KUDOS TO HUDSON GARDENS!!

by Carla Littlefield, Program Chair

Over 50 CWGS members enjoyed the hospitality of Hudson Gardens for our General meeting on August 9th. In appreciation for our plant donations after the CWGS June Plant Sale, Hudson Gardens rolled out the welcome carpet, gave tours of the lovely gardens, and treated us to a cook-out. Some took the opportunity to stroll around the water gardens and admire the water lilies, lotus, perennials, and bog plants in natural settings. After the business meeting, speaker Anthony Smith, water quality scientist from Quality-Water Biosystems, shared his insights on algae control. The battle against algae now goes beyond the traditional means (aeration, cleaning, water movement, filtration, etc.) to include some biological and chemical approaches. We thank Anthony for broadening our understanding of a frustrating problem.

(Below, some of the folks in attendance at the outdoor lecture)
Remaining CWGS Programs for 1998:
All programs are held at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) unless noted otherwise.

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.

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December 5th, Saturday

*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

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The stamp above was evidently issued last year, I put it in the newsletter now because I just picked it up at the Post Office. According to Mr. Charles Thomas his commercial lily pond gardens in Maryland are named after the above opera star.

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 always encourage new blood and ideas in the organization. Nominations received so far are:

**Member at Large:**
Stan Skinger and Doris Freestone

**Vice President:**
Cyndie Thomas and Patricia "Trish" Schillereff

**Secretary:**
Nancy Jewett

More nominations will be taken from the floor at September meeting!

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.
COME JUDGE THE TEST LILIES

At 1 PM on September 13th, prior to the CWGS business meeting, CWGS members are invited to review and judge the test lilies along the east border of the main pool. Look for Lois Mayerchak who will distribute the scoring sheets and instructions and answer any questions. The test lily program is a cooperative effort between the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Colorado Water Garden Society. Nationally, there are fewer than ten test lily collections which have the distinction of being sponsored and certified by the International Water Lily Society. The sources for the lilies include hybridizers, introducers, nurseries, and other botanic gardens. The program is designed to provide extensive data for hybridizers and water gardening enthusiasts on the growth and development of water lilies at higher elevations. Each year, two or three volunteers from CWGS work under the guidance of aquatic horticulturist, Joe Tomocik, to care for the lilies and record pertinent data. The effort begins in the spring by removing selected lilies from winter storage or accepting new lilies from the sources identified above. Lilies in the 1998 collection include contributions from such notable hybridizers as Michael Duff, Kenneth Landon, Kirk Strawn, Perry Slocum, and Florida Aquatics. Throughout the summer, volunteers work about a half day a week to care for the lilies and record data. Care includes cleaning the plants weekly and fertilizing about every third week with tablets in recommended dosages. The volunteers take notes regarding each plant’s general appearance, amount of growth, bud count, and blossom count. You are invited to participate in the judging of these lilies, following guidelines adapted from the International Water Lily Society. Results will be announced in an upcoming Newsletter.

By Carla Littlefield, Lois Mayerchak, and Joe Tomocik

COME REVIEW AND JUDGE THE LILIES, SEPT 13TH AT 1:00 PM LOOK FOR LOIS MAYERCHAK AT THE EAST EDGE OF THE MAIN POOL (BEFORE THE CWGS MEETING)

This Week in the Garden (as seen in the Denver Post 8/29/98) with permission of the author Marcia Tatroe

When my old garden cat died two springs ago her absence left a predator void which was soon filled with garter snakes of every make and model.

Cats and snakes don’t comfortably coexist—but news traveled fast and now lazy reptiles occupy every flat rock in the garden. Two things happened almost immediately. The slug population declined dramatically and, as you might imagine, this was a welcome change. But unfortunately, garter snakes also eat goldfish. My once over-populated pond was quickly reduced to three very snakewise, well-exercised fish and two very large bullfrog tadpoles.

(Continued on page 4)

Three Texas Dawn lilies
Getting Ornamental pools with Goldfish and Aquatic Plants Ready for Winter  by John Mirgon

The best time to do the big cleanup of your pond is in the fall! If you are going to keep fish in the pool through the winter along with the hardy plants, September is a great time to take care of this chore. Second, give some thought to dividing and repotting your hardy lilies at this time. I like to give my lilies at least four or five weeks to reestablish themselves after I divide them. A few lilies such as James Brydon do better when divided in the spring.

The pond bottom should be thoroughly cleaned, if possible, of muck and fallen leaves. Spreading a net over your pond after you have cleaned it to prevent an additional accumulation of leaves, is helpful. If a water change is needed, after the pool cleaning is finished, pump about 10% of the water from the bottom of the pond. Refill your pond slowly looking over your fish at this time.

continued on page 8
Helping the plants and critters in your pond survive the winter. By Stan Skinger (reprinted from Oct 96 CWGS newsletter)

HARDY LILIES: In late September or early October trim off all but the smallest leaves. Then sink your plants to the bottom of the pond. The pond should have a minimum of 12 inches of water over the tops of your pots. If your pond is not deep enough, then alternative methods will have to be used to prevent the pond from freezing all the way to the bottom. This could be as simple as covering the pond with something that will support a 2 foot deep covering of leaves to insulate the pond.

Alternative methods of over-wintering your hardy lilies are: 1. Store them, pot and all, in plastic bags in a cool (40 to 50 Degree F) dark area indoors until spring. Check periodically to make certain that they do not dry out. 2. Remove the rhizome from the pot, rinse off the soil, cut off leaves (all but the very smallest) and roots from the rhizome and place in a plastic bag (zip-lock type) filled with damp (not soggy) peat moss and store for the winter at 40-50 degrees F. Check periodically to make certain that they do not dry out.

FISH & CRITTERS: What keeps goldfish and koi from surviving the winter is their inability to gain enough oxygen to support life under the ice. Deadly gases build up under the ice as the organic matter accumulated over the year decays and uses up available oxygen. If the pond freezes over completely, oxygen to replace that being used, is not available and the lives of the fish and critters we keep with them are at risk. Unless they freeze ‘solid’ the cold will not harm the fish or other life.

THE POND: My favorite method of preventing freeze-over in ponds, containing critters or fish, is to keep a pump running all winter in order to move the water around enough to prevent freeze-over on all but the coldest days and the oxygen constantly replenished. (editor’s note: you can get interesting ice sculptures depending on where you are pumping the water!) With the pump running continuously there will be some evaporation, from the pond, over the winter. Just top off the pond as the water loss becomes noticeable. (You need to check it once in a while) (Don’t attempt to break a hole in the ice. The blows will cause shock waves to pass through the water causing damage to soft tissue of your fish.)

Placing a STOCK TANK HEATER in the pond, is another method that can be used to prevent the pond surface water from freezing. The heater does not warm the water to any appreciable amount above 32 degrees F and is intended only to keep the water from freezing solid.

Stock tank heaters come in floating or submerged models, usually in a 100 or 1500 watt size. The heater will have a thermostat that turns it on as the temperature approaches freezing.

CAUTION WHEN USING A STOCK TANK HEATER: 1. If you have a plastic pool or your pond lined with a plastic pond liner the heater should be kept well away from the plastic so that you do not experience a melt-down. A wire guard is available for either the floating or submerged heaters. Bricks or rocks can also be used to keep the heater away from the plastic. 2. Since the water is relatively warm when compared to the winter air and the Colorado humidity is very low, you will experience and appreciate loss through evaporation. You must check the pond fairly often and add water to make up for the evaporative loss. If the water gets too low several problems could occur. The worst of these is if the thermostat of the heater is not submerged and the heater does not turn off. The result in my pond was a nasty fish and lily soup with a terrible aroma as well as a terrible job of cleaning the bowl... outside in February.

HARDY MARGINALS & BOG PLANTS: Trim off the foliage after frost kills it and then submerge them with your hardy lilies. Another method used to over-winter hardy marginals is to clump them together (in their pots) in a Winter Shady spot and cover with 18 to 24 inches of leaves. A sheet of plastic between the plants and the leaves prevent them from drying out. My preference is to bring the marginals and bog plants into the same protected areas as the hardy lilies.

TROPICAL LILIES: Tropicals will very rarely survive the winter and must be brought inside and grown in a green house or under lights. The other option is to harvest and store the tubers. (Those interested in learning, come help bring in the lilies in at DBG, call Lynn Jewett our volunteer coordinator at (303) 671-7964. REMEMBER we go to 10 digit dialing Sept 1st)

TENDER MARGINALS: No simple solutions here. They usually cannot stand the cold at the bottom of the pond and need warmth to keep growing. Without sufficient light the get leggy and grow poorly. In the spring they burn easily when exposed to direct sunlight. If you cannot provide a sunny window, greenhouse, solarium or other high light situation, their robust survival over the winter is doubtful. I have used fluorescent, incandescent,
The crowd attending the outdoor CWGS meeting held in August, at Hudson Gardens.

Above, Bill Bittman addressing the CWGS membership. All the photos from Hudson Gardens are courtesy of Lois Mayerchack. Thanks, Lois.

The food line for those who attended the August CWGS meeting, food was courtesy of Hudson Gardens.
sodium and metal-halide light sources (up to a thousand watts per bulb) in my basement for several years and am not happy with my success. The electric bill was out of sight and even with diligent care I was not able to achieve a savings even close to what it costs me to replace the tender marginals each year. If you have only two or three plants, please give it a try. If you experience success, please share what you did with the rest of us. I still have favorite plants which I overwinter each year, but at no gain, other than to care for what I care about. Often that is enough for me.

Any fish that appear ill should be caught, removed from the pond and either disposed of or treated. Fish that appear very skinny and lacking in body contents probably will not survive the winter. After the pond freeze-over and with the winter snows, remember to keep much of the snow cleared from the pond surface. No sunlight, no plant life! The algae in your pond will help the fish survive through the winter months. (portions reprinted from Oct 96 CWGS newsletter)

In This Issue... Please read inside for Election information and pictures of the Hudson Gardens Gathering.