

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 3 no. 2 February 2003



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Lilypad

Our next meeting is Monday, Feb. 10. Deb Spencer, co-owner of the Water's Edge in Lawrence, KS, will present a program titled "Get Excited About Aquatic Plants". We have reserved the new Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens on the Iowa State University Campus for her presentation. The doors will open at 6:30 PM and her talk will start at 7:00. This program is open to everyone; tell your friends about it! For more information about Ms. Spencer, her program, and directions to Reiman Gardens, please read *Ribbiting Report* below.

Ribbiting Report

Most of you may remember that one of the goals of our group was to bring in special speakers with the money we raise from our fund raising activities. Up until now we have not been in a good financial condition that we could. I want to announce that I have invited Deb Spencer to present to us on Monday, Feb. 10. The following Press Release (and shorter versions of it) is being sent out by Gretchen Triplett, our Publicity Chair.

Water gardeners from Iowa are pleased to welcome Deb Spencer from Lawrence, KS as our featured speaker on Monday, Feb. 10. The Central Iowa Water Garden Association is sponsoring her visit as a way of promoting water gardening in Iowa.

Deb is co-owner of the Water's Edge -- a water gardening specialty store located near downtown Lawrence. In 1989, Deb and her partner Susan Davis began this business because of a love and fascination with all things pond-related. With extensive experience in almost all aspects of the industry, Deb frequently consults with area contractors on design, construction, planting and stocking of water gardens, fish ponds and fountains. While her partner, Susan,

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Ribbiting Report

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manages retail operations at their store, Deb runs their maintenance division which services 100 plus ponds in the KC, Lawrence and Topeka area. She also oversees wholesale distribution of water gardening hard goods to garden centers and landscapers in the same region.

Deb is a frequent speaker for local and national gardening groups. She also is a contributing writer for several trade magazines. Deb is a charter member of the Water Garden Society of Greater Kansas City and the newly formed Sunflower Water Garden Society. As a member of the International Waterlily and Watergarden Society, she's had the opportunity to visit and tour aquatic nurseries and display gardens throughout the United States and in parts of Europe. Photos and stories gleaned from these adventures are frequently used in her presentations. She is passionately dedicated to bringing the best of water gardening to us in Iowa.

Jamie Beyer, President of the CIWGA, has known Deb for over 6 years and feels that she is genuinely one of the most knowledgeable and gifted water gardeners he knows. Beyer says "she is very qualified to be the do-it-yourselfer consultant. Deb was in the business of water gardening before it was cool. Her experience is unequalled in the industry."

The title of her presentation is "Get Excited About Aquatic Plants". We have the new Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens on the Iowa State University Campus reserved for her presentation. The doors will open at 6:30 PM and her talk will start at 7:00. Questions will be welcomed by Deb. While at the Gardens you are welcome to tour the Conservatory -- so arrive early to have the time to see everything. The first 150 people through the door will get a seat.

There is no admission charge to her presentation. This is the CIWGA and Deb Spencer's gift to anybody interested in Water Gardening. Her presentation will appeal to the inexperienced as well as the person who has done it all in water gardening. Proceeds from the Annual Central Iowa Water

Garden Tour are being used to pay for this premier event.

Reiman Gardens (www.reimangardens.iastate.edu/) is located on the Iowa State University campus off Hwy. 30 at the Elwood Drive exit, turn left at the 2nd stoplight. It is on the south edge of the football stadium. If you are coming from I-35, take exit 111 West on Hwy. 30. There is no charge for the lecture, which is open to all people interested in water gardening. Seating capacity is 150, so come early! Questions? Call Jamie Beyer at 515/433-0194.

End of Press Release

Are we all-fired-up? I know I am. When talking with Deb, she is as excited about meeting Iowa water gardeners as we are in hearing her presentation. We want to continue to invite outside speakers, like Deb, in the future. So, stay tuned, give us some suggestions on who you want to hear and come to her Presentation.

In interest of saving time so that we can spend more time in listening to Deb, we will not have a business meeting on the 10th. Please read Jim Jordan's Secretary's report to know what is going on.

This is a meeting that you will want to invite all your gardening buddies and show 'em our great organization. You may also spread the word about Deb coming. See you there.

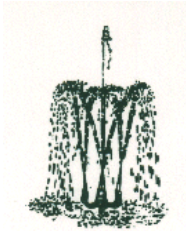
The Big Toad, Jamie



If your card is expired, you have renewed your dues, *and* you have not received your type written (not hand written temporary card) please contact Greg Knop or Lisa Harmison for getting your new replacement(s).

Fountains of Support

One of the benefits of being a member of CIWGA is that members can receive discounts at local businesses. You must show your current CIWGA membership card to receive the discount.



Ames Landscape and Nursery, 4320 Hwy 69 South, Ames, 515-232-2840 -- 10% discount.

Ark Pet Center, 118 Hayward Avenue, Ames, 515-292-4646 -- Card-carrying members have monthly specials in addition to 10% discount on everything else.

Aqualand, 3600 6th Avenue (6th and Euclid), Des Moines, 515-283-0300 -- All members receive a 10% discount.

Dillon Plant Company, Craig Jacobson, 2554 Dillon Road, Marshalltown, 641-479-2632 -- Dwarf conifers, hostas, daylilies, ornamental grasses. Open by appointment.

Earl May Garden Center, 1601 S. Kellogg, Ames, 515-232-2929 -- Everything 10% discount except for the Dog and Cat Food plus monthly in-store specials for an additional discount.

New! **Holub's Garden Center**, Ames - 10% discount not valid with other discounts.

Iowa Outdoor Products, 3200 86th Street, Des Moines -- Everything 10% discount.

Lowe's Garden Center, 120 Airport Road, Ames, 515-233-0404 -- All pond and landscaping products 10% discount.

Quick's Hardware Hank, 502 East 1st Street at the Corner of Hwy 69 and # 1st Str, Huxley, 515-597-2338 -- 10% discount all garden things except items on sale/specials to members with card.

Skycrest Gardens, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382 -- Almost everything 10% discount.

Struther's Trees and Outdoor Store, 2908 NE 94th Ave., Ankeny (1 mile east of I-35 exit 92), 515-964-5145 -- 10% discount.

Willowglen Nursery, Lindsay Lee and E. Lee Zieke Lee, 3512 Lost Mile Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101 -- Card-carrying members have 10% discount on water plants.

Minnow's Minutes

Minutes of Director's Meeting

The meeting was held at Gary & Janet Craven's home on January 9 at 7:00 p.m. Directors present: Jamie Beyer (JB), Gary Craven (GC), Lisa Harmison (LH), Harvey Hilpiper (HH), Jim Jordan (JJ), Lori Peake, (LP), and Mike Stewart (MS). Members present: Russ Buechler (RB). Emotional support: Craven's dog 'Sam' (S).

The board officially elected GC as Vice President and JJ as Secretary. JB wished the evening agenda to include discussions, which shared ideas of association activities, or rights and wrongs of the association, and discussions of possible 2003 programs.

- Program information included the following:
- January - pond hydraulics by Simon from Water Creations - Cambridge F.D.
 - February - Deb Spencer from Water's Edge of Lawrence, KS speaking on water garden plants. Location TBA.
 - March - Tentative - Charlie Drewes Invertebrate Zoologist ISU. Pond ecology and effect of pollutants and heavy metals on same. Location TBA.
 - April - Undecided - possibly repotting plants and jam session discussions by members in regard to programs included the following: LH read a list of subjects members want to know about which included fountains, rocks vs. no rocks, lotus plants from seed, how to build a stream bed, plants near ponds, Koi, birds in a garden, shady gardens, overwintering plants, keeping raccoons out, frog survival, etc.

GC suggested a program for one month be a jam session/social hour. He very much enjoyed it at Kenn & Dean's last year. Perhaps a potluck or BBQ at a member's place.

LP suggested that some people are reluctant to ask questions and therefore a Question Box might be set up at each meeting. It was suggested to call it the Treasure Chest.

GC suggested that a program be devoted to water features or small ponds. It was the consensus that GC could give the program.

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Minnow's Minutes

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July - Water Garden Tour. JB suggested a pig roast sometime soon after the tour as a thank you to all that helped with the tour.

The following is a list of other things discussed that are not program related:

- Discussion about possibly creating a water garden pictorial calendar for 2004. It would list dates when pond management practices are ideally performed. If promoted and marketed it could be a fundraiser. An Association photographer would need to be delegated -perhaps Mark Harmison???
- JB expressed a desire to have an Association Program book produced. The books would contain a membership list, programs, officers, different committees in detail and other pertinent information about CIWGA.
- JB suggested a retail committee whose function would be to communicate with retailers. Members could include HH for Fort Dodge, GC for Boone, MS for Ames, and Doug for Des Moines. Committee possibly chaired by MS.
- Board member committee to review Bylaws.
- Publicity for water garden tours, Ames, Boone, Des Moines, Altoona.
- Another tour of 7B ranch in Webster City - early August on a Saturday. The tour would be available to Master Gardeners, GIWGA, Ames Garden Club.
- Russ Buechler picked up a trailer to be fabricated into a permanent mobile water garden display or float for CIWGA. A committee will be formed for that purpose by contacting Russ. We appreciate Russ' initiative!
- JB will attempt to have quarterly board meetings - probably just prior to monthly meeting.
- JB requested articles for the newsletter
- LH said the deadline for the newsletter is the 20th of each month.

Board meeting ended at approximately 9:30 p.m.

January Meeting Minutes

The January 13 meeting was called to order by Jamie Beyer at approximately 7:00 p.m. It was at the Cambridge Iowa Fire Department.

Denise Reisetter, treasurer, reported funds of \$5,758.78. It was stated that \$90.00 was collected in volunteer donations at the December for an association special project.

The Bethany Manor pond problem was discussed. Kenn remedied the situation. Karen Steward paid for a pond heater at Bethany. Kenn has a neighbor girl that is willing to be a pond supervisor there. Kenn will be training her. I failed to get this person' s name. Thanks, Kenn!

Membership - Greg reported 189 members from Story County, 44 from Polk County and 37 members from Top of Iowa. This totals 270 members. Currently 110-115 newsletters per month are mailed. There are three versions of the newsletter: mailed copy, pdf version of the mailed copy on the web, and an html version on the web.

It was announced that Holub' s is now a Fountain of Support for everything they sell - membership card must be presented. Members were asked to not ask for a discount in addition to a senior citizen discount they may have received.

Jamie reviewed the director' s meeting held at Gary & Janet Craven' s on January 9. Refer to the minutes of that meeting also present in this newsletter. He strongly emphasized the February 10 program. Deb Spencer of Water' s Edge in Lawrence, KS will speak. He considers her as a foremost expert in the USA on water gardening. He strongly suggested members invite guests to this program. It will be well publicized and the location is soon to be announced. Do not miss this meeting!

Items discussed that were not specifically in the board minutes are as follows:

- Ryan Walrod will do a program in May about pond and garden lighting. It will be held in Boone at his parent' s garden.
- Other programs this fall could include a program on making splash fountains or something on shade plants.
- Russ Buechler' s plans for fabricating a parade flat/mobile display are looking good. People are to contact him to assist. He would rather be working on it during the winter in his shop. Bill Boone' s input will be welcomed as well as that of other members.

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Minnow's Minutes

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- Russ stated that the service project in the Ballard area turned out not to be feasible.
- Lizzy is in the possession of Bethany Manor for the next 30 days!
- Two very nice gifts from Skycrest Gardens were raffled and this secretary failed to obtain the winner's names.

Jamie presented in Simon Seah's absence a program on pond hydraulics. Pond hydraulics essentially refers to the pumps, piping and moving of water in a water garden. These minutes will only cover the highlights of a very good presentation only because this secretary feels unqualified to accurately report all that was presented.

Basically there are 2 classes of pumps - oil filled induced drive pumps and the more modern and efficient magnetic driven pumps. Impellers on both types need to be cleaned once a year. Magnetic pumps are 2-3 times more expensive but their efficiency soon pays for the extra cost. Larger pumps are rated in gallons per minute (GPM). Smaller pumps are in gallons per hour (GPH).

Various types of pond piping are PCV schedule 40 ridged pipe, flexible pipe (PVC - poly vinyl chloride piping), sump pump corrugated pipe. The merits and disadvantages of each were discussed.

Pipe resistance and resistance created by elbows and head resistance was discussed. Static head is the type created by a restriction in pipe diameter resulting in a reduction of flow. Dynamic head is the resistance created by how high the water has to pump. That is essentially resistance created by the weight of the water. He demonstrated this by raising the output hose from a small submerged pump to various heights as it was pumping. At 7-8' of height the resistance was adequate to stop the flow. He also stated a useful fact that for every 10' of horizontal hose the resistance is equal to one vertical foot of head resistance.

Thanks to Jean Rhodes and Carol Best for the refreshments. Thank you, Gretchen, for helping with the minutes because of my tardiness.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Jordan, Secretary

Float Planning Meeting

I have scheduled a float planning meeting for anyone interested in helping design on Sunday, February 9, at 2:00 pm. It will be located at the farm shop at 2233 250th Street which is two miles south of Hwy 30 towards Napier from the 142 interchange (X Avenue, west of Alliant Energy) and 3/4 mile west on the north side of the road. It can be easily seen by the blue Harverstore and two gold shops.

I purchased a small auger wagon that appears to be about the right size for a float and gives us something to start from. We had some good ideas from the photos, but more are needed at this "hands on" session. Seating is limited so please bring your own chair.

There will be some items needed: a pump, valves, piping, fountains, water storage tank, some type of covering, fake rocks, trailer lights, adjustable hitch, a generator or inverter, 5-bolt 15" aluminum wheels with 4" hub, etc. If anybody has anything that can help us out, please let me know.

A construction time will probably be set for the next weekend for anyone wanting to help.

Russ Buechler
30785 Deer Drive
Huxley
597-3203 (h)
231-4424 (cell)

Turtle's Tanks

The CIWGA Turtle extends a big thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have helped our group:

Skycrest Garden
The Ark Pet Center
Copyworks of Ames
Russ Buechler
The Hotel at Gateway Center
Reiman Gardens



Chapter Channels

Polk County

The DM group met January 28 at the Polk Co. Extension office. We had six members present and Doug Reick did a presentation on pond construction. This was very helpful to two new members who are planning to put in their pond this spring. Coming meetings for the group will be: Feb. 10 - we will attend the meeting in Ames featuring the guest speaker from Kansas; March 26 and April 29 programs to be announced but hopefully one of these will be on waterfall construction; and in May we will attend the Ames group' s plant sale. We have nothing definite for the summer months but hope to have some meetings/tours of member' s ponds in the Des Moines area.

Top of Iowa

The Top Of Iowa Water Garden Association held their first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday, January 20, 2003 at the ISU Extension Office in Mason City.

Ed brought everyone up to date with a brief synopsis of our last October' s meeting in Garner. The program that night was about starting seeds and was presented by Stan Fitz.

Three new prospective members were in attendance.

Under Old Business Debbie stated she e-mailed, but has not heard back from, Happy Acres in Osage. Last fall there was discussion about purchasing lilies from their business at a reduced bulk rate. Debbie will contact Happy Acres again before the next meeting.

Under New Business Ed distributed copies of an email he received from Gretchen Triplett inviting our members to attend the CIWA February 10th meeting. Co-Owner of Waters Edge in Kansas City, Deb Spencer will present a program on "Get Excited About Aquatic Plants". The time is 7:00 at Reiman Gardens on the ISU campus. For more information, please contact Ed.

Ed also asked for ideas for upcoming programs.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 17 at 7:00 P.M at the ISU Extension Office in Mason City. Ed will arrange the program and Mary will bring refreshments.

Thank you Logan and Bart Pals for providing the apple juice, coffee and cookies for tonight' s meeting.

After the brief business meeting, the owner of Pondscaping, Chris Wendel of Waterloo presented an informative program on how to make and install mechanical and biological filters using low-cost materials.

The public is welcome to attend our meetings. For further information, please contact Ed Schroeder at krafty@ncn.net or Mary Schultz at mschultz47@mchsi.com or 641-424-9247.

A Stone's Throw

For Newsletter Articles:

You can contact us by e-mail at news@ciwga.org or by postal mail at CIWGA, c/o Lisa Harmison, 2042 South 500th Avenue, Ames, IA 50014. Material (written stories and photographs) sent by regular mail will be returned. **Deadline for March issue is February 20.**

Upcoming Events

February 9 - Float Planning Meeting, please see page 5 for more information

February 17 - Top of Iowa Meeting, please see *Channels* for more information

March 10 - CIWGA Meeting, details TBA

March 26 - Polk Chapter Meeting, please see *Channels* for more information



Cat-tails

Figuring the Cost of Running My Pond Pump

By Jim Jordan

Pat and I have an Aquascape Pump (brand name). I'm assuming that it is not a magnetic driven pump because in the manual I find no mention of a magnet. It has a shaft and an oil plug. The following is listed on the side of the pump:

Discharge 1/5 H.P.
Output 1/5 H.P.
Voltage 110V
Current 2.6A
Head (max) 18 feet
Capacity 2700 GPH (based on 5 ft. dynamic head)
Frequency 60 Hz
Insulation E.

The manual says it is 286 watts.

What does it cost?

Consider the following glossary:

Watt: Unit to measure electricity

Kilowatt (KW) = 1000 watts

Kilowatt hour (KWH) - unit of energy equal to 1000 watts of electricity used in one hour. Electricity is priced by the KWH.

We have a meter that distinguishes usage of ON PEAK hours vs. OFF PEAK hours. On peak hours are Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Off peak hours are M-F 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday. My on-peak rate is 12 cents/KWH and my off-peak rate is 8.7 cents/KWH.

For simplicity in figuring this I am going to average the above rates and just say that it is 10 cents/KWH (close but not precise).

The pump uses 286 watts/hour x 24 hours/day = 6864 watts/day divided by 1000 = 6.86 kwh/day. 6.86 x 10 cents/kwh = 68.6cents/day x 30 days/month = \$20.58/month.

I learned at a recent meeting that I could keep my pond open with an aquarium aerator. So far it is working. If I remove the pump for 5 months I can save about \$100. Not subtracting the aerator usage, which is negligible.

Last winter I placed a 1000W tank heater in the bottom of the pond. A 1000W heater thus uses a KWH each hour x 24 hours a day = 24 kwh x 10 cents = \$2.40/day x 30 days/month = \$72.00/month assuming it was on constantly. I used it for 3 months at a potential cost of \$216.

I do not plan to use it this winter. So far things seem okay but I did find it necessary to enlarge the small hole in the ice around the bubbles this week. Ask me next spring about how the fish survived.



Lizzy is at Bethany Manor!

What's on the Web?

For those of you who have access to the Internet, feel free to check out our website: www.ciwga.org.

On the homepage you will find: the *Lilypad* - information about each chapter meeting; *Ponderings...* - link to the html and pdf versions of our monthly newsletter; *Fountains of Support* - information about the businesses providing members with a discount; *Bethany Manor* - pictures of the construction project provided by Gretchen Triplett; *Guppy's Gallery* - pond pictures sent in by club members (more always welcome!); *Puddle Jumping* - links to water garden sites of interest suggested by our members; and *Frog Files* - links to past issues of our newsletter (an index to articles is in the works). We also have club and contact information on the homepage.

If you click on *Ponderings*, you will go to a Table of Contents for the monthly newsletter (html version). There, you will find a pdf link, which is the pdf file of the newsletter that is mailed each month.

The html version of the newsletter (indicated by the Table of Contents) may contain color photographs and additional club information such as *Catch Basin* (description of volunteer opportunities). These items are not in the mailed/pdf version due to printing costs. The html version contains all the information found in the mailed version. All club members receive all pertinent club and chapter information no matter which version you choose.

If you have e-mail, please consider opting for the electronic version of our newsletter. You will receive an e-mail notifying you that the website and newsletter have been updated (which is done by the first of each month). Also, please be sure to let us know when you have a new e-mail address (send it to news@ciwga.org). Comments and suggestions for the newsletter and website can be sent to news@ciwga.org as well.

Jamie Beyer

Central Iowa Water Garden Association

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