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### CWGS Potluck & Presentation

**DBG Plant Society Building  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Denver, CO**

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Online at:  
[www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)



**Colorado Water Garden Society Members Marian Metsopoulos, Les Petrash, and Mary Mirgon,** (photos courtesy of Lois Mayerchak, Joe Tomocik, and Lois Mayerchak respectively)

## Remembering Marian, Les, and, Mary by Bill Powell

Over the past couple of months, CWGS has lost three of our friends, all long-time members of the Club: Marian Metsopoulos, Les Petrash, and Mary Mirgon.

Marian Metsopoulos was born November 7, 1921. From 1971 to 1993, Marian served as the first director of the Foothills Art Center. She was also on the board and was a past president of the Lakewood Historical Society where she enjoyed doing oral histories, historical research, and preparing write-ups. She was a longtime member of Lakewood's Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church. Marian passed away Monday January 15, 2018 at the age of 96.

Marian was an accomplished gardener and an early member of the Colorado Water Garden Society. From September 1991 to August 1994, she was the editor of "The Water Garden." Always a careful custodian of history, Marian carefully preserved copies of our early newsletters and passed them on years later to a subsequent editor.

Condolence messages can be sent to Lisa Norris (Marian's daughter), 25383 W. 144<sup>th</sup> Court, Olathe, KS 66061. Donations can be made to Foothills Art Center, 809 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Golden, CO 80401.

Les Petrash was born on September 7, 1945. Les served honorably in the United States Navy. He lived in Englewood, Colorado where he was active in his community. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Les enjoyed traveling, a pastime he often combined with hiking, biking, and birding. Les died January 19, 2018 following a short, but difficult, bout with cancer.

Les was a long-time volunteer at Denver Botanic Gardens. He was instrumental in helping to plant and maintain the many aquatic features there, working in the pools (literally for donuts, as his co-workers fondly remember) during the CWGS-sponsored spring and fall Sunday work sessions. Always happy to tackle the toughest jobs, Les tirelessly lifted pots, hauled wet soil, and divided overgrown plants. He enjoyed Club meetings and, of course, our potlucks.

(continued on page 3)

**2018 Board of Directors:**

<b>President</b>	
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<b>Vice President</b>	
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<b>Secretary</b>	
Tamara Kilbane	303.865.3556
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Gabriella Bertelmann (MAL3)	303.777.7774
Sue Weatherman (MAL4)	303.457.1783
Rebecca Nash (MAL5)	303.921.8144
Janet Bathurst (MAL6)	303.421.1144
Peter Hier (MAL7)	303.278.2106
Teresa Burkert (MAL8)	720.219.6481
Dorothy Martinez (MAL9)	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](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)

**CWGS Treasurer's Report:**  
Balance as of March 2, 2018 -  
\$11,551.54

**2018 Committee and Event Chairs:**

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>Membership</b>	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
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Jim Arneill	303.843.9619
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Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>CWGS June Plant Sale</b>	
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Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
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<b>Pond Tour / Picnic</b>	
Rebecca Nash	303.921.8144
Dennis Weatherman	303.457.1783
Sue Weatherman	303.457.1783
Fran Hoffman (Picnic)	303.978.0124
Vicki Aber (Picnic)	303.423.9216
<b>Water Blossom Festival</b>	
Teresa Burkert	720.219.6481
<b>Holiday Banquet</b>	
Teresa Burkert	720.219.6481
Sue Weatherman	303.457.1783
<b>WebPage / Archives</b>	
Bill Bathurst	303.421.1144
Janet Bathurst	303.421.1144
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137
<b>DBG Plant Sale &amp; DBG Volunteers</b>	
Tamara Kilbane	720.865.3556
Brenda Parsons-Hier	303.278.2106
<b>Hudson Gardens' Volunteers</b>	
Dorothy Martinez	303.279.3137

**Remember...**

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](mailto:dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org).

## Remembering Marian, Les, and, Mary

(continued from page 1)

You can honor Les by donating to one of his favorite organizations: the Denver Botanic Gardens Aquatic Division, where he was a longtime volunteer, or to the Audubon Society in recognition of his love of birds, which was Les' passion.

Mary Mirgon was born on July 20, 1929 in Iowa. Mary and her husband John, who predeceased Mary in 2005, were founding members of the Colorado Water Garden Society. Volunteers in the 1970's to Denver Botanic Gardens' early aquatic efforts under Curator Joe Tomocik, the Mirgons were instrumental in conceiving the Club and in developing governance that led to our recognition as the world's first incorporated water gardening society. Mary passed away on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

Through the years, Mary was recognized publicly for her contribution to water gardening, and twice she was honored by noted hybridizers Kirk Strawn and Charlie Winch who both created new lilies in her name. In 1990, Mary and John received a joint "Hall of Fame" Award from the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society, *"attesting to [their] contributions and recognition from IWGS."* Joe Tomocik, the source of this quote, remembers Mary as *"so very kind to me and Denver Botanic Gardens" and "a long-time leader of CWGS."*

Both Marian and Mary were "Lifetime" members of the Colorado Water Garden Society. There are currently 14 Lifetime members. The Colorado Water Garden Society bestows Lifetime membership upon those long-time members who have contributed significantly to the Club over many years of service.

## Water Gardening at Denver Botanic Gardens by Peter Hier

Have you ever wondered how water flows from one pond to the other and back again through the gardens at DBG? Or what goes into the planning and preparation of the beautiful water garden displays? Please join us on Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Plant Society Building located within Denver Botanic Gardens where you will be able to see and hear the answers to these questions. Through the medium of video, watch, as club member Bill Powell will explain the Hydrology of the gardens, and then Tamara Kilbane, Senior Horticulturist Aquatics, will explain how she plans the upcoming season and what goes into the preparation that culminates in those beautiful displays.

Please park in the Parking Garage located between York Street & Josephine Street and enter the Gardens through the Pinion Gate, located just North of the Visitor Center. DBG's Plant Society Building is located at the West end of the staff parking lot and drive. The building is immediately adjacent to the Bonsai Garden and Pavilion. From inside the pedestrian area of DBG, the Plant Society Building is reached by walking through the sliding gate at the end of the greenhouse structure and West Terrace.

## Pond Fertilizer Tabs Available for Sale by Teresa Burkert

Pond fertilizer tabs will be available for sale from the Colorado Water Garden Society at the following meetings:

Get Wet on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
CWGS Plant Sale on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Pond Tour Picnic on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

They will be available in packages of 100 for \$10, 50 tabs for \$5, and 25 tabs for \$3. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Burkert at [teburkert85@gmail.com](mailto:teburkert85@gmail.com) or 720-219-6481.

## DBG Spring Plant Sale Volunteers Needed by Brenda Parsons-Hier



**Denver Botanic Gardens Plant Sale,**  
(photo courtesy of 50 Plus Marketplace  
News)

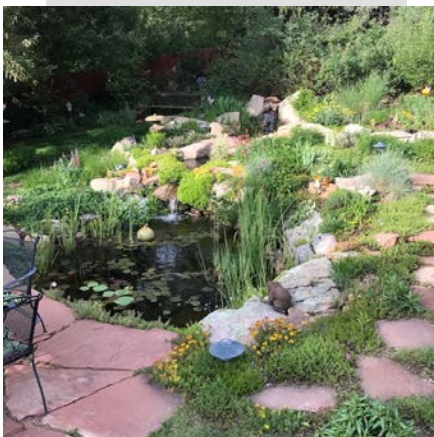
As I write this article, the temperature outside is 13 degrees and a light snow is falling. So thinking about the Denver Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale warms my thoughts. Every year the Aquatics Division needs our club member's water plant expertise to help the public make good plant choices. So, if you like talking about water plants and helping people, this may be the job for you!

The first need is for the Preview Party on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Dinner is provided. We also need people on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. On these days, we can buy plants as well as sell them. Lunch will be provided during the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. Friday's shifts are 7:30 am – 11:00 am, 11:00 am – 2:30 pm, 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm. Saturday's shifts are 7:30 pm – 11:00 am, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Each shift needs 4 - 6 people. DBG always treats us well with snacks and beverages.

No guarantees on what the weather will be during the Sale. It could be sunny, raining, or snowing. The temperatures can be 40 – 80 degrees, so come prepared for all weather scenarios. No matter the weather, we have a good time interacting with people who may be new to water gardening or who already have experience. If you would like to join us or if you have any questions, please contact me with what specific shift(s) you would like to work. You can contact me at either [moose.4bph@q.com](mailto:moose.4bph@q.com) or 303-278-2106.

Thank you.

## Seeking Pond Tour Participants by Rebecca Nash



**Pond from 2017 CWGS Pond Tour,**  
(photo courtesy of Susie Hawes)

Our annual Pond Tour and Picnic is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm, with the Picnic starting at 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The Tour is free to all CWGS members and their guests. Our location will be in the Arvada and Golden area this year. Dorothy Martinez and John Funk will be hosting the Picnic this year.

We are looking for participants who live in the Arvada and Golden area. If you choose to participate in the Tour, you will receive a one-year free membership to CWGS. Last year's Tour had 10 ponds and about 50 members came to see the ponds.

We encourage you to participate, no matter what type of water feature you have. We really like variety on the Pond Tour, so all pond sizes and types are welcome on the Tour. It's nice to see smaller features, pond-less features, as well as container gardens. This is a great excuse to spruce up your water feature and show off your hard work with other water feature enthusiasts.

To make the Tour a success we need 10 to 12 participants. Please seriously consider participating in this year's Tour. It really is a lot of fun!

If you would like to participate or if you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Nash at [nashrebecca@q.com](mailto:nashrebecca@q.com) or at (303) 921-8144



## **Beverages at Colorado Water Garden Society Meetings by Dorothy Martinez**

At the last Board meeting, it was decided the club would no longer be providing drinks during the Potlucks. It has become a hardship on the person(s) responsible for bringing drinks to the meetings due to stocking and storing the inventory and transporting the drinks to and from meetings.

The club will provide drinks at the following meetings:

All Pond Side meetings, for 2018 this includes June 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Pond Tour & Picnic, for 2018 this will be July 21<sup>st</sup>  
Holiday Banquet, for 2018 this will be December 13<sup>th</sup>

The club asks that you provide your own beverage at all other meetings. Those meetings include:

Potluck & Presentation on March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Get Wet on April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Potluck and Plant Swap on May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Potluck & Presentation on September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Potluck & Presentation on October 18<sup>th</sup>

If there is someone interested in being responsible for stocking, storing, and transporting drinks to and from meetings, please contact Brenda Parsons-Hier at either [moose.4bph@q.com](mailto:moose.4bph@q.com) or 303-278-2106.

## **Newsletter Printed Copies by Dorothy Martinez**

After much discussion at our last two Board meetings, the Colorado Water Garden Society has decided to begin charging an additional \$10 for those members wanting a printed copy of the Newsletter.

As our single most expensive line item is printing and mailing the Newsletter, we decided raising the membership rate was a good way to offset this expense. Membership rates have remained the same for over 10 years. We hope to use the additional income to bring in outside speakers and other experts to future meetings. This is in step with our Mission of “encouraging a greater appreciation and interest in the use of water in the landscape and to provide education about water gardening to the general public and to stimulate the study and culture of water plants.”

This change will take effect as memberships become due throughout the year. Currently, individual memberships cost \$15 and family memberships cost \$20. Upon a member's renewal, this amount will increase to \$25 for individual members and \$30 for family memberships.

## Newsletter Printed Copies

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For example, if you are currently receiving a printed copy of the Newsletter and your family membership expires in May 2018, you would renew on or before May 31<sup>st</sup> for the new amount of \$30. This only affects those members who still wish to receive their Newsletter in printed form. For those members receiving their Newsletters electronically, membership rates will remain the same.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call Dorothy Martinez at [dam@johnfunk.com](mailto:dam@johnfunk.com) or 303-279-3137.



### New and Returning Members for December 2017 January, February, & March 2018

#### December 2017

**Larry Brown**  
Brighton, CO

*Renewal*

#### February 2018

**Jim Carlson**  
Denver, CO

*Renewal*

#### **Judy & Gary Reid**

Boulder, CO

*Renewal*

#### **Tianxi Zhang**

Fort Collins, CO

**NEW!**

#### January 2018

**John & Charlotte Knudson**  
Boulder, CO

*Renewal*

#### March 2018

**Charles Oleson**  
Lakewood, CO

*Renewal*

**Dennis & Sue Weatherman**  
Thornton, CO

*Renewal*



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*Annual advertising in the newsletter also includes a listing on the CWGS website with an active link direct to your commercial webpage.*

*We also run single-event ads.*

*For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Dorothy Martinez  
[dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org](mailto:dorothy.martinez@colowatergardensociety.org)*



**Make checks payable to:**  
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**14837 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive**  
**Golden, CO 80403**



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*\* 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*

**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 for an additional fee of \$10 plus the \$15 for the Individual Membership or \$20 for the Family Membership***

Annual Membership Fees  
 \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family  
 Printed Copy of Newsletter (Annual)  
 \$25 Individual; \$30 Family

## THIS YEAR

*A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:*

**March 15: Potluck & Presentation by Peter Hier**  
**DBG Plant Society Building**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Presentation on DBG's Water Features & Their History

**April 18: Get Wet Presentation featuring 2017 IWGS Symposium, "How to Grow Lotus", & Lotus Sale – Gates Hall, DBG, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

**May 11 & May 12: DBG Annual Plant Sale – Area near Marnie's Pavilion, DBG, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Fri. and 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Sat.**

**May 24: Potluck & Annual Plant Swap – Business Office/Residence, The Hudson Gardens & Event Center, Littleton, CO, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**June 3: CWGS 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 23: Pond Side Program – Water's Edge, Picnic Potluck, Elbert, CO, 12:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**July 21: CWGS Pond Tour & Picnic – Arvada & Golden Area, Pond Tour 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Picnic 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**August 4: Water Blossom Festival – Monet Pond Area, Docent Tours of DBG Gardens & Opportunity to Buy a Venus Fly Trap, DBG, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**August 25: Pond Side Program – Blakley/Hamm Residence, Picnic Potluck, Lafayette, CO, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Sept. 20: Potluck, Annual Board Elections, Presentation featuring a round-robin discussion on pond experiences & favorite plants, & 2019 Planning Meeting – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Oct. 18: Potluck, possible Ghosts in the Gardens' Tour, & 2019 Planning Meeting – Great Room, Waring House, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Dec. 13: Holiday Banquet & Volunteer Recognition, – Plant Society Building, DBG, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**



FIRST CLASS MAIL

From...

### The Water Garden

c/o Dorothy Martinez, Editor  
14837 W. 57<sup>th</sup> 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)