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**2012 Annual Plant Swap
Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Thursday, May 17 in the
Plant Society Building, DBG**

**6:00 Pot Luck
7:00 Presentation
7:15 Plant Swap**

Online at:
www.colowatergardensociety.org

Don't Miss our Annual Plant Swap by Vicki Aber

The water gardening season is upon us. Are some of your plants overflowing their pots in your pond? It's time to divide and conquer. Remember when you got that plant and were so excited about it growing and thriving. Now it's doing so well it needs dividing. It's time to share the love and bring your extras to the annual Colorado Water Garden Society Plant Swap so others can get as much enjoyment out of that plant as you have.

This year we will be located in Denver Botanic Gardens' Plant Society Building (the same place our April meeting was held). To access the Plant Society Building, enter the staff drive from York Street (on the north side of the buildings and conservatory). Follow the drive to its termination at the West end of the new greenhouse complex. Ahead of you, you'll see a small wood-framed building with a gambrel roof. Parking is immediately adjacent. The York street staff entrance will remain open past 7:00 pm. There is no entrance fee.

We will be having our usual potluck starting at 6:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish. The club provides drinks, plates, and utensils.

This year we have a special bonus. Board member, Michael Weber will be giving a short talk on composting (see article on page 3). We may not use a lot of compost in our ponds, but our terrestrial gardens love getting the boost. Michael's talk will start at 7:00 pm and the swap will start immediately after his presentation.

In case you are unfamiliar with how the Plant Swap works, here's a refresher. We are mostly interested in water plants, but people have brought terrestrial plants. Some people have also brought equipment they no longer want or use. For every item you bring, you can pick one item from someone else. As an example, if you brought five plants, you go home with five new plants.

The Swap is very informal, however, there is one catch; you have to tell us about the plants and/or items you bring. Information such as how you grow it, if it blooms, what color are the blooms, how big are the blooms, how much sun it requires, etc. Anything you can share to help the next person be successful with the plant.

Please remember to bring with you some type of waterproof container, so you can get your plants home safe and sound without making a mess in your car.



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www.colowatergardensociety.org

CWGS Treasurer's Report:
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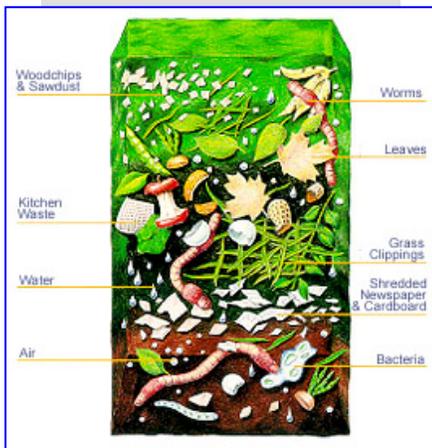
dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org.



Graphic from www.smellikedirt.wordpress.com



Photo from www.compostinstructions.com



Graphic from www.earth911.com

Backyard Composting by Michael Weber

I am currently enrolled in a course to become a Denver Master Composter. This course is part of an outreach program that is a partnership between Denver Recycles and Denver Urban Gardens.

Through hands-on sessions, Master Composter Program participants learn about a broad range of compost and recycling topics, including resource conservation and the effective use of recycled household materials in gardens and home landscapes.

As a part of our 10 weeks of training, we must commit to the performance of community service such as working with farmer's markets, participating in Earth Day events, and encouraging school programs that promote composting.

The goal for Denver is to reduce the amount of yard waste that goes into landfills and the costs associated with the collection of those materials, as well as improving the gardens and soils of Denver's citizens. Currently, over 30% of organic materials goes to landfills.

One of my homework assignments is to discuss the joys of composting with a large group outside of class. Composting helps to reduce water consumption, acts as a natural pesticide, improves soil condition, diverts contents from landfills, and reduces methane gas.

All gardeners can improve their composting skills, I know I did, and our flower beds and vegetable gardens will improve as a result. I have learned way beyond what I ever expected from this class and we are only half way through the material.

I will discuss all of the various EASY requirements needed to produce a sweet, earthy smelling pile of nutrient rich compost in 6 – 8 weeks. If your pile smells of ammonia, you do not turn it every 10 days, or it just sits and never breaks down, you will love this 15 minute discussion.

Please join me and your fellow gardeners at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 17th to learn how easy and beneficial composting can be.

For more information about this topic or presentation, please contact Michael Weber at webbaum@gmail.com or Denver Urban Gardens at <http://dug.org/master-composter-training-prog/>.

Get Wet Kicks-off Upcoming Water Gardening Season!

By Tamara Kilbane and Jim Arneill

Mitchell Hall at Denver Botanic Gardens housed our first major event of the season on Tuesday, April 10th. Tamara Kilbane, Senior Horticulturist of the Aquatic Collection at Denver Botanic Gardens, made a colorful and intriguing presentation about the upcoming International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society's (IWGS) New Water Lily Competition this summer at the Gardens.

She gave a clear explanation of the entire process beginning with hybridizers as far away as Thailand registering and sending her tropical and hardy lily tubers. Her stunning PowerPoint presentation included colorful pictures of the many lilies grown for this competition.

This summer we will all be able to see first-hand the spectacular foliage and blooms from this year's entries. Maybe, the 2012 award winning water lilies will someday make it into your pond!



Siam Purple – Best New Tropical Water Lily in the 2011 Competition held at the Sara P. Duke Gardens in Durham, North Carolina, photo courtesy of Tamara Kilbane

(continued on page 5)

Special thanks to the following for being part of Get Wet 2011

Participating vendors:

*Energy Water Gardens
Jared's Garden Center
Rocky Mountain WaterScape
Ron's Golden Ponds
Tagawa Garden Center
True Pump & Equipment*

Our presenters for Get Wet:

*Jim Arneill
Tamara Kilbane*

Participating educational societies:

*Colorado Water Garden Society
Denver Botanic Gardens
Rocky Mountain Koi Club*

**Many thanks to Energy Water Gardens for the Member-Favorite Plants:
Marsh Marigold and Water Hawthorn!**

. . .and thank you to everyone who attended this year's event!

We are off to a great start . . .

Get Wet Kicks-off

(continued from page 4)

Another segment of the Get Wet program involved the sale of two member-favorite aquatic marginal plants. Dorothy Martinez prepared an interesting PowerPoint presentation about the Marsh Marigold and Water Hawthorn that provided helpful information about these early blooming gems. Many thanks go to Diane Ross of Enery Water Gardens for providing all these plants to CWGS! Several ponds around town are looking even better with these additions!

Jim Arneill concluded the evening's program with an overview of the upcoming CWGS' events in 2012. There will be many opportunities to participate in many social and educational happenings this year.

We greatly appreciate the garden centers and local pond businesses that sent representatives to "Get Wet". A major goal of the event is to share the many outstanding resources that are available in our area. Both before and after the program, these representatives were available to discuss products and services they provide.



Water Plants Available at DBG's Annual Plant Sale May 11 and 12 By Bill Powell and Marge Oleson

Here's your opportunity for early "one-stop" water garden plants and supplies. Soon CWGS members will open the Aquatics booth at the Denver Botanic Garden's Annual Plant Sale. The Sale opens to the general public at 8:30 am on Friday and Saturday (May 11 & 12) on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission to the Sale is free.

The Aquatics booth will be offering a number of "favorites" from familiar vendors, but we'll have a wide selection of new species from new wholesale sources. We've also greatly increased the numbers and extent of "Garden-Grown" plants. As in years past we'll have divisions of hardy lilies from the Garden's collection, but we'll also have hardy and tropical marginal plants as well. These Garden-Grown plants offer great value and are also sure to flourish in Denver's climate.

Also new this year: Many of the marginals will come pre-potted in light-weight soil. And, we'll be offering a limited number of pre-planted container water gardens – the perfect gift for mom or for the novice water gardener.

If you missed out on buying Marsh Marigolds or Water Hawthorne at "Get Wet", the Aquatics booth will market some of these early bloomers. We'll also have unusual smaller lotus, carnivorous plants, as well as a selection of floaters and submersible plants for quick coverage of your pond early in the season.

(continued on page 6)



Wavnisa Hardy Water Lily, photo by Dr. N. Nopchai Chansilpa



2011 DBG Plant Sale, Michael Weber, Nancy Neupert, and Werner Neupert helping customers, photo by Bill Powell

DBG's Plant Sale (continued from page 5)

Of particular interest this year is the exotic hybrid *Nymphaea Wanvisa*, the IWGS Best Waterlily of 2010. This striking hardy lily was first made available to the public last year, but the cost was high. We can now offer this award-winning lily at an affordable price.

New among our hardy marginal offerings is the American cranberry plant – the same plant grown in commercial bogs. Home grow your own cranberry sauce!

For those of you looking for hardgoods, we'll have lily pots, lotus tubs, and Pontabb fertilizers. And if all you need is information, we'll have that too. It's free and comes both in printed brochures and direct from the informed staff.

At the very least stop by and say hello! The Aquatics Division will be located under the tent on the Marnie's Pavilion Plaza, convenient to the main walk near the West end of the conservatory. For more details regarding the sale, visit www.botanicgardens.org.

New & Returning Members for April

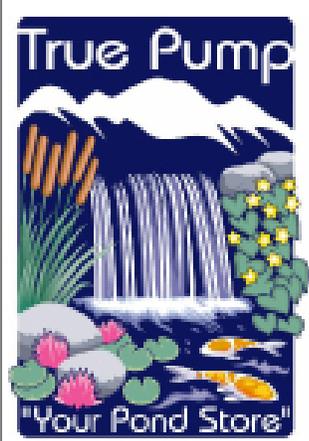
April

Vicki & Dan Aber Arvada, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>	Mike & Vickie Pervich Aurora, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Janice Barbee & Carol Norblom Morrison, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>	Gary & Judy Reid Boulder, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Bill & Jayne Bittman Arvada, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>	True Pump & Equipment Denver, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Joanne Bowen Boulder, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>	Rocky Mountain WaterScape Erie, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Barry & Priscilla Cross Denver, CO	<i>(New!)</i>	Michael Weber & Sandy Berenbaum Denver, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Enery Water Gardens Arvada, CO	<i>(New!)</i>	Patricia Weis-Taylor & Rick Hinrichs Boulder, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Damon Ginnow Lafayette, CO	<i>(New!)</i>	Jim & Bev Wohlenhaus Westminster, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>
Michael & Susie Hawes Englewood, CO	<i>(Returning)</i>		



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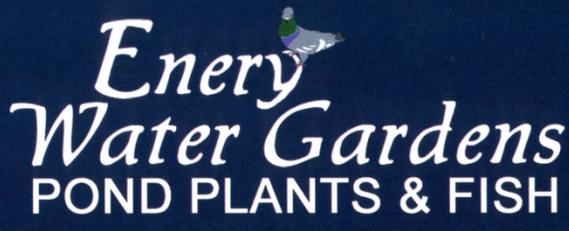
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We also run single-event ads.

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez
dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org*

Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
"Colorado Water Garden Society"

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

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

THIS YEAR

A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

May 11 and May 12: Denver Botanic Gardens Annual Plant Sale

**Aquatics Plants located South of Marnie's Pavilion
Denver Botanic Gardens**

8:30 AM – 6:00 PM – Friday
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM – Saturday

May 17: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap Plant Society Building Denver Botanic Gardens

6:00 PM – *Potluck*
7:00 PM – *Presentation by Michael Weber, "Backyard Composting"*
7:15 PM – *Plant Swap*

June 3: Annual Plant Sale – West Terrace, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

June 23: Pond Side Program – Hoffman Residence, 2:00 PM

July 21: Annual Pond Tour & Picnic – Westminster, Northglenn, Lafayette, Louisville, & Erie, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

August 5: Pond Side Program – Neupert Residence, 2:00 PM

August 18: Water Blossom Festival, Monet Water Garden, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sept. 20: Potluck & Annual Board Elections – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM

Oct. 18: Potluck & Planning Meeting – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM

Dec. 20: Holiday Banquet and Volunteer Recognition – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM



From...

TheWaterGarden
c/o Journal Editor
14837 W. 57th Drive
Golden, CO 80403-3001

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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