



International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society

WATER GARDEN JOURNAL



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Got shade? Then you'll want to get White Butterfly Ginger, which is just as fragrant as a Gardenia. Mmmm. It's considered invasive in some areas, like Hawaii, so keep your eye on it ... but why would you want to take your eye off it? See more "White Water Plants" on page 5.



Having trouble growing *Lobelia x speciosa* 'Vedrariensis' or other tender, marginal, or tropical plants in your water garden? See "Why Won't It Grow?" on page 6.



The IWGS Symposium 2015 in Lawrence, Kansas, was a feast for the eyes. See more photos by John Sou on page 14.

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Powell Gardens in Kingsville, MO, during the IWGS Symposium 2015 by John Sou.

Submissions

If you would like to submit water garden content for the next edition of the *Journal*, please send your submissions before December 1 to KathyJentz@aol.com.

President's Letter

Hello, Everyone!

I want to take the time to thank Deb Spencer and Susan Davis of Water's Edge in Lawrence, Kansas. They were the hosts for our 2015 IWGS Symposium that was held this past August. As with all things Deb and Susan, it was done to perfection. Attendees were treated to an amazing number of sights, sounds, and good food. For any of you that have not attended an IWGS Symposium, you don't know what you are missing. It is so great to be able to spend time with people that share your passion and to meet friends — both old and new. Deb and Susan provided the perfect venue for this and my hat is off to them for what a wonderful job they did.

The Society welcomed three new board members to its roll at the Kansas Symposium, Derek Lyle, David Curtright, and Justin Titus. Derek is a horticulturist with Missouri Botanic Gardens and is in charge of outdoor aquatic displays and propagation of aquatic plants. Missouri Botanic Gardens was the home of waterlily hybridizer George Pring and has a rich history of wonderful waterlily and aquatic plant displays. Derek continues that tradition and makes a great addition to our Board.

David Curtright owns Freshwater Flora & Fauna, Inc., Escondido, San Diego County, CA, USA. He formerly wrote the Grower's Column for this Journal. He is also currently the IWGS Librarian.

Justin Titus is the owner of Monet Aquatics in Kansas City, Kansas. Justin installs and maintains ponds all over the Kansas City area and his passion is aquatic plants. Justin started his aquatic life working at Water's Edge in Lawrence, Kansas, where he was fascinated with the propagating of waterlilies and marginal plants. I am very glad that he will lend his efforts to the IWGS board, even though he is just a bit confused about the superiority of Texas Barbecue to Kansas City Barbecue. ☺

Board Member Demi Fortuna has been busy researching possible site for the 2016 IWGS Symposium. Demi is very excited about the possibility of Merida, Mexico, as the next symposia site. He is still working out the details, but it looks like the best time frame would be in October 2016. Merida is just a few hours west of the resort towns of Cancun and Playa del Carmen. Merida is considered the cultural capital of the Yucatan Peninsula with colonial architecture, the region's best museums and Demi assures me, more good places to eat than you can imagine. I look forward to hearing more from Demi on this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Michael Swize

IWGS President

mike77466@gmail.com



Club Corner

Newsletter Exchange Proposed

by Vicki Aber

In August I had the pleasure to attend the IWGS Symposium. It was a wonderful time that I will never forget. There were many facets that made it great.

The speakers were amazing, all experts in their fields. The topics were varied and very informative. We learned about hybridizing lilies. We learned about banned plants and how to keep on top of what is allowed and what isn't. There was talk on water quality. We had a very lively panel discussion covering many topics. We learned a lot about water iris. We talked about helping plants do well. We saw many beautiful gardens and other sights. We also ate, a lot!

We were on-the-go pretty much the whole time of the symposium. The planned events were amazing, but I found that some of the most useful information was shared between planned events. Most of our tours were some distance from the hotel so we took buses. On the buses, there were many interesting conversations and many new friendships forged.

I met people from all over the world. We talked about plants, optimal growing conditions, and their care and feeding. We talked about different climates and different cultures. We talked about the different ways we were involved in the hobby. Some people were growers, some pondscapers, some in pond maintenance, some in equipment or other supplies. Then there were the hobbyists and club members.

I was able to compare notes with other club members on how pond tours differ in different areas. Many people talked of the same problems clubs all over are facing i.e. attracting new members and retaining existing members, fund raising, finding speakers, and other programs. I had an idea that we could get a newsletter exchange going and share information that way. We could see what kind of programs other clubs are doing and get some new ideas from each other. We could share articles (with permission). I will be contacting the newsletter editor of the clubs that belong to IWGS to see if this will work for everyone.

Maybe I will get some new ideas for this column, because I am running out!

About the Author

Vicki Aber is an IWGS board member. She is also a member of the Colorado Water Garden Society (CWGS) and has served there as a board member and an officer, including the position of president. She can be contacted via email at docvicki@msn.com.



Home Gardening Corner

White in the Water Gardens

While everyone loves the pop of a pink lotus or violet waterlily, have you ever considered adding whimsical white to your water garden? White is actually the reflection of all colors and all wavelengths. If one of the colors is subtracted from white light, you see the complementary color. For example, if yellow is subtracted from white light, you see blue. Nature is so amazing ... and these white aquatic plants certainly prove that point!



A pair of white waterlilies rest atop a cool pond, one fully open and the other just awakening. Look closely to reveal the intricate details of the waterlily's sunny center, glowing proudly within an inner circle of petals.



This breathtaking, night-blooming tropical waterlily will delight you as the sun sets on the horizon. Can you see the little blue dragonfly perched on its petal?



Hymenocallis, or Spider Lily, is an easy-to-grow, reliable moisture-lover. If you love green and white combinations, like I do, you'll love this compelling flower. Although it grows primarily along the edges of a pond, you can plant it in soil (just remember to keep its feet wet).



This aquatic crinum lily is dainty and elegant all at once. Add these to your water garden or a boggy area for an architectural statement. And be sure to enjoy their gentle beauty up close.



Refresh yourself on hot summer days with this cute little Water Snowflake. Don't you just love its fuzzy, feathery petals?

Article Source

Aquascape, St. Charles, IL, USA. www.aquascapeinc.com.

Grower's Corner

Why Won't It Grow?

by James Allison

Whether a commercial grower or a pondkeeper, we have all obtained an interesting new plant seen at a supplier, or following a description in a catalogue, book or online article. We've tried growing it ourselves and then been disappointed when it fails to flourish. Why won't it grow?

There are a number of reasons a plant might fail and there's no harm in reminding ourselves of the possibilities, to increase the chances of survival in future.

Have We Been Misled?

We may have seen the plant growing in a horticultural show garden, or in a staged picture that actually placed the plant in quite the wrong situation for long-term growth. The old adage holds true — “right plant, right place” — we need to find the right place for a plant if it is to do its best. For aquatics, there are some important factors:

Correct Depth

Information on pot labels can often be over-generous on the range of depths, noting tolerated depths for well-established mature plants, rather than ideal depths. Even then, young plants may need time to adapt in the shallows before being moved to deeper water.

Plants often give us clues on how well they adjust to varying water levels. Those with tall upright stems like Reedmace (*Typha*) are usually very tolerant of varying water depths, whilst shorter leafy plants like forget-me-not (*Myosotis*) will drown if put too deep too soon.

Some plants sold as aquatics aren't true aquatics at all, and must have their crowns above water level to survive. Hostas like damp and humid conditions, but rot if they are fully submerged. Other plants just dislike stagnant water, but will often thrive when placed in moving water e.g. some of the Mimulus family. Many moisture-loving Primulas come from areas with heavy rainfall, but grow in free-draining hillsides where the water is never stagnant. In a moisture area of our gardens, they often benefit from some grit in the surface layer to stop the crowns and leaves from getting too

wet. The giant Himalayan cowslip (*P. florindae*) is perhaps the most moisture tolerant of this group, one of the few that will grow right up to the pool's edge.

The Iris family has very differing moisture requirements. *I. sibirica* likes moisture, but is not aquatic, *I. ensata* tolerates temporary flooding, whilst *I. laevigata* is most happy in very shallow water. *I. versicolor* and *I. pseudacorus* grow well in slightly deeper water too.

Sun or Shade?

All plants need some sunlight, but too much can damage certain plants, especially if they are grown at a lower latitude than their native territory. Water forget-me-not and marsh marigolds can scorch and pick up fungal infections, if they overheat. They may need more cool water or shade when planted in warmer climates.

Growing information isn't always correct. I've seen dwarf sweet-flag (*Acorus gramineus variegatus*) labels suggesting that full sun was essential, yet plants in these conditions often get brown scorch marks and I've found the plant to do much better in dappled shade. Perhaps that's due to the variegations, as a number of variegated plants can burn if grown in too bright sunlight.

The Internet can be a source of both good and bad information. Researching *Acorus gramineus* information from its native Far East reveals that in the wild it is often found in rocky deep-cut mountain streams where its “sticky” roots cling to the stones, holding it firm despite spates, whilst keeping it low enough to be sheltered from the worst of the wind and sun.

Shelter

Shelter is also important for many large-leaved plants like the Hostas and Rodgersias which need protection from drying winds and scorching sun, especially if they run short on moisture.

Hardiness

Some plants are not winter hardy, like water hyacinth (*Eichhornia*) and are treated as annuals in more temperate climates. Other plants are not reliably perennial (even though some may be sold as such) e.g. Brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*), which usually needs to be re-grown from seed each year. Moderately hardy plants like the giant Gunnera may need dry mulching

with straw in the winter, with the old leaves folded in to protect the crown from frost, whilst semi-tropicals like *Cyperus alternifolius* and *Thalia dealbata* can often get through the winter as long as the crown is deep enough below the ice. The white calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) may also survive in these conditions providing the plant is mature enough, or they do better in a drier, protected border in the winter.

Certain species may come from a very wide geographic range — such as the marsh marigolds (*Caltha spp.*) and pickerels (*Pontederia spp.*), and their characteristics have evolved to suit the different conditions in the local area. *Calthas* from exposed, colder areas are often shorter and later flowering (e.g. *Caltha palustris* var. *radicans*), and *Pontederias* from warmer areas are often taller and more frost-tender than their cold region cousins. If a plant fails, don't give up on it without investigating — you may have purchased an inferior strain, or a strain from very different conditions to your own, and a plant from a different source may do a great deal better.

Identity and Lifespan

For some hard-to-identify plants like the water crowfoot (*Ranunculus spp.*), you may have purchased a species from moving water that will never flourish in a pond situation as a true still-water species would, and your supplier (or that book recommending a particular species) may have muddled the identity. Crowsfoots can also be short-lived, as they play a role in plant succession in the wild, with parts of plants breaking off or seeding elsewhere to colonise new habitats, rather than forming permanent/long-lived clumps in one place.

Herbaceous Lobelias might also fall into this short-lived category as they often seem to disappear after a few years. Is this a winter kill; or severe snail damage; or just their way of telling you to take cuttings more often, and spread them elsewhere?

It's Not Dead, It's Just Sleeping ...

The water hawthorn (*Aponogeton distachyos* and related species) can die back temporarily following flowering, with the old leaves devoured by snails. Where the water is especially shallow or warm the plants may go into a dormant phase, only reviving when cooler conditions arrive.

Water Conditions

Although many water plants are amazingly adaptable to differing water conditions, some are more particular. Moisture-loving *Sarracenias* grow well in softer water and acidic conditions which are often nutrient-low, and they can survive where other plants can't due to their carnivorous nature in obtaining nutrients. Most of these plants don't adapt well to hard water and alkaline conditions, though some garden strains have been selected for their tolerance. Water violet (*Hottonia palustris*) often struggles in new ponds, whatever the pH, but seems to do well in aged, mature water — perhaps humic acids help here?



Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Amongst the waterlilies *N. alba* and *N. odorata* are found in a wide range of water conditions whilst the *N. alba rubra* subspecies was sourced from a soft water, acid lake, and some of the hardy red cultivars might have inherited this preference. Many growers report that certain cultivars thrive in one spot, but struggle in nearby sites with slightly different soil or water conditions. In our own gardens, we are unlikely to be able to provide a range of water conditions, and must stick with the tap or rainwater sources that we are given. With this limit, we must realize that not every plant will relish the conditions we can offer, and we must learn to either choose the best suited plants, or go to the trouble of adjusting our water to match.

Competition

I prefer planting into individual pots/baskets to give each variety a fair chance. Where plants are mixed, those of different growth habit (e.g. Iris and water forget-me-not) may co-exist happily, but in other cases one plant tends to out-compete the other. This is more



Water Crowsfoot (*Ranunculus* sp.)

of an issue for submerged aquatic plants as they spread through the pond. The submerged Hydrocharitaceae (like *Egeria/Anacharis*, *Elodea*, *Lagarosiphon*, and *Hydrilla*) are strong growers or invasives. They are able to continue photosynthesising at much higher water pH than most other plants because they can use bicarbonate in the water as their carbon source. As they use this bicarbonate (often depositing marl on their upper leaf surface in the process), the pH rises further still, preventing many other submerged aquatics from photosynthesising.

Floating plants can blanket out the light to all submerged plants, also having a very negative impact on oxygen levels. Other competition can be from animals, like koi or waterfowl, who may give softer plants short shrift.

Allelopathy

Beyond straightforward competition, there is warfare too. Allelopathy is the term used to describe where plants release chemicals that can damage, inhibit, or repel other organisms. In some cases these agents are only released when a plant is damaged e.g. by insect pests. Plants such as these may be strongly aromatic, like Lizard's Tail (*Saururus*) and the closely related *Houttuynia*, which both release lignoids when damaged. *Myriophyllum spicatum* releases phenolic compounds that can prevent film-algae growing directly on the leaves (though this doesn't seem to stop blanketweed growth). Maybe other similar interactions are taking place between plants that we are unaware of?

Disease

Don't ignore the possibility that the loss of your new plant has been caused by disease. Most of us have seen the devastating effect of waterlily crown rot (thankfully not too common these days), and other fungal, bacterial, and viral infections can cause major problems. These all act as a warning to maintain high standards of biosecurity. Quarantine new purchases elsewhere before introducing them to your main pond.

Further Research and New Finds

Websites like <http://www.ispotnature.org/> (which covers four worldwide communities/localities), the GRIN database http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/tax_search.pl, and Wikipedia are just a few of the places that give information about the native origins and habitats of plants. Investigating the right place for your plants, and finding out about their natural habitats, can turn up other interesting plants that grow in similar conditions. Some of these plants might be worth a try e.g. the red hot poker of general gardens (*Kniphofia caulescens*) has some relatives that grow in marshes and on streamsides in their native South Africa (e.g. *K. breviflora*) — worth investigating?

Wrong Place

Remember that, as well as the right place for the right plant, there are wrong places too. Exotic garden ornamentals should be kept to gardens where they can be monitored and controlled and never introduced to the wild, even if they appear non-invasive. With water plants, that means taking special care in avoiding stream or lakeside planting for anything that might escape.

Don't Give Up

So, if that new purchase falls by the wayside, don't reject it completely. With fresh insight on its requirements, a re-purchase might end up taking pride of place in your water garden.

About the Author

James Allison of Aquapic Water Garden Solutions in the UK can be reached via www.watergardensolutions.co.uk. This article is based on a lecture he gave at the IWGS Symposium 2015.

Online Community

Lily Leaf Damage from Ostracods

by Kathy Jentz

Here is a recent discussion from the IWGS Let's Talk Water Gardening online forum (yahoo group). You can find out more and/or sign up to this group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LetsTalkWaterGardening/>.



Question:

“How can you tell if leaf damage is from ostracods, rather than tadpoles or another cause? Does it make any difference if there are fish in the pond? Thanks for any help.”

~ Paula, SW Florida, USA

Answers:

“In the UK, I’ve only ever seen ostracods eat plant debris, not live plant material, though there may be some species that do. We used to get them in the trays of water that plant pots were displayed in, and they didn’t seem to cause any problem. In fact, we often netted some of them out, either to feed fish, or to add to biological pond filters, as they seemed to help the water clear. These ostracods were quite distinct, bean-shaped, pale pinkish-orange, about 1-3mm long, and constantly scurrying about in the water or along surfaces.

“In the UK, the greatest damage to leaves, aside from large cuts from China Mark Moth, is most often caused by the larvae of certain midges. These eat away the leaf to tatters, often in a short time, from the edges inwards, leaving a half-thickness of browning leaf in places. They are almost invisible, but if you remove the leaf from the water, and wipe the edges, you can see the small translucent worm like larvae, wriggling on your fingers as the water dries.

“I hope you find out what is causing your leaf damage.”

~ James of Cheltenham UK

“Around here it is usually caterpillars, slugs, or aphids, even with a large fish population.”

~ Dale B.

“I have been interested in ostracods for the last 50 years. I have seen them in Florida and the entire length of Illinois. In my nursery, a small yellow ostracod has had population explosions in old water filled tubs of rotting waterlily roots sitting on top of the ground. One would expect this to be a mosquito-breeding environment, but once the ostracods take over there are no mosquito larvae. I always keep a few of these tubs around just for curiosity. When rotting lily rhizomes are left in the pond, they are slowly devoured by a much larger dappled ostracod. In all these years of observation, I have never seen an ostracod nibble on a live healthy plant. Their mandibles are enclosed by the clam-like shells. They only feed on bacteria and fungi from detritus, but I would love to see one that eats any part of a live lily. I keep an open mind. Some fish love them.

“What species of frog tadpole eat lily leaves? I have six species of frog tadpoles here and they never eat lily leaves. We do not have spadefoot toads in this area. I suspect these tadpoles are the villains.”

~ Robert of Elgin, Illinois, USA

About the Author

Kathy Jentz is editor of *The IWGS Water Garden Journal*. She can be reached at kathyjentz@aol.com.

Expert's Corner

Pond Maintenance and Tips

by Fred Johnson

SMALL PONDS

(includes pond/fountain combo)

- Empty skimmer basket weekly or as needed to remove debris.
- Rinse skimmer filter weekly or as needed to maintain maximum water flow.
- Maintain proper water level weekly, if not automatic, so you will not be adding so much fresh water at one time. Fix any major leaks immediately.
- Add beneficial bacteria concentration per directions, this consumes the excess nutrients that algae needs to grow, breaks down solids the skimmer might miss, helps remove ammonia and nitrates while also improving dissolved oxygen levels.
- Check pH, if you suspect a problem in water conditions, adjust if needed with pH up or pH down.
- Do not put harmful chemicals in your pond to kill algae, when you kill algae it sinks to the bottom, decomposes, and creates nutrients for a new and bigger algae bloom. Try Green Clean™ and follow up with Microbe Lift PBL™ or other natural biological products.
- Do not over feed fish — use a floating ring made of small tubing, anchored with fishing line to regulate. This allows fish to come up under to eat and keeps food out of the skimmer. Feed a little at a time.
- Put any free-floating plants in a similar ring so they do not wind up in the skimmer
- Schedule yearly cleaning to get out built-up waste, which can create excess ammonia and nitrates that can cause fish kills on the hot days of summer. It will also remove excess nutrients that cause algae blooms. Best done early March to mid-May, but can be done anytime necessary.
- Use pumps with solids handling capability to prevent clogging.
- Use skimmers with basket and filter handles above waterline for easy maintenance. Skimmers also house the pump and sometimes the UV light and water level control, eliminating unsightly plumbing in your pond.
- Use biological filters that create a waterfall for aera-

tion and only have to be cleaned once a year, and/or use bubble aeration.

- Add UV light only if you have a problem with green water — usually caused by too much direct sunlight or excess nutrients, which can usually be fixed naturally by following directions on beneficial bacteria and/or adding an arbor or other type of shade over your pond.
- Add auto water control if you take frequent trips or to reduce general maintenance.
- Remember plants, fish, frogs, insects, beneficial bacteria, and all associated creatures are an important part of your ecosystem.
- Locate your pond close to your porch or deck so you can enjoy it conveniently and comfortably and/or build a pergola or arbor for a sitting area.
- Line all horizontal surfaces with small stone or gravel and all vertical walls with larger stone to keep UV rays from damaging liner and to give the beneficial bacteria more area to colonize.
- For ponds deeper than 30-inches, place a pump on the bottom with a aerator nozzle above or near the water level or add bubble aeration to bring up uncirculated water and add oxygen.
- For ponds with a high fish load or high nutrient levels, install a bottom drain to help remove bottom sludge build up.
- Build a cave for fish to hide from predators, and/or use some type of predator control such as a motion activated sprayer like the Scarecrow™.
- Light up your pond for spectacular nighttime viewing.

LARGE POND AND LAKES

- When building make sure to put in proper overflow and drainage equipment so you can control water levels.
- Good aeration is the first and most important step to preventing algae and most other unwanted water quality situations. Aerators/floating fountains (1) Bring up otherwise uncirculated water from the bottom, which mixes the water column and helps to control algae, foul odors and distribute beneficial bacteria populations and any other treatments thoroughly. (2) Provide the much needed dissolved oxygen that fish, beneficial bacteria and all other aquatic life need to survive,

especially during hot weather. (3) Help keep debris pushed out to the edges for easy collection. (4) Provide a beautiful water and light show for you and your guests to enjoy.

- A variety of submersible aerators are available for those who do not want a visible display.
- Unless you have a severe existing problem, do not put harmful chemicals in your water to kill algae or weeds, when you kill algae/vegetation it sinks to the bottom, decomposes, feeds the next algae bloom and can harm aquatic life and the environment. You also lose depth each year due to accumulation (your pond will eventually fill in) and risk costly dredging in the future. If chemicals are necessary, make sure to consult a professional to choose the correct product and application procedures for your situation. Then follow up with aeration, grass carp, and biological beneficial bacteria treatments for maintenance.
- Use beneficial bacteria concentrations (bio-augmentation) to remove excess nutrients and bottom sludge that algae needs to grow. You can even regain some of your lost depth. For mild cases Try Green Clean™ and follow up with Microbe Lift PBL™ or other trusted brands of beneficial bacteria. For severe cases please consult a professional for advice on the proper product for your situation.
- Stock 10-15 sterile grass carp per acre to control aquatic vegetation. They do not reproduce, they consume massive quantities of vegetation each day and live 15-20 years.
- In very shallow ponds, non-toxic dye can be used (with aeration and beneficial bacteria concentrations) to help prevent UV light penetration that and algae aquatic vegetation needs to grow.
- There are also debris skimmers available for large ponds and lakes to collect surface debris before it sinks to the bottom to decay and cause problems. They are also a great way to add a waterfall on the opposite end and create a beneficial flow across your pond while adding beauty.
- Build a sitting area with shade, picnic table and maybe a dock for fishing or boating so you can enjoy your pond/lake more readily.
- Properly stock and fish your pond to keep a healthy balance.
- Light up your pond for spectacular nighttime viewing.

LARGE FOUNTAINS

- Make sure to use proper equipment for a more enjoyable and maintenance free fountain, such as correct pumps, controls, skimmers, over flow and auto refill, vacuum ports, circulation fittings and proper filtration/water treatment.
- Empty skimmer basket weekly or as needed to remove debris and check any suction strainers or sumps for debris. This will greatly increase the life of your pumps and help with general water quality.
- Clean or backwash pump filters weekly or as needed (always refer to manufacturer's instructions) to reduce stress on pump motors.
- Maintain water level weekly if not automatic. Add auto water control if you take frequent trips and/or to reduce general maintenance
- Check pH weekly, correct if necessary using pH up or pH down.
- Maintain chlorine/bromine levels weekly, if not auto or use a salt based system
- Vacuum fountain as needed to remove scum and debris from sides and bottom.
- If using spray nozzles place them at least the same distance from the edge horizontally according to the distance they are going to spray vertically, to reduce water loss from splash and wind.
- If building waterfalls locate them at least the same distance from the edge horizontally according to the distance they are going to drop vertically to avoid water loss from splash and wind.
- Locate your fountain close to your porch or deck so you can enjoy it readily, and/or build an arbor or pergola for a sitting area.
- Light up your fountain for spectacular nighttime viewing.

About the Author

Fred Johnson is with Custom Ponds & Fountains in Wilmington NC. He can be reached via email at custompondsandfountains@gmail.com or at his website, custompondsandfountains.com.

IWGS SYMPOSIUM 2015

Friends We Have Made

by Anita Nelson

The very best thing about the IWGS are the members. Each symposium is an opportunity to touch base and catch up with old friends and make new ones, I made a new friend at the recent Kansas meeting. Carole Fenton is a hobbyist who also shares my passion for sewing. Another new friend is John Sou from the land down under. During the Hall of Fame Banquet, I was given the opportunity to share this aspect of our society with a PowerPoint presentation. Thanks to Charles Thomas, Paula Biles, Mike Swize, and Susan Davis, I had plenty of “people images” to share, so many in fact, that the presentation was broken down into four parts.

The first part was “Friends We Have Made” and the banquet attendees despite being hungry were so enthralled at first, that no one got up to get their dinner! Then the line to the food never got long as folks stayed in their seats to watch the show. I admit that there was a preponderance of images of Rich Sacher and Jan Phillips, but only because they are both so darn photogenic!



Left-to-right on bench are David Curtright, Ken Bernard, Jake Bernard, and Rob Dietter.

The next presentation was the Hall of Fame recipients. I was able to inject a bit of humor by including an image of a young (and skinny) Rolf Nelson. That was followed by a “Pond” Farewell to members that are no longer with us. This was a poignant moment, we miss these folks so much. I also felt sad that the new members will never have a chance to meet the likes of Pat Nutt, Kirk Strawn, Perry Slocum, Norman Bennett, and so many others.

I would love to build on this PowerPoint presentation for future IWGS events. Please send me any images that you would like to share. My email address is anita77466@gmail.com.

I’ve always joked that we could hold a symposium in the desert without an aquatic plant or garden in sight and we would still have a good time. To me, the chance to visit public and private gardens and aquatic businesses is icing on the cake. Susan Davis and Deb Spencer not only put together an amazing assortment of venues, it was so organized and efficiently run that I still marvel at the number of places we were able to visit!

Next year I hope to see everyone who couldn’t attend this year!

About the Author

Anita Nelson is one of the co-founder of Nelson Water Gardens and Nursery in Katy, TX. She can be reached at anita@nelsonwatergardens.com.



At the banquet, from left-to-right: Larry See, Rob Dietter, Mike Swize, Wayne Davis, Rolf Nelson and Rip Sokol.



James Waddick with Sue Speichert accepting a post-humous Hall of Fame Award for Greg Speichert.



Dave Forsman (not facing camera), Wayne Davis, Anita Nelson, Soni Forsman, and Justin Bristol.



Deb Spencer and Susan Davis welcome everyone to Water's Edge!



Above, Craig Presnell's hands-on lily talk at Powell Gardens.

Below, the national headquarters for the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America.



Wayne Davis accepting his Hall of Fame Award from Rolf Nelson.

IWGS SYMPOSIUM 2015

A Pictorial of the Garden Tours

by John Sou



Overland Park Arboretum



Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America



Water's Edge Nursery



Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden



Powell Gardens



About the Author

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Overland Park Arboretum during the IWGS Symposium 2015.

Photo by John Sou .

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