet at 3:00 p.m., the General meeting will start at 4:00 p.m., and the GUEST SPEAKER, Anthony Smith, WILL START HIS PRESENTATION on “Algae” AT 4:30 P.M.

A cookout, will be provided free of charge by Hudson Gardens at 5:30 p.m. for all CWGS members as a thank you for our plant donations to them after the June CWGS sale. PLEASE WEAR YOUR CWGS NAME TAGS, for entry into Hudson Gardens. The gate personnel will have directions to the meeting place.

Hudson Gardens is an 80 acre river front site, with views of the Mountains. The gardens began as the dream of the late Evelyn Hudson. In 1941, Evelyn and her husband, King C. Hudson purchased a parcel of land and built a log restaurant that would gain regional and even national acclaim. In addition they cared for the riverbank and the property with an environmental consciousness rarely seen in that era.

Hudson Gardens exists because of the creation of the Hudson Foundation by Evelyn Hudson, prior to her death in 1988. Please join us for the Speaker at 4:00 PM, a cookout and a viewing of the gardens at 5:30 PM.
Remaining CWGS Programs for 1998:
All programs are held at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) unless noted otherwise.

August 9th, Sunday

Meeting Time is 4:00 PM at Hudson Gardens!

*Algae Control* speaker Anthony Smith.

Mr. Smith has a bachelors degree in Aquatic Biology from Virginia Tech. He is a water quality scientist with Quality Water Bio-Systems, Inc. in Broomfield. He works with L. C. Keenan whose article on algae control appeared in the Denver Botanic Garden’s “Mountain, Plain and Garden” Spring, 1997. Come and hear the latest!

We will be meeting at Hudson Gardens, 6115 South Santa Fe Drive (those of you who went on the Pond Tour passed it twice on Santa Fe), Littleton, CO, phone 797-8565, if you need directions. Meeting will be followed by a tour of the gardens and a cookout courtesy of the Hudson Gardens Staff. Meeting at 4:00 PM and cookout at 5:30 PM.

September 13th, Sunday

*Victoria - Amazon Expedition*

Nancy, Trey, and Will Styler and Stan Skinger will describe their adventures in Brazil, searching for Victoria lily seeds and exotic birds.

And Elections!

2 PM in Classroom C.

December 5th, Saturday

Don’t forget we have an election coming up this September

CWGS elections will be held in September. The election will be for Vice-President and Secretary and one Member-at-Large.

We would always like to encourage new blood and ideas into the organization. Please feel free to nominate anyone you choose, who would be willing to hold an office. Let any one of the board members listed on the front of this newsletter know, who you would like to nominate.

Holiday Dinner Party

6 PM in the Morrison Center.

Classrooms are downstairs in DBG’s main building at 1005 York Street. The Morrison Center is on 11th Avenue, between York and Josephine Streets.

Please direct program inquiries to the Program Chair, Carla Littlefield
*phone* (303) 399-7946
*fax* (303) 399-0170
*e-mail* clittlef@compuserve.com.

From House #2 on the Annual CWGS Pond Tour, belonging to Frank & Catherine Senz. They had a great view of the mountains and the greenbelt behind their house. A gazebo was under construction.

CALL Nancy Jewett at 671-7964 for a listing of ponds to visit.

Think about doing a Newsletter? Let Bill Bittman know if you are interested.
The family Loricariidae

By John Miron

One of the things I hear occasionally concerning water gardening that has sprung up somewhat new to some, is the talk of using the Plecostomus fish for algae control in the pool. The Plecostomus plecostomus is one of the catfishes that belongs to the Loricariidae Family.

For those new to water gardening and this fish in particular, hopefully, this will be of some help in your decision to use it or not.

The fish is found in nearly all of South America East of the Andes. In the PBS programs on TV showing the Amazon River region, quite often one will get a glimpse of one in the waters there. Recently watching a program on the Discovery Channel, showing where the waters had receded a Plecostomus was shown, left high and dry.

Now to give you the fish itself. To my knowledge there are four of these fishes in the Loricariidae Family. The Plecostomus plecostomus being one of the best known. The Otoinclus affinis being very popular as well.

To put this fish in the outdoor garden pool, consideration has to be given to the temperatures this fish can handle. If one cannot control or watch the pool temperatures then forget about using this fish. The temperatures required for keeping this fish are 62 to 80 degrees. With this in mind, if you put the fish out, make sure a method is in place for its removal in the fall when temperatures start to drop.

These fish are spiny & armored and so with my own experiences in handling them I found the cotton nets much better then the nylon ones. The spines can get hooked in the nylon nets and sometimes may do injury to the fish. Whereas with the cotton nets, just placing the fish and net in the water usually will allow the fish to swim free.

The Original intent of placing a Plecostomus in a pond is for the fish to clean the pool walls of algae. They can do it and they do a fantastic job. They are most active during the night, The are well equipped for eating algae and they do it industriously. However, my own experience can show there may be a negative result. I have one tank that is 3 feet by 7 feet by 14 inches, growing tropical nymphaeas pretty much year round. Temperature wise this tank normally ranges from 68 to 75 degrees. It sets in the furnace room and so no further heater is needed. The fish cleans the wall of this tank so it is near spotless. So what could be the vegetative result? In the case here when the algae is all gone, next goes the derma on the lily pads. This of course ends up with not only terrible looking pads, right quick, but the end result is rotting and gone. If nothing is done quickly, soon the plant is gone as well.

This is not to discourage anyone wishing to have these fish from getting them. Just to inform the water gardeners considering this fish, what might happen.

I've tried the fish in smaller tanks and tanks of various sizes and after a few days it would make no difference. The algae is gone and soon the lily pads. Of course, I'll point out here that the fish I have is full grown and 10 inches long. Smaller fish may be helpful until somewhat grown. That will be for those trying them to learn and write about to help further the knowledge of the water Gardner.

I did try a small baby Plecostomus after I first wrote this arti-

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cle for the Wabash Valley Water Garden Society newsletter “Reflection”. The fish was approximately three inches in length, total length. Very quickly the young nymphae pads were showing the same results. Almost immediately the derma was sheared from the pads and of course the pad left open to rot.

that it once existed, the stump has been eradicated. The picnic tables are still there, with no shade from the sun. There was a family of rabbits, I disturbed, as I was taking pictures. If you look close you can see three of them around the picnic tables.

Any how, change keeps occurring.

CITY PARK LILY POND

Just as an update on City Park Lily Pond, it was empty, dry as a bone when I drove by and walked in, recently. Construction is suppose to have begun on the waterway that leads up to this feature, but nothing has changed here.

It is kind of sad, after all the work CWGS put into this Pond in the summer of 1996.

There was also another kind of sadness. I am a tree person, and there was a story about the two big elms that sheltered people on the East side of the City Park Lily Pond. I was told by the parks people that the trees were named Mutt and Jeff, like the cartoon characters, because one was tall and the other one was short.

At any rate, when I went to take pictures of the Pond, the short tree is no longer there. There is almost no evidence

SCARECROW

Lois Mayerchak has a problem with Blue Herons.

In her attempt to keep them from eating her fish she has strung filament over her pond and erected an scarecrow to hopefully deter the fish eating pests!

Anyone else have solutions or interesting stories they would like to share, that we might print in the newsletter. I’m sure there have been other folks with critter problems, who have come up with innovative solutions. Please share with the rest of the Society. Mail or e-mail them to me.

my E-mail address is: Ewestbr149@aol.com
Thanks, Ellen
(mailing address is on back of newsletter)
both the side yard driveway that leads to the back shop, as well as the backyard. We turned off the inside lights, and quietly went out on the deck to see what was up. We could see numerous wet foot prints on the brick walkway that crosses between the pond and the shop’s driveway. Then, there were more noses, but this time they were emanating from the side yard driveway in front of the shop.

A large raccoon, most probably the mother, could be seen loping off into the darkness as she had left her three juvenile raccoons to play in the relative safety of our backyard. One of them was standing with his two front paws on the controls of a variac charger I had left outside overnight, and he/she was busy flipping the power switch on and off...click, click, click, click...I’m not kidding! Then he/she tried the big knob on the front of the charger, and spun it back and forth. Then he/she went back to flipping the switch...what amazing hand dexterity these creatures have! One of the others had pulled the power cord out of the recessed 120 vac male receptacle of the charger, and was busy unraveling the rest of the coiled-up power cord. The third prankster was messing around with the charger’s output leads, and was very curious about the big alligator clips on the end of the twin wire cable.

Our presence didn’t seem to bother the terrible trio, and they continued to fidget with the battery charger until they got bored, then they scampered off into the darkness to rejoin their mother. Now, if I could only get them to help me put that big Kostov motor into the Zombie....

by John Wayland
(drawings courtesy of National Wildlife Federation.)