

# Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association [www.ciwga.org](http://www.ciwga.org) vol. 4 no. 10 October 2004



## Lilypad

**CIWGA** will next meet on **Monday, October 11**, at 7:00 pm in the Hunziker House at Reiman Gardens. Andy Dall from Tetra will be our featured speaker. More information on our speaker is in *Ribbiting Report*.

### Corner Stone

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The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Monday, October 18**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Room in the Band Shell in downtown Clear Lake. Central Gardens of North Iowa will be giving an update on the progress of Central Gardens and show the plans for the water garden feature. Roy and Patty Marquardt will be bringing refreshments. More information is listed in *Chapter Channels*.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet on **Monday, October 25**, at 7:00PM (*Note the special night*). The meeting will be held at the ISU Extension Office, 5201 NE 14th ST., Des Moines. Doug Rieck will lead a discussion on winterizing the pond and plant care. Several members will explain their ideas for adding oxygen to the winter pond.

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 had a great time at Don Jensen's garden last month. Don has created his own oasis in his landscape that includes a lot of unique ideas. One idea that I liked a lot was an irregular countertop that was made out of flagstone. Very unique and one that tweaked a lot of interest. I hate to say this but Don's garden will be the last one that we will be touring this year. As the days get shorter and it gets cooler outside we have to move our meetings inside. Actually this is a great opportunity to have some very good presenters.

Well, this month we have a good presenter coming to town. Andy Dall from Tetra is coming. Andy is from Smithville, MO, which is just north of Kansas City. So, he has a trip to make in order to visit us. A short bio and a detail of what he is going to present follows.

Andy Dall has worked for Tetra for 3 ¾ years. He currently live in Smithville, MO. His territory includes KS, MO, south IA, south NE, and OK. Andy's main responsibility is to manage (detail) independent Lawn and Garden and pet stores in these areas. Tetra, other than pond supplies, is a very strong player in the home aquarium business as well. Whisper Power Filters and TetraMin are main stays in the aquarium hobby. The Ark Pet Store in Ames, IA is a strong supporter of Tetra products in both pond and aquarium hobbies. Tetra Pond in the past year has made great strides in outdoor water gardening equipment that can establish a beautiful setting in any backyard. Tetra is very well recognized for their pond food and the quality standards they take in producing it. Tetra has really stepped up to the plate with their pump line last year, by using advanced tech., but keeping the cost of these pumps very affordable. Tetra also has just launched a new line of filters for the pond as well. Pressure filters are becoming very popular in the hobby and Tetra's line with an integrated UV sterilizer and backwash capability is "built to last."

I personally have used TetraMin foods for over 40 years and I consider these foods the best that money can buy. Tetra wrote the book on fish foods and I am very pleased that we have Andy coming to talk about them. As mentioned they have a lot of other products that are quality and it will be interesting to hear about them.

The meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 11 in the Hunziker Building at Reiman Gardens. That's right - Reiman Gardens - Yeah!!

This building is on the south side of the garden, which you will need to walk a short way through the garden to get there. Fun walk - believe me.

The Board of Directors will be meeting the week before our membership meeting to hash out a lot of details to save time during our membership meeting. So it should be a short meeting and a good program. One not to miss!

The Big Toad, Jamie



## Chapter Channels

### Capital City Chapter

The Capital City Chapter will meet on Monday, October 25, at 7:00PM (Note the special night). The meeting will be held at the ISU Extension Office, 5201 NE 14th ST., Des Moines. Doug Rieck will lead a discussion on winterizing the pond and plant care. Several members will explain their ideas for adding oxygen to the winter pond.

### Top of Iowa

Twenty Top of Iowa members choose a perfect night to drive to the home of Patty & Roy Marquardt's home and visit their beautiful gardens on September 20, 2004. After touring the gardens we feasted on cheese, crackers, treats and beverages provided by Nels & Pat Dall-Winther. Don introduced his two guests.

Ed opened the meeting and the topic immediately turned to our successful first year pond tour. We estimated 240 people attended. Members shared all the positive comments they heard. Two themes repeated throughout the night were great organization and signage. Suggestions for next year: hosts/volunteers have an identity badge, wrist bands, including information about the Top of Iowa on the tickets, and having the tickets professionally printed along with printing more tickets.

Thank you letters were sent to hosts and volunteers. Businesses' were thanked when tickets were picked up. Ed will send additional thank you letters to the Hampton paper, Globe Gazette, Marilyn Jorgenson for Fenton glass donation and a letter to the MC editor thanking businesses and guests for their support.

*continued...*

## *Chapter Channels...*

It was moved and seconded to donate \$1,000.00 toward Central Gardens. It was moved and seconded that these funds be earmarked for a designated water feature. Both motions passed. Ed will contact Central Gardens and the Globe Gazette to see if we can present them with a check in the above amount at our next meeting. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 18 held at the Clear Lake Band Shell in the Lake Room at 7:00 p.m. Patty Marquardt offered to bring refreshments. Central Gardens of North Iowa will be giving an update on the progress of Central Gardens and show the plans for the water garden feature.

Last month's private tour in Algona was fantastic. Members shared pictures and stories. Members also shared pictures of our pond tour. Kathy is going to put together a scrapbook.

After residing with Don & Glennis Lee for two months, Izzy is moving to go to Osage and stay with Jim for a month.

Roy shared information on the upcoming pumpkin growers contest Saturday 25 in Austin. Last year's winning pumpkin weighed 1,022#.

Deb O'Banion will print membership spreadsheets and bring them to the next meeting to hand out. If you will not be at the meeting, but would like a list of members, please contact her.

Members were reminded that next month is our last meeting until after the New Year. Please check the newsletter for upcoming dates and locations.

Meeting adjourned in record time. We then sat and discussed how to winterize ponds

## *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!

## *Little Wall Lake Update*

According to an article in the September 24 edition of the Ames Tribune, the water level at Little Wall Lake is within six to seven inches of what is considered full. A bait and tackle shop has reopened and is renting paddleboats and rowboats. Construction crews finished dredging the north lake and next year the county will reinstall the boat dock and build a handicap accessible fishing jetty and cleaning station.

The Little Wall lake Homeowners Association raised more than half of the \$40,000 needed to restore the lake's water levels after it was drained over four feet by a dredging mistake. As you may recall, CIWGA donated the profits from our plant sale to this restoration project. Our congratulations to the Homeowners Association for their successful efforts in this endeavor!

## *ciwga.org Changes*

What would you like to see on the club's website? How can I change it to make it easier for you to explore our site? Please let me know! Suggestions can be sent to [news@ciwga.org](mailto:news@ciwga.org).

We are still working on the on-line directory. We are now able to check statistics on our site so we can see what pages visitors frequent and where links are broken.

## *Another Tour Thanks*

Gretchen Triplett was accidentally left off the list of volunteers who helped make the 2004 Central Iowa Tour of Water Gardens a success. Thank you Gretchen and please accept our apologies for the oversight.

## *Minnow's Minutes*

*September 13, 2004*

The meeting was held at the home of Don and Jaylene Jensen, located at 25114 580th Ave., Nevada, on a cool and breezy evening. This garden was a host garden for the Central Iowa Water Garden Tour on Saturday, July 17. It was interesting to compare the garden then with now.

There were approximately 15 members in attendance. Jamie asked Don to explain the garden. It was started in March, about 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  years ago. The garden featured three pumps. The main pump's capacity was 46-4800 gal/hr. This pump pushed water through a filter box at the front end that produced a large water fall emptying into a nearly 20 feet long, broad stream. A second pump produced a smaller falls that emptied near the end of the stream. The third pump about 7000 gal/hr) was submerged and slightly visible a slight distance to the confluence of the streams. This pump created an actual swirl of water with lots of movement and sound. The pond was very clear. Don explained his management of the garden. It is surrounded by a walkway, which includes a bridge over the intake at the distal end. Recessed lighting in wooden boxes illuminated the walking paths. Light colored boulders with flat surfaces were placed around the pond. A small picnic area with a well-landscaped retaining wall was inviting. Thank you for sharing your garden, Don and Jaylene.

Jamie then spoke to the group about winterizing ponds and over-wintering aquatic plants. He distributed copyrighted papers on these subjects and followed the papers to some extent in his presentation. There were lots of questions and the presentation turned into a round table discussion. This writer became more interested in listening

than in writing! I do recall a few of the following items:

Jamie prefers to clean ponds in the fall. The advantages are that it reduces chances of algae bloom in the spring as opposed to spring-cleaning. It is also less stressful on the fish. Pond cleaning provides an opportunity to catch, select and thin out the fish population.

It is best not to shine the rocks because it destroys the vital patina coat and it is best to keep the rocks moist when water level is low so as not to harm the patina.

Jamie recommends a sedimentation pit when constructing ponds.

And, covering the pond with a net seems to be less popular (it is hard to enjoy a covered pond). Most of the leaves can be removed by using a D-shape fish net and moving it in a figure 8 motion.

Mink and blue heron are becoming more common predators.

This writing covers only a portion of the knowledge disseminated. It is my guess that Jamie would share his handouts to members if they request. The one about over wintering aquatic plants could be very valuable to a lot of people. Again, Jamie, thanks for sharing your knowledge.

A business meeting was not held. One member wondered if the association might be interested in upgrading the water feature at the Iowa Arboretum. It was mentioned that a private individual might be pursuing that at this time.

*Respectfully submitted, James L. Jordan*

## *Turtle's Tanks*

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have helped our group:

Copyworks of Ames

Don Jensen

Reiman Gardens



## *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 November issue is October 20.**

# 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 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](http://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.

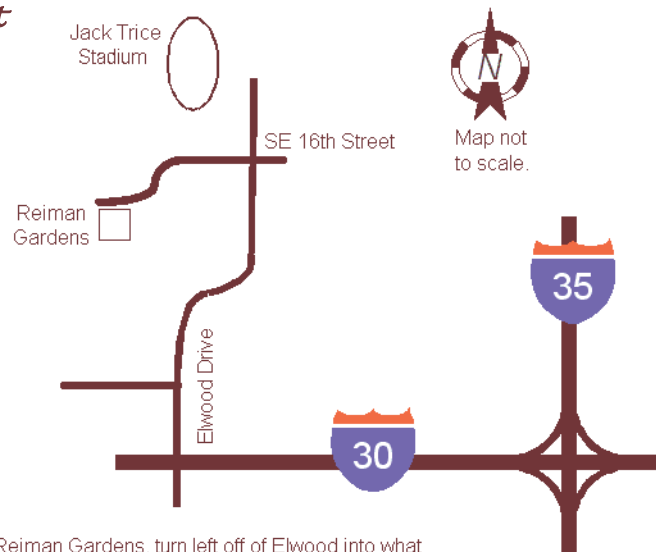
**Skycrest Gardens**, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382, *Now open for the season* -- Almost everything 10% discount.

**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.

*Map to Reiman Gardens in Ames, next meeting place for CIWGA.*



To get to Reiman Gardens, turn left off of Elwood into what appears to be the stadium parking lot (second stoplight north of Highway 30). Follow the drive all the way to the back to get to the parking area for Reiman Gardens.

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