Denver Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale

by Tamara Kilbane

The Annual Spring Plant Sale at DBG is fast approaching! This year's Plant Sale is set to take place on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. A ticketed preview party will be held during the evening of Thursday, May 7th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

CWGS volunteers have already been hard at work assisting with the aquatics division of the Plant Sale. In mid-March, bare-root plant orders arrived and were potted up at the City Park greenhouses. Subsequent Sunday work days have included dividing plants saved from last summer's pond displays at the gardens (gotta love those Cannas!) as well as dividing hardy water lilies in the Monet pool.

A sign-up sheet for volunteer shifts during the Sale has been circulated and a few spots remain open for Friday and Saturday. DBG will once again be providing lunches to volunteers who help during the Sale. If you are interested in joining us for a 3.5-hour shift on either day of the Sale, please contact Brenda Parsons-Hier and she can add you to the list. Brenda can be reached at (303) 278-2106 or moose.4bph@q.com.

Whether you come to volunteer or just to shop, the Sale will be a great chance to reconnect with fellow club members and share the excitement of the new water gardening season ahead of us.

For a list of plants available at the Sale, go to: http://www.botanicgardens.org/sites/default/files/2015springplantsalecatalog.pdf.
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CWGS Treasurer’s Report:
Balance as of May 1, 2015 - $11,174.82
Annual Plant Swap

by Vicki Aber

The Annual Plant Swap is almost here. Most of you know how this works, but for new members or people that need a refresher I will go over the rules. It is really very simple. Bring plants you have divided and have extras of or things that just ended up not working for you.

For every plant you bring, you get to pick one thing from someone else’s offerings. You will be asked to talk about the plants you bring, provide as much information as you know will be helpful for the new owner. Information such as: common name, scientific name (if you know it), color of bloom (if any), growth habit, shade vs. sun, submerged or bog, etc. Any information is helpful.

We are not water plant snobs. Do you have a terrestrial plant or houseplant you need a new home for? Please bring them. Do you have a piece of yard art that never really worked in your yard? Whatever you want to bring will be fine.

What if you are new to the hobby and don’t really have any extras yet? Please come to the Swap anyway. It can be very educational to hear what people say about their plants. We usually have extra plants that are not claimed by the end of the Swap.

After people who brought plants/items have picked what they want, we will open it up to people who want more than they brought or didn’t bring anything. I know this sounds like it will just be leftovers, but you would be surprised. Some of our members are so successful, they bring multiple plants to share but don’t have much room left at home and don’t take anywhere near as many as they brought.

To the left are pictures of examples of some of the plants people have brought in the past.

All this is very hungry work, so as usual; we will have a potluck before the Swap. The potluck will start at 6:00 pm and the Swap at 7:00 pm. All this will take place at the Plant Society Building at DBG, come through the gate to the north of the Visitor Center and drive through the parking lot to the building at the end. Don’t forget to bring a container to take your new plants home in!
CWGS Plant Sale
by Janet Bathurst

It is Spring and time to think about gardening and plants. The Annual CWGS Plant Sale will be on Sunday, June 7th. This year’s theme is “Purple”. We have ordered several new lily cultivars this year and are very excited to be able to offer them to you for sale.

For the second year in a row, the Sale will be at Hudson Gardens located at 6115 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 797-8565. The Sale will be at the same place as last year - the patio/grass area near the Business Office/Residence on the north side of the gardens. The Sale begins Sunday, June 7th at 9:00 am for members and opens to the public at 10:00 am.

We will have a large variety of plants for sale. New lilies are our featured plants this year. We are ordering the first hardy purple lily named ‘Purple Fantasy’. The other new lily is a purple tropical lily named ‘Plum Crazy’. In addition to lilies, we will have many cannas this year donated by Hudson Gardens. The cannas are being grown at Hudson Gardens’ greenhouse. We potted up the canna tubers in mid-April, so they should be viable, growing plants by the time of the Sale. Lilies, cannas, and lots of other hardy and tropical marginal will be at the Sale. Please review the plant list on the web site at http://www.colowatergardensociety.org/files/ItemFileB209.pdf to make your wish list. For a map of Hudson Gardens, go to http://www.hudsongardens.org/content/gardenmap.php

As always, to have a successful Sale we need donations and volunteers. You don’t need to worry about expertise, there will be plenty of “old hands” around to help you and answer questions. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, June 6th from 10:00 am until about 1:00 pm and Sunday, June 7th from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. We will have coffee and donuts to start each day and lunch will also be provided on Sunday.

Please bring your plant donations on Saturday, June 6th between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. That will give us time to properly price and label all the donations.

Put June 7th on your calendar and we hope to see you at the 2015 Plant Sale! Personally, I am looking forward to seeing everyone and getting one of the new purple lilies.
Wet Again… But All Over
by Bill Powell

The evening of “Get Wet” was appropriately moist. Rain and snow buffeted the Plant Society Building at Denver Botanic Gardens. Still, members came seeking Spring. They didn’t come empty handed for the Club’s potluck and program. Wonderful dishes appeared, seemingly out of nowhere, for the shared potluck.

“Get Wet”, our kick-off to the Denver water garden season, also included a member-solicited video potluck of botanic gardens that many of us have been lucky enough to visit throughout the years. Dorothy Martinez and John Funk selected 80 images from over 180 submissions. Photos of botanic and sculpture gardens, particularly those featuring water, were shown on the new high definition screen that’s been installed in the Plant Society Building. Members commented upon their submissions from intimate street scenes of lotus pots somewhere in Asia to the very grand gardens of Versailles and the Loire Valley châteaux.

The itinerary ranged all over the globe from Australia to Canada, Italy, France, England, and the United States. Collectively CWGS members have traveled quite a bit it seems, and of course, we all take photos of water features we encounter along the way. It’s our weakness. Sometimes it’s fun to share your weakness…on a rainy night…as you wait for Spring.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to cull through your many images for just the right submissions to make Get Wet 2015 memorable.
June Pond Side Meeting

by Dorothy Martinez

This year’s June Pond Side meeting will be held at The Aquaponic Source, a local aquaponic retail store and grow lab located in Longmont on June 20th at 11:00 am. So, you ask yourself, what exactly is Aquaponics? Aquaponics is a system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically which in turn purify the water.

In doing research for this excursion, I also toured the The GrowHaus located in Denver’s Elyria-Swansea neighborhood near the Denver Coliseum. The GrowHaus is a nonprofit indoor farm, marketplace, and educational center. The GrowHaus is primarily focused on local, hydroponically grown food production.

I toured both facilities in February and found both tours to be very educational and informative. I learned the difference between hydroponics and aquaponics. I felt the tour of The Aquaponic Source was better suited to our members, so that’s where we will be going in June.

After the tour, we will be going to The Gardens at Spring Creek in Fort Collins for an optional potluck picnic. Please join us for all or part of this interesting Pond Side in June. More information about aquaponics, The Aquaponic Source, The Gardens at Spring Creek, and directions will be coming in the next Newsletter.

Space is limited to 20 people for the tour at The Aquaponic Source, so please let us know if you would like to come. Our President, Brenda Parsons-Hier has already started a sign-up sheet, so please contact her at (303) 278-2106 or moose.4bph@q.com.

New & Returning Members for April & May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2015</th>
<th>May 2015 (Cont’d)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Bowen</td>
<td>Georgia Keller</td>
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<td>Boulder, CO</td>
<td>Lakewood, CO</td>
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<td>(Returning)</td>
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<td>Robin Peck</td>
<td>Carolyn Lupe</td>
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<td>Brighton, CO</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<td>(NEW!)</td>
<td>(Returning)</td>
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<td>May 2015</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Vickie Pervich</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Howell</td>
<td>Aurora, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>(Returning)</td>
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<td>(Returning)</td>
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<td>Louise &amp; Lee Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centennial, CO</td>
<td>(Returning)</td>
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Check one:
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___ 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
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Membership Fees
$15.00 Individual; $20.00 Family
**THIS YEAR**

*A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:*

**May 8 & 9:** DBG Annual Spring Plant Sale  
Near the Bonsai Pavilion and Monet Pond  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM both Friday and Saturday

**May 28:** Potluck & Annual Plant Swap  
Plant Society Building  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Potluck  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM - Plant Swap

**June 7:** Annual Plant Sale – Business Office/Residence, The Hudson Gardens & Event Center, Littleton, CO, Members only 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, General Public 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**June 20:** Pond Side Program – The Aquaponic Source, Longmont, CO, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Optional trip to The Gardens at Spring Creek, Fort Collins, CO, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**July 18:** CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic – North Metro Denver Area, Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**August 8:** Water Blossom Festival, Monet Pond, IWGS Competition Lily Pond, Greenhouses, Japanese Garden, & Bonsai Garden, DBG, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**August 22:** Robert “Bob” Hoffman Memorial Pond at Hudson Gardens, Pond Side Meeting, Picnic Potluck, & Fall Plant Swap, The Hudson Gardens & Event Center, Littleton, CO, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Sept. 17:** Potluck, Annual Board Elections, & Presentation – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Oct. 15:** Potluck, Presentation, & Planning Meeting – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Dec. 17:** Holiday Banquet, Volunteer Recognition, & Silent Auction – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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*From…*

**The Water Garden**
c/o Dorothy Martinez, 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](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)