

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 5 no. 3 March 2005



Lilypad

CIWGA will meet **Monday, March 14**, at 7:00 pm in the Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens. We will have a round table discussion with the Spring Symposium speakers Deb Spencer, Tom Graham, and Nathan Brockman. More information on this program can be found in *Ribbiting Report*.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will **Monday, March 21** at 7:00 p.m. at the Land-fill of North Iowa meeting room. The address is 15922 Killdeer Ave. Bill Rowland will be giving the program on Recycling and Composting.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet **Wednesday, March 23**, 7:00 pm at the ISU extension office on NE14th, two blocks North of Interstate 35/80 in Des Moines. Dave Rowe from Iowa Outdoor Products will be our guest. He will talk about hardscaping and planting around the pond, he will bring samples of some of their rock products and show some slides.

More details of the chapters can be found inside in *Chapter Channels*.

Craig Jacobson, owner of the Dillon Plant Company, passed away recently. Craig was a member of CIWGA and the Dillon Plant Company is one of our Fountains of Support. Memorials may be made to the Iowa Arboretum. Our deepest sympathies are for the Jacobson family.

Corner Stone

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Vice President
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Secretary
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President
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Secretary
Robin Wineland

We greatly appreciate the Fountains' support of our organization. We also appreciate our members respecting the wishes of the retailers by asking for discounts *only* for the specified items. Our list of Fountains of Support can be found on page five.



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Ribbiting Report

This is a pretty exciting time of the year for us. The ice is starting to weaken and, in some ponds, it may already be gone. Keep those air pumps running even after the ice is melted. I usually leave mine running until I start up the main water pump(s). I start these pumps up as soon as we have nighttime temperatures above freezing on a regular basis. Remember, it is always important to keep your circulation high.

As soon as ice is out, get your barley straw in the pond. You want to do this before the string algae starts to grow.

Our Super Water Garden Symposium is coming up on March 14. The CIWGA membership is getting an excellent deal on the registration costs. Instead of the normal \$75 cost, our membership gets the registration cost knocked down to \$45. This is because the CIWGA is defraying some of the costs of getting the presenters here. This is a great deal.

Do not delay in signing up. The deadline to register is March 4. However, if there are still openings after this date I believe you will still be able to register.

Please note that we have a new Membership Secretary, Carol Scheid. She is just now getting renewals out. You do not have to wait to get your renewal notice to renew. Check your mailing label to determine if you have expired and if so, mail your dues to Carol. This saves Carol a lot of effort plus it saves CIWGA dollars in the notification process.

Over the last 3 years Greg Knop has been doing this job and because of his job he has had to resign. So with much regret, the CIWGA has accepted the fact that he can no longer do this and Carol has agreed to do the job. Thank you Greg for a job well done and we really do appreciate Carol stepping forward. If you get a chance to thank both of them - please do.

We also have a new Treasurer - Jill Rose from Jefferson. She is taking over the job that was vacated by Denice Reisetter. I can't thank Denice enough for the three years of dedicated volunteering for our group. She is great and to have Jill to replace her is even more humbling. Jill and her husband Jim are taking on more volunteer posi-

tions, which is great for our membership. Again, thank them when you have a chance.

Planning for the Tenth Annual Central Iowa Water Garden tour is well underway. I am currently lining up gardens for the tour so if your garden is one that you want on the tour please get a hold of me ASAP. (515-433-0194) The tour will be in the Ames, Nevada, Collins and surrounding areas on Saturday July 16th, and in the Des Moines, Johnston, Ankeny and Alleman areas on Sunday July 17th. There is more information in this newsletter. We have a first class committee that is truly dedicated to make sure that we pull off the largest garden tour in the state. That's right - the largest!!!!

Rod and Kate Mulder and myself are serving as co chairs of the tour committee. We will be asking for volunteers to sit at a garden on the tour days. So if you are interested in helping please let me know. As an early signup - you will be able to pick and choose the garden that you can sit at. There will not be as much of a choice later on.

As for our meeting on the evening of Monday March 14, we will be having a round table discussion with Deb Spencer, Tom Graham and Nathan Brockman. These people are the extremely talented ponderers that will have presented during the day. I hated to ask them to do another talk but they did agree to do this roundtable idea. It will start at 7:00 PM on the 14th and will be in the new Hughes Auditorium. To have this kind of talent in a roundtable is very unusual. We will be talking about their topics from their talks earlier in the day. What an opportunity to be able to talk one on one with these very talented people.

That's it for this month - hope to see everybody at the Symposium and meeting the same evening.

See everybody at the meeting.

The Big Toad, Jamie



A Stone's Throw

For Newsletter Articles:

You can contact me by e-mail at news@ciwga.org or by postal mail at CIWGA, c/o Lisa Harmison, 2042 South 500th Avenue, Ames, IA 50014. **Deadline for April issue is March 20.**

Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

We extended another great welcome at our Feb 22 meeting to Rob Pritchard/Weston Wunder owners of Liquid Landscape Designers (toll free 1-877-796-7663).

They presented slides with many beautifully designed waterfalls and ponds that they have installed. We also watched a video on how to install a pondless waterfall. These young men started out installing ponds as a hobby and have built their business from there. They specialize in creative, functional and low maintenance designs. They talked about the Aquascapes system, which they highly recommend, and they focused mostly on the pondless waterfall system. This is an awesome way to have the serenity of the sound of a waterfall without the hazards of having a pond. They are safe around children, very low maintenance and extremely beautiful. Their largest most visible project they have installed so far is at John Deere Credit in Johnston. They installed four 10,000 GPH pumps that feed two of the largest biofalls boxes currently made, and the whole pond is lined, which is almost 1 acre.

Our next meeting will be on Wed March 23 @ 7 PM at the ISU extension office on NE14th, two blocks North of Interstate 35/80 in Des Moines. Dave Rowe from Iowa Outdoor Products will be our guest. He will talk about hardscaping and planting around the pond, he will bring samples of some of their rock products and show some slides.

We hope to see you there to share with us knowledge, excitement, and the anticipation of spring!

Hope to see you there.
Robin Wineland
Secretary Capitol City Chapter

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Landfill of North Iowa meeting room. The address is 15922 Killdeer Ave. Take Hwy. 106 and go 1 mile west of the Burchinal blacktop, turn south on Killdeer Ave. and go south 1 1/4 miles. It is on the west side of the road. Bill Rowland will be giving the program on Recycling and Composting. See you there!

Minnow's Minutes

Minutes from the January meeting

By Darla Kickbush

The treasurer was absent but called Jamie to report a balance of \$8252.00.

No minutes were available, as the group didn't meet in December.

Jamie announced the Spring Symposium. He described the program that will feature Deb Spencer, Tom Graham, and Nathan Brockman. Jamie suggested meeting with the speakers after the day-long meeting in a round table discussion. This Symposium is the same day as our regularly scheduled meeting. Registration forms for the Symposium were distributed. The cost for CIWGA members is \$45.00.

A Board of Director's meeting will be held in a couple weeks. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents will be elected at that meeting.

Minutes of CIWGA Board Meeting

February 14, 2005

Jamie called the meeting, held at the Collegiate Methodist Church in Ames, to order at 6:10 p.m. In attendance were Jamie, Lisa, Russ, Harvey, Rick, Lori P., Jim J., and Jim and Jill Rose.

The board elected by unanimous show of hands the following new officers:

Carol Sheid - Membership Secretary
Russ Buechler - Vice-President
Jim and Jill Rose - Co-treasurers

It was agreed that Russ, Jim and Jill would audit and reconcile the books. They have the right to seek professional help if necessary. Jamie distributed a green paper describing the Central Iowa tour of water gardens. It will be held on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on both days. Saturday will have 12 gardens in the Ames and Nevada areas. Sunday will have 12 gardens around Des Moines, Johnston, and Ankeny.

Jamie initiated a discussion about the division of the proceeds from the tour. Currently (2004) the Story County Master Gardeners receive 1/2 and Central Iowa Water Garden Association receives 1/4 and the Capital City chapter receives 1/4 of the proceeds. Discussion suggested that perhaps

Minnow's Minutes

profits could be distributed according to the amount of volunteerism from each group with Core Committee volunteers being weighed heavier than daily volunteers. This idea seemed cumbersome. Then it was mentioned that since all groups are non-profit, perhaps a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 distribution would be more simple. Because consensus was not arrived at, Jamie was asked to discuss it with the Story County Master Gardeners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting - February 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Jamie at 7:00 p.m. at Collegiate Methodist Church. There were 17 people present. Jamie began by summarizing the previous board meeting (see board minutes). In addition, Jamie made a plea for volunteers for the water garden tour. He will also do this by the newsletter in which he will list core jobs that are available. He stated that it is preferred to not have to meet frequently for this. He will line up all the gardens for the tour, but would appreciate emails from members telling him of potential garden hosts. Much of the business meeting involved discussions about core committees and their functions, which will be mentioned by Jamie elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jamie also discussed the March 14, 2005 Water Gardening Symposium to be held at Iowa State University. CIWGA members receive a discount (see other sections of this newsletter). This meeting is held in conjunction with the Shade Tree short course held the following two days.

A treasurer's report was not given as the books were just transferred to the Rose's this evening.

A motion was made by Harvey and seconded by Darla to donate \$2,000. to Reiman Gardens for partially sponsoring a summer intern and \$500. for water garden enhancements. After a discussion, it was approved with no dissenting votes. A discussion about helping with a pondless water feature at the Arboretum took place, but no action was taken at that time.

Everyone enjoyed cookies, sodas, and chips after the business meeting thanks to Bob and Carren Voshell.

The program included an exchange among members about mistakes and success with certain

things tried in water gardening. Three people spoke of experiences in damaging liners when trying to break up ice in their ponds. Lesson: do not use sharp tools because it is easy to go too deep and through a liner.

Other items:

-Dogs can chew through liners in empty ponds
-Remember when using high salt concentrations in ponds to treat sick fish that you must do water exchanges later. Plants do not like high salinity.

-It is best not to cover stored tropical plants with water during winter storage as crown rotting occurs.

-Don't take Taro plants out until after June 1.

-Don't bend over in deep water with chest waders on!

-It's hard to walk on the sloped bottom of ponds.

This writer failed to list some other do's and don'ts.

Several people were the recipients of door prizes donated by Skycrest Gardens. Thanks Tom and Marilyn.

Submitted by Jim Jordan, Secretary

Announcing the

The Tenth Annual (and very popular)

Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens

Saturday, July 16, showcases 12 gardens in the Ames and Nevada areas. Sunday, July 17, features 12 gardens in the Des Moines, Johnston, and Ankeny areas. Tours will be 9:00am - 6:00pm.

Sponsored by the Story County Master Gardener Association and the Central Iowa Water Garden Association.

Volunteers are needed to help with various parts of the pre-tour preparations as well as during the tour.

To volunteer, contact Jamie Beyer, 515-433-0194; or Kate Mulder, 515-292-7693.

Fountains of Support

CIWGA appreciates the support of these retailers and hopes to continue the positive benefits of this program for all. Members are asked to please respect the wishes of these retailers and this organization by following the rules as stated. How the program works:

1. A 10% discount is given to all active CIWGA members (active members are current in their dues) at the listed retailers.

2. Members must show their current membership cards to the Fountains to obtain the discount.

3. Discount applies **only on specified items - no exceptions**. Retailers reserve the right to refuse any 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 -- Monthly specials in addition to 10% discount on everything else.

Aqualand, 3600 6th Avenue (6th and Euclid), Des Moines, 515-283-0300, www.aqualand-petsplus.com -- 10% discount.

Copyworks Plus, 105 Welch Avenue, Ames, 515-292-3630 -- 10% off all copy services.

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.

Earl May Nursery and Garden Center, Scott Bradham, 168 South 25th Street, Ft. Dodge, 515-576-4231 -- 10% discount .

Escapes Water Creations, Carol and Randy Best, 107 E. Meadow Lane, Marshalltown, 641-753-7750 -- M-F 9-6, Sat. 9-3, 10% discount on retail items, excluding custom installation and already discounted items.

Happy Acres Nursery, Mary Fisk, 2012 Hwy 9, Osage, 641-732-5173 -- We carry a complete line of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, pond plants, pond supplies, fountains and statuary. We

do landscaping designs and installation as well as maintenance.

Holub Garden & Greenhouses, Inc., 22085 580th Ave., Ames, 515-232-4769 -- 10% discount not valid with other discounts.

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

K & K Gardens, 108 E. Wilbur St., Hawkeye, 52147, 563-427-5373, www.kkgardens.com -- *Closed for the season*, all members receive a 10% discount.

Kidman Tree Farm, Mike and Renee Kidman, 3665 NW 98th Ave., Polk City, 50226, 515-984-6946, www.kidmanfarms.com -- We sell Aquascape Pond Systems & Garden Railroad - both LGB & USA Trains. We will offer 10% off any G scale railroad sets or supplies.

Lowes Garden Center, 120 Airport Road, Ames, 515-233-0404 -- Pond and landscaping products only at customer service and number one garden register.

Quick's Hardware Hank, 502 East 1st Street, Huxley, 515-597-2338 -- 10% discount all garden things except items on sale/specials to members with card.

Skycrest Gardens, Marilyn and Tom Kenney, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382, *Opens April 1!* We will start selling pond supplies and hard goods etc. Plants will not be for sale until weather permits or around May 1. We will also be open on Friday's this year. Hours will be: Friday, noon-8pm., Sat. 9-6pm., and Sun. noon-5pm. -- Almost everything 10% discount.

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

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

Woodsmith Store Garden Center, 10320 Hickman Road, Des Moines, 50325, 515-254-9494 -- New garden center is open.

Note updated information for Skycrest Gardens above.

Membership Renewal

Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family membership. Please send your check payable to CIWGA to Carol Scheid, 68065 180th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Name(s):

Address:

City, State , Zip:

Phone:.....

E-mail:

Renewal number (if known):_____ Include in directory:_____

I'd like the monthly newsletter sent via (circle your choice) postal mail email both.

Chapter: Story County ____ Capital City Chapter ____ Top of Iowa ____

Lisa Harmison
Central Iowa Water Garden Association
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