

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 4 no. 7 July 2004



Lily pad

CIWGA will next meet on **Monday, July 12**, starting at 7:00 pm. We will be touring two water features. Dennis and Tonnee Wilkening are our first stop at 68883 190th. Then we visit Carol Scheid's garden at 68065 180th. Bring lawn chairs for the short business meeting at Carol's. More information and directions are in *Ribbiting Report*. Hospitality: Don Jensen and Jill Rose.

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The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Monday, July 12**, at 7:30 at the home of Mary Schultz, 1881 12th St NE in Mason City for a water tour planning meeting. This chapter regular meeting is **Monday, July 19** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Merv & Vonnie Koozer in Hampton. Directions are listed in *Chapter Channels*.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet on **July 27**, at 7:00 pm, at the home of new members Judy Anderson and Tom Leffler, 5985 NW 61st Ave., Johnston. Directions are listed in *Chapter Channels*.

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

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 seven.



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Ribbiting Report

It is tour time!! Greg Knop and his committee have put the final touches on the biggest garden tour in the state of Iowa. It is THE Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens. Remember the dates of Saturday, July 17th and Sunday, July 18th. Saturday is the day everyone will be touring the Ames, Cambridge and Huxley areas. Sunday the tour will be in the Des Moines, Norwalk, Indianola areas.

We have a total of 24 gardens that will be open for the public to tour. There are 12 in each area. All have a water feature in their landscape -- some very large and extensive water gardens and some that have more of a smaller feature. All sizes are represented and believe me -- size really does not matter. What does matter is how the water feature improves the landscape and enjoyment of it. This is a self-guided tour and you can go at your own pace and see all the gardens or only a select few.

Our Association is devoted to promoting water gardening and what better way to do this than to organize and promote this tour. It is interesting how popular adding water features has become over the years and one of the reasons has been because of the tour. Only recently has the Des Moines area been added to the tour but before that the tour was only in the Ames area. It would be interesting to determine how many water gardens/household there are in each area but I am confident that the Ames area is quite a bit higher. It will not be long before the Des Moines and surrounding communities will catch up to the Ames area. The Des Moines area has some very nice gardens and guess what? Those gardens are on our tour.

Tickets for the tour can be bought at local greenhouses and nurseries in both Des Moines and Ames. You can purchase a ticket for either day or both days, if you prefer. Now for you guys reading this newsletter, you can go on the tour for free, if you choose to volunteer and help out during part of the tour. We are looking for volunteers to assist the host gardeners during the two days of the tour. You do not have to be an expert on water gardening to help the host. We need these volunteers to check to make sure that people have their tickets and to assist the tour attendees in any way.

You can volunteer for 4 to 5 hours on one of the days and then you can tour for free the rest of the time. Of course, you can volunteer for a whole day if you choose. Contact Greg Knop at 382-5685

or gknop@sauer-danfoss.com to volunteer. This is a great way to help out your Association.

Before I leave this subject I want to encourage everyone to invite friends and relatives to go on the tour. I know they will not be disappointed.

Now for our meeting this month. Carol Scheid and Tonnee and Dennis Wilkening have graciously opened their gardens for us to tour for our meeting. Carol attends most of our meetings on a regular basis and I know I always look forward to seeing her at the meetings. Tonnee and Dennis' garden was on our 2000 Water Garden Tour and is a very nice garden. What I remember about the garden is the really really nice stone that they have. You will "lust" after those rocks -- believe me. I have not had a chance to see Carol's garden yet but will that night. I know it must be pretty nice cause when she talks about it -- it's like talking about a family member. It is heaven to her -- I am sure that it will be very nice.

Since the drive to their places is about 1/2 hour, we decided to have the meeting start at 7:00PM on Monday, July 12. Meet at the Wilkening's first and then we will travel to Scheid's next. So to get there take I35 N from Ames and exit on E29 (190th St.). Go east a bunch of miles -- you will go past S-14 and S-27 County roads. Then cross a set of RR tracks and then cross Indian Creek. After the creek, Wilkening's house will be approx. one more mile. Their place is on both sides of the road with the pond by the house on the North side of the road. Their address is 68883 190th. Then after seeing their garden we will travel to the Scheid garden.

To get there, we will backtrack (west) a mile or so to 677th Ave.(gravel road) Turn north and go 1 mile, turn east or right at the T intersection. This is 180th St.

Go a half a mile. Scheid's are on the corner of 180th and 680th. The address is 68065 180th. The pond is on the north side of the house. There are many dirt roads in the area -- do not use these roads. It will take about 30 minutes to travel from central Ames to the Wilkening's.

We will have a very short meeting at Carol's place so you can lawn chairs if you want. I can't see the meeting lasting more than 15 minutes.

Hope to see everybody there and on our tour.

The Big Toad, Jamie



Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

The DM area group met on June 22 at the home of Doug Reick and enjoyed viewing his well-established pond and gardens. As always, Doug has lots to look at! A number of attendees were the lucky recipient of some of Doug's surplus pond and garden plants also! (Where were the mosquitoes??)

For our July 27 meeting we will be going to the home of new members Judy Anderson and Tom Leffler, 5985 NW 61st Ave., Johnston. Their pond can be found by driving north on Merle Hay Rd. into Johnston and turning left at the Casey's. They are located by the purple mailbox about a block after turning west off Merle Hay. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss this opportunity to see a very unique pond that is located right off their back deck and creates the illusion that it actually flows under the deck! They also have a large yard and many beautiful and varied established plantings. Judy mentioned that Tuesday nights are also the evening that Johnston holds it's weekly Farmer's Market, which Judy says is very nice.

Those attending the meeting might want to plan on getting to Johnson in time to take in the market before going over to Judy and Tom's. (The Market is located in the City Hall parking lot at Merle Hay and NW 62nd Ave. - not far from their house.)

We welcome all new and old members and hope people will bring any questions they may have about their ponds or their plans to build a pond. For those just new into ponding, the group is a great resource.

Top of Iowa

It was a perfect night for our June 21, 2004 Top of Iowa Water Garden Association meeting at the home of Ed and Kathy Schroeder. The skies were clear and the air was virtually free from mosquitoes. It was evident from first glance to closer inspection that the Schroeder's have been putting a lot of hours into their ponds and gardens. Everything looked great!

With about 20 people in attendance, agendas were distributed, Ed opened the meeting and we

were deep in discussion about our first annual water garden tour. It was a great forum for everyone to express his/her opinion. Members considered issues on the agenda, and after general consensus or by voting, items were approved or defeated.

It was voted to send pond hosts a 2004 Pond Tour Flag and holder, two free tour tickets and a one-year free membership as a thank you gift. Members who have already paid this year will be compensated next year.

By general consensus the hosts, at their discretion, can provide copies of their pond description to their guests.

Deb O'Banion brought copies of the maps Don & Glennis Lee generated. Becky from Becky's Greenhouse in Dougherty brought the tickets she generously printed. Deb O'Banion brought the posters. The Plant Ranch in Manly, St. Ansgar Greenhouse, and Happy Acres in Osage will be added to the tickets and posters as businesses that sell tickets. By general consensus, it was decided we should print more maps, posters and tickets and that we should distinguish our tickets so they are not easily copied. It was voted and passed not to include money in the host ticket packets. Volunteers will check for, and when needed, sell tickets on site.

Deb will fold the new tickets and maps and generate ticket packets for businesses, hosts and members. Packets will be different depending on who receives them. Business and host packets will include tickets as well as ticket selling and contact information. Member packets will be a mixture of tickets and posters. Glennis will keep track of how many and to whom tickets are distributed and take Mason City businesses their packets. Rose Kruger will deliver packets to Manly, Osage and St. Ansgar. Ed Schroeder will deliver the host packets. Mary Schultz will take member packets and posters to the Pizza Ranch for members to pick up at their convenience. Members are encouraged to sell tickets and deliver posters in their respective towns.

By far the longest and most hotly debated topic of the evening was the addition of names and/or addresses of hosts in the press prior to ticket sales. After much debate, members voted to add the names, but not addresses in press releases.

Chapter Channels

We tabled the line items about the distribution of proceeds and the Sunday Tour.

A spreadsheet showing the number of volunteers needed was distributed. Some more slots were filled. Ed will work on attaining additionally needed volunteers and have the information at the next meeting. At that time a letter outlining volunteer duties will be finalized. Ed and Kathy as well as Deb and Duane volunteered to collect signs, money, and tickets immediately following the tour.

Ed would like all hosts to let him know if their pond is handicap accessible.

It was voted upon to leave the decision up to hosts if they want to serve refreshments. However, they will be asked to keep it simple such as a small cookie, water and/or lemonade. Deb and Duane said they have ice available for anyone who wants some. It was suggested a table be provided for the volunteers.

Regarding the potluck - It was voted to include hosts, spouses, volunteers and members to the Sunday potluck. Plates, napkins, silverware, cups, condiments and beverages will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and their own meat if they wish to grill. They should also bring folding chairs. We will need to move quickly from house to house in order to see all the ponds. We have approximately 26 minutes at each home (including drive time) to view the ponds. There will be ample time at the potluck to discuss them.

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

Quick's Hardware Hank

Ada Mae Lewis

Cactus Jack and Emy Barringer



Izzy's new home for the month is with Merv Koozer. We're sure he'll be a great guardian.

Discussion items for our next pond tour meeting will focus on publicity, volunteers, host letters and the Sunday tour and potluck. The meeting will be held on Monday, July 12th at 7:30 at the home of Mary Schultz, 1881 12th St NE in Mason City. It is very important that everyone attend as our tour gets closer to reality.

Due to the inclement weather, Jim and Jane Johanns will not be able to host our July 19th monthly meeting. Instead, it will be at the home of Merv & Vonnie Koozer in Hampton. Going south on Hwy 65 from Mason City, turn east on 170th street. Go 1 mile until the t-intersection which is Quayle Avenue. Turn north and their house is the second one on the west (left) side of the road. 1620 Quayle Avenue. It's our last meeting before the pond tour. Hope to see everyone there!!

Mary Schultz, Secretary

Summer meeting schedule:

Date, Time, Meeting, Host, Treats

July 12, 7:30, Tour, Mary Schultz, Glennis Lee

July 19, 7:00, Monthly, Jane Johanns, Jim Johanns

July 31, 10:00-5:00, Tour Date, All Ponds

Aug. 1, 1:00-5:00, Celebration, All Ponds, Bar-B-Q

Aug. 16, 7:00, Monthly, Roy Marquardt, Pat Dall-Winther

As always, if you have questions, contact Ed Schroeder at 641-923-3512.

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 July issue is July 20.

Minnow's Minutes

June 14, 2004

Our evening began at 6:30 with a tour of Ada Mae Lewis' backyard garden. This writer arrived a little too late to get a detailed explanation of everything in this serene setting and I personally hope to be able to return to this beautiful place at a later date. The heirloom section with no plants fewer than 40 years in origin with a rose that belonged to Ada Mae's grandmother was particularly moving for me. A bicycle with a front basket and saddle baskets full of blooming flowers was amazing. Thanks for sharing, Ada Mae.

Cactus Jack and Emy Barringer's garden was then toured. Cactus explained the water feature was about 3 years old. He explained that artist Joe Eppington did the designing and construction of this long, 3-tiered pond and stream with underwater tinted lights giving a lava flow effect. It had a natural effect of a dead tree and beautiful grasses on one edge. There were natural and man-made rocks interspersed. The bottom pond was poured concrete and is very accessible to a gazebo entrance. I appreciated the beauty of a huge oak tree near the bottom pond. Jack did indicate that the leaves of this tree present some challenges for him in the fall. Everyone enjoyed the Dove ice cream bars distributed by Cactus.

Jamie called a short business meeting to order. He thanked Gary Craven and Jim Jordan for their work with the hog roast at Skycrest on May 25. He stated he hoped we could do it again next year and Carol Scheid and family volunteered to host a roast next year.

Greg Knop reported on the water garden tour. He expressed the need for volunteers, expressing the advantage of this being the opportunity to meet a lot of people and a free ticket to the show. Promotional posters about the tour can be downloaded from the website. He thanked and named the committee members.

The Kansas City tour has been cancelled for this year because of inadequate interest. Jamie asked Darla to pick a date for next year.

Lizzy was awarded to Alan Magruder as a result of his wife Helene sharing a delightful story about Alan's effort to shoot a pesky rabbit that was on their deck. The rabbit was discovered while they were in their hot tub. It seems as though Alan

missed the rabbit while he was dressed in natural attire. Thanks for sharing, Helene.

A Water Garden Magazine subscription was won by Helene in the raffle. Denice Reisetter won a cute ceramic rabbit offered by Quick's Hardware Hank in Huxley.

Submitted by Jim Jordan



Kloubec's Fish Farm Hosting MPKS

Kloubec's koi and fish farm is hosting the MPKS (Koi club from Chicago) at their fish farm on July 26th. MPKS is bringing down about 32 members to tour the new and improved fish and Koi farm the Kloubec's have begun to set up. Even if you don't want to buy fish it is an extremely interesting place as they raise many breeds of fish for private earth ponds. Their set up includes a large building full of tanks where they artificially inseminate fish eggs to get the desired end product. Last I knew they had some 80 ponds alone at just this facility plus many more in MO.

Anyway, the MPKS is arriving around 12:00-1:00 and Kloubec's is hosting a BBQ at 1:30. Everyone is welcome, but Kloubec's need a head count. It is \$10.00 per person.

BTW Kloubec's is just off hwy F12 a few miles west of Swisher.

If you have interested members you can email Ellen Kloubec at ekloubec@yahoo.com with a head count. I believe there will be a few from our group going, and if the MPKS is staying the night I might even find a couple ponds they can look at in the afternoon.

Jackie Allsup, Eastern Iowa Pond Society

Little Wall Lake Restoration

Little Wall Lake is a natural 258 acre lake just south of Jewell, Iowa. It offers fishing, boating, campsites, sand volleyball courts, and picnic areas.

The water level in this lake has dropped three to four feet below normal after a 2002 dredging project mistakenly sent water into farm tiles instead back into the lake. The low lake level has forced the Hamilton County Conservation to eliminate any useable beach area and remove public fishing docks.

The Little Wall Lake Homeowner's Association has pledged \$20,000 to back a \$35,000 loan to start a fund drive to raise money to increase the water level. The Hamilton County Conservation Department has purchased a pump to supply water at a rate of 2000 gallons per minute. The water is first pumped into a sedimentation basin to ensure environmental compliance for the lake water quality and fishery management. The water then flows to the lake as it passes through a filtering system.

Funds will cover the cost of the new pump, water lines, rough fish controls, and electricity to run the pump around the clock for two months. A new permanent pumping station will be established at a later date. The pump system is needed because, even with average rainfall, it would take years to fill the lake to normal levels. The watershed to the lake is very small, 0.65 acres of watershed per surface acre of lake (normal is 10-30 acres of watershed per surface acre of lake).

The homeowner's association has teamed up with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation so donations are tax deductible. More information can be obtained by calling Jeff Knutson at 515-827-5205.

The Central Iowa Water Garden Association contributed \$800 to this restoration; this was the profit obtained from the plant sale in May.

Information gathered from the South Hamilton Record-News, April 21, 2004 edition and the Little Wall Lake Restoration Fund brochure.

Check Your Renewal Date

With our activity in our gardens increasing this Spring and Summer with additions, changes, renditions, etc, remember to patronize our Fountains of Support (listed in the Newsletter). Also, remember that you get a 10% discount on your purchases for garden supplies! But, in order to get this discount, you need to be a member + have an UNEXPIRED membership card. REMEMBER TO LOOK AT THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR CARD! If it is expired, promptly renew by simply sending in your membership dues (\$15 for a single, \$25 for a family) to:

Greg Knop
911 S. 12th St.
Nevada, IA 50201

We'll get your new membership card to you promptly so you can enjoy the many discounts!

Eastern Iowa Tour

The Eastern Iowa Pond Society's 9th annual pond tour will be July 11, 12:00 - 5:00, along the Interstate 20 corridor from Evansdale to Independence. With 12+ ponds in Washburn, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Jesup, and Independence, there should be one to fit every size lawn.

Whether you are a serious water gardener, Koi keeper, casual pond owner, want-to-be pond owner, or just plain love flowers and water, you won't want to miss the chance to view the ponds in this year's tour. Our goal with our tour is to help educate the public about the pleasures of the ponding hobby as well as understand the mechanics and maintenance involved. We will also have a plant sale at one of the pond locations.

Tickets and maps are \$5.00 for adults (kids under 18 free) and are available at all pond sites. A good place to start might be 314 8th Ave. SE, Independence, or 706 Central in Evansdale. For more information please call this year's chairman Joel Olsen at 319-334-2709 or check out our club web site at www.eips.org.

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 -- 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 through August*, 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.

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 -- 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, *Now open for the season* -- 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 -- New garden center is open.

Upcoming Events

If you went to all these pond tours and club meetings, you could see over 50 ponds and water features!

July 11 - EIPS Ninth Annual Pond Tour, 12:00 - 5:00, more information inside on page 6

July 12 - CIWGA meeting, 7:00 pm, more information inside on pages 1 and 2

July 12 - Top of Iowa tour meeting, 7:30 pm, more information inside on pages 1 and 3

July 17 - Ninth Annual Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens, Ames/Huxley/Cambridge areas, more information on insert

July 18 - Ninth Annual Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens, Des Moines/Indianola/Norwalk areas, more information on insert

July 19 - Top of Iowa meeting, 7:00 pm, more information inside on pages 1 and 3

July 26 - Kloubec's Fish Farm BBQ with MPKS, more information inside on page 5

July 27 - Capital City Chapter meeting, 7:00 pm, more information inside on pages 1 and 3

July 31 - Top of Iowa First Ever Water Garden Tour, more information on insert

Lisa Harmison

Central Iowa Water Garden Association

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