

Ponderings...

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association www.ciwga.org vol. 5 no. 9 September 2005



Lilypad

CIWGA will meet **Monday, September 12**, at 7:00 pm at the Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens. Donna Davilla from the Capital City Chapter will present a program titled Claude Monet and his Water Lily Garden. More information on this program is in *Ribbiting Report*.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, September 24th** at the 7B Ranch in Webster City. The other chapters are invited to attend. Directions are inside in *Chapter Channels*.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet **Wednesday, September 28th** at 6:30 at Marg and Steve Drahaus' garden at 918 SE Peterson Dr, in Ankeny. Owen Tweet from Water Landscape supply will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have, pertaining to water gardens or landscaping. Please bring a lawn chair. A map and more information are inside in *Chapter Channels*.

More details on the chapters can be found inside in *Chapter Channels*. All CIWGA members (including the chapters) may attend any or all of the above meetings.

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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. Please be sure to read the listing carefully. Our Fountains of Support are on page five.



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Ribbiting Report

We had a good turnout for the Jefferson Garden Tour considering the distance. Some very nice gardens and I took a lot of photos. Jefferson is my hometown and it was great to be back -- I need to come back more often. What is even more interesting is the dedication of the Jefferson water gardeners to their gardens and to our Association? It is amazing how many water gardeners there are in Jefferson. The number per capita I would guess is greater than the Ames area. I started water gardening when I was growing up in that town. It must be something "in the water." Hummmmm!!??

Anyway so much for my being really stupid. I need to be more serious and to talk about our upcoming program for September 12 at 7:00 PM in the Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens. Donna Davilla has graciously agreed to a program for us; the abstract follows:

Claude Monet and his Water Lily Garden

"French artist, Claude Monet, created a beautiful water garden that inspired many of his paintings. Donna Davilla, Fine Arts Consultant, will present information featuring Monet's garden in Giverny, France, along with Monet's famous paintings of water lilies and other Impressionist subjects. Historical facts about Monet and the development of his garden will be shared."

The talk lasts about an hour. She will be glad to answer questions. She has located information regarding exact species used in the Monet garden which we hope to distribute at the meeting.

I do want to add a couple of footnotes. The Monet Garden is probably the most famous water garden in the world. Donna will be able to illustrate this in her slides. To have a special presentation on this garden is indeed a huge boost to our Association.

Also, Donna is a member of the Capital City Chapter and she wants to extend a special invitation to them. As an added incentive we will have a door prize just for the Capital City members that come. It would be nice as a Thank You to Donna that we have a good turnout from that Chapter.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting. It will be fun!

The Big Toad, Jamie



P Bay

Listing of opportunities to expand your water feature! These arrived by email since the August newsletter. If you do not have email access, call me (Lisa) at 515-231-5926 after 6:00 pm and I will help you get in touch with the sender. If you have something that may be of interest to fellow ponderers, send me a description by September 20 for inclusion in the next newsletter.

I'm new to the Des Moines, Iowa area and am looking for a local Koi club or Association, without success! After 20 years of keeping Koi in the UK I now have my pond set up here in the USA. Climate conditions are of course very different over here and I would appreciate getting and sharing information to and from other like-minded people. Please can you let me know of any group or people that you are aware of, otherwise I may look into starting my own club!

Thank you in advance for your help,

Antoinette, (515) 255 1115



A friend of mine has spotted a discarded whiskey barrel, about 4 feet tall and 30 inches wide, someplace over in West Ames. He's been trying to talk me into picking it up, but I don't really want it. I told him I'd mention it to somebody in the club to see if there'd be any interest at all. Anyone who wants info about it can contact me at karen@animalshaman.com.

Thanks! Karen



I am wondering if any one in your club is looking for additional koi? I am working on my third generation of koi in my pond. I am seriously considering relocating the larger fish (12" to 18") due to the fact they continue to reproduce. My pond is approximately 2000 gallons and I am running out of room.

Kevin

kevin.eichmann@efcoforms.com

Chapter Channels

Capital City Chapter

I want to extend our thanks to Mike and Renee Kidman for hosting our August meeting and making it an inviting and memorable evening. Their home is located just North of Des Moines on the road heading toward Polk City. They've created a pond off the deck, which practically extends the length of the house. They have strategically placed it so they are able to see it from their kitchen window. That way they can enjoy it anytime. There are two train tracks set up running around the pond, waterfall and stream. When the engine signals it almost sounds like a real train whistle. What a wonderful addition to an already lovely setting.

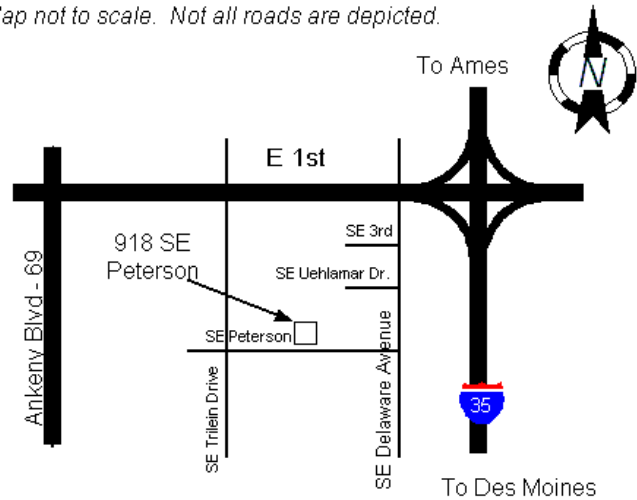
Their tree farm is filled with many acres of trees, especially Christmas trees. There is a lovely gift shop and an elaborate display of trains. There are even a couple of reindeers, which made for an exciting surprise for me. This is a wonderful home and business that I can only imagine is transformed to an enchanting setting at Christmas time! Don't miss the experience.

More information can be found at their website www.kidmanfarms.com. Opening the day after Thanksgiving at 9am, Mon-Fri: Noon - 5pm, Sat & Sun: 9am - 5 pm.

There was talk about our next pond tour 2006 and a few people made some good suggestions from this year's experiences. Any other ideas or suggestions would be welcomed. If anyone is interested in helping plan our next year's tour let Doug Rieck (Drgardener@aol.com) or John Selin (John.Selin@Drake.edu) know. John says "it is a very organized event", with a book of guidelines to help make it a successful tour, and it "doesn't really take up that much of your time", only 3-4 meetings. Also, if anyone knows of a garden that they would like to see on next year's tour, preferably out towards the west of Des Moines and surrounding areas, you could also contact John or Doug, they would like to make contact with them early in the year.

Our next meeting will be hosted at Marg and Steve Drahaus' garden at 918 SE Peterson Dr, in Ankeny. It will be Wednesday evening September 28th and we are moving the time to 6:30, since it is getting dark so much sooner now. Their phone number is 964-0928. Could you please bring a few lawn chairs?

Map not to scale. Not all roads are depicted.



Owen Tweet from Water Landscape supply will be our guest, he will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have, pertaining to water gardens or landscaping.

Please join us for our next meeting and enjoy the fun!

Robin Wineland

Secretary, Capitol City Chapter of the CIWGA

Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will be going to the 7B Ranch in Webster City for their September meeting. We will be meeting there at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 24th. To get to the 7B Ranch take new Hwy. 20 to Webster City and take Hwy. 17 into Webster City. As you enter town turn right (east) at the first stoplight. Go to the end of this road. It will go across a set of RR tracks and curve around the sewage treatment plant, then you will be at the entrance. The gate will be up - proceed in and look for the trumpeter swans that will be on your left soon after you go through the gate. Park at the barn - there is lots of parking and plenty to see.

7B has a display of many kinds of water plants and elaborate gardens that are embedded around the water. Gene has the biggest and most elaborate display of Victorian water lilies. Some of the lilies have leaves that are 6 - 8 ft. in diameter. This place is worth driving to see.

The Central Iowa Water Garden is also invited to attend or anyone that is interested in gardening whether it water gardening or gardening in general. We hope to see lots of gardeners there. You won't be disappointed.

Autumn and the Pond

The reds and yellows of autumn will begin to show soon, some reflecting on the water surface. While this colorful season invites one to stop and enjoy the beautiful scenery, our water gardens demand a little more attention before winter sets in.

Just as we remove the yellow and brown leaves and flowers from terrestrial plants, we need to remove them from the water plants as well. Excess growth needs to be removed as well as frost-damaged plants. If left in the pond through winter, the plant tissue gives off methane gas as it decays and increases the build up of black sludge on the bottom of the pond. Methane gas kills fish.

Leaves from trees, whether they overhang the water or not, always find their way into the pond. Daily removal is best. You can remove them with a screen or net regularly or you can stretch a fine mesh tightly over your pond. Anchor the edges with stones, bricks, or stakes put into the soil (don't puncture the liner) to keep the netting from sagging into the water. If you do not have an overhanging tree, you can try temporary fencing around your pond to prevent the leaves from blowing in.

If the leaves sink to the bottom before you get the chance to remove them, you can use your

hands or a small, soft, plastic rake to remove them from the bottom. Be careful not to damage your liner. For larger ponds, a pool sweep or vacuum may be used, especially if you have few plants or fish.

Once the foliage is gone, your fish need somewhere else to hide. Pieces of pipe six inches in diameter can be placed in the bottom of the pond as hiding places from predators. If you plan on keeping fish in the pond all winter, be sure the pond will not freeze solid (36 inches deep or more) and be sure you have a way to oxygenate the water.

If you plan on removing your submersible pump for winter, be sure to remove it before the water freezes. Clean the pump and service it before storing. The waterproof electrical connection for the pump could be used for a water heater if you choose to use one.

Remember that as the temperature gets cooler, the fish's metabolism slows so they will not eat as much food. If you plan on bringing them inside for winter, be sure your aquarium is ready before hand. Bring them in when the water temperature drops to about 60 degrees F and make sure there is no more than a five-degree difference between the pond water temperature and the aquarium water temperature.

Turtle's Tanks

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their help!

Duane & Pete Russell

Dave & Linda Walker

Mary Jo & Ted Springer

Noel & Sandy Drewry

Jim & Jean Braden

Jill & Jim Rose



Caterpillars!

This evening I looked deep into my pond to see how the fish are doing. It was too dark to see. Then I looked at the water lily that has taken over almost the entire surface of the pond. I noticed an orange fuzzy caterpillar sitting on one of the lily pads. How funny, I thought. Then I noticed several other fuzzy caterpillars on other lily pads. Many of the pads are actually curled somewhat and sticking up in the air (like the plant needs dividing or is too crowded). The caterpillars are on these upright leaves! Tomorrow I intend to check this out more thoroughly and see how many caterpillars there are and how badly damaged the leaves are. I would like to know how these guys got on the lily pads; they do reach across to the edges of the pond so they could have crawled across. I would have liked to have seen that!

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 on water garden plants and supplies.

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.

Central Iowa Lawn and Home Care, Inc., Jason Hofsommer, 2725 E. Lincolnway, Ames, 515-233-1201 -- We specialize in landscape design and installation, seeding, sod, weed control, fertilization, and clean up. The 10% discount may be applied to any landscape materials purchased from or any landscape installation done by Central Iowa Lawn & Home Care, Inc.

Copyworks Plus, 105 Welch Avenue, Ames, 515-292-3630 -- 10% off all copy services.

Dillon Plant Company, 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 -- Opening April 30; 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.

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, Marilyn and Tom Kenney, 243 Dave Circle, Ames, 515-233-1382 -- We will be open on Friday's this year. Hours: Friday, noon-8pm., Sat. 9-6pm., and Sun. noon-5pm. -- 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. Our Spring Celebration will be April 22-24, with specials in every department!

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 -- Garden center is open.

Membership Renewal

Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family membership. Please send your check payable to CIWGA to Carol Scheid, 68065 180th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Name(s):

Address:

City, State , Zip:

Phone:.....

E-mail:

Renewal number (if known):_____ Include in directory:_____

I'd like the monthly newsletter sent via (circle your choice) postal mail email both.

Chapter: Story County ____ Capital City Chapter ____ Top of Iowa ____

Lisa Harmison
Central Iowa Water Garden Association
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