

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 4 no. 2 February 2004



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Our next meeting will be Monday, February 9, at 7:00 pm at the Cambridge Fire Department's Facility. A map is included in this newsletter. The program will be *Rain Gardens* with Jennfier Welch. More information about the speaker and program are inside. Hospitality: Carren Voshell and Jean Rhodes.

Ribbiting Report

I am hoping everybody's aerators are working for those of you that have ponds. With these below zero temperatures, a lot of fish may not survive without the hole in the ice and some circulation.

For everyone that knew Deb Jetter it has been a tough time for her fighting ALS. Well, she lost her fight this last month. We are all deeply saddened by her passing and what she had to endure in her fight for life. Deb was as crazy about ponding as you can get. She lived for the moments of thinking about her water garden and the beauty of being beside it. Please read the thoughts of Robin Whetstone of our dear friend later in this newsletter. She has captured in actions and words the essence of a true friendship.

Now, for our program this month I have the pleasure of welcoming Jennifer Welch to our group to talk on "Rain Gardening". I introduced this subject to you about a year ago but with Jennifer's guidance we will be able to learn all about them. The meeting will be located at the Cambridge Fire Department's Facility in Cambridge. Directions to the place are at the end of this newsletter. We have met there a couple to times before and it is easy to get to. Her program will be Monday, February 9 at 7:00 PM. An abstract of her talk and more about Jennifer are later in this newsletter.

Hope to see everybody there.

The Big Toad, Jamie



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Chapter Channels

Polk County

The Des Moines group met January 27 with Larry Arnold from Aqualand Pets in Des Moines speaking about caring for fish. It was a small group - only four members present but we had a good discussion!

Hopefully next month the weather will be more favorable and we'll have a good group turn out to hear Inger Lamb on **February 25** at 7:00 PM. Inger, president of the Iowa Prairie Network, will be speaking about native grasses.

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, February 16 at 7:00 at the home of Don and Glennis Lee in Mason City. Their address is 2509 4th St. S.E. (From Highway 122 East by Krieger's Greenhouse and Lee's Lanes turn right and take the street to the left and go south. Their house is on the left side at the end of the street.)

The evening will be spent organizing and setting up committees for our 1st annual water garden tour. Attendance is very important for the water garden tour to be a success. Please be there! If you wish to help and cannot attend the meeting call Ed Schroeder at 641-923-3512.

Koi Wanted

One of the members of the Top of Iowa chapter, Merv Koozer, is looking for some Koi. If you have extra, he can be reached at koozer@dts-net.net or 641-456-2337.

Speaker Information

Jennifer Welch, CPESC, is an Urban Conservationist for the Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network. URBAN includes six central Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts including Dallas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren Counties and is dedicated to improving water quality through promotion of innovations in stormwater management, erosion control, and new design concepts. Jennifer has organized and conducted numerous workshops on stormwater and water quality issues and is working with communities on low impact development strategies and construction site BMP's. Numerous professionals have become certified professionals in erosion and sediment control (CPESC) as a result of her training programs.

Rain Gardens

Jennifer has been providing education on green infrastructure and low impact development techniques. These practices utilize the ability of the natural system to manage, store, and cleanse storm water runoff that would otherwise pollute our rivers and lakes as they collect debris from paved surfaces.

Stormwater, in traditionally designed communities, acts like a street cleaner, carrying chemicals, oil, debris and eroded soil with it through the storm drains to the nearest water source. Rain gardens provide a 'green' alternative to capture and retain the rain water in the landscape.

Rain gardens are areas in yards, lawns, or along parking lots, roads, and in corporate campuses that utilize plants and soils to infiltrate water into the groundwater system. Rain garden plants also transpire rainfall back into the atmosphere instead of polluting surface water. They provide gardeners with a unique opportunity to use plants that enjoy wetter conditions while improving water quality simultaneously.

The presentation will provide a complete picture of rain gardens and their benefits. Examples of rain gardens and 'start to finish' illustrations will provide members of the Water Garden Association with a clearer understanding of how rain gardens can be incorporated into a variety of landscapes in Iowa.

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of fellow ponder Deb Jetter. The following is from Robin Whetstone.

I have known and loved Deborah Jetter for 25 years. Our friendship began at DMACC in Ankeny, where we both were enrolled. We were like 2 peas, and quickly found out we enjoyed and loved the same things. She introduced me to her family and I became one of them. She got me my first job, as a Medical Assistant, in the Adel office where she was employed. I was always in awe of how hard she worked and struggled to make ends meet being a single mother. I remember she hated working so much and being away from her kids but times were very lean then. Somehow, Deb found the strength to get up every day and go on.

Deb had a huge heart for her kids, friends, and her family. She was the one person I could always count on-"no matter what I had done", she loved me anyway, even when one night, I called her at 2 AM, to bring her van and come get me. My landlord had found out that I was raising pythons and boa constrictors in my apartment and wanted me out by morning. Deb came roaring up the drive, slammed on the brakes, got out of the Van, opened up the back doors and began hauling huge arm loads of my stuff out of my apartment. Someone had messed with one of hers and she was mad. I knew right then and there I had a friend for life with unconditional love. Deb did give me the Dr. Phil "what were you thinking" talk later that morning. I knew I had it coming but we did laugh about that night for years. So our journey had begun...

I met a man and got married... Deb was there,
I had my first child... Deb was there,
Moved to a different town... Deb was there,
Had my second child... Deb was there,
Bought my first horse... Deb was there,
Went through a divorce... Deb was there,
Moved to a different town... Deb was there,
Needed money... Deb was there,
Married again... Deb was there,
Went through surgery... Deb was there,
My first born's high school graduation... Deb
was there,
My second born's graduation... Deb was there,

My job promotion... Deb was there,
My first vacation cruise... Thanks to Deb I was
there.

Deb has and always will be part of my life. She
has taught me:

- Love for your family is paramount and has no boundaries
- Be a good friend if you want to have good friends
- Live today for you may not have tomorrow
- No plant is too expensive if you don't already have one in your garden
- Take risks, sometimes they are really miracles in disguise
- Be kind to all of God's children and creatures- we are only borrowing them
- Never judge another by the way they look, their occupation, or income.
- Spoil your grandchildren, they are our second chance
- Work, because you do need the money but dance like no one is watching
- Be thankful for your health, it is all any of us really need

AND...

- Fall upon your knees and thank God every day for your blessings and your misfortunes-there is a reason for both.

Deb gave my husband and I, 2 of the greatest gifts of all-our mutual friend Heidi Harban. I am so thankful that Deb introduced us and insisted that we take care of each other after Deb went home; the second is Gary Jetter.

Gary is the miracle that came into Deb's life for us. He took his vows very seriously and gave his heart and soul to take care of her. We are eternally grateful and want to say Thank you Gary for taking such good care of Deb for us. She loved you so much!

Thank you
Tweet

Fountains of Support

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 -- 10% discount.

Copyworks Plus, John Crawford, 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 -- *Open May through July*, all members receive a 10% discount.

The Light Perspective, Ryan Walrod, 3404 Coy Street, #6, Ames, 515-450-1868 -- 10% discount. The Light Perspective offers professional consultation, design, and installation for landscape and garden lighting.

Lowes Garden Center, 120 Airport Road, Ames, 515-233-0404 -- All pond and landscaping products 10% discount.

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, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382, *Seasonal hours* -- 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.

Turtle's Tanks

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have helped our group:

Skycrest Garden

The Ark Pet Center

Copyworks of Ames

Alliant Energy

Jim Pease



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. Material (written stories and photographs) sent by regular mail will be returned.

Deadline for March issue is February 20.

Minnow's Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting, January 8

The meeting was held at the conference room of the Ames Water and Pollution Control building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. on a very snowy evening. The following were in attendance: Jamie Beyer, Larry Reisetter, Greg Knop, Carolyn Knop, Doug Rieck, Russ Buechler, Harvey Hilpipre, Lisa Harmison and Jim Jordan.

Jamie noted that the water garden industry had experienced a slight downturn last year. Some areas such as Kansas City are seeing huge growth. He stated they have a pretty large membership turnover, suggesting that people join to gain knowledge and then often do not attend once they have gained information. A discussion ensued regarding ways to stimulate more interest and attendance. A suggestion was made about getting landscape architecture and horticulture students involved. This would be hindered by the fact that most are out of town during the summer months. It was stated that the Master Gardeners offer scholarships for students in surrounding counties. Someone mentioned that often there is a lack of students applying for such scholarships. Lisa Harmison will seek information from Reiman Gardens about sponsoring a student internship. Jim Jordan will talk to department heads of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture seeking their input.

Those present discussed ideas about programs for the coming year's meetings. Some ideas are as follows:

- A show and tell program giving members a chance to share things with the membership
- A hog roast in conjunction with a tour or perhaps some evening at Sky Crest Gardens (May or June).
- Van tours of gardens in the greater Fort Dodge or Cedar Rapids area.
- Featuring a vendor of the month segment of each meeting - inviting a Fountain Supporter to a meeting to show their offerings and tell about their business.
- A program on container gardens.

Jamie asked those attending to think of new ideas.

The Board unanimously elected the slate of officers that was designated by the membership at the October 13, 2003 meeting.

Lisa and Russ were granted permission to explore getting frames for the certificates of appreciation given to Fountain Supporters.

President Jamie challenged those present to submit articles for publication in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30 out of concern for traveling conditions because of the snow.

Meeting, January 12

The meeting, held at the Alliant facility, started at approximately 7:05 p.m. Jamie started by demonstrating what could be called the world's smallest water garden. It was the size of a jar lid, contained white rocks and had a fountain effect when one squeezed on a small rubber bulb attached to a small hose. It came complete with a manual. Price was not mentioned.

He then introduced Jim Pease, Iowa State University Extension Wildlife Specialist. Jim has been doing his work at Iowa State since 1980 (23 years). His presentation was entitled "Opossums under the porch or handling nuisance and damaging wildlife." He prefaced the title by saying that it could be termed "damage management" and probably not control.

Iowans spend \$35,000,000/year watching wildlife and feeding birds. Americans spend 2.2 billion dollars a year watching wildlife and feeding birds. Many of these activities cause problems by attracting unwanted animals. He cited examples of humans creating a lot of problems by creating desirable habitats. We have created golf courses with man-made ponds with luscious green grass. Geese love water and love to graze upon the grass, the result being goose grease in excess amounts where people want to walk. Other problems are created by humans moving into the wildlife areas such as housing developments right up to the edges of national parks. In times of heavy snow, rabbits will debark trees and prune bushes. He stated that any eating of branches above finger size is pretty much empty calories as far as nutrition.

continued on next page...

Minutes continued...

I learned some of the following about wild life damage control.

- Zero tolerance isn't going to work.
- No single method by itself is likely to succeed.
- Learn to think like the animals and your success will increase. Know the critter you are dealing with. Ex.: Voles are herbivores, shrews are carnivores, which have poison salivary glands, which can kill mice. Ninety-five percent of moles' diet is worms; they will not eat grain-based poisons.
- Change the situation. Examples:
- Accidentally providing birds a place to nest at new constructions.
- Raccoons getting through pet doors eating cat food can be eliminated by feeding cats in the morning and taking food up at night. Raccoons are nocturnal and if the food isn't available at night they have no motivation to enter the door.
- Raccoons eating fish in ponds: Take fish out for a while. Raccoons may not return. Do not buy expensive Koi if your pond is near a forest (the raccoon's natural habitat).
- Sometimes squirrels are attracted to bird feeders if too much feed is used. Therefore, feed enough for birds, but no excess.
- Exclude the critters with netting, electric fence (raccoons in sweet corn), thin mesh electric fencing, foam sealant, netting over cherry trees to keep the birds out. Ribbon electric fence was 95% effective in keeping deer damage down (Wisconsin).
- Scare the critter with artificial noise. If used too often birds acclimate to the noise. Crows are discouraged by recorded distress calls. Artificial owls might work. Ultrasonic devices have no scientific basis. Many products are or should be handled as a buyers beware market. The general rule is if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't.
- Repellants - primarily used for mammals. Again, animals can acclimate to them over time.
- Remove the critters by trapping (live or kill), poisons (fewer and fewer available). This method is difficult. Ordinances vary in some states where live-trapped animals cannot be relocated because of disease (rabies). Iowa still allows relocation.

Jim closed with a short discussion about wild-life birth control research and stated that it is not yet practical.

Jim can be reached at 515-294-7429. His email is j/pease@iastate.edu His website is www.extension.iastate.edu/wildlife

The business meeting began at 8:55 p.m., following a short break. Secretary's Report: minutes of the December meeting were approved. Treasurer's Report: Denise reported a balance of \$8,166.29 with 1 bill outstanding. Membership Report: Jamie reported in Greg's absence that January is usually a big renewal month even though most renewals are based on month of joining.

Editor's Report: Lisa circulated a brochure on vinyl banners available from Copyworks. A motion was made and seconded that one be purchased for \$66.00 which included 2 colors. The motion passed unanimously. Lisa also reported that she may be able to make vinyl decals on her computer by purchasing the sheets. She asked Russ to display the frames that to go with the Fountain certificates.

Jamie reported on the Director's meeting.

Since the Director's meeting Lisa had checked with Reiman Gardens. They have students who work there as a summer employee or students that work as an intern. The interns are required to focus on a particular aspect of Reiman Gardens. Half of their time is spent on this project and half is spent in the other areas of the Gardens. All students have the opportunity to work in all areas. The intern we sponsor would focus on some aspect of water gardens. The cost of a student internship is \$3,600 for the summer. We could also partially fund an intern. The student could be asked to report at a CIWGA meeting. After some discussion it was decided to table the discussion for a later date. Jim Jordan has yet to contact the department heads at Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

In regard to stimulating more interest, Anne Quick suggested the Association have a booth at the Huxley Business Fair. As a non-profit group the fee would be small. Water features could be on display and people could hand out brochures.

An Extension Garden calendar, 2 small water garden books, and "The Practical Rock and Water Garden" book donated by Gary Craven were raffled.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Jordan

New Garden Center

The Woodsmith Store (10320 Hickman Road, DM) is having an open house for their new gardening center on February 15 at 1:00 pm.

This open house is a preview of coming attractions; you can meet Diane Ulrich and Linda Worley, the garden center managers, talk to Marcia Leeper, August Home Publishing Master Gardener, and Garden Gate magazine editors about Woodsmith's new plant offerings for 2004.

Learn about Woodsmith's Garden Center Grand Opening celebration which will take place on April 17.

Door prizes, discount coupons, and refreshments available. RSVP 515-254-9494 so they can plan food and drink.

Photos Wanted

As mentioned in the minutes, we are going to have a booth at the Huxley Business Association Fair (right next to Quick's Hardware Hank's booth).

We need pictures of water features of all sizes to add to our display! Russ is also working on a scrapbook of water garden pictures.

So bring as many extra pictures as you can spare to the next CIWGA meeting or send them to Russ Buechler at 30785 Deer Drive, Huxley, 50124.

2004 Pond Tour

We need ponds for the Ames/Huxley area. Interested folks should contact either Greg (382-5685) or Rod and Kate Mulder (292-7691).

Read Any Good Books?

While we can't do much with our outdoor water features this time of year, we can enjoy reading about others and planning for new water plants. Here is a short list of ideas. If you have a suggestion not seen here, please let me know.

Aquatic Plants and Their Cultivation, The Complete Pond Builder, and The Pond Doctor all by Helen Nash, published by Sterling Publishing, NY.

Ortho's All About... Garden Pools and Fountains by Veronica L. Fowler and Jamie Beyer, Meredith Publishing.

Waterscaping by Judy Glattstein, Garden Way Publishing.

The Water Garden by Peter Robinson, The Wayside Gardens Collection, Sterling Publishing.

Water Gardening Magazine, www.watergardening.com

Tetra-Pond, www.tetra-fish.com

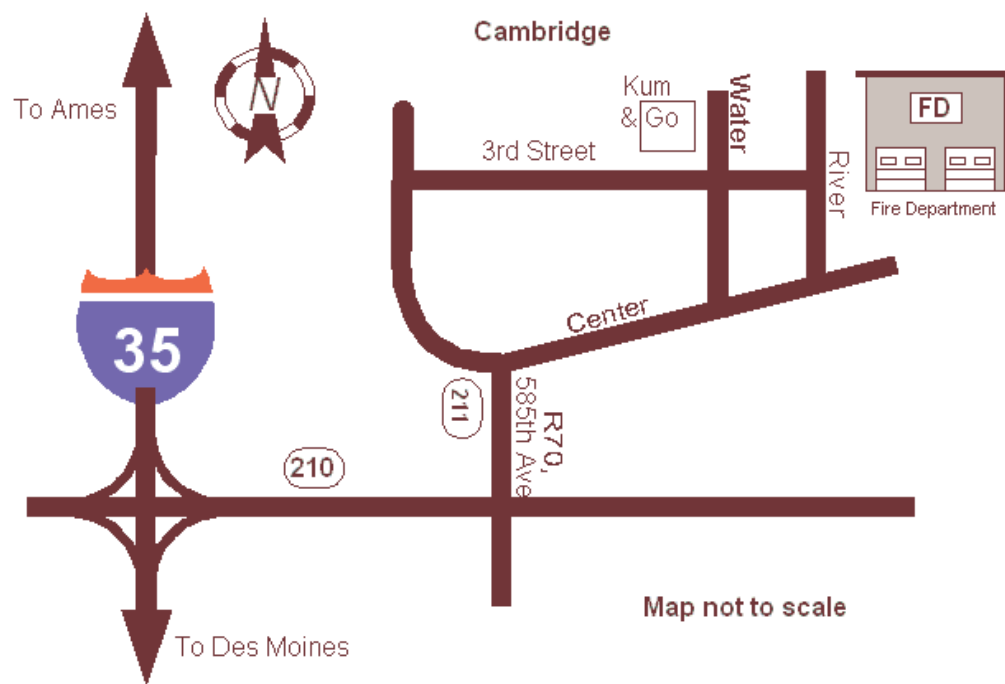
Two of our Fountains of Support have websites with information:

K & K Gardens, www.kkgardens.com

Aqualand, www.aqualandpetsplus.com (you can spend days at this site reading all their articles)



Map to the Cambridge Fire Department where the next CIWGA meeting will be held:



Lisa Harmison
Central Iowa Water Garden Association
2042 South 500th Avenue
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