



Ponderings...

Lilypad

CIWGA will meet on **Monday, November 13**, 7:00 pm at Reiman Gardens. Josh Bjork will talk about "Aquarium Gardening", tropical aquatic plants in tanks with fish.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** and the **Capital City Chapter** will not be meeting during the month of November and December.

More information on all these meetings can be found inside. All CIWGA members (including the chapters) may attend any or all of the above meetings.

Ribbiting Report

I would like to thank Jamie Beyer for his talk on "Winterizing Water Gardens". There are many varying ideas, different techniques, or new products that help in making your water garden ready for winter with the least effort, least cost, and best results. There are so many variables to look at in whether to net or not net, how to keep the water open, etc.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2006 at Reiman Gardens. Josh Bjork will talk about "Aquarium Gardening". He has been growing mostly tropical aquatic plants in tanks with fish. This is a good way to survive winter by having plants and fish indoors. He will discuss the eco-balance, fertilization, aeration, etc. Refreshments will be by the Berry Patch.

There will be no December or January meetings because of the holidays. The holiday dinner has been moved to January 6, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Olde Main Brewing Company on Main Street in Ames to avoid the holiday chaos and basketball games.

Russ



Capital City Chapter

This was our first meeting at the Urbandale Library, which is our new location, at 86th and Douglas. Wow! What a fantastic meeting place this is going to be. We have everything we need, including a kitchenette and audio visual equipment available by reservation. My thanks go out to Jean Bosworth for suggesting and checking it out for us, she also has us booked through April of the new year. I think that we are going to enjoy it, I will especially, since it was so hard to get the key for our last meeting place! I also want to extend thanks to Anita Campbell and Cheryl McKearny for bringing us refreshments and many yummy festive treats for the Halloween season. It is much appreciated for those of us who don't have a chance to go home after a long day of work and grab a bite to eat.

Jackie Allsup from the Eastern Iowa Pond Society was our honored guest, she drove all the way down from Eastern Iowa to share her knowledge and expertise with us. You may have heard her referred to as the "gadget lady". She and her husband have crafted many useful tools to make cleaning and servicing your pond a whole lot easier. She has loaned us a copy of her collection of how to tips in making some of these gadgets. We will be making copies and have them available if you would like a copy. I

Corner Stone

Russ Buechler - Co-president, 515-597-3203
Gary Craven - Co-president, 515-432-9123
Chad Godfrey
Lisa Harmison, news@ciwga.org
Harvey Hilpipe
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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Chapter Channels

will send out an e-mail when we have them available. She has recently been attending special classes on Koi health. She explained about the pond balance needed to keep healthy fish. It must be working for her, she mentioned she had a very large fish she's had for awhile that she has fondly named "pig". She also mentioned feeding them some snacks like lettuce, and I am not sure what other kinds of fruits and vegetables you can feed them that she mentioned, I never really thought of that. One other trick she suggested, was in the spring when you begin feeding your fish, you could soak the pellets in some orange juice to boost their immune system when they start to become active again. She mentioned some of the ways you could tell if your fish were sick. Jackie is the Eastern Iowa Pond Society Koi Health Advisor. She offered her e-mail address to anyone interested in contacting her about pond gadgets and Koi health, cedarserviceja@aol.com and she mentioned another site that has useful directions and information on making things www.bickal.com. Thank you Jackie for taking the time to share your creativity, knowledge and wisdom with us.

We are still in discussion about how to best put our money to use, how to get it back into the community. This was the money that we got from the pond tour this year. One great idea, that a few of our members are working on, is some kind of water feature at the Science Center at the SE corner of ML King. Another suggestion was something we could do for the enabling garden in Altoona. We have not finalized anything yet, if you would like to get involved please contact John Selin. We've also talked about taking a day trip up to Cedar Rapids for the Eastern Iowa Pond Expo in May, the Saturday before Memorial day. Jackie said she would send us more information as it got closer and we will pass it on to you.

We have a couple speakers lined up for next year:

Jim Pease, a wildlife expert will come to the January meeting to answer questions and give us advice on how to attract or deter wildlife to your pond. I'm sure we will all have a lot of questions for him. Ken Holscher will be here in February, he is an entomologist at Iowa State University and will be available to discuss anything you would like to know about bugs. We will not be meeting in November or December, so have a great holiday season! I hope everyone is packing things in for the winter, it always seems to creep up on us.

Robin Wineland

Minnow's Minutes

October 16, 2006

The meeting of Central Iowa Water Garden Association on October 16, 2006 at 7:08 p.m. was called to order by Russ Buechler, co-president.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report is a balance on hand of \$2,643.00.

There was no old business.

New Business:

The club's year end dinner will be January 6, 2007 at the Old Main Brewery. More information will follow.

The Board of Directors may need one or two directors to fill the slots on the board. Darla Kickbush volunteered to be secretary for the coming year. Lisa Harmison motioned to elect Darla as the incoming secretary. Jamie Beyer seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were furnished by Russ.

Jamie Beyer presented the program "Over wintering your water garden."

Respectfully submitted, Darla Kickbush, Secretary

Turtle's T'anks

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

Jamie Beyer
The Ark Pet Shop
Skycrest Gardens
Reiman Gardens



*Deadline for the December issue of Ponderings is **November 20**. Send articles and/or photographs to Lisa Harmison, 2042 South 500th Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 or news@ciwga.org.*

Horse-Stingers: Understanding the Dragonfly

With tiny wings the dragonfly darts around the pond delighting us with his antics and acrobatics. One would think this creature to be delicate when, in reality, the dragonfly has survived 300 million years of evolution! That's something the dinosaurs were unable to do.

The dragonfly, along with the closely related damselfly, belongs to an Order of insects called "Odonata". Both Odonatas look similar. They have 4 wings, long, thin abdomens and 3 pairs of legs.

There are several distinctive differences between a dragonfly and a damselfly. The damselfly flutters about. The dragonfly is a fast, strong flyer able to reach speeds up to 30 mph. The two eyes of most species of dragonfly will touch at the top of the head.

The damselfly's eyes are widespread. When he rests, the dragonfly holds his wings out proudly to each side as if showing off. The damselfly rests her wings by her side in a shy, demure fashion.

It is not true that a dragonfly lives for only 1 day. Actually the dragonfly can live from 6 months to about 4 years, depending on the species. Most of that time, however, is spent underwater in his larva stage. He starts as an egg deposited either on the water's surface or the surface of plants nearby. The egg hatches and the larva appears. A dragonfly larva will eat almost anything that happens by, including, thank Heavens, mosquito larvae. He is a little bullet-shaped eating machine that stops occasionally to shed an outer layer. He is totally dependent on water and breathes through gills. During this time, he is a delicacy for fish and frogs.

When he is ready, the dragonfly larva will climb out of the water and attach himself to a reed. This is his final shedding when he will emerge, like a butterfly does, as an adult out of his casing. Once he is free of the casing he flies away for a while. During this period his colors will become most vibrant and he will not return to the pond until he is ready to mate.

Dragonfly Aerobatics

We do not get the pleasure of watching this entertaining dare-devil at play until he returns to the pond to spend the last portion of his life reproducing. Then it is as if he is putting on an aerial show just for us. He will fly sideways, turn sharp, right angles, hover and fly backwards. He will swoop down and grab a mosquito snack and eat it while he flies. In fact, he will do most everything (except for rest) while he flies - including mating.



The answer is "Yes, they are mating". Whenever you see two dragonflies flying "united" it is exactly what it appears to be. The male has already taken up to several days to stake out his territory and has probably mated with several females who have visited his "pad".

The male dragonfly is somewhat of a jealous sport. If he finds the "left-behinds" of a previous mating on the female before she has laid those not-yet fertilized eggs he will dispose of it. He will grasp her by the neck and they will fly united for a period from a couple of seconds to over an hour! Sometimes he will not let her go until she has deposited his eggs on the water.

Most species of dragonflies prefer still waters on which to lay their eggs though some species have adapted to the running waters of streams and brooks. We can attract dragonflies easily to our backyard ponds by providing clean, fresh water. There are no special arrangements to make for them but it may take a season or two before we see a population form.

The Dragonfly of Myths & Legends

Contrary to what one may hear, odonatas DO NOT sting. They cannot hurt humans in any way. In fact, they are great backyard companions and desired in any pond - ornamental or natural. They are an important cog in the wetland wildlife wheel eating more than their fare share of flying insects such as mosquitoes while in their adult stage and mosquito larvae while they are in their larvae stage. The Burmese proved the effectiveness of using dragonfly larvae as a natural control over the Yellow Fever Mosquito by releasing the larvae of a

Dragonfly continued

local species of darter dragonfly into the waters at regular intervals.

The myths and legends of the dragonfly differ from East to West and many different cultures used dragonflies as symbols of both good and evil.

In China the dragonfly was not regarded highly, only as a symbol for summer and also for instability and feebleness. In Japan, however, the dragonfly is symbolic of success, victory, happiness, strength and courage. During the 11th century noble Japanese families used the dragonfly as ornamentation on everything from furnishings to textiles. The dragonfly was chosen as a part of the Samurai family crest. Japan was not always named Japan. Japanese legend has it that an Emperor was bitten by a horsefly which, in turn, was eaten by a dragonfly. The Emperor honored the dragonfly by naming what is now Japan "Akitsushima" which, during that time, translated to "Isle of the Dragonfly".

The reputation of odonatas may have been tarnished a bit in 15th-century Europe when the insects were associated with snakes and the devil and actually feared to be dangerous. The English today call them "hos-stingers" and Australians call them "horse-stingers". It is believed that these names came about because it appeared that dragonflies were swarming around horses who were

kicking and jumping as they were being bit when, in reality, the dragonflies were feasting on other flying insects that truly were the ones biting the horses. The Italians believed that Satan sent dragonflies up from hell to cause mischief in the world.

Dragonfly myths and folklore spread from Europe to the Americas. The dragonfly was given the name of "Devil's Darning Needle" because of an almost comical superstition about the dragonfly sewing the mouths shut of lying children, scolding women and cursing men as they slept. The Navaho Indians believe the dragonfly to be symbolic of water purity and reflect it in many of the textiles and jewelry they design. One of most delightful stories about the dragonfly is a Zuni myth about two children who were left behind by the villagers when the corn crop failed. The little boy constructed a toy dragonfly from corn husks to cheer up his sister. The dragonfly eventually came to life and appeased the corn maidens who created a bountiful harvest of corn to welcome the villagers back.

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Time to Renew

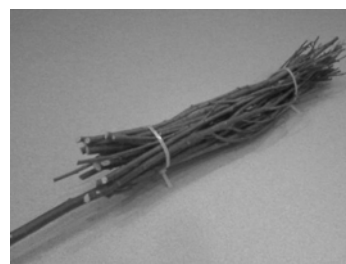
It is that time of year to renew your membership. Dues for an individual is \$15.00 and for a family is \$25.00. There is a renewal form on page six of this newsletter. If you send in your dues by February 1, 2007, you will be included in the club's directory.

What Did You Do?

We're looking for members' stories on anything new they tried this year (whether it worked or not). Also did anyone try the corn meal as algae control? Please let us know, we'd like to share them with the club.

Witch's Broom?

No, this is not a funky witch's broom. It is a bunch of willow branches tied together. Bert Aldrich shared this last month as a way to keep a hole in the ice over winter. The longest stick is about



four to five feet long. This sticks into the pond in a pot so that the clump of shorter willow cuttings is about half in and half out of the



water. The clump at the end is about 18 inches long and four inches in diameter. The idea is that the water will not freeze in and around the clump of willow twigs. Bert saw this in a magazine. We'll let you know how it works.

Fountains of Support

CIWGA appreciates the support of these retailers. 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.

Des Moines Feed & Garden Shoppe, Ralph Holf, 2019 Hubball Avenue, Des Moines, 515-262-0154 -- 10% discount.

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

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 ____

2007 Dues

Family Individual
\$25.00 \$15.00

Please send your check payable to CIWGA to
Jill Rose, Treasurer
1424 Kirkwood Avenue
Jefferson, IA 50129

2007 Membership renewals are due by February 1, 2007, to be included in the club directory.

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