



Ponderings...

Lilypad

Paper or Email?

CIWGA will meet Monday, May 8, 7:00 pm in the Maintenance Building at Reiman Gardens. We will have a plant exchange among members. More details inside.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Monday, May 15,** 7:00 p.m. at Central Gardens of North Iowa in Clear Lake. The Gardens are located on the east side of Eighth Street between 7th Ave. and 2nd Ave. North. We will be touring the gardens and will be helping with some of the spring planting. Please bring along a trowel to use for planting.

The **Capital City Chapter** will join the plant exchange described elsewhere in the newsletter.

More details on the chapters can be found inside in *Chapter Channels*. All CIWGA members (including the chapters) may attend any or all of the above meetings.

Since we switched membership to the calendar year, I have been mailing the newsletter to many of our members who chose email. I did this because your expiration date is printed on the mailing labels and I wanted you to know when you needed to renew. Now that most members have renewed, I am switching back.

If you are reading this edition in paper format and want to receive email notification (and don't already) when the website and newsletter are posted, please send me an email. If you signed up for an email edition and only get a paper version, the email I have for you does not work. Please send me an email so I can update my records. If you get the email edition only but now want the paper version (instead of the email or in addition to it), let me know that too. Send updates to news@ciwga.org **before May 20.**

The pdf file on the website is exactly the same as the printed edition. The website also has each section of the newsletter as a separate link, other club information, past issues, links to other sites, and lots more (i.e., pictures). As a member, you can chose to receive the newsletter in paper format only, as an email notice of updates, or both paper and electronic formats.

Now for something completely different... a member contacted me with the following questions. Your comments are welcome and will be shared (as I'm sure others will want to know).

1.How do you treat pea green soup syndrome (chemical and non-chemical)?

2.On the Story County pond tour last year, someone was talking about a mail order company that had significantly cheaper prices on pond supplies including algae control products and microbes. Any idea what company they were referring to?

Thanks for sharing and happy pondering,
Lisa

Corner Stone

Russ Buechler - Co-president
Gary Craven - Co-president
Chad Godfrey
Lisa Harmison, news@ciwga.org
Harvey Hilpipre
Jim Jordan - secretary
Lori Peake
Jill & Jim Rose - co-treasurers
Ed Schroeder - Top of Iowa president
Carol Scheid - membership
John Selin - Capital City Chapter president
Rick & Ann Trine

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Ribbiting Report

I hope all of you have your water gardens up and running. I am probably the only one that doesn't. That is next on my list of priorities.

There are some changes to this year's water garden tour. Instead of tying up 2 weekends for the hosts and volunteers, we are going to try a one day tour on July 15 for both areas with the host tour on July 16. The time will be 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A night tour is not planned at this time. We will only need one ticket instead of two with more gardens available for the \$10 ticket price. There will be also be some other small changes in trying to make it run smoothly.

We need some immediate help! We tried some advertising for the first time in last year's tickets for the water garden tour, and the committee would like to expand with more businesses. We need people willing to talk to any business that is involved with gardening about purchasing a 1 1/2 inch space for \$50. We are planning to put an ad on each page of the ticket instead of the back page location last year. A little time spent by several people can make a big difference in the profitability of the tour. Please let me know who can help at 597-3203 or 231-4424.

Russ

The water is flowing again, the tulips, hostas, sedum, grasses, etc. are coming up and we are gardening our buns off. Now is the time to raise lilies and lotus, etc up into the sunlight and cut back aquatic grasses, sedges, reeds, cattails, etc. if you didn't last fall. Fertilizing and dividing is also on the menu. If your water contains a great deal of suspended particulate matter you might need to clean any mechanical filtration often. Also consider adding one of the many "clumping" types of water garden additives. Remember if you choose these types of products, follow directions carefully. A BIG tip of the hat (or droop of the waders) to Jamie for his (once again) great presentation on plant division at our last meeting. Hope everyone that won plant material has it potted up and wet. Next month will be the plant exchange, bring lots of garden treasures to share. Keep your head above water and don't dump the lily!

Gary

Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

April 26, 2006

Thanks to everyone for coming to the meeting Wednesday night, especially thanks to Carol Culmer and John Selin for extending invitations to our guest speakers. Doug Rieck conducted our meeting since John was a bit busy with the Drake Relays.

Doug passed around flyers for the Ostrander's Perennial Plant Sale that will be held at 3936 Urbandale Avenue on April 28 and 29, May 5 and 6, and May 13 from 8-5. They will have sun and shade plants including hostas, daylilies... and the Eastern Iowa Pond Society Pond Expo, see the newsletter for more details on that. Doug will be a host for the Master Gardener's Tour on June 24th from 9-5, and he mentioned that he would like some volunteers to represent our Capitol City Chapter to be available for questions and hand out information and brochures. If you are interested give him a call 244-2862 or e-mail him at Drgardener@aol.com.

We still need volunteers for our annual pond tour coming up in July, and may need some more leads on gardens in the Des Moines area that would be willing to be a host on the tour, for more information watch the newsletter and website for more information. We are still looking into ideas on how to spend our money, so if you have any ideas let us know.

For our meeting in May we are leaving it open for a plant exchange that is coming up with the Polk County Chapter, see newsletter for more details. We had some great plant exchanging at this month's meeting, which you can always a great place to share. We will begin meeting at members homes in June to take in the beauty of their ponds, if you are interested in hosting a meeting please let John Selin or I know. (John.Selin@Drake.edu or RobinWineland@msn.com)

Our first presenter was Marker Moore, the Vice President of the Coleman Moore Company, he also brought along a couple colleges, Mark Robey and George Hill. Their company is located in Des Moines at 220 New York Ave and 2nd, phone (515)309-5577.

They introduced us to the newest in pond improvement technology, "Floating Islands". They manufacture them from a unique material that attracts and maintains many important types of

Chapter Channels continued

vegetation. "This vegetation reduces the concentration of nutrients in the pond water which in turn limits algae growth leaving the water cleaner and better oxygenated. This provides a more stable ecosystem and promotes a diverse healthier plant population. These islands provide an enhanced wildlife habitat, providing nesting and shelter for birds and fish." He mentioned you can grow almost any type of vegetation on these islands, including grass and moss. These islands are buoyant and are provided with planting pockets for you to add your favorite plants. The roots hang down into the water providing feeding, filtration and shelter for fish and other inhabitants. This looks like an awesome addition, which provides some interesting variation for experimentation for our pond environments. Their company has been involved in many large environmental projects to enhance wildlife refuges and restore natural habitats back to our environment. Many thanks to them and their company's commitment to our environment and their introduction to our group!!

We were also joined by Marsha Ansevics and Bruno who are the owners/workers of the Flying Frog Farm at 5148 155th Avenue in Indianola (10 miles south of Des Moines and seven miles north of Indianola). Their phone is (515)961-3585 or cell (515) 208-9002 or e-mail www.flyingfrogfarm@aol.com. Marsha is a delightful woman with many useful pointers on gardening or rather excuses to find the time for gardening. Their 20 acres of farm contains over 600 varieties of hostas, a beautiful addition to any shady area of your yard. Hostas come in a large variety of colors, shapes and sizes. They are open most days, seven days a week from 9-5. They will be having open houses on May 19, 20, 21; June 16, 17, 18; July 14, 15, 16; and August 18, 19, 20, from 9-5. This will include sale priced hostas during those times. She reminds us that "Mother Nature is in control, so please give her a call to make sure the snow is gone and hostas are peeping out", but she is usually open the 1st of May.

Remember to renew your membership, we have been collecting money at the meetings. I have received and distributed some cards, and I am sending out the rest I have, except the ones I don't have addresses for. Caroline and Chris Thompson please let me know where I can reach you.

Loving spring!

Robin

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Central Gardens of North Iowa in Clear Lake. The Gardens are located on the east side of Eighth Street between 7th Ave. and 2nd Ave. North. We will be touring the gardens and will be helping with some of the spring planting. Please bring along a trowel to use for planting. The plants will be furnished by Central Gardens. They will even be furnishing the treats in appreciation for our help. Let's have a good turnout and help support Central Gardens of North Iowa.

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will be having its Water Garden Tour on July 22. We will be having the tour in the Mason City area this year. Watch for more details in future newsletters.

Plant Exchange May 8

The Plant Exchange will take place in the parking lot of Reiman Gardens at our meeting on Monday May 8. In case of rain it will be in the Maintenance Building. People are encouraged to divide their aquatic or terrestrial plants, and bag or pot the plants in a give away container with a name tag. Members will get a raffle ticket, and numbers will be drawn until all plants are given away. Bring buckets or plastic containers to put received plants in. Please bring several plants so everybody will go home with some. This meeting will be great fun and generate lots of excitement and conversation among members. Rick Trine (641-483-2706) is heading up the Plant Exchange.

At the Boone County Fair, the Boone County MG will again hold the Open Class Flower Show. This year there is a separate category for aquatic plants. This will be true aquatics and not include bog plants. Info on the show can be obtained from the Extension office in Boone. The Fair is July 19th - 22nd

Turtle's Thanks

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their help!

Jamie Beyer
The Ark Pet Shop
Skycrest Gardens
Reiman Gardens



Water Feature

Newsletter Contest Results

Editor's note: I sent the May 2005 newsletter in for the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society newsletter contest, in black and white. Below are excerpts from the letter I received regarding the results and from the judges' comments. I'll share all the comments with anyone who is interested at the meeting on May 8.

Dear Newsletter Competition/Critique Entrants,

We were delighted to have nine Clubs participate in our second Newsletter Competition/Critique this year. The competition was stiffer than last year, with the standards higher than last. (The judges were delighted to see the improvements in those submitted in 2005.) Once again the newsletters were very different - their size (4 to 20 pages), their design, and how they handled content. Although this year more were in color, that didn't necessarily indicate better design. In fact, the best design score was received by a B&W newsletter.

The superior overall level and close competition were reflected in the judging, with higher ratings given as a whole. The first and second place winners were very close. What was even more surprising was the 4-way tie for third place.

All nine Clubs will receive a breakdown of their own ranking to see where the judges felt they were strongest. They will also receive general comments from the judges written for all entrants and a compilation of the comments about their newsletter, all by mail. Since one of this competition's goals is to help you improve future issues, their comments include some suggestions about possible changes and tweaks, in addition to more general remarks.

Thank you all for making this Competition/Critique a success. It's one way the IWGS can help support our Affiliate Societies, while working to improve the delivery of information to water gardeners around the world. (If you're not currently a member, we encourage you to join.)

And now for the envelope please...

The top ranked newsletter is:

Reflections from the Water Garden Society of Greater Kansas City (WGS of GKC)

The second place newsletter is:

Clear Water Times from the Koi & Water Garden Club of North Texas (KWGCNT)

The third place newsletters are:

The Lily Pad from Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Ponderings from Central Iowa Water Garden Association

Water Word from St. Louis Water Gardening Society

Wetwork News from Niagara Frontier Koi & Pond Club

Both first and second place Clubs will receive one complimentary registration to the annual Symposium in July. (To get details about the Symposium go to www.iwgs.org. For Brochures, please contact the office.) The registration can be awarded to a deserving member, raffled off, or handled any way the clubs see fit. As a member of the IWGS, the WGS of GKC will also receive an original waterlily oil painting. The editors of these two newsletters will also have the opportunity to serve as judges in next year's Competition/Critique.

All the judges were delighted to participate. On behalf of them and the entire IWGS, thank you for your entry. We hope to see you this summer in Florida at the Symposium, where we will be having an informal discussion session on newsletters about how to make them less work and more readable.

Keep up the good work,
Thomas Tilley, President

Selected Judges' Comments:

"I liked the breezy writing style of the President Jamie Beyer. It was very personable just like friends were having a conversation.

Very well designed. I liked the way you handle your advertisers/supporters.

This newsletter proves you don't need all the fancy bells and whistles to get your message across. This is a simple and elegant black and white presentation, well laid out and easy to read. The Central Iowa Water Garden Association has two chapters, the only society in the group. I like this idea of sharing resources.

Your total score was 185. (The maximum possible was 250.) You placed third, tied with three others."

Editor's note: Yes these are all positive comments. I have suggestions for improvement but since I plan to survey you, I did not want to prejudice you in your comments!

Eastern Iowa Pond Society's

Giant Trade Show and Lecture Series

May 20th - 9:00am-7:00pm

Hawkeye Downs Fairgrounds

Cedar Rapids, IA

Just \$6.00 gets you into everything!

Expert Speakers all Day!

9:00- Doors Open

9:30 - Water Plants

10:30 - Filtration

11:30 - Water Quality

12:20 -Lunch - food on premises

1:00 - Pond Side Triage

1:30 - Fish Nutrition

2:10 - Goldfish varieties and care

3:10 - Koi classifications and care

4:00 - Pond Q & A Panel

5:00 - 7:00 Trade show still open

7:00 - Closed

Subject to change

Huge Trade Show! First of it's kind in Iowa!

Vendors from all over the country will be there to show you what's new in the water gardening and fish world.

Goldfish and Koi vendors
Pond supply vendors (Nets, pumps, filters, plants, and food)
One stop shopping!

Special Thanks to Corporate Sponsors:

Mazuri

The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

Kloubec Fisheries

For more information contact: Jackie Allsup- 319-934-3665 or check the EIPS web site at www.EIPS.org

The Eastern Iowa Pond Society website has more information including speaker information, directions, and a map to the fairgrounds.

Fountains of Support Open for the Season!

Woodsmith Store's Garden Center

SPRING OPENING EVENT

Saturday, May, 6th - Doors open 9a.m.- 5p.m

10320 Hickman Road

Des Moines (Clive), Iowa 50325

(515) 254-9494

Meet America's favorite TV gardener in Person! Rebecca Kolls will speak at 10 a.m. and noon

The Woodsmith Store is located $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of Living History Farms, The Iowa Welcome Center, and Machine Shed Restaurant on Hickman Road at 104th Street.

Store Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-7pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; Sun, 11am-4pm

Hello gardening friends!

We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing winter. We are looking forward to serving you for another season.

Most of our off-season was spent planning to make this spring, and summer, the best ever at K & K Gardens!

To keep this short, we will stick to the facts only...

~ We just completed a HUGE expansion project. No surgeries this time...but close. Our neighbor's property has now been totally invaded!

~ 50 new perennial selections...that now makes more than 225 different perennials to choose. Wow! Why go anyplace else?

~ Our selection of trees and shrubs has quadrupled. We now offer 175 different trees and shrubs...mostly ornamental, dwarf, rare and unusual.

~ The incredible selection, and quality of our annuals is back! No price increase here due to higher fuel costs! All annuals are at last year's prices! Go figure!

~ We simply have the best pond plants! This, by far, was your most popular comment last year. Enjoy an even better selection of pond plants for 2006!

~ The Cottage was a HUGE hit last year. It is again packed full of garden gifts, crafts, hand-made garden art, and tons of other 'must have' garden items!

~ Finally...now we offer landscape design & installation...yes, really! Read more about it on our website! Don't forget to view the pictures of projects already completed.

K & K Gardens has changed dramatically since last year. We are growing and we have you to thank!

Please visit our web site at www.kkgardens.com where you can read more about the changes, plant selections, the HUGE expansion, and landscape design & installation services.

We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Keith & Kelli Kovarik, one very fat cat (Tiger), one medium sized cat (Teddy), and Peanut, the skinny cat! They also can't wait to see you!

K & K Gardens

108 East Wilbur Street

Hawkeye, Iowa 52147

563-427-5373

www.kkgardens.com

kkgardens@netins.net

See complete listing of Fountains of Support for information on all the seasonal business' opening dates and hours of operation plus information on other Fountains of Support.

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 CIWGA by following the rules. 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.

Alpha Copies & Print Center, John Crawford, 2310 Lincoln Way, Ames, 515-292-3121, www.alphacopies.com -- 10% discount.

The Ark Pet Shop, 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.

Central Iowa Lawn and Home Care, Inc., Jason Hofsommer, 2725 E. Lincolnway, Ames, 515-233-1201 -- We specialize in landscape design and installation, seeding, sod, weed control, fertilization, and clean up. The 10% discount may be applied to any landscape materials purchased from or any landscape installation done by Central Iowa Lawn & Home Care, Inc.

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

Dillon Plant Company, 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 for the season May 5; 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.

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.

Richdeer3 Pond Supplies, Gail Hopkins, 641-328-4288, www.richdeer3.com, richdeer3@yahoo.com -- Internet website for pond supplies located in Marshalltown. Carries all your essential goldfish pond supplies. Small pond owners will love our site. Expanding in 2006 so if you don't see what you want, just email your request.

Skycrest Gardens, Marilyn and Tom Kenney, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382 -- Open April 1! Hard goods will be available for anyone needing them for their ponds. Plants won't be available till about May 1. Hours will be Friday: noon-8pm, Sat.: 9am-6pm, 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 -- Garden center is open.

Membership Renewal

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 ____

Note the membership expiration date on your mailing label!

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