

IN THIS ISSUE:

June 6 Plant Sale1
by Janet Bathurst

Board Members and
Chairpersons2

Treasurer's Report2

President's Letter3
by Vicki Aber

New and Returning Members3

CWGS Pond Tour4
by Michael Weber

Featured Plants in June 6 Sale.....5

Some thoughts on confusing
gardening terminology6
By Bill Powell

June 27 Waterside program7
by Janet Bathurst

DBG Aquatics booth revisited7
By Bill Powell and Marge Oleson

July 18 Water Blossom Festival8

- MarketPlace
- Membership Application9

This Year:
CWGS Calendarback page

CWGS Plant Sale

Sunday, June 6

Rooftop of the new parking structure at DBG

by Janet Bathurst

The annual CWGS plant sale is just around the corner. This year the sale returns to Denver Botanic Gardens, but in a slightly different location from years past.

The plant sale will be held Sunday, June 6th on the rooftop area of the new parking structure. Members will be admitted at 9:00 am and the general public is welcome to shop at 10:00 am. Remember, everything is first come, first serve, and the best selection is early on Sunday. There is no admission charge.

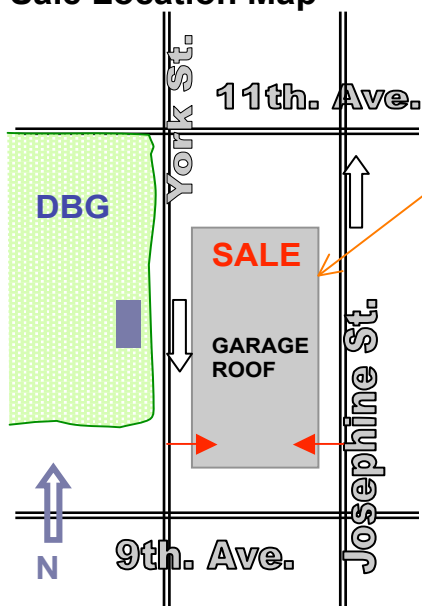
There will be a wide variety of both hardy and tropical lilies and marginals for sale. Floaters, fish, and supplies, too! The final plant order list will be available on the website by the time you receive this newsletter so you can research the plants and plan your purchases.

Along with the ordered plants, we rely on - and appreciate - plant donations. As you split marginals, lilies, and lotus, save the extras and bring them to the plant sale so each plant can find a good home.

Please bring your donations to the building on the top of the parking structure on Saturday, June 5th, any time between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. If you already know what you are going to donate, please call or email anyone on the plant sale committee so we can make sure we have signage ready for the plant.

(continued on page 4)

Sale Location Map



Denver Botanic Gardens Rooftop Parking

The DBG parking garage can be accessed from both York St. and Josephine St. between 9th. & 11th. Avenues.

Enter TOP of new parking garage via either of the grade-level driveways at the south end of the structure. The sale will be held at the north end near the new rooftop pavilion.

Plant donation drop-off, parking, shopping, and curb-side pickup of plants can all be done on the top of the garage. If you choose to park undercover, below in the garage, you can access the top level either by steps or elevator.



*Photo courtesy
of IWGS*

**N. 'Perry's Orange Sunset,'
2002 IWGS winner, will be
available at the Plant Sale**

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Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
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Peter Hier	303.278.2106
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Michael Weber	303.322.6769
Lynn Jewett	303.671.7964
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137

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The Water Garden is published eight times a year and is made available to current members both in printed form and online. Past volumes of The Water Garden are archived online at:

www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:

As of April 30: \$11,381

Need to join or renew?...

... The application is on page 9

Does CWGS have your current email address? If you're not sure, contact us.

2010 Committee and Event Chairs:

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Newsletter Assembly	
Gary and Joyce Blubaugh	303.989.4464
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Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
Program	
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WebPage / Archives	
Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
DBG Plant Sale & Volunteers	
Bill Powell	303.355.8098
Marge Oleson	303.989.4809

Changes are underway...

Unless you have specifically requested continued receipt of The WaterGarden in paper form, you will now receive it electronically.

To request a change or to report a problem with downloading of the electronic journal, reply to Bill Bathurst at:

Bill.Bathurst@colowatergardensociety.org.

From Vicki...

...Rolling Into Summer

by Vicki Aber, CWGS President



Photos by Vicki Aber
using her cell phone!

*A delicious potluck
preceded the annual plant
swap (above.)*

*Michael Weber sharing
information about the plants
he brought. (below.)*



We had a great plant swap at the May meeting. About 25 people came for good food, good conversation and free plants. I think pretty much everyone left with new plants - even people like me who vowed to bring some but not take any home.

We are really getting rolling into the pond season now. The Society's plant sale is just around the corner. I hope you've already read Janet Bathurst's front page article about the sale. This issue also includes descriptions of some of this year's featured plants. Look on page 5.

We always need all hands on deck to stage this two-day sale. It is a big undertaking but it's our only fundraiser of the year. If you can spare some time to help out, please sign up. Remember, volunteers get 'Lily Bucks' to spend at the sale!

We can also use any plant donations that you have. We really like to have the plants well described with signage; if you could let us know in advance what you might be bringing, we'll have signs ready. Call or email anyone on the plant sale committee (Committee contacts are listed at the bottom of page 4.)

Following closely after the sale is our first "waterside" meeting of the year. This should be a real treat - a peek behind the scenes at a unique wholesale/retail local water gardening nursery. (See the article on page 7.)

The pond tour committee has been really busy. They've already confirmed a number of ponds in a relatively small area for us to enjoy during our annual tour this July. Michael Weber, our tour Chairperson, has an article in this month's newsletter. It gives a hint of the flavor of the tour and ways you might help. (Michael's article follows on page 4.)

It's a lot of fun to see the great variety of water features that appear on the tour. I always get ideas on things I'd like to try.

Events and speakers for the rest of the summer are pretty much lined-up as well, but I don't want to give too much away this early. Stay tuned!

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS FOR MAY

Joan & Brian Greelman
Arvada, CO

Keith & Terry Grisham
Elizabeth, CO

Carla Littlefield
Denver, CO

Lois & Jeff Meinerz
Denver, CO

Marian Metsopoulos
Lakewood, CO

Lee & Louise Thomas
Centennial, CO

Corrections:

Last month we misspelled a renewing member's name. So sorry Brinda Henley!

Marian Metsopoulos, who is shown at left as having renewed is, in fact, a lifetime honorary member of CWGS, a benefit of which is never having to renew! We hope we didn't mistakenly mail you a renewal reminder. If we did, our apologies. We owe you a membership...

Thanks...and welcome!

2010 CWGS Pond Tour Saturday, July 24



Michael investigates a water feature (above).

Another pond we'll see in July (below)



Mark your calendars. This year's pond tour promises to be a menagerie of all types of water gardens from large to small in and around Golden. We are featuring a dozen or more ponds and water features located close-by in a very compact area. It should make for a short drive with big rewards.

Following the Tour the Club will host a picnic with lots of door prizes.

This is a great opportunity for members to get ideas, marvel over fish and plants, and meet old friends and make new as you visit gorgeous backyard water gardens. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and these wonderful gardens at the height of the season.

The next issue of The WaterGarden (July) will include all the logistics and details about the Tour ponds, addresses, suggested routes, times, etc. For now, enjoy these early "teaser" photographs of destinations you'll visit. Remember, these shots were taken this spring and don't show the gardens as you'll see them in late July.

Michael Weber

Pond Tour Chairperson

PS: By the way, we have need for a couple of volunteers to help with the picnic and also to "yard-sit" one of the participating water gardens. Contact me if you have time and could help. (303) 322-6769 or via webbaum@gmail.com

CWGS Plant Sale *(continued from front page)*

For those of you who haven't been to the Gardens since the opening of the new parking garage, the new structure is exactly where the old grade-level parking was before. Use the southern-most driveway cuts off of Josephine and York Streets, not the entrances near the north end that go into the lower levels of the garage. The south grade-level drives will deliver you onto the top of the garage where you can drop-off or park and shop conveniently. We'll be set-up near the new deck top pavilion. Look for our tents and banner.

The plant sale is really a two-day event. On Saturday, June 5th, the plants will be packaged, labeled, organized and priced for the sale on Sunday. We need volunteers to help on both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteering at the plant sale is a wonderful way to meet people, learn about plants, and help the society. And...you get a "Lily Buck" toward the purchase of plants for each hour you volunteer!

Please contact anyone on the plant sale committee if you would like to help on either day.

I look forward to seeing everyone volunteering and/or shopping at the plant sale. In the meantime, check out some of the sale's featured plants in the article that follows immediately on page 5.

Plant Sale Committee

Janet Bathurst – (303) 421-1144
janet@colowatergardensociety.org

Vicki Aber – (303) 423-9216
docvicki@msn.com

Dorothy Martinez – (303) 279-3137
dam@johnfunk.com

April Hough - (303) 499-6578
aandjhough@hotmail.com

Featured Plants CWGS June 6 Plant Sale

Here are four of the many interesting plants that will be offered at our sale....



Bloody Dock *Rumex sanguineus*

A "colorful" name for a colorful plant, Bloody Dock is a member of the sorrel genus. Related species are culinary herbs. Opinions differ regarding the edibility of this red-veined dock, but all agree that its crinkled spear-shaped leaves and distinctively marked purplish-red veins make an attractive addition to the margins of the pond. It bears a resemblance to chard.

Dock is native to Europe, northern Africa and southwest Asia. It grows 1 to 2 feet tall in clumps that can spread to 12 inches wide. In summer erect stems bear tiny star-shaped green flowers that turn reddish brown before producing dark brown fruit. The seed heads remain showy late in the season.



Ruellia Brittoniana 'Chi Chi'

Ruellia is a handsome tropical, shrub-like plant that thrives in partial to full sun. Narrow dark green foliage provides an attractive background for pink petunia-like blossoms. The plant will bloom in shadier locations, but of course sun encourages blossoms.

Ruellia can be grown as a pond marginal, but it also works well in containers. It's a moderate grower that can reach 2 ft. or more in height and 2 ft. wide and is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. If you bring your Ruellia in over winter (and you'll want to!), grow it as a pot plant and reduce the amount of water you give during its dormant period.



Nymphaea 'Black Princess'

A relatively new cultivar (it was introduced by Slocum Water Gardens in 1998) this hardy waterlily has a bloom color among the darkest ever developed.

4 to 6 inch diameter "red-black" blooms contrast against dark green leaves. Blossoms are double and can have up to 38 petals per bloom. The plant grows to a diameter of 5 ft.

Even now, 10 years after commercial introduction, Black Princess remains comparatively rare. We had trouble locating the plant for the sale, but as of this writing believe we will be able to offer a dozen plants.



Nymphaea 'Mrs. Emily Grant Hutchings'

Sometimes you'll see this old favorite listed variously as 'Mrs. E.G. Hutchings' or simply 'Emily Hutchings.' It may have been around awhile, but this night-blooming tropical waterlily is a favorite for good reason. First, there's the fact that it blooms at night, extending the display in your water garden. It also begins to flower earlier in the season than most tropical lilies, and it's considered to be "very free flowering."

Emily Grant Hutchings is also more shade tolerant than most water lilies. People have even had success bringing it to bloom inside over winter under grow lights.

Blooms are cup-shaped, large (6 to 8 ") and dark pink. The foliage is an attractive bronzy green. It's best suited to medium to large ponds because the plant spread can reach 7 feet in diameter.

Emily Grant Hutchings is not "viviparous," which means only that it won't produce new plants at the interstices of leaves the way some other lilies – mostly tropicals – do. (For a better understanding of the term viviparous, read the article on page 6.)

Photos from:
Paghat.com
Pondnursery.com
Uncredited
Europeanwatergardener.com

Phrases that bloom in the spring, tra-la...

Thoughts on gardening terminology

By Bill Powell

I asked a customer at the recent Botanic Gardens' sale, "Could I interest you in some marginal plants?" He answered, "Yeah, they look pretty marginal. Do you think they'll live?"

It was an amusing miscommunication, but an interesting one that raised questions about the meaning of commonly used gardening phrases, the viability of plants in varying climates, as well as the challenge of flying-in plants for sales.

I had meant: *Could I interest you in some plants that would grow at the margins of your pond?* I wasn't speculating on the prospect for survival, just referring to the category. I could see the customer's perspective, though. The plants he was examining, although considered hardy here, were badly shocked by the cold and they showed it. The "tropical marginals" were even more affected.

The confused exchange raised questions beyond the meaning of the phrase "marginal plants." For example, what is the distinction between a hardy and tropical plant?

Hardy or Tropical?

You might think terms "hardy" and "tropical" are clear statements. That hardy plants survive everywhere whereas tropical plants grow only in tropical climates where there's never a frost. But the thresholds aren't always firm. Like most differentiations, it's a matter of degree. It's also a matter of judgment and perspective. Not everyone's growing experience with a given plant is identical.

When buying plants you really need to think about the region you're in and the perspective of the nursery that's marketing the plant. The fact that a Florida nursery may list a plant as hardy may not necessarily mean it's hardy in Colorado. The nursery may mean that over the broad area of their usual sales, the plant generally survives the winter in areas that do receive freezing temperatures.

Instead of relying on categorical statements of "tropical" or "hardy," look for USDA temperature plant hardiness zone information. Most nurseries provide such information for the plants they market. Denver is on the cusp of zones 5a and 5b. To a nursery in the warmth of Florida's zone 9, anything that survives in zones 6 to 7 might be considered hardy from their vantage because plants in those zones would experience freezing weather. However that doesn't mean that same plant would necessarily survive a Colorado winter.

In water gardening you often see the phrases "Hardy Marginal," "Tropical Marginal," Hardy Lily," and "Tropical Lily." Unfortunately, the distinctions and thresholds for defining hardy vs. tropical aren't precisely parallel for waterlilies and the plants that grow on the margins.

Waterlilies are perhaps a bit more clear-cut in that the

once ice begins to form at the surface. They enter a state of stress, form corms, and then die. (The corms, too, would perish unless rescued and harvested.) Hardy waterlilies, on the other hand, will survive freezing water as long as the plant's crown remains below the ice sheet.

Cyperus alternifolius certainly isn't hardy in Colorado, but the root ball will survive a freeze in non-tropical zone 7...
...IF you're lucky.

Photo from Wikipedia



Marginals have more complicated behaviors depending upon a variety of circumstances including temperature, altitude, and humidity. In judging the hardiness of these plants, once again it's wise to pay attention to the location of the person who is making the judgment. For example, Bloody Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), one of the marginal plants we're selling this year, receives conflicting growing recommendations. Some southern growers just flatly write that dock is "hardy" so far as they're concerned, and from their perspective it IS. After all it survives quite nicely well to their north where there's freezing weather. But how FAR to the north, we might want to know?

Other national growers of dock say it's "hardy to zone 6" (which still wouldn't make it hardy in almost all of Colorado.) However, the Minnesota Water Garden Society, which presumably knows a good deal about cold, says Dock is hardy to zone 4. It's a promising recommendation. Still, until you've tried the plant in the microclimate of your backyard you might not know for sure. Minnesota is cold, but it's also damp. Lots of plants that survive a humid cold perish in Colorado's combination of arid cold and dramatic winter temperature swings and drying winds.

Similarly, plants that are listed as strictly "tropical" - meaning that they will not survive freezing - sometimes may struggle through under the right conditions. I kept a "tropical" umbrella plant (*Cyperus alternifolius*) outside over winter quite successfully most years while living in piedmont North Carolina (USDA zone 7a). The plant was sunk into a south facing soil slope. Its top died back, but heavily mulched, the roots survive and it came back 80% of the time.

Does any of this suggest that hardy plants are better than tropical plants, or that one is more desirable to grow than the other? Not at all. As Kit Knotts notes on the website Victoria-adventure, "This does not mean that hardies won't

The Summer's First Waterside Program – June 27

Photo by Bruce Polkowsky



The club's June 27 visit to Enery Water Gardens will include a talk on the care and feeding of Koi and a peek at the operations of this local aquatic nursery.

Summer has returned, and Sunday June 27th is our first "waterside meeting" of the season. Waterside meetings are a great way to meet other people in CWGS, visit an interesting water gardening destination, and learn in a fun, casual setting.

This waterside meeting offers a peek at the focus and operations of Enery Water Gardens. Enery is a 2.25-acre facility that specializes in aquatic plants and fish. You will be amazed at the variety of plants and the size and diversity of the fish! Diane Ross, one of the owners of Enery, will give a talk on the care and feeding of koi. She is very knowledgeable about everything fish related.

The meeting begins at 2:00 pm at Enery Water Gardens. Enery is located at 7601 Indiana St, Arvada, CO. It's about half way between 72nd. Ave. and 80th. on the west side of the road (before W. 76th. Dr). The sign is rather small so the entrance is easy to miss. If you need help finding your way as you're on route to the nursery, call my cell phone (303) 557-8867.

I look forward to seeing everyone!

Janet Bathurst

DBG Spring Sale attracts customers ...and dozens of CWGS volunteers

Finally... a pretty day!

Saturday was cool, but bright, and turnout was good for the Aquatics booth of the DBG Spring Sale.



Photo by Bill Powell

Although the weather was cool, even bitter, at the beginning of the Botanic Gardens' spring sale and dabbling in water might not have been the most obvious way to pass the time, many volunteers solicited from the Society's ranks still helped to stage the Aquatics Division's sales booth.

The sale ran three days, but ordering, inventory, labeling, and set-up of the division booth extended over a much longer period. Dozens of people donated hundreds of hours to make the sale successful and educational.

Denver Botanic Gardens is very grateful for the help provided by the sales volunteers. Marge Oleson and I would like to add our personal thanks to all of the Society members who assisted this year. While we won't receive the final financial tallies for some time, we already know that the Aquatics Division was very successful in spreading information and interest about water gardening. Our depleted brochures prove our success.

Thanks for your help and your patronage.

Bill Powell and Marge Oleson
Aquatics Division Co-Chairs, 2010 DBG Plant Sale

Phrases that bloom... *(continued from page 6)*

grow well in the south and tropics won't grow well in the north. They will!

"Viviparous...or not?"

Here's a rather alarming-sounding phrase that gets tossed around sometimes without explanation. At the recent CWGS plant swap, someone mentioned in passing that a particular tropical waterlily was "*not viviparous*." Fortunately, another someone thought to ask, "*What does 'viviparous' mean?*"

Since the phrase non-viviparous has already popped-up in this newsletter as well (with regard to our highlighted tropical waterlily Mrs. E.G. Hutchings on page5), I thought it might be useful to explain the meaning and the derivation of viviparous/non-viviparous. The phrase has nothing – or almost nothing – to do with snakes.

"Viviparous" and "viper" share a common etymology in the Latin words "vivo" meaning "I live" and "pario" – "I give birth."¹ Certain classes of plants and animals are said to be viviparous when they recreate by live birth attached to the mother.

Lots of plants are viviparous. "*In many Mangroves, for instance, the seedling germinates and grows under its own energy while still attached to its parent before dropping into the water in order to transport away.*"² Certain grasses and sedges use this strategy as well. The sedges papyrus and umbrella palm are examples. In these cases, new plantlets develop at the interstice of the leaf bracts to the stem.

The "gelatinous" beginnings of a new plant growing from the pad/stem interstice of a "viviparous" waterlily.



Photo from
Wikipedia

Some waterlilies, often but not exclusively tropical ones, are also viviparous. As with the sedge, under the right conditions new plants self-generate "*at the point at which the pad and stem join. At first it often looks gelatinous and soon shows signs of developing leaves. As the parent pad ages the new little plant becomes more developed and, by*

the time the host pad has deteriorated, it is a miniature copy of the parent. On rare occasions these plantlets will even bloom while still on the parent pad."³

"Invasive" or just easy to grow?

There's a great deal of concern these days about "invasive" plants. Certainly, some plants have become problematic throughout areas of the world, and many are aquatic. Water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) is an example.

A native of tropical and subtropical zones of South America, hyacinth has become a noxious pest in large areas of the warm, fresh waters of the world. The plant's rapid growth has been credited for the starvation of subsistence farmers in New Guinea and for clogging waterways in the southeast of the US.

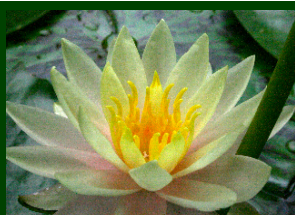
Paradoxically, water hyacinth's rapid growth is exactly what attracts front range water gardeners to the plant. While the plant's unique structure (essentially a floating vegetative bladder) and attractive purple bloom may have helped to popularize the species, hyacinth's explosive growth is its main attraction here. Fast spread helps to provide early cover to the pond at just the time when another ubiquitous plant (algae) is undergoing explosive growth of its own. By helping to shade the water, hyacinth cuts down on sunlight that encourages algae. It also has a great ability to filter water of both ammonia and heavy metals.

So...is water hyacinth "invasive" and therefore bad? Yes, and no. As with "hardy vs. tropical," you have to consider just where you are and under which conditions you propose to grow the plant. Water hyacinth is undoubtedly a noxious species in zones where winter temperatures remain above freezing. In Colorado, that's not the case...or is it? On our western slope, the Colorado Weed Management Association is reportedly observing hyacinth that may over-winter downstream from a hot springs. But for now hyacinth is not on the State's list of invasive species. Still, you'll encounter institutional restrictions against the sale of the plant. You'll also hear phrases like "non-native pest," "toxic species" and "invasive" used interchangeably for a range of plants with wildly differing growth habits and diverse environmental impact.

It's all a bit confusing...but just part of the interesting, and evolving, language of horticulture.

References

1. Wikipedia
2. Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, UCLA
3. Victoria-Adventure



Coming July 18 Water Blossom Festival at Denver Botanic Gardens

Demonstrations, tours, and a program by Sarada Krishnan, Director of Horticulture, on the Gardens' Aquatic Collection. Details coming soon....

Photo by Joe Mascarenas



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**For Information, contact
Bill Powell**

**(303) 355-8098 or by email
wbpow@comcast.net**

MembershipApplication

Make checks payable to:
Colorado Water Garden Society

Return this form with your payment to:
CWGS Membership
100 Glencoe St.
Denver, CO 80220

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Email* _____

* Required for electronic receipt of newsletter, beginning in 2010.
(note: CWGS does not share or sell email addresses)

____ Check here if you are also a member of Denver Botanic Gardens

Membership Fees:
\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

Check one:

____ I would like my contact information included in a membership list that will be distributed only to the members.

____ I do not want my contact information published in the membership list.

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I've checked below:

DBG Volunteer Sundays____
Water Plants booth DBG May Sale____
Hudson Gardens____
CWGS Plant Sale (June)____
Pond Tour (July)____
Water Blossom Festival (late July)____

Note: Your newsletter will be made available to you electronically unless you check otherwise below.

____ I request to receive a paper copy of the newsletter

THISYEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

June 6: CWGS Annual Plant Sale at Denver Botanic Gardens
Top deck of DBG parking garage 9:00 – 3:00 / sold out

June 27: Waterside Program: Visit to Enery Water Gardens
7601 Indiana St., Arvada
2:00 PM: Presentation on care and feeding of Koi

July 18: *Water Blossom Festival. DBG*
Sarada Krishnan, Director of Horticulture, speaks on
The Garden's Aquatic Collection

July 24: *CWGS Annual Pond Tour and Picnic*

Aug. 15: *Waterside Program - Fieldtrip to DU Water Gardens*

Sep. 9: *Potluck dinner and Annual Board Elections*

Dec. 9: *Holiday Banquet*



From...

TheWaterGarden

c/o Journal Editor
1210 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80206-3214

*The Colorado Water Garden Society
(CWGS) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3)
organization founded in 1983 to
encourage appreciation and interest in
the use of water in the landscape.*

To learn more, visit us at
www.colowatergardensociety.org

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