

# Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association [www.ciwga.org](http://www.ciwga.org) vol. 5 no. 11 November 2005



## Lilypad

All members are invited to attend the Holiday Dinner on December 9, 6:30 pm, at the Olde Main Brewery, 316 Main Street, Ames.

## Ribbiting Report

### Corner Stone

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Jamie Beyer  
[president@ciwga.org](mailto:president@ciwga.org)

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Jill Rose

Membership  
Carol Scheid  
[membership@ciwga.org](mailto:membership@ciwga.org)

Newsletter & Website  
Lisa Harmison  
[news@ciwga.org](mailto:news@ciwga.org)

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Ed Schroeder  
[topofia@ciwga.org](mailto:topofia@ciwga.org)

Secretary

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Doug Rieck  
[polk@ciwga.org](mailto:polk@ciwga.org)

Secretary  
Robin Wineland

Can believe that 5 years has elapsed since we started our great organization? It really has grown and, hopefully, it has served our members well. In my effort to continue serving our members I have declined to be your president for another term. Just how can that be? Doesn't serving mean to continue volunteering? Yes, it does but I need to be volunteering for other duties within CIWGA. Believe me, an organization that continues reelecting the same president year after year will become an organization that will fail to serve its members. The group will be doing the same thing year after year without the infusion of new ideas. A new president (as well as other new officers occasionally) will inject new ideas and try new techniques.

I am so thankful that Russ Buechler and Gary Craven have agreed to serve as Co-Presidents for the next two years. What this means is two guys, that are truly great Ponderers, will be injecting their twist on this great organization. I have told them that they can rely on me to help in lining up programs or anything else they may need. When you think of it, please give these guys your vote of confidence. You will have the best leading our group.

I am also thankful that Lisa Harmison has agreed to continue to serve as our editor. This really is a great newsletter and you have Lisa to thank for it. With the changes she has proposed it will even be better.

I want to welcome our new Director from Nevada, Chad Godfrey. He is very enthusiastic and will be a valuable addition to our Board of Directors. Again, I am confident that he may have a new way of how our group does things.

The next couple of months we will not have normal meetings but we will have a Holiday Dinner. This dinner will be Dutch treat. We will be getting a great meal of your choosing at a reasonable price. We have a fairly private dining area reserved for us and believe me we need to be private!!?? Who else would want to hear about water gardens, fish and stuff like that??

This will be an opportunity for me to lead the group one last get together as your Big Toad. We will not have any kind of business meeting nor program. We will have a good time with great stories about ponds, fish and whatever other lies I can dream up!! This will be an opportunity to just socialize with other ponderers. Bring family and friends - they are all welcome. Of course, all Chapter members are welcome, also. Hope to see everybody at the Dinner.



The Big Toad, Jamie

### *For Your Information...*

Yes this is a very short newsletter without any interesting articles or pictures. It is basically an invitation to the Holiday Dinner and nothing more. The next issue will have several articles and pictures to start you daydreaming about water gardening for next year. With the change in leadership, there will also be a change in the newsletter with more color pictures and articles of interest. If you have any particular topics to suggest or have any photographs of particular plants to share, please let me know ([news@ciwga.org](mailto:news@ciwga.org)). Any other suggestions for improvement are also welcome.

Also there will be a change in the membership. We are in the process of switching the membership year to be the same as the calendar year. So everyone's membership will run January through December. This change will make it easier to print membership cards and renewal reminders for our members. You will be receiving a letter with your pro-rated dues and more explanation. Renewal dues will be pro-rated based on your current renewal dates. New members may join at any time of the year with pro-rated dues too.

Thank you for your input and patience as we go through these changes in the next couple of months.

Lisa

Lisa Harmison  
Central Iowa Water Garden Association  
2042 South 500th Avenue  
Ames, IA 50014