

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 4 no. 3 March 2004



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CIWGA will next meet Monday, March 8, at 7:00 pm at the Alliant Facility. A map is included in this newsletter. The program will be *Diseases of Koi and Goldfish* with David Starling, DVM.

David Starling is a Veterinarian practicing and working with Aquatic Animal Medicine. His interest in aquatic medicine started with an aquarium he had in high school. Training beyond the Veterinary degree obtained in 1975 has included courses in warm water fish diseases in Florida and courses at the Mark Hatfield Marine Center on salmonid at Newport, Oregon. David is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM). He networks with other specialists and worked with others helping with an outbreak of Spring Vibriosis of carp. He once served as a seafood inspector in New Zealand on board a Russian fishing factory ship during the Cold War. He will be speaking about disease management and prevention as it pertains to Koi and goldfish in water gardens.

Hospitality: Jim Jordan and Ada Mae Lewis.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet Monday, March 15 at 7:00pm in the Lakeview Room of the Band Shell in Clear Lake. Our speaker for the evening will be Wayne Petersen of URBAN (Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network). The topic will be *Rain Gardens*.

The **Capital City Chapter** (formerly known as the Polk County Chapter) will meet Wednesday, March 24 at 7 PM at the ISU Extension office. A program on opening our water gardens for summer is being planned.

More chapter information is on page two inside this issue.

CIWGA members and guests are invited to attend any or all of our meetings.



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Ribbiting Report

Interest in water gardening is heating up again. It seems that this time of the year really brings out the bug. After late summer and fall of last year there was a small downturn in retail sales (according to the industry experts) of water gardening products. This is after several years of record breaking increases that no industry can keep up 100 percent of the time. Well, by all indications that I see, it looks like the interest is still there and more people than ever want to either upgrade or install some sort of water feature. I am booked solid for speaking engagements for the next couple of months.

We have an upgraded membership brochure that is available to individuals that are interested in joining our group. Of course, I am passing them out at the presentations I am doing this late winter and spring. This should help generate more members for our group. If you can think of anybody that needs to know about our group -- we will be glad to send them one of our brochures. If you want some to pass out to friends please let Lisa or me know.

The Water Garden Tour Committee has finalized most of the gardens on the tour. It looks like a very nice group of gardens that should generate a lot of public interest in attending. Remember it is Sat. July 17 and Sun July 18th.

Our program this month is by David Starling, DVM, on fish diseases. Jim Jordan, our secretary and a veterinarian in Boone, knows him and has written up an introduction for him and appears elsewhere in this newsletter. It should be a very unique program for us. I know I am looking forward to hearing it. The program will start promptly at 7:00PM on Monday, March 8 at the Alliant facility.

Hope to see everybody there.

The Big Toad, Jamie



Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

The Des Moines area group met on Feb. 25 for an interesting meeting learning about rain gardens by Inger Lamb from the Iowa Prairie Network. Inger stressed that these gardens can be built with little effort in an already low spot in your yard where rainwater collects. These gardens sound great as they require no watering and no fertilizer! Just prepare the soil (remove any grass), plant, and enjoy.

The plant list she gave us listed many native flowering prairie plants that grow very well in our area and can tolerate being very wet and then very dry as the summer progresses without dying out! They develop deep roots and help restore the land and filter the rain and runoff water prior to it going into our storm sewer systems. These rain gardens sound a little like our bog gardens but they are not lined and do dry out as the water slowly drains away. She explained some some towns and cities are constructing these rain gardens near new construction but often plant them only with grass instead of native prairie flowers which look so much better! Additionally using only grass does not provide the deep root system that incorporates a lot of filtration of the runoff.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 24 at 7 PM at the ISU Extension office on E. 14th north of Des Moines. We want to have a program on opening our ponds for the summer and are in the process of contacting Kenn Outzen of Jewell so see if he can do this. April plans include a program on pond construction presented by Doug Rieck.

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, March 15 at 7:00pm in the Lakeview Room of the Band Shell in Clear Lake. It is located in City Park next to the lake at the end of Main Street. Our speaker for the evening will be Wayne Petersen of URBAN (Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network). The topic will be Rain Gardens. The presentation is a cooperative effort between the TOI Association and the Clear Project of Clear Lake. Participants will learn how to create a colorful garden which will serve to filter and remove bacteria and excess runoff chemicals from rainwater.

Minnow's Minutes

February 9

The meeting was held at the Cambridge, IA fire department. Jamie started the meeting shortly after 7:00 p.m. by introducing Jennifer Welch, CPESC (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.)

This writer judged this to be an excellent program. It was a power point presentation with color examples of projects that had been completed in named communities. Jamie presented an accurate abstract about her program and a lot about Jennifer in the February issue of *Ponderings* (www.ciwga.org) Vol. 4, No 2.

It was difficult to write notes because the speaker seemed to have this writer's undivided attention. Jennifer provided numerous handouts for those in attendance. She left extra copies with Jamie if anyone is interested. They are as follows:

- "Builder Guide to Low Impact Development"
- "Municipal Guide to Low Impact Development"
- "Rain Gardens" from Water Pollution Control Div. Of Public Works, City of Topeka, KS.
- "Rain Garden and Native Landscaping Resources" - contains a website and listing of 26 (genus and species) of rain garden plants
- "Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff" - US EPA - EPA 841F-US-003
- "Rain Garden Costs and Design Based on Storm Lake, IA Demo Project"
- "Gardening with Water Quality in Mind"
- "Build Your Own Rain Garden" from Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries
- "URBAN" - Acronym fact sheet for Urban resources and borderline alliance network. Their mission statement reads "URBAN is dedicated to improving water quality through promotion of innovations in storm water management, erosion control and new design concepts."

The following facts pertain to Jennifer's presentation and handouts.

- Definition of Rain Garden: A planted area with a shallow depression that collects and holds runoff before it reaches the storm drain. Sources of water are from roof drains, driveways, parking lots, and other hard surfaces.
- Benefits include: Helping solve common drainage problems; reducing runoff and recharging around water supplies; keeping sediments and

- pollutants out of streams; attracting birds and butterflies; less maintenance than grass lawns.
- Rain gardens should be at least 10 feet away from house foundations.
- In native prairies less than 10% of the surface water runs off.
- In urban developments, greater than 50% of the water runs off.
- One inch of rain provides 27,000 gallons of water per acre.
- In Europe property owners are taxed for the amount of water leaving their property.

It is this writer's opinion that Jennifer Welch is in a position to make real differences in the quality of our environment.

Jennifer can be reached as follows:
1513 North Ankeny Blvd., Ste 3
Ankeny, IA 50021
www.urbanwaterquality.org
phone: 515-964-1883, ext. 3
FAX: 515-964-8613
Email: jennifer.welch@ia.usda.gov



The business meeting started at approximately 8:00 p.m. following a break with refreshments served by Carren Voshell. The minutes

of the January 18 meeting were approved as written in the newsletter. In Gregg's absence a membership report was not given.

In Lisa's absence, Jamie announced a new Fountain Supporter - The Woodsmith Store at 10320 Hickman Road in Des Moines. This is the former Payless Cashway facility. They will be having a grand opening celebration on April 17, 2004.

Russ Buechler displayed frames for Fountain Supporters and decals for the door windows of supporters.

Darla reminded those present about the Indianola Parks and Recreation upcoming "Think Spring Seminar in Indianola" featuring Elwin Taylor, Jamie Beyer and Cindy Haynes as speakers. Darla also asked for a consensus from the group on a tour date for the Kansas City garden tour. It seemed after much discussion that a Saturday morning departure was favored, meaning a late Sunday afternoon return. The date decided upon was June 15 and 16th. A show of hands revealed

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Minnow's Minutes

...continued

only about 4 from the group committed at that time. Darla would contact Water's Edge in Lawrence, KS.

Anne Quick announced that CIWGA would have an information booth and display at the business fair in Huxley at the high school on March 8, 2004. Russ will help with this.

At the close of the meeting a garden video donated by Lyle and Gloria Herrold was raffled. Mr. Voshell was the lucky winner.

Thanks to Carren Voshell for the cookies and beverages.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Jordan

Photos wanted

I am looking for photographs on the flowering flowers for upcoming issues of Ponderings. If you have any or photos of other plants or other topics you'd like to see in future issues, please let me know.

Cardinal Flower, Lotus, Yellow Flag Iris

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

Cambridge Fire Department

Jennifer Welch



New on the Web

I have added a couple new links in the Puddle Jumping page on our website. Check them out!

"Central Gardens of North Iowa is becoming a reality! Now in the beginning of our fourth year of programming, we are raising money to build and endow a premiere public garden. Located near downtown Clear Lake, Iowa, it will be a place for intergenerational learning, relaxation and the celebration of special events in accessible beauty of nature." *Julie Wright, General Chairman*

<http://www.central-gardens.org/>

Another site about Rain Gardens: http://www.prairienursery.com/catalog/cat_raingarden.asp



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 April issue is March 20.

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, www.aqualand-petsplus.com -- 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.

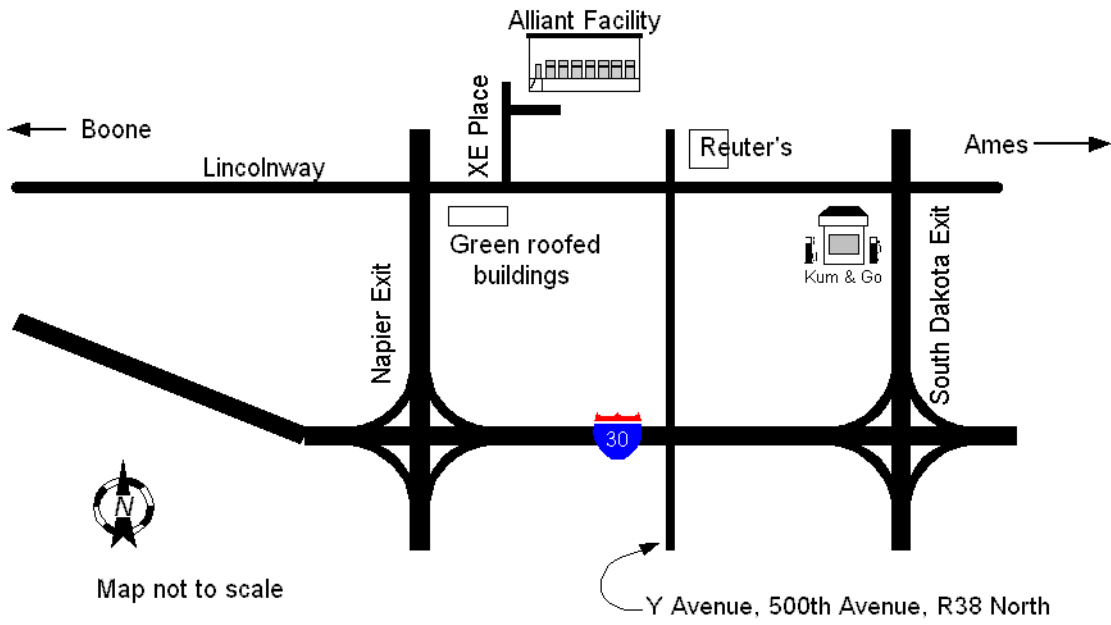
Skycrest Gardens, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382, *Seasonal hours* -- Almost everything 10% discount.

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.



Map to the Alliant Facility where the next CIWGA meeting will be held:



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