

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 4 no. 9 September 2004



Lilypad

CIWGA will next meet on **Monday, September 13**, starting at 6:30 pm. We will be at Don Jensen's house at 25114 580th Avenue in Nevada. Besides touring Don's garden, Jamie will present a program on Winterizing Your Water Garden. Bring a lawn chair, hot dogs and marshmallows! More information and directions are in *Ribbiting Report*.

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The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Monday, September 20** at 7:00 at Roy and Patty Marquardt's. Their address is 8745 Killdeer. Directions are listed in *Chapter Channels*.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet on **Tuesday, September 28**, 7:00PM, at the home of Robin and Dennis Wineland, 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.

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

We sure had great weather for the Fort Dodge/Algona tour. What a way for us to spend the summer -- touring great gardens. I sure wish summer lasted longer!! For those of you that missed the tour, you missed some great gardens. However, I was impressed by how many of us did devote a Saturday and made the trip. We had people from all three chapters there as well as the Story County Master Gardeners. What a fun group!!

In keeping with our need of touring gardens for the summer -- we have one more meeting where we can tour. Don Jensen has invited us to tour his garden. Don's garden was on the Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens this summer and was one that has night lighting. Well, I made the trip to his garden that night and really enjoyed visiting with Don and touring his garden until way past 11:00. It is very obvious that he has put a lot of effort into his garden this past year. What is really interesting is the passion that Don has for water gardening. He really is "infected" with the ponding bug.

His garden is also large enough that we could have a program along with touring his garden. So... let's do a program on Winterizing Water Gardens. It would be a good idea to have discussion on what works for everybody. I will lead the discussion with some insight on plants that over winter well and ones that might not survive our winters. Of course, we will also discuss ways that will insure the survival of our fish.

In years past we have this program in October and by then some the techniques to over winter plants should have been done in September. So doing this program earlier will be more timely. This will be a good program to bring your friends that have never been to one of our meetings. This information is vital to the proper winter care of ponds here in the Midwest.

To get to Don's place, head east on Hwy 30 and go two miles past I35. Turn south on R70 or 580th Ave. (Brekke's is on the northwest corner -- this is also the road to Cambridge). Go 1 1/8 mile south, Don's place is on the east side of the road.

The tour will start at 6:30PM on Monday September 13. Bring your lawn chairs. I know Don will have a fire going in his fire pit so you may bring your wieners and marshmallows.

The Big Toad, Jamie



Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

The Capital City Chapter will meet on Tuesday, September 28, 7:00PM, at the home of Robin and Dennis Wineland, 4330 N. Baseline in Des Moines. From I80 go south on 2nd Avenue past Firestone. Turn left on 43rd and then left on Baseline. If coming from the south on 2nd Avenue turn right on 43rd after passing Aurora. Then left on Baseline.

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, September 20 at 7:00 at Roy and Patty Marquardt's. Their address is 8745 Killdeer. The easiest way to get to their home is Go 1 mile west of WalMart on Hwy 122, then go 8 miles south on S34 to 180th Street, go 1 mile west to Killdeer Ave., then 1/4 mile south. They live on the east side of the road. See you there!

Check Renewal Date

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!

Website FYI

I have renewed our domain name again (www.ciwga.org). Our website is now hosted on a local server and soon we will be making changes. If you have any suggestions on how to make the website better please let me know at news@ciwga.org. One thing we will try to figure out is how to have a members-only directory online.

I am also looking for ideas for articles to write. This issue is a little thin (sorry, I was on vacation). I'd like to add articles that interest you but I need your ideas! I would also like to have pictures more often in the newsletter so send those too!

Final Tour Report

The 2004 Pond Tour was a success! Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers from the CIWGA and the Story County Master Gardeners, this year's Tour would not have been possible. Plus, the Tour netted for each organization \$2400, which happens to be a record!!!! I want to publicly thank each and every one of these people that helped in this year's Pond Tour - Thank You!! Thank You! Thank you!!!!

The Committee Members:

Rod and Kate Mulder (Story County Master Gardener Association)
Carol Culmer (CIWGA)
Jamie Beyer (CIWGA & Master Gardener)
Carol Scheid (CIWGA)
John Selin (CIWGA)
Lisa Harmison (CIWGA & Master Gardener)
Dan & Mary Lou Haddock (CIWGA & Master Gardener)
Gordon Greger (CIWGA)
Doug Rieck (CIWGA & Master Gardener)
Greg Knop (CIWGA)

Volunteers:

Jan Payer (Ames)
Darla Ewalt (Ames)
Tom Gust (Ames)
Dan & Mary Lou Haddock (Nevada)
Joyce Krug (Ames)
Clarissa Van Allen (Nevada)
Jamie Beyer (Boone)
Craig Seymore (Ames)
Jackie Runyan (Ames)
Laura Miller (Ames)
Gary Prochaska (Ames)
Marlene & Eugene Robinson (Ames)
Russ Hoffman (Ames)
Jerry & Bertha Aldrich (Alden)
Anita Finchun (Ames)
Jim & Jill Rose (Jefferson)
Donja Esk (Ames)
Jan & Tammie Krauseman (Nevada)
Vaughn & Meg Speer (Ames)
Jim Jordan (Boone)
Carole Bunde (Ames)
Janet Heintz (Ames)
Greg & Diane Nelson (Ames)
Sharon Rowe (Des Moines)
Linda Lundgren (Des Moines)
Ed & Mary Furry (Ankeny)
Robin Wineland (Des Moines)
Marilyn Mendenhall (Des Moines)

Gary Chambers (Des Moines)
Mike Kidman (Polk City)
Sandy Kling (Des Moines)
Darla Kickbush (Carlisle)
Tom Taylor (Des Moines)
Jan & Breana Peterson (Indianola)
Jon Holland (Des Moines)
Anita Campbell (Des Moines)
Bob & Karen Voshell (Elkhart)
John Williams (Des Moines)
Myke & Jordan Selha (Des Moines)
Gordon Greger (Des Moines)
Jim & Sue Kline (Granger)

If you know and see any of these people, Thank them for their efforts!!!!

By the way, organizing for the 2005 Pond Tour will commence in October!! Bring us your volunteering skills; it's a great way to help both organizations grow. And, to make future Pond Tour organizing easier, this year's Committee is putting together a "How To Organize A Successful Pond Tour" manual.

Thanks!

Greg Knop, Chairperson for the 2004 Central Iowa Pond Tour

Tour Budget Report

Total tickets sold	704	\$7,040.00
Less Total Expenses		2,240.82
Net Income		\$4,799.18

1/2 of Net Income for each organization

CIWGA	\$2,399.59
SCMGA	\$2,399.59

Tickets sold	340	Ames
	351	Des Moines
	13	Unknown
	704	Total

Tickets Given Away	116	Ames
	107	Des Moines

Budget Report submitted by Kate Mulder

Winterizing Water Gardens in the Midwest

Compiled by Jamie Beyer, Water Garden Consultant. This information may only be used for your own personal use. To reproduce this, you will need written permission.

Many decisions will need to be made before the right techniques can be applied to winterizing your pond.

* Determine if the pond has enough volume and deep enough to successfully keep fish and plants in it during the winter. Almost all above ground ponds (or tubs) need to be emptied before they freeze unless supplemental heat is provided.

* Determine if your water garden needs to be emptied for fish population control and/or sediment removal. Do this in early fall so that your pond can recover before winter sets in. Attempt to save as much of the water (up to 80 %) as possible. Cheap kiddie pools work great but need to be bought during early summer. Retailers clear the shelves of them by late summer. I recommend doing this in the fall instead of the spring. A spring cleaning can create conditions for an algae bloom -- the pea green soup kind.

* What tropical plants do you want to save and what kind of facilities do you have for your use -- like a greenhouse, warm basement equipped with an intensely lighted tub or a dedicated refrigerator turned up to 50 degrees? A few tropicals make good houseplants -- so get rid of that couch and make room??!!

* Do you want to net the pond to keep leaves from falling into your pond? Some leaves and tree debris may fall through the net -- like locust tree leaves. It may be just as easy to use a leaf vac or fish net to remove them before freeze-up. You do not have to remove 100% of the debris but try and get most of it.

* Decide on how many of the hardy water lilies, lotus and marginal plants you want to over winter. Get rid of the extras to friends and then lower the lilies and lotus to the bottom of the pond after you remove the surface leaves. This will need to be done before an ice sheet forms on the pond - usually the first couple of weeks in November is the best time in Central Iowa. Notice I said usually -- you can a solid sheet of ice before that but most of the time it melts or can be easily removed.

* What types of fish and aquatic life do you have and how many? All tropical fish will die in cold water of say 60 degrees or lower -- this includes Plecostomuses and apple snails. Most of the inbred goldfish will not survive the winter -- the orandas, ryukins, and other egg shaped goldfish are in this category. Calico shubunkin goldfish, comet goldfish, and most koi are very hardy and can withstand water temps of 34 degrees.

* If fish are brought inside to over winter then decide on types of tanks used and at what temperature. Be sure to cover the tanks with something because fish, that are used to larger quarters, will jump readily until they get used to their more confined space. Koi will amaze you, but with a sad tone, at their ability to jump.

* Do you own a power plant or related to a power plant owner? If not, then forget the floating stock tank heater! I guess there may be times when I would use one but I can't think of one right now to justify the costs -- besides it wastes energy.

* What pumps and filters will be shut off and, if they are exposed to ice, then drain them? Ice will not normally harm flexible tubing but rigid tubing (like PVC) will need to be drained.

* Decide on methods of keeping a slow circulation in the pond. An aquarium air pump or a small water pump will work -- I prefer the air pump. Unless your pond is very small, shallow (less than 18 inches deep) or above ground, then you cannot supercool the water to the detriment of the fish. This is contrary to what some references say but they are wrong!!

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:

Copyworks of Ames

Don and Sharon Schlitz
of Algona



Lin and John Simpson
of Fort Dodge

Mari and Mike Trotter of Fort Dodge

Shari and Jerry Fitzgerald of Fort Dodge

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 October issue is September 20.**

Lisa Harmison

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