

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 5 no. 4 April 2005



Lilypad

CIWGA will meet **Monday, April 11**, at 7:00 pm in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens. Jamie Beyer will demonstrate Repotting Your Water Lilies and Marginal Plants. More information on this program can be found in *Ribbiting Report*.

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The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will **Monday, April 18**, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mason City. The address is 120 1st St. N.E. (next to KIMT - TV). Please use the east door. The program will be on pumps and plumbing for your water garden. Ed Schroeder and Dave Sjostrand will be giving the program.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet **Tuesday, April 26**, 7:00 pm at the ISU extension office on NE14th, two blocks North of Interstate 35/80 in Des Moines. Carrie Spear from Ankeny will be speaking to us about repotting our plants and getting the ponds opened up for summer.

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

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. Many of our seasonal Fountains of Support will be opening for the season very soon. Please be sure to read the listing carefully. Our Fountains of Support are on page five.



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Ribbiting Report

It's now upon us - water gardening season!! I do believe we are ready - most of us have our water pumps up and running. If you are one of those that don't, I would be thinking along those lines. Remember, that the pond that gets great circulation is the one that looks the best.

We had a fantastic water garden symposium last month. For those that missed it we should have a video that will have the whole day captured. I have not seen the video yet nor have heard how it came out but I am hoping that it did. Stay tuned for an update on this at our meeting on Monday April 11. This video will only be available to our members at no charge.

Everyone that attended the symposium had a superb time and we all came away with a lot of information about water gardening, the keeping of Koi, and aquatic insect critters. This is one of the goals of CIWGA, to bring in great presenters and we DID!! Right now we are thinking of doing another symposium next March. What do you want as members? If I hear that you want another - we will do it.

Our new line up of officers and directors are in place and already doing a great job of running the organization. Carol Scheid, our new membership secretary, has been sending out membership renewals and getting those books updated. It is a big job and I am so pleased with how she has tackled it. Thank you Carol!! She also has our new name badges completed and they are very professional. When you come to our meetings you will be given your name badge. You then are responsible for it and, of course, bring it with you to our meetings.

Jill Rose, our new Treasurer, has been handed the money and she is now in the position of writing checks and receiving dollars. The books were audited by Russ Buechler before Jill took over. Russ did a great job of going over these. It took some time by Russ and he wrote up a detailed report. Thank you Russ!!

We are so lucky to have such talented and dedicated people to help our group prosper and grow. I am reminded and humbled almost every day of these volunteers and am deeply grateful that they want to help you, our members.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday April 11 at Reiman Gardens. The meeting will be located in the Speer Room. You will be directed by the Receptionist to where the meeting is. I will be conducting a hands-on presentation of Repotting of Your Water Lilies and Marginal Plants. I have done this presentation a couple of years ago but I am changing it some this year to include Marginals (Miniature Cattails is the plant I am going to divide). This is an opportunity for all members to have a chance to win a start of a great water lily or a start of miniature cattail. I will be giving a lot of plant starts away. They will be given as door prizes. I also have some great handouts so that you do not need to be taking notes while the repotting is demonstrated.

As an added attraction to the meeting, I will have Barley Straw available to our members. This will only be for members. Believe me the stuff works on the control of string algae.

This is a great time of the year to welcome guests, new members and to see some of our established members. Members from all three chapters are welcome, as usual. I hope to see everybody there.



The Big Toad, Jamie

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.

Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

We had a great turnout this month again, about 30. We had several new faces and a few who took the brochure, intending to join CIWGA. Dave Rowe from Iowa Outdoor Products discussed hard-scaping and planting around the pond. He had many types of stone for all to see, as well as slides of various ways to use stone around ponds and in the backyard as stone walls and planters. He was very interesting and fielded several questions.

John Selin then made some remarks about the Annual Pond Tour to be held this summer on July 16 and 17. He is asking for volunteers to help with the tour in our area.

You can contact him at John.Selin@Drake.edu or phone him at 961-2831 if you are interested.

Carrie Spear from Ankeny will be speaking to us about repotting our plants and getting the ponds

opened up for summer. The meeting will be on April 26th at the ISU extension office at 7pm.

Hope to see you there.

Robin Wineland

Secretary Capitol City Chapter

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mason City. The address is 120 1st St. N.E. (next to KIMT - TV). Please use the east door. The program will be on pumps and plumbing for your water garden. Ed Schroeder and Dave Sjostrand will be giving the program. See you there!

Low Growies, Niche & Companion Plants

As listed by Deb Spencer at the Spring Symposium. Reprinted with permission.

Botanical Name, Common Name

Acorus gramineus variegatus 'Ogon' (yellow foliage), Golden Dwarf Sweet Flag

Aeschynomene fluitans (20' runners!), Botswana Wonder or Giant Sensitive Plant

Althernanthera reineckii 'Elmie' (red foliage), Hot Flash or Ruby Runner

Bacopa caroliniana (very scented), Lemon Bacopa or Lemon Hyssop

Bacopa monniera (sm lf), Water Purslane

Glyceria maima variegatus, Variegated Manna Grass

Houttynia cordata 'Chameleon' (don't let it loose), Chameleon Plant

Hydrocotyle ssp (runs aggressively), Pennyworts

Hygrophila difformis (ferny when submerged), Water Wisteria

Ludwigia repens (red foliage), Red Creeper

Lysimachia nummularia 'Aurea' (yellow foliage), Golden Moneywort

Marsilia mutica, Variegated 4-Leaf Clover

Marsilia shelpliana, Cut-Leaf 4-Leaf Clover

Menyanthes trifoliata, Bog Bean

Myosotis palustris, Aquatic Forget-Me-Nots

Myriophyllum aquaticum (can be invasive), Parrot Feather

Myriophyllum prosperpinacoides (much more compact), Dwarf Parrot Feather

Nasturium officinale (native & quite tasty), Water Cress

Neptunia aquatica (kids love it), Sensitive Plant

Nymphoides cristata, *geminata*, *indica*, Water Snowflakes

Oenanthe javanica 'Flamingo' (can be invasive), Variegated Water Celery

Orontium aquaticum, Golden Club

Phalaris arundinacea 'Strawberries & Cream', Ribbon Grass - Strawberries & Cream

Rotala indica/rotundifolia, Pink Sprite or Red Rotala

Ruellia brittonia 'Compacta' (too cute), Dwarf Blue Bells

Spilanthes Americana var *repens* (great for rocky beaches), Button Flower

Veronica beccabunga (great in shade & running water), Veronica or Brooklime

Wedelia trifoliata, Water Zinnia

Minnow's Minutes

March 14, 2005

The business meeting, held in the Hughes auditorium at Reiman Gardens, was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Jamie. He discussed the Water Garden Symposium held during the day. He stated there were approximately 40 people in attendance, admitting that being held on Monday made it a day with work conflicts for several people.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented in the newsletter.

Jamie thanked Carol Scheid for taking over the membership chair and for printing and assembling the Association's new name tags which Carol distributed to those in attendance. Jamie reminded everyone they are subject to a \$.25 fine for not wearing the badges at meetings. Carol stated that membership renewals have been mailed and there were a lot for the month of January.

The Treasurer's Report states Russ has completed an audit of the books and was satisfied as to their accuracy, even though a few receipts could not be accounted. A total balance was not available this evening. Denise has a check for today's symposium. Jill Rose has established a new bank account in Jefferson. Anyone with an approved bill should send it to her with receipts for the same at: Jill Rose, 1424 Kirkwood Ave., Jefferson, IA 50129.

Jamie mentioned that the CIWGA plans to donate toward a pondless water feature at the Iowa Arboretum; a proposal from them regarding specifics is forthcoming.

The Editor's Report indicates Lisa is always looking for articles. She plans to post pictures, some of which Gretchen will provide.

Regarding the Water Garden tour, Russ, Rick, Ann, Jamie and Gretchen, along with Master Gardener's, recently met in Grimes. Jamie stated that most of the Saturday gardens were lined up, but a few more are needed for Sunday from the Ankeny, Johnson, and Des Moines areas.

In new business it was suggested by Ada Mae that a \$50.00 memorial be given to the Arboretum in Craig Jacobson's name. The motion was seconded and the members present voted unanimously in favor.

The business meeting was adjourned.

The evenings program centered around questions from the members to the experts present for the symposium. Two speakers attended our meeting:

- Deb Spencer - co-owner of The Water's Edge in Lawrence, KS, a business that is 100% focused on water gardens, including installation products and plants;
- Tom Graham, from San Diego, CA, the publisher of KOI - USA Magazine for more than 10 years.

Deb answered questions regarding "Plot the Rocks" type of edging for water gardens. She discussed methods of edgings and configurations that disguise the liner and allow for planting pockets for small water plants. Lists of such plants may appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Tom spoke about techniques for catching fish in small ponds with a seine net. He stated that two people working together are 4 times easier than one person working alone. He mentioned that he gets his nets custom made by the Tucson Net and Twine Company.

Dave Metcalf furnished two large tubs of Koi for Tom to evaluate and judge. In his opinion Kosaca Koi are the royal family of Koi. It was his opinion that a pond should have at least 30-40% Kosaca Koi, and that half of them should be Kohaku (red and white). The remainder should be decorations or variety fish that will compliment the red and whites.

He encouraged enthusiasts to obtain a Koi Poster. It has 48 pictures of Koi with names, pictures and descriptions of each. You can then look at your fish and figure out what you have. You will be able to communicate with retailers better.

His favorite variety is the Shoa. The term "Toncho" means a red spot on the head. A "Poncho Shoa" is a black and white fish with a red spot on the head. "Bekko" is a black and white fish. "Gin Rim" is a diamond scale style.

Thanks a lot to David Metcalf for bringing in the Koi to be evaluated.

Submitted by Jim Jordan, Secretary

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 on water garden plants and supplies.

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 -- Opening April 30; 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. Our Spring Celebration will be April 22-24, with specials in every department!

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.

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
2042 South 500th Avenue
Ames, IA 50014