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Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org

N. 'Wanvisa, IWGS Best Lily



**Last chance to order is
March 17. See pages 6 & 8**

Gardening Down There

March 17 Program Looks at gardening in South Australia

*Peter Hier speaks on
the Adelaide Botanic
Gardens*

*Right: Historic Palm House
Photo from Wikipedia*



The Club opens this season's programs with a glimpse of gardening in South Australia. Peter Hier, a CWGS member and a native of Australia, will share photographs taken in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and chat about gardening "down under".

Founded in 1855, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens was modeled on the Royal Gardens at Kew and on Versailles. The 125-acre site houses a number of gardens and conservatories as well as water features. Peter's presentation will look at the historic palm house, a delightful Victorian glass house constructed in the 1870's, and we'll tour the striking Bicentennial conservatory, a contemporary design that locals fondly call "The Crystal Pasty." Peter also has shots of the newest conservatory that houses a collection of *Victoria Amazonica*, the largest of the waterlilies and a favorite plant of Victorian collectors.

The grounds of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens are dotted with lakes and smaller ponds. Peter's Power Point photo tour will include shots of the Garden's small waterlily pond and the larger lotus pond. Afterwards, he'll answer your questions and chat about gardening down under and the unique plants found on the other side of the globe.

Peter's program begins at 7:00 pm, Thursday March 17 in classroom "B" of Denver Botanic Garden's education building, 1007 York St. ...And remember, we hold a potluck dinner just before the program at 6:00. Bring your favorite recipe. The food is always varied and delicious, and the Club provides drinks and service ware.

Directions:

Park in Denver Botanic Garden's garage. Enter by the "Group Gate," the sliding metal gate to the south (left) of the entrance building. This is an after-hours entrance. There is no fee. Look for CWGS signage. Enter the main education building and walk through the lobby court to the enclosed stair at the right rear corner. Go down one floor to the basement level. Walk directly ahead and follow the corridor to the left to classroom "B."

2011 Board of Directors:

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www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:

As of Feb. 28, 2011: \$11,301.34

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.

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

To request a change in delivery, report a change in email, or to report a problem with downloading of the electronic journal, reply to Dorothy Martinez:

Dorothy.Martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.

From the President...

by Vicki Aber, CWGS President

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. It is still awhile before we can start playing in the water (unless you are into the polar plunge). We can use that time to start planning for the growing season to come.

Our board of directors is also planning for the season. We have many fun and informative activities in store for 2011. Some of these things are still in the development stages, so stay tuned.

Our next meeting will feature one of our own. Peter Heir is going to share with us about the Adelaide Botanic Gardens in his native Australia. (See the article on this newsletter's front page.) It should be fun getting a peek from down under.

Elsewhere in this issue is an exciting opportunity to order an award-winning lily. This is a very unique plant and will be a welcome color addition to any pond. Being very new and not available through commercial sources, it comes at a higher price than most of us are used to paying but when you see the pictures and read the description, I think you will want one. Most of the money made in the sale of these lilies will benefit the IWGS. Learn more about what the IWGS involves in the following article, below.

There is much more to come in the year ahead but we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves. Hope to see everyone March 17th. In the meantime, you might want to join the Club's new discussion group on Facebook. It's called (naturally) Colorado Water Garden Society.

What does IWGS stand for?

By Vicki Aber

In a word they stand for us. The initials are for International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society. It is a group of business, individuals, and academics that is committed to furthering our hobby ... kind-of-like CWGS on a truly international scale.

The IWGS has much to offer. They have a website: www.iwgs.org. It's filled with lots of great information. They publish a Journal with interesting and informative articles. They have a Facebook page and a Yahoo chat group. They have a yearly symposium. This year it will be in Qingdao China July 22 – 29th. Check out their website for details. They also sponsor a yearly trial where new lilies are judged. The 'Wanvisa' lily that we are offering this year was the big winner of last summer's competition. (See article on page 6.)

Our club has been a member of IWGS from the start. We hosted their symposium here in 1987. Just this year IWGS has decided to extend all the benefits of membership to all of our individual members, not just the club alone. We will be sharing the names of our members with the IWGS - but no other personal information - so that you, too, can benefit from membership.

If you want to be part of the yahoo chat group, let me know and I will forward that information to them. It is very interesting reading questions and comments from all over the world. Most are in English!

Some of the details on how our members may become part of IWGS and access all of their member features are still a little fuzzy, so we will get you more details as we get them. In the meantime check out their website and Facebook.

RETURNING MEMBERS – Nov. thru Feb.

Dennis Albrecht
Aurora, CO

Larry and Rose Glass
Lakewood, CO

Al and Glenda Kravitz
Highlands Ranch, CO

John Bayard
Centennial, CO

Keith and Terry Grisham
Elizabeth, CO

Marge Oleson
Lakewood

John and Teresa Burkert
Northglenn, CO

Trina Jacobson and Les Petrash
Denver, CO

Mike and Vickie Pervich
Aurora, CO

Jim Carlson
Denver, CO

Georgia Keller
Lakewood, CO

Pat Weis-Taylor and Rick Hinrichs
Boulder, Co

Chris De May
Northglenn, CO

Justin and Lois Krause
Arvada, CO

Thanks!

**Don presenting in 2008
at the CWGS 25th.
Anniversary.**

*Don (right) has just been
introduced by Jim Arneill
(left, at podium)*



Remembering Don Bryne

Dear Friend of the Gardens and CWGS

Water gardening magnate Don Bryne of Lake City, Florida left this earth on January 23, 2011 after a three-year battle with lung cancer. Forty-five years ago Don founded Suwannee Lab, Inc., which soon became a leader in the aquatic plant world. Don was a board member of the *International Water Lily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS)*. The Society honored him by selecting him as a Hall of Fame member in 2005.

For thirty years Don led tours to the Amazon to collect seed, admire, study and search for new selections of the gigantic Victoria Waterlilies *Victoria amazonica* and *V. cruziana*. An accomplished hybridizer, he brought to the water gardening world the outstanding and beautiful tropical waterlilies *Nymphaea* 'Shirley Bryne' (named for his devoted wife of fifty-one years), *N.* 'Angela' (daughter), and *N.* 'Crystal' (granddaughter).

Don was very active in supporting the aquatic plant industry and served as president of the Florida and American Aquaculture Association.

Personal Recollections:

My first encounter with Don was at the 1987 *IWGS* Symposium in Denver. He kindly contributed a superb collection of carnivorous plants that he collected in Florida.

Don was a staunch supporter of Denver Botanic Gardens, CWGS and me. I was proud that he had very favorable things to say about my presentations at the early symposia. He was a favorite at the *IWGS* symposia, fulfilling his roles superbly as teacher, student and friend to all.

Revered aquatic specialist Patrick Nutt of Longwood Gardens and Don were special friends, sharing a special love for plants and people. They were of a kindred spirit, full of curiosity and folly. Don was often seen with fellow Hall of Fame member, companion and dear friend, Clyde Ikins. He spoke

highly of CWGS and was especially fond of John and Mary Mirgon, two of the founding members of the Society.

The *IWGS* symposium in Florida was a blast with Don, Shirley and family treating all to a delectable picnic lunch. Don was our tour guide and we marveled at the sighting of the threatened manatee. I was a special guest at the family home and managed to get lost in the maze of rooms (thanks for your patience Shirley and Don, and for helping me find my way!) Despite my confusion I somehow qualified for an encore - a visit to the family property on the lovely Suwannee River.

Don and I were invited to speak at a major weed identification/control conference in Salt Lake City. While there Don, Shirley and I enjoyed a rehearsal by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. And we toured the city in a horse driven carriage.

On a special visit to Denver Don lent a helping hand at the Gardens during a CWGS-led waterlily potting session. The soil was flying and the waterlilies were potted in record-breaking time.

I was happy to treat Shirley and Don to a visit to special friend Julie Holmes' chalet, near the top of Guanella Pass. Amongst fields of snow, we chatted, watched birds and had a jolly good time. On the way back to Denver we stopped at the fossil shop in Idaho Springs. After looking around and finding nothing inspiring, Don quipped "things are a bit expensive there!"

Full of laughter and cheer, Don was marvelously curious. He amassed notable coin and fossil collections and had many stories to share. He had a deep thirst for knowledge.

Also, he was a special presenter at the CWGS Silver Anniversary celebration Water Blossom Festival in July 2008. His topic, of course, was Victoria waterlilies and also covered his trips to the Amazon. His presentation, as always, was well illustrated, educational and fun. Soon after the presentation Shirley and he were not to be found ... off to collect more fossils!

We were lucky to be able to attract and spend some time with such an icon and truly fine person - a gentleman, adventurous, fun, devoted, loving and kind. Thanks Don!

Joe Tomocik,

Curator of Water Gardens, DBG



Above:
Dinner is served!

Right:
Club President Vicki Aber
strikes a holiday pose.

Below, Left to right:
Fran and Bob Hoffman
Vick Aber
Len and Doris Freestone



Photos by Jim Arneill and
Bruce Polkowsky

Christmas Recalled

By Bill Powell

The Club's Holiday Banquet was well attended this past season. More than forty members came together for wonderful food and a lively gift exchange in front of a roaring fire. We even had multiple Christmas trees!

Aside from shared holiday cheer, the occasion gave us a moment to recognize the many hundreds of volunteer hours that are donated by Club members over the course of a year. Denver Botanic Garden recorded more than 1,400 hours given by CWGS members in 2010. (Dennis Coombs gave more than 332 hours!) ...And many additional, unrecorded hours were contributed by members to our own club functions.

The breadth of volunteer participation is just as impressive. More than a third of the membership volunteered in some way last year.

Some members have years of volunteerism to their credit, and this holiday season we recognized four people who have contributed over multiple decades: Len and Doris Freestone and Fran and Bob Hoffman. Both couples were recognized as "Life Members of CWGS" for their continued and important service to the Society.

Thanks, Fran, Bob, Len and Doris!

By the way, After the banquet Doris wrote the following: "We would like you to thank the society for the life time award which we feel honored to receive, but we would also like to say that we couldn't have wished for a nicer, more caring group of people to work with."

Spring Volunteer Sundays to begin again soon at Denver Botanic Gardens

On the last weekend of March or perhaps the first weekend of April, weather dependent, a long tradition will resume at DBG. Curator of Water Gardens Joe Tomocik will once again lead volunteers solicited from CWGS ranks as they begin the Garden's spring aquatic planting.

For six weeks or so volunteers will gather for approximately three hours each Sunday to sort, plant, divide, and position aquatic plants in DBG's many pools. If you're interested in learning more about water gardening and aquatic plant propagation, volunteering for some of these sessions

is a great way to learn and meet others with similar interests.

No prior experience is required, but you'll certainly meet returning volunteers who have a wealth of experience to share. Why not join us? You can learn for free while you help the water gardening community and Denver Botanic Gardens.

For additional detail and to be notified when sessions are scheduled to begin, call Bill Powell at 303 355-8098 or via email at wbpow@comcast.net.

N. 'Wanvisa'

The next girl of our golden west?

By Bill Powell

Photo by N. Nopchai Chansilpa



Photo above, below and on frontpage are by Tamara Kilbane



Ready to buy one?
See page 8

Nymphaea 'Wanvisa', which won both the Best New Hardy and Best New Waterlily in the IWGS (International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society) 2010 competition, is available for purchase in limited numbers. CWGS as a founding member of the IWGS is able to order a few of these tubers for resale. The cost per tuber is admittedly high, but the plant is in short supply (it's not yet available through commercial sources at all), and a good portion of the price goes to benefit the IWGS and water gardening generally.

Wanvisa is the first hardy waterlily in the thirteen-year history of the IWGS competition also to capture Best New Waterlily. Previously, tropical lilies have always taken that top honor. The reason for Wanvisa's double win is apparent: *"Wanvisa is stunningly unique [with a] strikingly variegated flower which is finely striated with alternations of white and pink, while the bloom is held high aloft above the waters' surface as befitting such a unique and regal flower. ... This type of variegation has never before presented in a hardy waterlily other than Wanvisa; it has occurred only rarely in tropical waterlilies and usually in a less dramatic and contrasting fashion."*

*Wanvisa's unusual, and heavily marmorated, leaves also clamor loudly for attention. "Marmorated" simply means a "marbled" or "streaked" appearance, and refers to bold reddish or brown marbled patterns found on waterlily leaves... primarily and most prominently on day-blooming tropical waterlilies. In Wanvisa the marmoration can cover up to 95% of the leaf, which also adds to its singular beauty."*¹

Horticulturalist Tamara Kilbane, who oversaw the competition propagation, notes *'Wanvisa' is a hardy waterlily that offers everything a water gardener could ask for and more. The vigorous and compact growth habit of this hybrid makes it very easy to grow, while its floriferous nature packs a visual punch throughout the growing season."*

Tim Davis of the International Waterlily Collection in San Angelo, Texas, also grew-out Wanvisa last season in both Houston and San Angelo Texas. Tim writes, *"This is the plant that all water garden enthusiasts will want in their ponds. Its bloom is beautiful, its pads are striking and it is a hardy so anyone can grow it."* Tim also notes that despite big differences in humidity between Houston and San Angelo, Wanvisa performed well with its striations and marmorations remaining stable, matching its show in North Carolina. Dr. N. Nopchai Chansilpa who discovered the plant in Thailand has grown it successfully for three years.

How will Wanvisa fare in Colorado? That's what CWGS would like to discover. We hope our Club members will purchase Wanvisa and conduct an informal trial of their own. Although

(continued on page 8)

Invasive Or Valuable?

Colliding interests indefinitely postpone implementation of Texas' proposed "White List"

By Bill Powell

Throughout much of 2010 the state of Texas and constituent interests considered the implications of proposed invasive species rules. The rules were intended to implement recent legislation banning the introduction or spread of invasive, toxic, and non-native plants that might compete with native species.

Water gardening interests noted the proposed Texas rules would have severely limited the variety and numbers of aquatic species that could be sold or possessed legally within the state. The case has been followed closely by gardeners in Colorado and nationwide because of its potential precedent. Texas is also a major commercial source for many ornamental tropical plants that are sold across the nation. Limitations placed on nurseries in Texas would have affected availability of plants across a wide region including Colorado.

Development and implementation of the proposed invasive species regulations were ceded to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which conducted a number of public meetings. The regulations were also a focus of the IWGS Symposia held in Texas in the fall of last year.

At the heart of the legislation and regulation was the development of a proposed "White List" of acceptable plants that could be owned, introduced, or traded commercially across and within Texas borders. To develop the White List, Texas Parks and Wildlife proposed a "5-Step" assessment program that would have evaluated plants and identified potential for invasiveness. Plants found to be potentially invasive according to the first four steps were allowed an avenue for inclusion on the white list of acceptable plants if *"there is a strong history of trade in Texas, a high agricultural or other economic value and there has been no evidence of invasiveness."*¹ Plants that showed evidence of invasiveness but that were deemed of agricultural and economic value were exempted from immediate prohibition pending further study.

Many aquatic and wetland species were initially not candidates for inclusion as acceptable. Among prohibited plants were marginal aquatic plants that are common in back yard gardens including taro, marsh marigolds, umbrella palm, papyrus, creeping jenny, and graceful and dwarf cattail. These plants would have joined water hyacinth and water lettuce-species that are already prohibited under prior regulation in Texas.

Certain water lilies and lotus were also initially under consideration for prohibition, but during the course of public comment *Nelumbo nucifera* and all *Nymphaea* were eventually included on the proposed White List of acceptable plants.

Initial selections for exclusion from The White List and the uncertainty of the fifth assessment step apparently were led to the undoing, at least for now, of the regulation and presumably of enforcement of the law. According to WaterGardenNews.com, *"the proposed rules drew much feedback, spearheaded largely by Rolf Nelson of Nelson Water Gardens & Nursery in Katy, from the water garden, aquarium and nursery industries and included criticism of the department's risk-assessment process. Looming in the background was the much larger oil and energy industry, whose research into biofuels would have been hampered significantly by how the regulations would govern microalgae"*.

In late January of this year *"Texas State Senator Glenn Hegar called on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Executive Director Carter Smith to forego further work and cease implementation of the proposed aquatic plant species "white list" and the accompanying rules. Senator Hegar will sponsor a bill during the current legislative session that clarifies this request in statute.*

*" " While I certainly think that a great deal of progress has been made, I am not confident that the arrived-upon proposal is enforceable or realistic for Texas. With the list and rules now complete, it is clear that approval of this measure would severely impact our state's economy and the biofuel, nursery, and gardening industries across the state, " said Senator Hegar."*²

For now the status of noxious and invasive species remains in regulatory limbo in Texas, and there are little or no limitations on water plants other than water hyacinth and water lettuce which are controlled by prior legislation. Colorado has yet to place any commercially-viable water plants on an invasive species list, although certain institutions including Denver Botanic Gardens have identified invasive species of both aquatic and terrestrial plant that they will no longer promote, trade or sell.

References:

1. *From the Texas White List assessment steps as reported by WaterGardenNews.com*
2. *From the IWGS website*

Photo by Bruce Polkowsky



Bill's calla lily
blooming in late
February by a
south-facing
window

Focus On: *Zantedeschia aethiopica* "The calla lilies are in bloom again..."

by Bill Powell

Being southern I've always wanted to use that line from the classic thirties movie "Stage Door," but this is the first occasion I've had a chance to write the line in earnest for, in fact, now my calla lily *IS* in bloom! And Miss Hepburn's languid stage character is quite right: The calla lily is a "strange flower, suitable to any occasion."

Late last fall Rebecca Nash delivered mysterious bundles of sinuous and glossy green leaves to a Club meeting. She undid the tangles to reveal several pots of Calla lilies – offsets for which she was trying to find "good homes." I took one, and I'm glad I did. As Rebecca notes, "It's such an easy plant."

Z. aethiopica is not a lily or even a true calla, but an herbaceous perennial plant native to South Africa. It grows evergreen in locations where water and temperatures allow. In south and west Australia the plant has naturalized, becoming an invasive pest along waterways (as Club member and native Australian Peter Hier will attest.) No danger of that here; In chilly Colorado the calla lily must be grown as a pot plant.

Rebecca, who's kept Callas through eight seasons, says that *Z. aethiopica* is "different from the other calla lilies which definitely do need a period of dormancy. It will grow and bloom continuously if given enough fertilizer, sunlight, water, and minimum 50 degree temperature."

Rebecca moves her plant outside for the summer but keeps it in partial shade, confining sun exposure to perhaps two hours or early morning sun. A bit of shelter from wind is useful, too, given the size of leaves. She has another interesting observation: "The brighter outdoor light will cause the summer growth to be quite a bit shorter than the taller indoor winter growth".

One aspect to keep in mind: Calla Lilies are highly poisonous to mammals if any part of the plant is ingested. Happily, though, my cat who loves to chew on umbrella palm (and then throw up) has been completely uninterested in the calla lily.

N 'Wanvisa' ... (continued from page 6)

Wanvisa has performed well in a range of warmer climates, it's yet to be tested along the front range where cooler temperatures prevail, the growing season is shorter and the altitude, higher.

An interesting aside: Dr. Chansilpa named Wanvisa in honor of the day it first bloomed, which is sacred to Buddhism. "Female children born in Thailand on this sacred day are often named Wanvisa in honor of this celebration. Since a lot of us affectionately assign genders to some of our favorite [otherwise genderless] waterlilies, it's instructive to learn that Wanvisa comes to us already christened as female."¹

Reference:

1. All quotes in italics are taken from the IWGS website.

How To Purchase 'Wanvisa':

Want to have one of these extraordinary hardy waterlilies now? We are putting together an order. Availability is limited so we may not get all we order. If that is the case, orders will be filled in the order we received them.

The price is \$80.00 per tuber. Payment will be due when we get the plants. We hope to have them mid-to-late April.

Want to know more about this lily?
Visit www.iwgs.org/wanvisa-as-capy/

The deadline to order is March 17th (by our next meeting). To order, email Vicki Aber at docvicki@msn.com or call 303-423-9216.

Please be sure before you order. We are only covering our costs so the Club cannot afford to have unsold tubers left over.



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Your support helped to underwrite the cost of the WaterGarden last season.

We hope you'll join us again in 2011

Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
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Return this form with your payment to:
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 100 Glencoe St.
 Denver, CO 80220

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Home Phone: (____) _____

Email* _____

* Required for electronic receipt of newsletter.
 (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 (August) ___

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:

**Thursday, March 17: Potluck Dinner and Program -
"Gardening Down There" Peter Hier speaks on the Adelaide
Botanic Gardens in Adelaide, South Australia**

*Dinner at 6:00 pm; Program at 7:00 pm. at Denver Botanic Gardens, Classroom B
downstairs in the education building, 1007 York Street, Denver.*

*Note: March 17 is also the last date to order N. Wanvisa, selected by IWGS as the
Best New Waterlily*

*April 21: Get Wet – Program on native wetland species (tentative);
concurrent vendor fair; Gates Hall, DBG.*

May 19: Potluck Dinner and Plant Swap, DBG

June 12: CWGS Annual Plant Sale, DBG

June 26: Waterside Program on turtles at Majestic View, Arvada

July 23: CWGS Annual Pond Tour and Picnic

*Aug. 6: Water Blossom Festival – Dan Johnson speaks on the
place of water in the dry landscape, DBG*

Aug. 28: Waterside meeting, Coleman home, Longmont

Sept. 15: Potluck dinner and Annual Board Elections, DBG

Oct. 20: Potluck dinner and meeting, DBG

Dec. 15: Holiday Banquet, DBG



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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