

# Ponderings...

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



## Corner Stone

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president@ciwga.org

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topofia@ciwga.org

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Polk Chapter  
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Doug Rieck  
polk@ciwga.org

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## Lilypad

**CIWGA** will next meet Monday, April 12, at 7:00 pm at the Collegiate United Methodist Church at 2622 Lincolnway in Ames. The church is located between US Bank and Taco Bell in Campus Town. It is across from Friley Hall. Go into the parking lot off Hayward (the Ark Pet Center is the opposite direction). Then enter in the west door and take a sharp left after you get in the door. The program will be *Water Garden Additives* with Mia Keske. More about Ms. Keske can be found inside.

Hospitality: Harvey Hilpipre and Rick and Ann Trine.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet Monday, April 19 at 7:00pm at Ed's shop. Ed will demonstrate how to divide water plants.

The **Capital City Chapter** (formerly known as the Polk County Chapter) will meet at The Woodsmith Store, 10320 Hickman Rd, Clive, on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00PM. *Please note the different time.* Jamie Beyer will present the annual Dividing Your Water Plants program.

More chapter information is inside this issue.

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

We have a new Fountain of Support this month (and one in the works)! We greatly appreciate the Fountains' support of our organization. We also appreciate our members respecting the wishes of the retailers by asking for discounts *only* for the specified items. Our list of Fountains of Support can be found on page eight.



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## Speaker's Profile

Mia Keske is employed by Aquarium Pharmaceuticals as the Southwestern Territory Sales Manager servicing New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri.

Mia joined API in 1996 and is proud to represent Aquarium Pharmaceutical's aquarium product line, Rena electrical products, Aquarian Fish Foods and Pond Care products. Mia also gives her time speaking to water gardening and pond enthusiasts that wish to learn more about the installation and maintenance of a pond.

Prior to joining Aquarium Pharmaceuticals, Mia managed retail pet stores in her home state of Minnesota. Earlier in her career, Mia maintained aquariums and controlled fish inventory at a pet food warehouse also in Minnesota.

In her spare time, Mia mixes business with pleasure, gardening and raising freshwater fish at her home in Dallas, Texas.

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals has been a leader in the pet industry for more than 35 years, manufacturing over 170 products for aquariums and ponds. Information regarding the company's Pond Care line can be found online at [www.pond-care.com](http://www.pond-care.com).

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## 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 Facility

David Starling

Ed Moran and Reiman Gardens



## Ribbiting Report

Lots to talk about this month - spring is here and our ponds are ready to start growing again. Get your pump(s) going, if you had shut them down. This should be done right after ice out. This increases the oxygen content of our water, which we all know is the most important consideration in our water gardens.

The next thing to do is add barley straw to your water to control string algae (blanket weed or filamentous algae - it adheres to the rocks, liner etc). I am certain that this will work for control as long as it is placed in the right conditions in the pond. It HAS to be placed in a very high oxygen concentrated area - like under the waterfalls or in a biofalls box, if you have one.

I am making a trip up to K & K Gardens (one of our Fountains) to pick up 10-15 normal sized bales that Keith had bought for us last fall. I will have these available at our April meeting. I am figuring that the cost will be only for my expenses in getting the bales and Keith's costs - should be very inexpensive. Remember we had thought about a trip to Nebraska to get some from a source out there - well, Keith found these at a very good price and snatched them up for us. Saves us a bunch of mileage. Thanks Keith.

Okay, now to talk about our Plant Sale. Last year we did not get as many plants from our membership that we had hoped. Consequently we sold out of plants very early in the day. This year, Kenn Outzen, our plant sale coordinator, is asking for more of our members to divide and share. This can make our organization some dollars to support our sponsoring of Reiman Gardens interns and to sponsor guest speakers.

To help you in the dividing process I am conducting a plant repotting/division workshop at The Woodsmith Store in Des Moines on Tuesday, April 27. There is more on this elsewhere in this newsletter. As for more on the plant sale, Kenn will supplement the sale with boughten plants. We will have some very unique plants and plenty of them. The more plants you bring the more we save in purchasing plants.

Darla Kickbush is working on a very exciting bus trip for us in June. She has lined up the Water's Edge (Deb Spencer's) business in Lawrence, KS and Powell Gardens in the same area so far. Most of you know of my passion for

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# Chapter Channels

## Capital City Chapter

The Capitol City group met on Wed. March 24 at the Polk County Extension office with Kenn Outzen presenting a talk on opening our ponds. He also shared some pictures of his pond plants and areas around their ponds, which looked wonderful! Attendance was up - probably 25 or so and mostly new faces. We hope this was due to some good advertising in the DM Register that Doug has been able to secure and we hope to see lots of these people returning. It was a fun meeting with lots of questions/answers and hopefully was helpful to everyone new to ponding.

The Polk County (Capital City) chapter will host a special meeting in a new location in April. Jamie Beyer will present 'Dividing Your Water Plants' at the new Woodsmith Store. We all need to divide plants from time to time and water plants are a little different. Jamie has presented this subject before, but we are going to provide some special advertising with the Woodsmith Store that should add to the number of people attending this timely meeting. A special invitation goes to our brethren in Ames, Northern Iowa and surrounding areas

We're eager to work with the Woodsmith store and their garden center staff to help bring the word about water gardening to many more Des Moines area ponderers. Their new store has one of the best meeting rooms in the Des Moines area and as a result we will probably be using this location in the future. If you plan to attend, come a few minutes early and check out their extensive collection of water gardening books. **Please note the special start time:** The Woodsmith Store, April 27, 6:00PM - 8:00PM, 10320 Hickman Rd, Clive

Directions: From I80/35 go east on Hickman Road to 10320 Hickman. The Woodsmith Store is located east of and across the street from Living History Farms in the old Payless Cashways store.

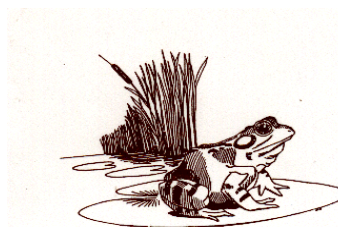
## Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association met on Monday, March 15, 2004 in the Lakeside Room at the Clear Lake Band Shell. Our speaker was Wayne Peterson of URBAN (Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network) who presented a program on rain gardens. Following his presentation, members held their regular monthly meeting.

The need for new membership cards was discussed, and Kathy will check into it. Don passed around pictures of Izzy resting at his pond last month. Pat won Izzy for the following month.

Our main topic for the evening was this year's pond tour. Mark your calendars! The official date is July 31, 2004. Don Lee stated he has seven ponds lined up at this time and may have a few more. There will be an organizational meeting on Monday, March 29th at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Mary Schultz, 1881 12th Street Northeast. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Phone: 424-9247. Committees, activities, costs, proceeds and other details will be discussed.

Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet at 7:00 pm April 19 at Ed's shop. To get to his North Iowa Grain Co. shop in Garner, go 1/4 block south of THE Hwy 18 stoplight and turn east. Ed Schroeder will demonstrate how to divide water plants.



## A Stone's Throw

### For Newsletter Articles:

You can contact me by e-mail at [news@ciwga.org](mailto: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 May issue is April 20.**

## *Water Feature*

# *Finding a pond leak*

*By Jeff Rugg*

*The following was published in the Northern Iowan Association of Pond and Water Gardeners March 2004 newsletter. Reprinted with permission.*

Finding a leak in a pond can be really frustrating. You just know that the water is disappearing faster than it should be, but you do not see a wet spot anywhere along the sides. You wonder if this is normal evaporation or if this is a big leak and you worry about how much your water bill is going to be or if excessive new water additions of water might contain excessive chlorine or chloramines.

## *Evaporation*

Every pond is located in a different microclimate. Water will evaporate faster from ponds located in full sun, on a hot or windy day, with a large and splashy waterfall and with a long bubbly stream. If sunlight and therefore heat is reflected off a building, then more water will evaporate.

The first thing to do is to figure out if the water is just evaporating or if it is really leaking. This is easy to do. Just fill a bucket with water, set it next to the pond, watch it for a day or two, and see how much water evaporates out of the bucket. The bucket method will not account for evaporation from waterfalls and streams, but will give a good indication of how fast the water normally evaporates. If pets can drink from the bucket, it should be set out in the pond, away from slurping tongues. If the bucket tries to float, fill the bottom half with rocks. If the evaporation is nearly the same in the pond and the bucket, your problem is solved. Well, planting a tree or installing a trellis may be necessary to really help slow the rate of evaporation.

Plants covering the water's surface, floating in the pond or growing along the shoreline actually increase evaporation. Water moves through plants (even the biggest trees) through evaporation. Water molecules stick together very well. As one molecule evaporates off a leaf's surface it pulls on the next one and next one and so on down the branch, trunk and into the roots and soil. The more leaf surface area there is in the pond, the more water will be evaporated. Having many plants in a pond provides a lot more surface area than the water alone, so a well-planted pond will lose more water.

Small leaks are okay, because they force the pond owner to replace it with cleaner water. Water chemistry does not stay static in a pond. As water leaves the pond through evaporation, the salts, proteins, hormones, poisons and other chemicals all remain, with their concentration slowly increasing until more water is added. Therefore, they become more concentrated in the pond water. An old adage is that "the solution to pollution is dilution." Adding new water, in this case, merely puts the chemicals back to their original concentrations. Making an actual water change is better and so if the water is leaking out of the pond and carrying away polluting chemicals, the new water being added is a refreshing change to the pond water.

An automatic fill valve that is left running can mask a leaking pond. Water fill valves should be left off periodically to check for leaks. A valve that is left on so that the water just trickles in to the pond can keep up with a small leak or evaporation and not add too much water too fast or add too much chlorine too fast.

## *Container Leak*

If evaporation is eliminated as a problem, the next thing we must do is determine if the leak is in the pond containers or in the powered portion of the system or possibly in both. The first thing we do is shut the pump, filters and streams off. We mark the water level on every container in the system. We scratch a rock in the pond, use a pencil on the skimmer box, waterfall box and any other filter containers and we mark the water level in every stream section that holds water. Then we wait. We do not want to wait long if the leak develops in the season when the filters need to be on to manage fish waste and other pollutants, but in cooler seasons we can wait overnight if we need to.

If one container goes down and the others don't, then the leak is in that one and not the others. If none of the containers go down, then the leak is in the powered part of the system. It is possible to have two or more leaks, one in a container and one in the powered system.

The most common place for a leak in a flexible liner pond is along the edge. The liner will have wrinkles that have an "S" curve look to them. If the liner is folded over at the top of the pond edge to tuck it into the mulch, the "S" curve can fold over and become lower than the top, visible portion of the liner. If rocks are placed on the top edge of the

## *Water Feature*

liner to hide it, then the "S" curve may get stepped on and when it settles down into the soil, it leaks. This is especially common in the spring when the soil is soft and several people over a period of time, take a single path to the pond edge to check on the fish after a long winter.

The funny thing about a leak like this is that the soil or mulch on top of the ground does not necessarily get wet. Since the leak is already several inches below the soil surface and water sinks in to the ground, the leaking water moves away from view. It is helped on its path downhill if an underlayment is used. The underlayment material wicks the moisture down under the pond and into the ground. If the soil under the pond liner is heavy clay, the underlayment may wick the water to a lower area on the far side of the pond and it may appear that the leak is occurring in a completely different location.

If the pond container goes down a few inches and stops within the level of the skimmer door opening, you could have a leak around the skimmer door or a leak somewhere else. Since most people are very careful about how they install a skimmer, because they know it could leak, the leak is rarely there. The most common reason for a leak at the skimmer is that the silicone is not applied in a line wider than the screw holes that attach the liner to the box.

If the water level goes down and the liner edge has been checked so that it is above the water level, there may be a hole in the liner. The hole will be near the water level when it stops, but it can be below the actual water level, because it may not really be stopped when you start looking. Also, water pressure may force the hole open so when the water level drops the hole may close. Water seeping from the hole can also slow down because a leaf or other debris has plugged it up. Once the water level stops going down, you can lower it another few inches to make finding the leak easier.

Burrowing rodents have been known to chew small holes in several places around a pond as they dig their burrows. They seem to stop each burrow when the water starts squirting them in the face and they move to a new spot to continue digging.

When installing the pond, never trim the liner just above the water level. You must leave several inches of liner, folded over and tucked into the

mulch, so that if there is any settling, you will have enough liner to pull up and use it to still hold in the water. If you trim it off too low you will never have the chance to easily fix the leak over the edge of the liner. This is especially true on sections of a stream where just a few leaves sticking at a waterfall can raise the water level behind the waterfalls by a half-inch or more. That may not seem like much, but when the water is running over the liner, it will add up quickly. Switching to a larger waterfall pump or just cleaning an existing pump can have the same effect on water levels & leaks in streams.

I only know of one pond that leaked all the way to the bottom. After a frustrating week, the new pond customers finally drained the pond, flopped the liner out of the way and lined the hole with white newsprint paper. They flopped the liner back into place and partially filled the pond with water and red food coloring, after a few minutes they drained the pond and pulled up the liner. The paper was covered with more than a dozen red water spots. We do not know if some one poked the holes in the liner or if the liner roll rolled back and forth on a nail in the freight truck, but a new liner quickly solved the problem.

## *Powered Leak*

If a pond only leaks when the pumps are running, there are several places the leak can occur. The most common is a leak caused by the splash of a waterfall. Any water that lands on a rock and evaporates away or that rolls off the back of the rock and out of the pond is a leak. Framing the area around the waterfall with cloth or paper will quickly show where the splashes are landing. Rebuilding the few rocks that are causing the splash is not usually very difficult.

Use black expanding foam that is designed to fill gaps between rocks, to force the water to stay where you want it to be. Mortar is difficult to work with, because it cracks and leaks with frost action and does not easily come off the rocks when you want it to. The foam sticks better, expands to fill voids, moves with the seasonal changes and brushes off when you want to make changes.

The third most common pond leak after leaking containers and splashing waterfalls is the leak of water from the powered part of the system. Dirty filters pads in a waterfall box or other open container can sometimes cause an overflow condition.

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## *Water Feature*

Inspect around the edge of each box while the filters are running to see if water is bubbling up due to the water channeling around dirty mats. This is an easy leak to fix, just clean the filter pads more often.

It is rare to find a leak in a cracked pipe or fitting, but they do occur. Since they are usually underground, we try to eliminate all the other possible leaks first. Leaking pipes may only leak when the system is running and pressurized. If there is a check valve on the low end of the pipe and a filter box full of water at the high end, there may be enough water pressure to show a possible leak in the underground pipes. If the water in the filter box drops when the system is off, the leak is between the box and the check valve.

## *Stream Leak*

To determine the location a leak in a stream, you will need an extra length of pipe. Take the pipe off the pump that normally runs to the top of the stream and replace it with the new piece. Run the new piece to the closest section of the stream to the pond and turn on the pump. If the leak shows up, then it is in that stream section. If the leak does not show up, then move the pipe up to the next higher stream section. Keep moving up the stream until the leak shows up and you will know the leak is in that section.

## *Fixing a Leak*

Leaks caused by holes in flexible liners are generally easy to repair once they are found. Clean off the liner around the leak with a scrub pad and soapy water if necessary. Dry it thoroughly using a hair drier if it is cool outside. Cut the corners off a piece of single sided rubber backed tape and stick it on. Rub it down so that it makes good contact and you are done.

## *Conclusion*

No matter where the leak really is, the first place it will show up is in the bottom most pond level. That is because the water is being pumped out of this pond level and filling all the other levels before the water makes it back to the lowest level.

In most flexible pond liners, the leak is easy to find and easy to fix, which is one of the reasons we used the flexible liner in the first place.

# *Minnow's Minutes*

*March 8*



The meeting was held at the Alliant facility in West Ames. Jamie started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by asking Jim Jordan to introduce the speaker, David Starling, a Veterinarian practicing and working with aquatic animal medicine. More about the speaker appeared in the March 2004, newsletter. He spoke about disease management and prevention as it pertains primarily to Koi and goldfish.

The presentation depicted large Koi with distinct colors. Fish of color were appreciated in the dynasties of China, but today's Koi are best known because of breeding and selection in Japan where the fish is ragingly popular. Many are raised in outdoor earthen small ponds. They can have 1000's of color patterns. The patterns can change as the fish grow. Some breeders have taken up to 15 years to get a feel for how a fish will look as it matures. These fish are shown and judged in Japan.

Dr. Starling spoke of many factors involved in pond qualities, which are related to fish health. These included:

- Location - factors like sun, wind, predators, visitors
  - Size - volume, gallons, depth, surface area
  - Mechanical factors - aeration, filtration, water exchange, equipment, nets
  - Quarantine pond/hospital facility - each of which needs to be cleanable - alternate quarantine for emergencies.
  - Depth factors are important for summer coolness and winter warmth.
  - Volume needs to be adequate for the number and size of fish
  - Water quality - there are several parameters to measure.
1. Temperature - important for fish to find their comfort zone
  2. Dissolved oxygen
  3. Nitrogen cycle values (ammonium nitrate and nitrates)
  4. pH - alkalinity
  5. Hardness - solids (total dissolved susp)
  6. Misc - to include chlorine, copper (high pH could remove copper from copper plumbing)

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## *Minnow's Minutes*

Dr. Starling used a diagram of 3 integrating circles to depict disease. The circles were host, pathogen and environment. It meant that diseases could occur when all three are a little bit out of balance.

*Animal Health Problems Are Almost Always Bought and Paid For With Your Own Hard Earned Money* David Starling

Biosecurity is the protection of the economic environment and animal health from pests and diseases. It includes trying to prevent new pests and diseases from arriving and eradicating or controlling those already present.

Quarantining new fish separate and apart from their ultimate destination is a key step in biosecurity. This allows time for incubating disease to surface and be recognized prior to adding to their destination pond. If disease appears it is dealt with in quarantine. What kid hasn't put a caught fish into a farm pond or tank without quarantine? This could be an economic disaster to a pond of expensive fish.

### *Recognizing sick fish*

- Watch behavior - listlessness, separation, open mouth breathing at surface
- Ulcers (erosions)
- Eye damage
- Location of lesions, head, saddle-like lesions (Columnaris)
- Furuncles outgrowths of normal contour
- Tail rot (possible behavioral problem)
- Big abdomen (spawning)

Very few lesions or symptoms are pathognomic for a specific disease (i.e. absolute clue for a particular disease.)

Columnaris/Fin Rot is usually the result of poor water management (hopefully this fish is in quarantine when it is discovered).

Ulcer disease is caused by aeromonas salmonicida - bright ulcers are usually gram negative bacteria.

Fish can get TB. This is rare. There have been reports of mycobacterium in aquatic hot tubes - this could be of public health concern for immune compromised humans.

Koi Herpes Virus - characteristic signs are severe brachial hemorrhages or dying flesh and hemorrhages on the body surface.

Fish Lice argulus sp. - thought to be a carrier of spring viremia of carp. Koi are susceptible to this virus. It is present in carp in the Mississippi River. The disease has seasonal swings depending on water temperature. Can be spread by fish to fish contact through body fluids.

Predators for Koi: birds, cats, raccoons, people

Gas Bubble Disease - (gas bubbles under the skin.) Management problem caused by supersaturation of water with oxygen or nitrogen. This could be from a faulty pump with a manifold sucking air, high velocity water streams, or high photosynthesis rates.

Treatments for Fish Diseases: one can purchase about anything you want for ornamental fish. There are no restrictions. The FDA heavily restricts drug usage on farmed food fish.

Disinfectants: nets can be air dried, formaldehyde is generally recognized as safe.

Treatments can sometimes be too cruel from an animal welfare perspective or too expensive or toxic to the environment. So prevention of diseases in the first place through management and biosecurity is often the best use of money.

Dr. Starling mentioned Euthanasia of fish, saying that just throwing them out to suffocate is not ideal. Ice is not too bad as the cold shuts down their systems without much pain. Carbondioxide is also okay.

It was interesting to note that animal welfare apply to fish also. He stated the angling (catching fish with a hook) is illegal in Germany as well as running a hook through a live fish for bait.

It is this writer's opinion that the need and demand for professionals in aquatic medicine will increase. Thanks to David Starling for an informative program.

Dr. Starling's business goes by Aqueterinary Service, P.C. He may be reached by phone at 515-490-6285 or email at aqueterinary@msn.com.

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# 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 this organization by following the rules as stated. 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.

**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](http://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](http://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.

**Lowe's Garden Center**, 120 Airport Road, Ames, 515-233-0404 -- Pond and landscaping products only at customer service and number one garden register.

**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.

**New!** **Woodsmith Store Garden Center**, 10320 Hickman Road, Des Moines, 50325, 515-254-9494 -- New garden center is open; Grand Opening celebration April 17.

## *Minnow's Minutes*

The business meeting started at 8:20 following a break with refreshments furnished by Ada Mae Lewis and Jim Jordan. It started with the distribution of fliers describing the 9th Annual Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens on July 17 for the Ames - Huxley areas and July 18 for the Des Moines - Indianola areas. Jamie asked each member to promote this, as it is our primary fundraiser.

Russ Buechler displayed a CIWGA's banner to be used at special functions such as plant sale. It was obtained from Copyworks. It lists the website.

Kenn Outzen presented information on garden calendars. So far he has only received two pictures. He states they would cost \$12.95 each if 200 calendars were purchased. Addition of meeting dates, tour dates, etc., would increase the cost by \$1.00/calendar. After considerable discussion no motion was made to pursue the project.

Kenn did say that he would be able to purchase some discontinued merchandise from Lowe's at great savings and was wondering if the membership wanted to authorize funds for this. The idea is that the items might be sold at the plant auction, held on Saturday May 15. After discussion, Harvey made a motion to release \$350.00 in funds for this purpose. Gary raised the motion to \$500.00. It was seconded and the motion passed.

Lori Peake reported that name badges were now less expensive at Staples and she and the Reissetters would pursue the graphics and get names of members from Greg and Carolyn to compile the tags.

Lisa Harmison spoke to those in attendance about the student internship program sponsorship at Reiman Gardens. A total sponsorship of a student for the entire summer would be \$3,600. The group could do a partial sponsorship if desired. A discussion regarding a scholarship for a student in LA or Horticulture ensued. Jim Jordan had contacted the Department heads months ago. Both department heads indicated a lot of interest. The funds would be given to the ISU Foundation and then given to the student recipient with whatever qualifications the Garden Association requested. It was felt that a named Scholarship either Endowment or Expendable was not within the CIWGA's budget. It was moved by Kenn and seconded by Gary to sponsor 1/2 a student internship for \$1,800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Darla again asked the group about a bus tour to Kansas City and Lawrence, KS on June 19 and 20. The problem was getting commitments for enough people to get a bus. Jamie expressed the desire for the CIWGA to be a means for this. A van or two may be used if bus quotas are not reached.

It was decided that a hog roast will be held at Skycrest Gardens on Tuesday evening, May 25.

Lizzy gets to stay at Reiman Gardens for one more month. She likes it there!

Thanks to Ed Moran for helping with technical services for Dr. Starling's presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Jim Jordan*

## *Ribbiting Report*

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visiting the Water's Edge. It is a very unique store that everything that a water gardener may even dream about for plants and supplies. I am sure that Deb will be there to answer any questions.

Now, I want to talk about the Hog Roast we have planned for Tuesday, May 25 at Skycrest Gardens. Jim Jordan has a hog roaster that does a fantastic job of cooking. The meat will be very tender and plenty of it. Of course, we will have the rest of the fixings for a good meal. In talking with Tom and Marilyn, they thought that later in the month will assure us of a good chance of having warmer weather. Tom will have plenty of plants for sale that night. Skycrest Gardens is a very dedicated Fountain of Support for us and has been from the start of our organization. By having our hog roast there, we are showing Tom and Marilyn our dedication to them. Mark your calendars and then bring your lawn chairs on the 25th of May.

Okay, now for our meeting on the 12th of April at 7:00 pm. Mia Keske from Texas is coming to present a program on Water Garden Additives. She works for Aquarium Pharmaceuticals and has been for a number of years. She originally started working for them in Minneapolis and recently moved to Texas. Her parents are still in Minnesota and she is planning a trip back here to visit them and give a presentation to us.

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## *Ribbiting Report*

The meeting location is different this month. The Alliant Facility, the Ames Public Library, and Reiman Garden meeting rooms are booked. Soooooo.... I was able to arrange the Collegiate United Methodist Church at 2622 Lincolnway in Ames. They have an excellent meeting room that is very inexpensive (free, but they do ask for a donation). The church is located between US Bank and Taco Bell in Campus Town. It is across from Friley Hall. Go into the parking lot off Hayward (the Ark Pet Center is the opposite direction). Then enter in the west door and take a sharp left after you get in the door.

I am anxious to meet Mia and hear her presentation. I was given Mia's name by another water garden association President and she said that she does a very good job.

One last item, Reiman Gardens has become an even better partner for us. Because of our commitment in donations and help, the Garden meeting facilities are for our use at no charge. We will be meeting there in future meetings. We, also, will be arranging special presentations there that both of us will be promoting. Remember Deb Spencer's talk? Well the excellent facilities cost us a fee. Now, they want to work with us on bringing in speakers and the facilities will be provided, free. We will be paying to get the speakers here and they will provide the facilities. Now, that is a partner -- Thank You Reiman Gardens.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting.

The Big Toad, Jamie



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