



# Ponderings...

## Information Please...

**CIWGA will meet Monday, February 13, 7:00 pm** in the Hughes Auditorium at Reiman Gardens. Bill Boon will present a program on *Redesigning Your Garden*. This is a rescheduling from the January meeting. More information on page 3.

The **Top of Iowa Chapter** will meet **Monday, February 20** at 7:00 pm at the home of Don and Glennis Lee, 2509 4th St. S.E in Mason City. Ellen Montgomery, owner of The Basic Birder, will be talking to us about wild birds and everything you would want to know about them.

The **Capital City Chapter** will meet **Wednesday, February 22** at 7:00 pm at the ISU extension office on NE 14th Street north of Interstate 80. Our speakers will be someone from the Ark Pet Shop in Ames to talk about fish, and Donna Davilla will share pictures of her trip to Monet's gardens in France.

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.

The main focus of this organization is to share information with our members. The primary subject is water gardening but we are willing to share information on other topics related to water gardening. This issue of Ponderings has a few places on the internet where you can get gardening information specific to our growing environment. On page 4 is an introductory article about a new gardening forum created by three Story County master gardeners. Any one can access this forum and "signing up" is very easy. You can post questions in a number of different categories (water gardening is one of them) and fellow forum members will offer advice and experience. The site is moderated by master gardeners and answers from them will be researched based and may provide additional resources to the readers.

Another resource for information is a good book. I have had one suggestion from Judy Henry for some winter reading. If you've stumbled across a good gardening (or water gardening) book, please share! This also includes any good magazines that other ponderers might find enjoyable.

In an effort to make this newsletter more informative, I've come up with topics to research. I'm working on filtration systems. If you have any suggestions on how to determine what filtration set up you need, email me at [news@ciwga.org](mailto:news@ciwga.org). I'm also looking for pictures of filtration systems so please share those too!

One of the goals of the Board of Directors is to get information from the members. The Board would like to have feedback on how the club is doing. The Board would like to know what we are doing well, what needs improving, and what you'd like to see added or changed. We are here to help you but we need to know how you feel. Please feel free to contact any board member.

Happy pondering,

Lisa

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*Due to a family emergency, Bill Boon was not able to present at the January CIWGA meeting. He has been rescheduled for February's meeting (so no, you're not having a deja vu moment). Thank you to Jamie Beyer for filling in last month and to Dr. Boon for rescheduling for this month.*

## *Ribbiting Report*

I hope many of you can attend the February meeting with Bill Boon as our speaker that was postponed from January. Bill Boon is known as an expert in landscaping and provides a very interesting talk.

We had a good director's meeting in January, talking about many areas to support the goals of the CIWGA. We never had much input from the membership as to any changes that people thought would help, so please let us know of any improvements that you think would help the organization. We also need more response in filling the committees. The committees don't involve much work, but the organization needs to have functioning committees.

We won't be having a speaker on corn meal for algae control in water gardens, but I have some information for anyone interested in trying it. I would like to coordinate some "research" on rates, application techniques, etc. to find out what works best. Let me know who wants to try some corn meal.

Russ

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## *Chapter Channels*

### *Capital City Chapter*

We had a wonderful turnout Wednesday night to welcome Penny Kramme from Bob Lenc Landscaping. She is their newly appointed pond expert. They are working to become a certified Aquascapes representative. We had some new guests and many people were anxious to renew their membership for 2006. Please remember this year it is pro-rated, and if you need that information it is in the newsletter and I also have it. This will put us on track to renew at the same time every year, that way it will be easier to manage.

Due to technical difficulties Penny had many handouts instead of the slide presentation that I had mentioned. She had some great ideas to keep in mind when creating the scenery around your pond to enhance its beauty. She had several suggestions on types of plants to use to get some dramatic affects all year long. She also introduced us to a national pond organization called N.A.W.G.S which stands for North American Water Garden Society. They are part of Aquascapes, and as a member there are several benefits including a subscription to the Aquascapes Lifestyles magazine. Their Mission Statement...to be an organization that will unite clubs across the country in the com-

mon pursuit of the water gardening hobby. If you want more information she left us handouts that I will have available at our next meeting. You could also contact Penny@boblenlandscaping.com for more information or if you have further questions.

As always we had countless questions and a good discussion on all aspects of ponding.

John Selin led a brief business meeting. He discussed some committee work that he would like to propose we do. He would like a committee of volunteers to seek out and follow up bringing more businesses into our Fountains of Support in our area, we also need volunteers lined up for our 2006 pond tour, there are many things to be done for this. Susan Darling has graciously volunteered to lead this effort so you could contact her at sdarling39@msn.com if you are interested in helping out or if you would like to suggest for the tour, including your own. We are going west this year so anyone in that area or surrounding areas like Urbandale, Clive, or Waukee would be a great candidate. Also contact me, robinwineland@msn.com, or John at john.selin@drake.edu. if you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions.

Thank you all for coming, I think we all caught a little bit of Spring Fever and are anxious for the season to start. I would like to thank the wonderful cooks also for their delicious treats!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday night at 7pm at the ISU extension office on NE 14th and our speakers will be someone from the ARK pet store in Ames to talk about fish, and Donna Davilla will share with us some pictures of her trip to the famous Monet's gardens in France.

Upcoming meetings for 7pm on the fourth Wednesday at the ISU extension office, about a mile N of I80 on NE 14th street:

March 22nd: Jamie Beyers, Ames, will discuss opening your pond for the spring

April 26th: Marsha Ansevics from Flying Frog Farm, they specialize in many kinds of hostas and companion plants.

*Robin Wineland, Secretary, Capitol City Chapter*

## Chapter Channels

### Top of Iowa

The Top of Iowa Water Garden Association will meet Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Don and Glennis Lee in Mason City. Their address is 2509 4th St. S.E.. If you were going to Kriegers Greenhouse instead of turning back west you would turn east and go south on the dead-end street to the end of the block. Ellen Montgomery will be talking to us about wild birds and everything you would want to know about them. She is owner of The Basic Birder a store that sells everything for birds. She is very knowledgeable about the subject and is a very interesting speaker. See you there.

Monday, March 20 - 7:00 p.m. at the Clear Lake Lakeview Community Center located on the back of the bandshell in City Park in downtown Clear Lake. Nathan Brockman, Entomologist, Butterfly Wing Curator at Reiman Gardens located on the ISU campus will be the speaker. He will be talking about Aquatic Insects to complete the water garden ecosystem.

Monday, April 17 - 7:00 p.m. at North Iowa Grain Equipment located on Hwy 18 and State St. (by the stoplight) in Garner.

Kenn Outzen, a member of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association will show us how to divide water plants to put in our pond this spring. He has a beautiful garden in Jewell.

## New Dues Rates

On your mailing label is your renewal date. Based on the month of that date, your dues are pro-rated for a calendar year membership. To figure your "new" dues for 2006, please check the chart below. Membership dues should be sent to Carol Scheid (see the form on the back page).

Month	Family rate	Individual rate
January	25.00	15.00
February	22.92	13.75
March	20.83	12.50
April	18.75	11.25
May	16.67	10.00
June	14.58	8.75
July	12.50	7.50
August	10.42	6.25
September	8.33	5.00
October	6.25	3.75
November	4.17	2.50
December	2.08	1.25

## Program Information

### Redesigning Your Garden or (starting over again)

Reasons for Redesign-

- 1.To respond to changing site conditions which normally occur as a landscape site matures.
- 2.To respond to changing needs of the users of the landscapes.
- 3.To readapt a site for a new owner, i.e. anew set of uses.
- 4.To respond to the effects of natural disaster: fire, water, wind and earthquakes.
- 5.And when new IDEAS come along.

Three gardens will be explored as they change: Bill Boon's Garden, Devon Lewis's Garden and Ada Mae Lewis's Garden.

### Speaker Information

William Boon is a Professor emeritus in Landscape Architecture, at Iowa State University. He holds three degrees: a BS in Agronomy and a BS in Landscape Architecture from Kansas State University, and a Master's in Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University.

Bill taught at the University for 25 years and while teaching wrote a book entitled *Nature's Heartland* covering native plants of the mid-west region, which received the National Arbor Day Award in 1994. (The book is now out of print but has been redone to a CD by the same name.)

But those in the Midwest, may have been aware of his presence in Iowa and a few of the surrounding states because of a large class of 400 titled "Introduction to CREATIVITY 129." This class has produced cardboard boat races, cardboard shelters for the homeless, water balloon launchers (where he was the target), a minor miracle that had students walking on water and (his personal favorite) on Thursday come to class with no clothes on. Many of these projects were given publicity by both television and newspaper coverage.

Boon has been presenting speeches and workshops for the past forty years. He has presented talks on motivation, humor and garden design to the International Association of Business Communicators in Los Angeles, New Orleans, Kansas City and Montreal, EIA in Ft. Lauderdale, Civil Engineers Conferences in Chicago, New England Grows, the Chicago Botanical Garden and was the leader/speaker for an ISU Alumnus trip to Switzerland and many other organizations throughout Iowa and the adjoining states.

## Water Feature

# Gardening Forum

By Gretchen Triplett

Story County Master Gardeners have just launched a new website:

[www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/forum/](http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/forum/)

The forum is an online meeting place for gardeners to talk about what we like best: gardening!

This is a new site, it has been opened to the public less than a month, intended for all gardeners, but especially those in Zones 4-5 wherever they may be (the Web has made everything International). The more users, the more interesting the forum will be. We need to spread the word, so check into it, register, and look around. Tell your friends about it, too!

The site was created by local Master Gardeners Felicitas Avendano, Russ Hoffman, and Gretchen Triplett in response to an idea spawned at a July 2005 MG meeting.

There are very few good garden web forums, this one is a good one, but it needs users such as you! Naturally, water garden questions are welcome. Jamie Beyer's articles published in the Ames Tribune, including recent water garden tours, are now online! Jamie is also a Master Gardener.

Be sure to bookmark the site so you can come back again and again!

Links to it have been added by many Iowa garden attraction sites as well as Zones 4-5 MG sites across the US.

*Editor's note: There is link to this forum off CIWGA's website. Go to [www.ciwga.org](http://www.ciwga.org), click on Puddle Jumping (lower right hand side of the page) to see a listing of useful websites submitted by our members.*

# Good Reading

*Natural Swimming Pools*, author is Michael Littlewood. This book, which is lavishly illustrated throughout, provides an inspirational guide for swimming in harmony with nature. Many of the pools are built next to or with an existing water garden and both are beautiful together. We found it hard to put down. Checked out of Ames Public Library. #725.74



Here are some of the articles listed from past issues of *Ponderings*... These can be found on our website under *Frog Files*.

Aphids!  
Autumn and the Pond  
Beginning Ponding  
Building an In-ground Water Feature - Lessons Learned  
Can I Add Fish?  
Dividing Perennials for the Plant Exchange  
Filamentous Algae  
Finding a Pond Leak  
General Water Lily Care  
Goldfish, Shubunkin, and Koi  
Hydrogen Peroxide and Algae  
Insects: The Water Garden's Unexpected Guests  
Koi Clay  
Quarantining New Fish  
Red-stemmed Thalia  
Sublimation  
Summer Maintenance Tips  
Tropicals in the Midwest  
Warm Enough for Lilies?  
Water Fountain Bird Bath  
What's Wrong with my Pump?  
Winterizing Water Gardens in the Midwest

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## Turtle's Tanks

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

Jamie Beyer  
The Ark Pet Shop  
Skycrest Gardens  
Reiman Gardens



## *Corner Stone*

### *2006 Board of Director*

\* denotes term ending 12/2006

\*\* denotes term ending 12/2007

*Chapter presidents are automatically appointed to the Board of Directors. Couples and co-presidents have one vote between the two members.*

Russ Buechler\* - Co-president  
30785 Deer Dr  
Huxley, IA 50124  
515-597-3203  
rnbuechler@yahoo.com

Gary Craven\*\* - Co-president  
1409 13th St  
Boone, IA 50036  
515-432-9123  
crazy@opencominc.com

Lisa Harmison\*\* - website, newsletter  
2042 South 500th  
Ames, IA 50014  
515-292-7650  
news@ciwga.org

Harvey Hilpiper\*  
2027 Greenbriar Dr  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Jim Jordan\* - secretary  
2228 Five Mile Drive  
Boone, IA 50036  
515-432-2736  
Jordan@opencom.com

Lori Peake\* - January dinner  
2318 Northwestern  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-233-1318  
loripeake@aol.com

Doug Rieck - CCC President  
1315 SW Broad  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
515-244-2862  
DRGARDENER@aol.com

Chad Godfrey\*\* - Community Service  
342 Maple Street  
Nevada, IA 50201

Jill & Jim Rose\* - co-treasurers  
1424 Kirkwood Avenue  
Jefferson, IA 50129  
515-386-2001  
wildrose@netins.net

Ed Schroeder - Top of Iowa president  
2585 Oak Ave  
Garner, IA 50438  
641-923-3512  
krafty@ncn.net

Carol Scheid\*\* - membership  
68065 180th St.  
Nevada, IA 50201  
641-377-2648  
pigfarm@netins.net

Rick & Ann Trine\*  
1253 237th St.  
State Center, IA 50247  
641-483-2706  
Rick.Trine@dnr.state.ia.us

### *Officers of Importance*

Jamie Beyer - Past president, Big Toad  
269 U Ave.  
Boone, IA 50036  
515-433-0194  
BeyersBog@aol.com

Robin Wineland - Secretary, CCC  
4330 N. Baseline  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
robinwineland@msn.com

### *Committees*

Community Service  
Chad Godfrey

Jean Rhodes  
1461 Zook Spur Rd.  
Madrid, IA 50156  
515-795-3790

Program Book  
Jamie Beyer

Commerical Relations (Fountains)  
Jamie Beyer

*continued...*

## *Corner Stone continued*

Hospitality  
Lori Peake, January Dinner Party

Monthly meetings

Writing  
Lisa Harmison

Water Garden Tour  
Rus Buechler  
Jamie Beyer  
Rick Trine

Publicity  
Story Chapter - Tribune  
AdaMae Lewis  
122 N Russell Ave  
Ames, IA 50010-5964  
515-232-0608

Other publicity

Recognition  
Story Chapter, speaker thank you cards  
Ada Mae Lewis

Plant Exchange  
Jill Rose  
Rick Trine

The program book and directory is in the process of being created. It may be ready for distribution for the February meeting, certainly by the March meeting. They will be distributed at the meetings only as it will be too costly to mail them. Copies will be available at each of the chapter meetings as well as the CIWGA meeting.

The program book will contain as much meeting information as we can get, a directory listing of current members, officers, and committees, and the CIWGA by laws.



## *Committee Descriptions and Volunteers*

All committees need more members and, two need chairpersons. If you see something you want to serve on -- please contact one of the directors.

Community Service Committee-- Is responsible for organizing community service projects. We will be asking all the members to help actually do the work.

Program Book Committee -- Will be responsible for collating the information for the program book and distributing it. They will not be responsible for organizing the programs or finding committee members. The job will be to collect all the info from various officers and committees and then collate it.

Commercial Relations -- Is responsible for establishing and maintaining our relationship with retailers who are giving our Association members 10% Discounts.

Hospitality Committee -- Will coordinate the refreshment volunteers, and handle the door prizes.

Writing Committee -- Will do the core of the writing for the Newsletter along with other volunteers.

Water Garden Tour Committee -- Will coordinate and conduct our Annual Water Garden Tour held in July.

Publicity Committee -- Will be responsible for making sure our organization gets publicity for meetings and activities.

Recognition Committee -- Will send thank yous to presenters, business sponsors in a timely fashion and will also recognize volunteers within the organization during our Holiday Meeting in December

Plant Exchange Committee -- Will organize and set up our annual plant exchange that is conducted during our May meeting

# 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.

**Alpha Copies & Print Center**, John Crawford, 2310 Lincoln Way, Ames, 515-292-3121, [www.alphacopies.com](http://www.alphacopies.com) -- 10% discount.

**The Ark Pet Shop**, 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.

**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**, 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](http://www.kkgardens.com) -- Closed for the season; 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.

**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 -- Closed 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 -- Garden center is open.

## Membership Renewal

Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family membership. See page 3 for pro-rated dues. 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 \_\_\_\_

**Note the membership expiration date on your mailing label!**

Lisa Harmison  
Central Iowa Water Garden Association  
2042 South 500th Avenue  
Ames, IA 50014