

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 4 no. 8 August 2004



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Lilypad

CIWGA will next meet on **Saturday, August 7**, starting at 9:00 am. We will be touring three water features in Fort Dodge before going on to a water feature in Algona at 1:00 pm. More information and directions are in *Ribbiting Report*.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Saturday, August 7**, in Algona with CIWGA. Directions are listed in *Chapter Channels*.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet on **Tuesday, August 24**, at the home of Barry and Cari Spear. The **September 28** meeting will be at Robin and Dennis Wineland's home at 4330 N. Baseline in Des Moines. Directions are listed in *Chapter Channels*.

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

Ninth Annual Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens preliminary tour count - 702 tickets sold - a new record!

A more detailed report will be in next month's issue.

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 five.



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Ribbiting Report

The tour was a huge success. I do not have the numbers yet (The committee's report may appear elsewhere in this newsletter) but I can assure you that by all indications the tour was well attended. The weather cooperated with us and the Des Moines Register ran an excellent article the Sunday before the tour. You cannot buy that kind of advertising and it was evident by seeing all the people.

Kudos to the committee. Super job with everything seeming to flow smoothly. This is the largest garden tour in the state as far as number of gardens. It is a huge task to put it together without any hitches. For those of you that volunteered -- thank you very much. For those that simply bought tickets and toured -- thanks are also in order. Now for those of you that did neither -- well -- you missed a great one. Wonderful gardens!! Everybody was walking around with smiles on their face.

I do want to mention that without the volunteers the tour would not have happened. We have to have you!!

Speaking of wonderful gardens we have some of the best that Fort Dodge and Algona can offer for us to tour on August 7. Harvey Hilpipre has lined up some very nice gardens in Fort Dodge. His directions on how to get to the gardens are also in this newsletter. We are planning on seeing the gardens in Fort Dodge starting at 9:00 AM. So go to the first garden that Harvey lists and we will caravan to the rest. If we start at 9:00 we will be able to see all three gardens in FD and then be in Algona by 1:00 PM. You will need to eat at a restaurant in that time frame also.

Now, I do want to talk about the Algona garden. The owners' names are Don and Sharon Schiltz. They have agreed to allow us to tour -- this will be a huge treat for us. This is the first time that the Schiltz's have opened their garden to the public to tour. I know for a fact this will not happen again for quite some time.

They have the most beautiful water garden I have ever seen or have been associated with. Believe me the garden could not look better. I was

there last Friday (July 23) working with a photographer taking pics of their garden. Absolutely stunning. The plants were blooming nice and everything was in tiptop shape. The photographer was a very very happy guy. Lots of great pics to take.

This garden rivals any top-notch garden in the state. Lots of unusual plant material and it will be learning experience for us as to how to plant a garden. The water garden is situated perfectly off the back of the house. It is about 4000 gallons in size but this is misleading. The water garden measures about 15 feet by 55 feet. Lots of holy boulders that were brought in from Wisconsin. A waterfall of about 18,000 GPH and two others that are 2000 GPH each. Very unique and you will not see anything like it anywhere else.

The rest of the gardens is also very well done and the whole garden is what I call eye candy.

To get there take Hwy 169 from Fort Dodge. You will go through Humbolt and then go all the way through Algona. You will come to Hwy 18 on the North side of town. Take a right (East) onto Hwy 18 and then take a left at the first chance (100 yards maybe). You are turning into a huge parking lot that is associated with a service station but if you look to the right you will see the entrance to their garden. It is very important that you park in this huge parking lot. It is an easy walk up to their beautiful home but as you go there is lot to see along the way. It is maybe a 300-yard walk and for those of you that can't walk that far there will be a golf cart to transport you to the house.

It will be worth the trip and believe me it is pleasure to announce this fantastic tour. We have all three chapters of the Water Garden Association invited at the same time as well as the Master Gardeners of Story County. I am expecting maybe 50 to 60 people to tour but the garden is huge and can accommodate this many.

Hope to see everybody there and have fun water gardening.

The Big Toad, Jamie



Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

The DM area group (is that what we're called now, I forget!) met on Tuesday night July 27th at the pond of Judy Anderson and Tom Leffler. Thanks Judy and Tom, for showing us your unique pond and lovely yard as well as serving lemonade and cookies fresh from the Johnston Farmer's Market! Judy and Tom have an interesting pond arrangement that appears to run under their deck with a stream and several small pond areas. Several new members were present and received some helpful information about pond building.

Next month, August 24, we will meet at the home of Barry and Cari Spear to view their ponds. This is a "must see" pond set-up so you won't want to miss this meeting. Barry and Cari's ponds were on the DM area tour two years ago. Directions to their home at 3705 SW Court Ave., Ankeny are to take exit 90 off I-35 (Oralabor Rd) and go west to Irvindale Rd. (about 4 miles). Turn right (north) and go about 1 1/2 miles to Court Ave. (Country Club entrance) and turn left (west). Court Ave. curves around and you will go clear to the end.

For our September 28 meeting, Robin and Dennis Wineland (244-1150) will be graciously opening their yard and pond for us to see. They live at 4330 N. Baseline in Des Moines. Coming either from the north or south you will want to get to 2nd Ave. (across from the Firestone plant) and turn east on 43rd.

Continue a long block east and turn left (north) on Baseline.

Carol Culmer

Top of Iowa

On July 19, 2004 we met at the home of Merv & Vonnie Koozer in Hampton. They have a wonderful location with undulating hills, water features and flowerbeds. After relaxing and touring their gardens, we got down to the business at hand-the upcoming pond tour.

Publicity: We voted to spend \$34.00 for an ad in the Hampton paper. Chuck Hall sent info to the Globe Gazette. They will send someone to do a photo op and feature article. Chuck has promoted the tour on radio and Deb O'Banion on tv.

Host Letter: Mary Schultz will send a 3rd and final host letter listing duties prior to, during and after the pond tour. Also included will be the letter sent to volunteers and a spreadsheet of volunteers, locations, and hours working.

Volunteer Letter: Mary will send a letter to volunteers listing duties. She will also include a free ticket and a spreadsheet of volunteers, locations and hours working.

Host Site: It was decided to place Top of Iowa Water Garden Association brochures at each site. A spiral notebook listing name/town/number/ will be at each site to help keep track of visitors. A piece of Fenton glass has been donated. A drawing will be held to determine the winner. The glass will be displayed at the home of Don & Glennis Lee. Hosts can promote and/or sell items at pond sites.

Hosts: Deb addressed and brought the host packets. They are to include two free tickets, tickets to sell, markers, and a visitors' notebook. Ed Schroeder will deliver the packets, a garden flag and stand and directional signs to hosts prior to the tour.

Tickets: Deb brought tickets and maps and they were divided into hosts' envelopes. We were short tickets. Becky Litterer has more. Hosts and volunteers still need to receive one free ticket. Mary will send two free tickets to Jamie Beyer for all his assistance during the past years.

Brochures: Deb will print more brochures for Ed to put in packet and distribute.

The best part of the evening came when it was time to draw for Izzy (short for Lizzie2). Merv had a basket with little rocks. He put in just enough rocks for each person, not counting himself. On one rock he printed the name "Izzy". The one who drew her name got to take Izzy home for the month. All the rocks went around and no one drew her name. The basket went back to Merv and he pulled out the last rock-with the name Izzy. Everyone had a great laugh, and we decided to do it again. Obviously there was one too many rocks in the basket. We couldn't believe that no one had drawn Izzy and Merv got her. Merv took out the extra rock and passed the basket again. And again it was down to the last rock (or rocks). It seemed there was still an extra rock. And the winner was... Merv. He drew Izzy's name again. The laughter shook the

Chapter Channels

roof. Everyone was calculating the odds of Merv drawing Izzy's name twice and trying to figure out how there was still an extra rock. Comments heard were: "What are the odds?" "I bet a million to one." "Izzy doesn't want to leave." "Izzy needs to stay and is trying to tell you something." "Izzy likes it here." "This is unreal." Needless to say it was a great end to a great evening and in the end, Don & Glennis Lee took Izzy home to put her on display during the tour. You'd have to check with Duane O'Banion about the extra rock!

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 7, 2004 at Algona along with the Central Iowa Water Garden group. For directions we will be coming from the east on Highway 18 and go to the parking lot just east of the Hwy 169 Junction by the gas station.

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

Mary Schultz, Secretary

Check Your Renewal Date

With our activity in our gardens increasing this 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

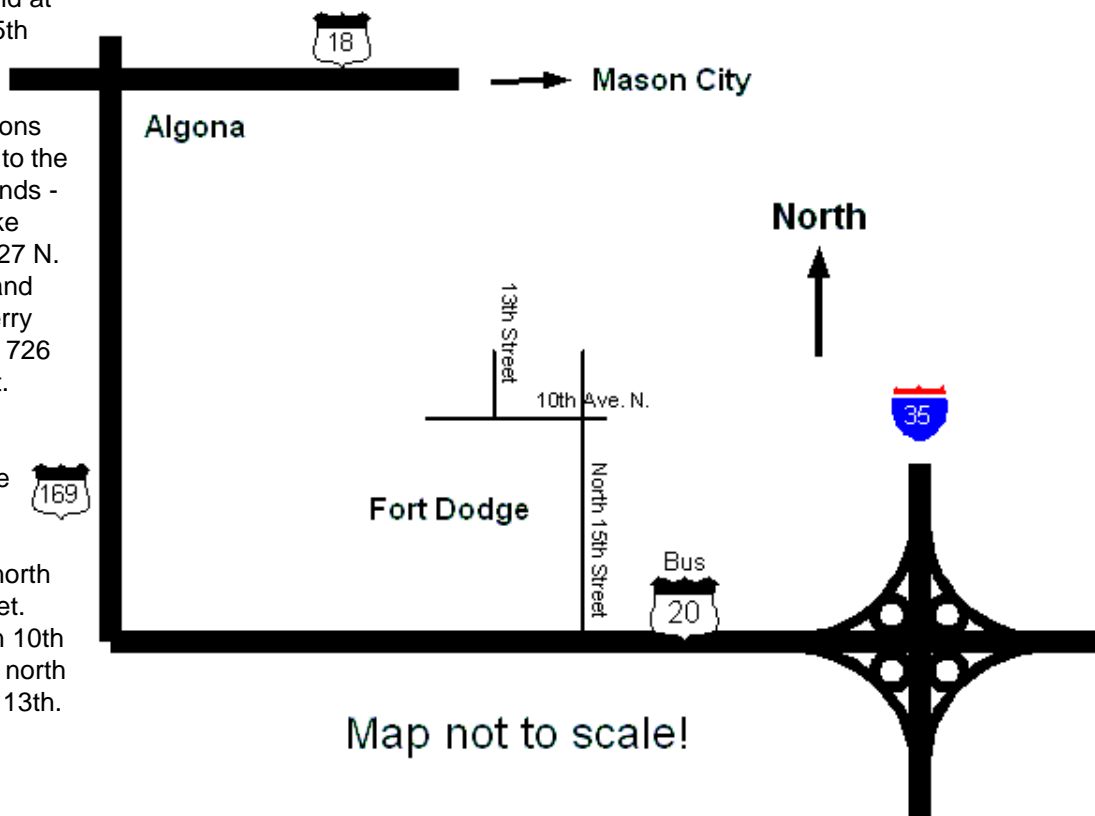
We'll get your new membership card to you promptly so you can enjoy the many discounts!

Fort Dodge Tour

The Fort Dodge Tour before Algona starts at 9:00 am. The first stop will be the Lin and John Simpson pond at 130 North 25th Street.

From there, directions will be given to the two other ponds - Mari and Mike Trotter at 1327 N. 13th Street and Shari and Jerry Fitzgerald at 726 N. 3rd Street.

Come in to Fort Dodge on Business 20, heading west. Turn north on 15th Street. Turn west on 10th Ave. N, then north 1/2 block on 13th.



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.

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

Pam Scheid

Dennis and Tonnee Wilkening



The 2004 Tour Committee, Tour Hosts and all the Volunteers

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 September issue is August 20.**

Lisa Harmison

Central Iowa Water Garden Association

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