For Immediate Release

2019 New Waterlily Competition Winners

NAPLES, FL – December 19, 2019 – The 2019 New Waterlily Competition at Naples Botanical Garden has come to a close, and a winner has been announced. Nymphaea ‘Key West’ by Florida Aquatic Nurseries has been selected as the 2019 Best Overall New Waterlily by the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society. With its pastel purple petals and blazing yellow center, it’s a fitting example of the potential of tropical waterlilies.

The Garden hosted its own iteration of the competition, with its “People’s Choice” online gallery and voting portal. Nearly 900 people voted to support their favorite waterlily. The victor: Nymphaea ‘A. Tongkam’ by Pattanan Ganjanapas of Thailand, complete with gold petals and wide, saucer-like blooms.

View photos of the IWGS winner and Garden “People’s Choice” winner, as well as images of all 2019 competition specimens.

For more than 20 years, horticultural experts have worked on reimagining aquatic gardens. The ultimate goal of the New Waterlily Competition is to spark an interest in aquatic gardening by introducing new waterlily species with noticeably new and unique traits. It’s an important job to do, considering how the effects of climate change will impact the future of life on land and in water. It’s one way to advocate for environmental consciousness.

This was the Garden’s first year hosting the competition. Waterlily hybridizers from around the globe submitted a total of 21 competing specimens vying for 10 different awards. The judging panel was made up of 12 experienced aquatic gardeners and experts from around the world. The competition will continue in the Garden through 2022, and guests can enjoy the hybrids again starting summer 2020.

For those who want to see more of these floating plants all year round, the Garden curates a growing collection of 85 varieties with 250 individual waterlilies throughout our many cultivated aquatic display gardens, which are most impressive during the summer months.

For more information on Naples Botanical Garden, please visit naplesgarden.org/media, or contact info@naplesgarden.org or 239.643.7275.

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About Naples Botanical Garden
Naples Botanical Garden is a 170-acre, world-class garden paradise that features plants from around the world. The Garden provides arts, culture, youth and adult education, conservation, wellness, and volunteer programs that contribute to the quality of life in Southwest Florida. The Garden’s living collections are always growing and evolving, leaving our audiences with a deeper engagement with our curated gardens and Preserve, broadened with every visit. Regular hours of operation are 8 a.m.–5 p.m. every day, with the Berger Shop in the Garden and Fogg Café opening at 9 a.m. Regular admission is $19.95 for adults, $9.95 for children (4–14); Members and children 3 and under get in free.