



2005 IWGS Waterlily Competition “Best New Waterlily”

N. 'Blue Aster' hybridized by Charles Winch

Charles Winch



Charlie Winch has been interested in waterlilies for more than seventy three years. In 1928, when he was ten years old, he acquired his first waterlily, 'Albida', a hardy. Charlie slowly added to his collection, while working on his parents' small poultry farm in Sydney, Australia. By 1939 he had become interested in tropicals as well.

On his discharge from the army, he decided to become a full-time aquatic nurseryman, breeding goldfish and growing various cold water aquatic plants, especially waterlilies.

By 1953 he had become very interested in tropicals and, following his wife Beryl's suggestion, became one of the first Australians to import day-flowering varieties from the United States.

Charlie began hybridizing shortly afterwards, crossing 'Blue Capensis' with the imported ones. In 1954, 'Noelene',

(below) a lavender pink, was his first recognized breakthrough using 'Golden West' and 'Blue Capensis' as parents.

In 1978 Charlie retired from full-time work and decided to devote the rest of his years to his hobby of hybridizing day-flowering tropical waterlilies. His goal is to improve the variety of colors in both flowers and leaves and to increase the number of petals per flower. He has achieved over six hundred different hybrids and named two hundred of them. Below are just a few of his creations.



'Noelene'



'White Delight'



'Mark Pullen'



'Charles Winch'



'True Blue'



'Marguerite'



'Ambrosia'



'Verena'

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

"Wet -n- Dry" "News -n- Views"

We hope that everyone had a great holiday season and that you are all looking forward to the joy of starting a new year.

The Board members met on January 4th. to discuss ideas and try to set a tentative schedule and list of topics early in the year. We hope that this will help to keep our programs varied and of interest to all. The following items were selected and a tentative schedule has been proposed. We are in the process of contacting various speakers and will supply additional information as we confirm them. We plan to review this calendar as part of the February meeting and look forward to your comments and additional input and suggestions. Also, since this is our 10th anniversary year, we are trying to promote various off-site activities to make the year especially helpful and interesting.

On February 3rd, we hope to have a speaker that will provide inside tips on what GardenScape will feature this year. The theme is "Reflections", There is to be a large central water garden in the middle of the dome. I have heard that it is to be a cooperative venture by several of the landscape companies and should be a spectacular scene for us in the middle of winter.

A video prepared by the Conifer Society on dwarf and regular conifers will be the featured presentation at the March 3rd meeting. As a follow-up later in spring, we will try to schedule visits to Bergen Water Gardens and Oriental Garden supply to view some of these plant materials. The off-site promotions this month are:

The RCGC Spring Symposium "Extraordinary Gardens for Ordinary People" on the 4th. Bruce Zaretsky's

presentation will address this theme topic. Noel Kingsbury will offer two lectures-- Wild about Perennials and Natural Planting for Small Gardens. GardenScape is scheduled for March 16-19. Hopefully, this year's theme and emphasis on the central pond will make it an opportunity to garner new ideas for our own ponds and water gardens.

We will start the spring season at the meeting on April 7th with an update and review of some of the preparations for opening the pond. There will also be a presentation on preparing and shaping hypertufa troughs and rocks.

May has several interesting possibilities. We will have a guest speaker on rock gardening and incorporating those principles to enhance our streams and waterfalls.

We hope to participate in the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society open house again this year. (We have not received confirmation on the date.)

They may offer 2 tours this year, one in spring, probably around Memorial Day, and possibly a mid-August version. They also informed us that there is a pond with fish and a bog area that may be of more interest to us. This is not part of the regular tour but, if we have sufficient interest, we could arrange a special tour. Finger Lakes Community College and the city of Canandaigua are featuring a garden theme event on May 13-14. If there is sufficient interest, we would like to combine the trip there with a possible stop at Willow Pond Aqua Farm and/or visit to Sonnenberg Gardens. (*We can do a guided or self tour and could qualify for a tour rate of \$7.50 vs. \$10 if our group is greater than 10.*)

In June, we really need your help both as volunteers and attendees for our two activities. June 2-4 are the dates for LilyFest. We need volunteers to staff our display and to talk to people about the club and your pond. On Sunday the 4th, we will

have our plant and product auction to raise money for our speakers and other projects. Your donation of plants would be greatly appreciated. We have also offered to support our friends from NFKPC with the AKCA symposium in Buffalo from June 22-25.

July too will be a busy month not only with the holiday but with several support activities to make this anniversary year special. The RCGC Garden Tour will be on July 8th. Our meeting has been scheduled for the 14th to avoid the end of the holiday week. We hope to have a program on selecting Koi based on photos from exhibits and Koi Shows. The NFKPC Pond Tour will be on the 22nd. The IWGS Symposia in Florida runs from July 19-23. Our Pond Tour and Picnic will be on July 29th. It is never too early to let us know if you might be interested in opening your pond for this year's tour.

Since the program on edible plants was so well received last fall, we will offer a similar program at the August 4th. meeting. Hopefully, there will be more fresh samples available for discussion, preparation and tasting.

The September meeting has also been adjusted to avoid the holiday weekend and will be on September 8th. Tentatively, we are trying to recruit a speaker to discuss adding fall color around the pond through the use of various plant and landscape materials.

The Round Table discussion last October involved everyone at the meeting into the sharing of ideas. It turned into a very social yet educational exchange. Therefore, we have been asked to do a similar program. It will be the feature for the meeting on October 6th.

The topic for the November 3rd. meeting has not been determined. We look forward to possibly having

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some suggestions from the general membership to help fill this spot. We will have election of officers and Board members this month. Friday, December 1st, will be our annual Christmas Party. Since this will be the year ending celebration of this our tenth anniversary year, I would hope that all of you will attend. We will continue to offer Pond Jeopardy for your fun, education and enjoyment.

Now that you have seen our tentative plans for this year, we hope that those who haven't yet renewed their membership will do so soon. If we haven't received your renewal by the time of this mailing, a short form renewal will be attached to the newsletter for your convenience. To remain on the mailing list, we must receive your renewal by the end of February. If you should decide not to renew, we would appreciate your input as to whether it was time, schedule or program related. We hope that with your help and suggestions that we can make the club more interesting and continue to help and support anyone interested in this great hobby. We look forward to another 10 or more years of celebrating with our ponds and each other.

A few short notes of possible interest.

- With our unusual but windy weather, a few of you may have experienced a problem with various pine and conifer needles or very small leaves getting through the net and into the pond. Several magazines have suggested using Remy or similar garden row covering material as a supported pond cover. This fine, breathable fabric is capable of excluding these materials but allows most of the light and water pass through. As a garden row cover, it is estimated to

keep plants warmer in spring and fall by holding in some of the heat trapped during the day. I don't know if the same would be true in the pond situation but it would seem that it could be a bonus for us there too.

- If you are checking your pond and fish as you should with all the open water from the mild start to our winter, you may notice some white blister like bumps on your fish. Without a close visual check or a scraping/microscope examination, it may be a carp pox. This is a cold water infection that responds well to heat and should disappear in spring as the water warms up. It doesn't kill the fish but in severe cases it may disfigure them. The virus manifests itself as a soft, waxy lesion generally on the fin and mouth areas. If you are concerned about the condition or it's severity, you should catch an infected fish and have it evaluated by a professional to make certain that is a pox and not something that could be lethal.
- String algae, as explained in previous newsletters, may continue to grow all winter long. This can make it worse and more difficult to remove and clean up in spring. In fall, when you turn off the waterfall, you can mist/spray the exposed algae with hydrogen peroxide. Allow it to work on the algae for a while then come back and scrub the areas with a stiff brush. (A toilet brush works great and can even be twirled to collect some of the longer strings before you spray the area.) You can also lower the water level to below the string algae line on the edge of the pond and follow a similar procedure. The small amount of hydrogen peroxide spray that may enter the pond should not cause any problems for the fish

since it is one of the emergency treatments for adding oxygen to the pond during extended power outages.

- Save the various snap caps from aerosol and pump type dispensers. Many of them will fit the various size plumbing lines around the pond and can be used to cap them off in fall to keep out dirt and critters until start-up in spring.
- If you have had problems with the rigid PVC pipes freezing and cracking because they weren't completely drained or collected water after shut down, consider replacing them with flexible PVC piping. The flexible pipe will bend and stretch with the ice tension and therefore, does not have to be as thoroughly drained.
- If you think that your pond should be clean and clear and you do not have a bottom drain, that may be the answer to your problem. This of course assumes that the other parameters like fish load, filtration, plantings etc are where they should be. If you are like me and perhaps many others and are concerned about cutting a hole in the pond liner, especially on the bottom, the new retro-fit drains are a good alternative. They are easy to install and are not too expensive. They also have the added advantage of being easy to service and clean. They can be relocated above the bottom to provide a warmer area for the fish during the winter. This would allow you to maintain your normal pump and filtration flows during the winter if that is your usual practice.
- With our moderate temperatures and open water, you could net out some of the debris from the bottom of the pond. (You must do this with a minimum distur-

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bance to the fish so that they do not waste extra energy swimming away from the net. Stop if you sense that it is creating a problem for them.) This cleaning would reduce the sources of possible toxic gases and remove potential hiding places for diseases and parasites. It will also reduce the sources of nutrients for algae growth and will facilitate your spring clean-up and opening of the pond.

- In case our real winter does come and arrives with a vengeance to make up for lost time, you might want to consider having a few emergency items on hand. Some of these items could keep a minor problem from turning into a disaster.
- Keep a hose in the house or other warm area so that it won't be frozen when you need it.
- Have sufficient chlorine remover on hand in case of a plumbing break or other substantial water loss.
- Have a patch kit or tape available in case the liner is punctured or torn by critters or falling branches.
- Have a small back-up pump or air pump and air stone available to maintain an area of open water in case your main pump fails. Extra airline tubing can also be important in case condensation freezes and plugs the in use line.
- In case of an extended power outage, a source of a battery powered sump or air pump would be a helpful addition. A bottle of hydrogen peroxide would also be useful in maintaining oxygen levels.
- A test kit to verify water quality especially after a power outage. The kit should be designed to detect ammonia, nitrite and nitrate levels.
- Ammonia removers can also be

helpful in preventing ammonia build up when the pumps or air stones are not functioning.

What's new? From the *Water Garden Journal*, the publication of the IWGS, I share the following information. The authors discuss a new species of watelily, *Nymphaea minuta*, that was discovered in Madagascar by P. Ivan Noziac. It has several features that make it very noteworthy. It is a natural dwarf with small pale pink to white cleistogamous¹ flowers. It is capable of displaying different growth forms in its life history.

It exhibited a submerged form including submerged cleistogamus flowers indicating that it was a reproductive specimen. In cultivation, it displays both submerged and emersed types of growth. In the emersed form, the blossoms open above the water surface and display characteristics that would place it in the subgenus *Brachyceras* of the day blooming tropical lilies. The species appears to be very prolific and easily cultivated. It flourishes in a submerged form in low light environments.

The wild specimens observed were all very dwarf and thus very noteworthy. However, under cultivation with optimum conditions and added fertilization the plant produces larger specimens that may be roughly 4 times larger than the dwarf sizes first discovered. This larger growth included all parts of the plant even the flowers. Despite these changes, the seed remained the same size as the original dwarf but the number of seeds produced increased in proportion to the rest of the plant.

The submerged plant. Leaves are ovate, very thin, soft, with wavy

¹ Refers to the self-pollination or self-pollinating nature of closed flowers. Therefore the submerged flowers of this new lily can pollinate themselves under water and without opening.

margins. The surface is hairless and pimped to wrinkled, bright green above and medium green with bronze to reddish cast below.

The submerged flowers rarely reach the surface and typically do not open underwater although open blossoms have been observed.

The emersed form. The floating leaves are round and about 2 1/2 to 4 3/4 inches in diameter. The upper surface is a medium green shade with no other pigmentation and the lower surface is a pale violet with brown tones that give them a muddy appearance with distinctive bright green veins.

The flowers of the emersed form are small about 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. They are a pale pink to white when open especially in the sun. The flowers open near noon and close by late afternoon and usually submerge on the third day.

An even more amazing feat is that an individual plant can change from one growth habit to the other in response to changing environmental conditions. During these transitional phases, both floating and submerged leaves are produced as well as emersed and submerged flowers. The controlling factors that may trigger these changes appear to be light intensity and duration along with nutrition factors.

If growing these plants in temperate latitudes in full sun, they will grow as the emersed phase throughout the summer. They will revert to the submerged phase as the daylight lessens in length and intensity. When they are re-started in spring, they will grow as submerged plants until the light intensity and length are sufficient to trigger the change to the emersed form for the summer.

Unfortunately, the article gave no indication of if, when or whether the plant will be commercially available.



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Board Members 2005

President: Larry Hursh

Vice President: Bob Wheeler

Secretary: Kathy Hursh

Treasurer: John Roguski

Pond Tour Chairperson: Brain Nagel

Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler and Kathy Hursh

Newsletter Editors: Hursh, James, and Nau families

Mentor and Technical Adviser: Larry Nau

Purpose of the Club

- To promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting Koi and goldfish.
- To promote and appreciate the hobby of Water Gardening.
- To disseminate information about Koi, goldfish and Water Gardening.
- To socialize and have fun.

We meet in a very friendly atmosphere at 7:00 pm, the first Friday of every month, at the Rochester Civic Garden Center (the Castle), 5 Castle Park, off Reservoir Ave., in Highland Park. Parking is free. Anyone interested in water gardening and/or Koi is welcome to join us. We ask that you consider joining the club after your third visit.

For more information call Larry H. 473-6276 or e-mail lkhursh@aol.com or visit the club website at

www.ggw.org/gvpakc

Calendar of Events

February 3, 2006: This will be the first meeting for the 2006 year. Our presentation will be on the lake feature and displays that are planned for GardenScape. Our speaker will be Mike Tanzini from Ted Collins Landscaping. We will review the calendar for our schedule of programs and off-site meetings and your ideas to make this an especially memorable anniversary year.

February 10, 2006: NFKPC meeting

March 3, 2006: There will be a video on "Conifers for the Rock Garden" that will be on loan from the Conifer Society.

March 4, 2006: RCGC Spring Symposium on "Extraordinary Gardens for Ordinary People" with Bruce Zaretsky and Noel Kingsbury.

March 16-19, 2006: GardenScape with the theme "Reflections"

Please remember our commitment as a group to help support NFKPC at the AKCA Seminar in Buffalo, June 22-25, 2006

This is a first for our area and is a great opportunity to see great Koi and to learn more about them from the experts.

Plan your schedules now, so that we can not only staff the booksales area but attend some of the programs too.

"Naturally Green" - A live gardening show every Saturday from **9-10 am** on **WYSL 1040 AM**.