

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



First Class Mail

Coming in 2005!!

- **May 15**
'Above-Ground Water Gardens', 2-4 pm, Classroom C, DBG
- **June 11**
Hardy/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
- **August 13**
CWGS Water Garden Spectacular at DBG, 9 am - 4 pm
- **September 11**
2-4 pm, Morrison Center, DBG, program to be announced
- **December 3**
Holiday Party, Morrison Center, DBG

Waterlily Pre-Order Form Enclosed \$15.00 ea. May 25th Deadline; Hurry - Don't miss it!!



The Water Garden

Volume 22 Number 3

May 2005

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 tropical and hardy marginal plants, waterlilies, floaters, and submerged plants available in limited quantities, as offered in the past. Some one-of-a-kind and specialty plants will also be available for purchase to anyone wanting the unusual.

Bring swap plants in Friday, June 10, from 2-5 p.m., or Saturday. For each plant deemed to meet a quart or 4" pot size, you will receive one swap ticket. Three swap tickets will get you a new swap plant.



"Ponds...Links to Learning" returned this Spring, and was graciously hosted by Falls by Fox, 2001 E. 58th Avenue. This is also the location of the upcoming June 11 Swap & Sale. Barry and Toni Fox have continually supported CWGS when neither DBG nor Hudson Gardens could find space for our activities.

Any leftover swap tickets will get you a one-time 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more in stock plants. T-shirts, tote bags, fertilizer, mosquito bits, pots, and other non-plant items are not included in the 10% discount.

This is a fundraiser, so there will be a nominal fee to participate.

Official Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society

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<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>



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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 2

by Michael Thomas

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

Basic Pond Styles

The Japanese recognize many different styles in their gardens but, ultimately, they can be narrowed down to five distinct styles. A "Japanese-influenced" garden will usually encompass elements of two or more of the basic five styles, as do some of the finest Japanese gardens themselves.

Based on the likes you have, as well as the needs of your gardening space, you very well may also blend styles. What is common among all the styles is the sense of space in the garden that separates it from the world outside. The garden should represent all the components of the natural world, and can be a "paradise where time stands still." (p.11)

Hill-and-Pond Style

This style is known more descriptively as the artificial hill or pond-and-island style, and is

older than the other styles, having originated in China. Originally only available to noblemen and the rich, the scale of the classic hill-and-pond garden is often immense. You can, however, create a scaled-down version in a typical city lot by following the design principles of simplification and diminishing perspective.

Hill-and-pond gardens have long incorporated mountain ranges in the form of earthen mounds, or by using low rock formations with low evergreen plants to suggest Japan's topography. Streams are often used instead of ponds. Evergreens abound, and green is preferred over other brighter colors.

Lanterns, streams, ponds, bridges, trees, and other features of the landscape must be in direct proportion to the garden itself. But, despite differences in size compared to much larger natural gardens, the common features of the smaller garden must still be functional. They are simply unusable outside the garden you have constructed.

Even though most true hill-and-pond gardens cover many acres, with careful use of design techniques, even a small backyard will work.



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'The Water Garden' wins prestigious award

This publication was recently awarded the honor of best water garden club & society newsletter in the First Annual Newsletter Competition/Critique sponsored by the International Waterlily and Watergardening Society (IWGS). In all, seven societies competed, including four IWGS affiliates and two groups from Canada.



<http://www.iwgs.org>

Newsletters were scored in four different categories by IWGS judges, who are also noted authors and speakers. They included James Allison, past editor of the IWGS Journal, author of *Water in the Garden* and owner of Aquapic Solutions in Cheltenham, UK; Fred McCorkle, current editor of the IWGS Journal, freelance writer, and several years' experience writing for magazines and koi and water gardening newsletters; Anita Nelson, owner of Nelson Water Gardens in Katy, Texas, and a frequent speaker and author; and Jan Phillips, owner of Shady Lakes Water Lily Gardens in Albuquerque, also a speaker and author.

In the category of Fundamental Elements - general items usually contained in newsletters - "The Water Garden" scored 8.625 out of 10 points. Recommended Topics - a list of 11 items that should be included in a newsletter - produced a score of 8.875 out of 10. CWGS had 9 of the 11 items in the newsletter issue that was judged. Editorial Quality - grammar and craftsmanship - earned a score of 3.5 out of 4, and Design & Delivery - the overall "presentation" of the newsletter - earned 3.75 out of 4.



The winner of the prize will receive a complimentary registration to the IWGS Symposium in Philadelphia this July, as well as the opportunity to assist in judging next year's entries. Because CWGS is an affiliate member of IWGS, as the first place winner the society will also receive the original oil painting shown above, painted by Colorado artist N. Ross Hutchins.

Final plans have not been determined at this writing, but ideas of what to do with the painting have ranged from a silent auction to a door prize to hanging it at DBG with a plaque, among other ideas. Mike Thomas, editor, will undoubtedly play a major role in what finally happens to the painting.

Springtime Magic

by Jim Arneill, CWGS Board Member

For many people, spring is their favorite season, with the emergence of new growth in shrubs, trees, flowers and, yes, even waterlilies and other aquatic plants. In your pond, do you have leaves of submerged plants that are just now reaching upward toward the surface seeking out the sun's warmth and light? These harbingers of spring may also indicate the need to divide and repot some of your pond plants.

Spring is generally considered a perfect time to divide your plants to improve their health and blooms during the growing season since they won't be competing for the same nutrients and will have more room to grow in their new pots.

In addition, through the division process, you have the ability to propagate your plants. These new plants may be great additions to your own pond or you can give them away to your other water gardening friends. Still another option this year is to save them for the Colorado Water Garden Society's "Plant Swap and Sale" on Saturday, June 11. This event is the Society's main fundraiser of the year, and besides exchanging your extra plants for "swap tickets" for other swap plants, you may also donate them to the CWGS. All these plants will be available in addition to those for regular sale as part of the large selection of high quality nursery stock plants that are also ordered and brought in each year for this event.

How do you know if your plants need to be divided? The main way is by assessing if the plant has overgrown its pot. In general, waterlilies need dividing every two to four years. Also, if the size of the leaves seem stunted, that is another clear indicator of the need to divide it. Hardy marginals often benefit from being repotted every 2-3 years. For these plants it is helpful to examine the plant's growth habit and determine the need for a larger pot by not only the amount of annual growth but also if it grows uniformly from the center or sends out new foliage and roots laterally.

Another reason for dividing your plants is to remove any dead growth that has occurred over the winter. In some plants you will find these areas in the middle of the plant, such as in cattails, and this gives you the opportunity to access and discard this portion of your plant and create several new smaller plants. The overall health of any water plants will be improved by removing any soft, dead, rotting material.

Hardy Water Lilies

Dividing hardy water lilies is accomplished by removing the plant from its pot and using a hose to rinse off the soil from its roots. It is recommended that this process be done in a shady area so the roots become less dried out. Also, having all the necessary tools on hand ahead of time adds to the efficiency of this process. This includes having your containers, soil, fertilizer tablets, knife, gravel, plant labels and marking pen at your repotting location. As you examine the waterlily's rhizome, look for the main growing tip which only needs 3-5 inches of solid healthy

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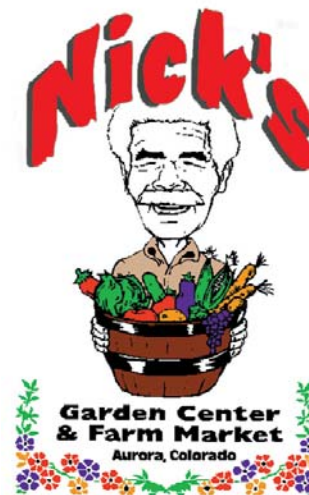
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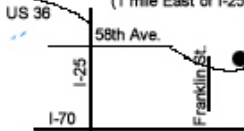
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WANTED

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.



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Springtime Magic

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root with it. Use a sharp knife and cut off the old growth, especially dark-colored or mushy parts that are decaying. With the remainder of the rhizomes, look for any areas that have sent out new growth. These represent new plants and may be cut off and potted along with at least three inches of surrounding rhizome.

Fill the new pot(s) about two-thirds full with regular garden soil. In our area, this is often a heavy clay soil and is much better to use than potting soil which contains light ingredients such as peat and perlite that float to the surface and dirty the water. Place the cut end of the rhizome against the side of the pot with the growing tip facing toward the center. The rhizome should be angled up at a 30-45-degree angle. This leaves the tip uncovered, yet anchors the tuber in the pot. (For tropical water lilies, their roots should be placed in the center of the pot.) Spread out any light-colored roots after removing any dead or dark other ones, and then add more soil to cover them. Add enough soil to cover the rhizome and leave the growing tip so that it is just barely exposed. Then add one or two fertilizer tablets, depending on the size of the pot, near the bottom of the pot.

To settle the soil in the pot, tamp it on a hard surface. Afterwards, add a layer of gravel on top of the soil and make sure it is not harming the tender growing tip. When you put your waterlily in your pond,



1. Fill a two-gallon or larger pot with regular garden soil. Firmly pack the soil. Place the rhizome of the lily with the cut end at the pot edge and the crown of the plant toward the center of the pot. Place in the soil at approximately a 30-45-degree angle.



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



3. Place 2-3 aquatic fertilizer tablets about two inches from the rhizome. Push them down into the soil about half the depth of the soil. Fill the depressions with soil.



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

place it about four inches from the surface to give it more light and warmth to help it grow initially. After 2-3 weeks, you can lower it to its regular depth of 12-24 inches. During this time, the leaf production will indicate the roots have been established.

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Springtime Magic

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Marginal Aquatic Plants

When dividing hardy marginals, remember these plants are generally very strong and hearty. There are two basic types with different growth habits, which affect your repotting method. Some marginals are upright and clumping, and others are horizontal and running.

For the upright, clumping plants, such as rushes, sedges and umbrella grass, the healthy part(s) you remove should be planted in the center of regular pots with the plant's crown level the soil's surface. Use a sharp cutting instrument (I have found the serrated blade of a small saw works very well), and remove one-third to one-half of the original plant. This will make a good sized plant and allow for enough new growth in its new pot. These plants also benefit from having fertilizer tablets added at this time. Again, place some gravel on top of the soil and position the pot near the surface to up to 6 inches in depth. Using smooth gravel, such as 1-2 inch river rock, is preferable, in case the pot tips over. That way no sharp edges of your gravel will damage your flexible liner or other pond material.

For plants that have fast-growing horizontal rhizomes, such as irises, cattails, pickerels, and sweet flags, it is helpful to use a wider pot so they don't "jump" your pot by season's end. Again, use a sharp cutting tool and, like with the waterlily, place the cut end of the rhizome against the edge of the pot, allowing for the new growth toward the center. The running types of marginals, such as water clover, floating heart, bog bean, and water snowflakes, should also be planted in wider-sized pots with shallow soil. Add fertilizer to these pots, and top off with a layer of smooth gravel, and place near the surface of your pond.

Fertilize your marginal plants now, and then again every 5-7 weeks throughout the growing season. If you find you have too many new plants for your pond after you have divided some of them, here is a suggestion for maintaining them until the CWGS Sale and Swap on June 11. Place them,

Do you know why you put pea gravel on the surface of potted plants?

It is a preventative for the impatient to keep dirt in the pot. You don't need the pea gravel if you SLOWLY lower the pot into the water at an angle, allowing air to escape. If you have Koi, pea gravel doesn't protect the soil from being rooted in by the little "pigs," although 25 lb. boulders might work!

Another purpose for pea gravel on the surface of the pot is to add more surface area for bacterial growth - the good kind!

either potted or bare-root, in a shallow tub outdoors with good sunlight. Depending on the amount of water in the tub, crush 2-3 large fertilizer tablets and add them to the water. Check on them occasionally, but they should be fine until our special event. Dividing plants can be a messy job, but think of the benefits your plants and pond receive from your efforts!

Note: For most water plants, repotting should take place when there are signs of new growth. It is recommended that lotuses be divided somewhat earlier, before they show signs of growth due to their tender growing tips. Some marginals, such as pickerel and thalia, benefit from having some initial growth first, so their repotting might be delayed until the end of May. To receive as many blooms as possible from iris, they are best divided in the summer or early fall so they can use their stored energy to bloom early the following spring.

For further information on dividing your plants, access "Aquatic Plant Propagation" on the CWGS website. It can be found in the newsletter/brochure archives.

What do you want from us?!?

by Mike Thomas, Editor



Crowds were sparse at "Ponds...Links to Learning" in April, but those in attendance, including several new members and several non-members, thought the day was well-spent. CWGS Board Members are trying to determine if it's worth the effort to plan any events if only a few people attend them.

CWGS Board members, including the newest ones in office for just over half a year, are wondering how you're doing? We have to ask because we have sponsored two events since the year began, and most of you have been somewhere else. The "old-timers" on the Board are used to your non-involvement (or less-than-active involvement), but it's scaring the new people to death. When we talk about 200 newsletters mailed out each issue, they wonder WHO those go to? When we talk about how much to spend to bring in plants and other items for our fundraisers, they wonder HOW we figure out how much to spend, especially when so few members attend.

I'm wondering, too, where you are? Those who DO attend CWGS activities seem to have a good time, learn new things, make new friends, and get out of CWGS what YOUR Board would like to see happen. The new Board members wonder is they aren't spinning their wheels, wasting time that could be better spent not trying to help others in the Society. I wonder about that, too! I'd rather be a member of a group with 30 or 40 ACTIVE members than a society of 200+ who don't do anything. Think about it - What do you want from us! We just want to see you show up!



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