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2011 Officers

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Co-Editor

Maria Hamilton

Webmaster

Josh Spece

Beneath The Surface

A Compendium of Facts, Fancy, Tidbits, Tips

March, 2011

Saturday March 26, 2011

Jeff Garner & Kerry Shaner
1323 34th St SE
Cedar Rapids IA 52403 Ph. 550-6893
5 pm Potluck
Speaker: Deb Walser
New Perennials for 2011
Meeting to follow speaker

Meeting new business: 2011 E.I.P.S. Pond Tour

Bring your ideas for the pond tour.

This has been a E.I.P.S. yearly event since the club was established. Step up and volunteer to give your time to plan this important event. Many people look forward to this event every year.

“The more helping hands the less work for all”

From The President



President, Jeff Garner



I would like some pond members to volunteer to take a picture of their pond the same day of the month. Your pictures will be put on the web site for viewers to see the process of ponds throughout the season.

Let's get this started on the 4th Saturday of the month of March

E-mail me at jgfile@aol.com

President Jeff Garner called the February 23, 2011 meeting to order at 6:25 P.M. in the home of Elena Murillo and Gil and Monica Morley. Jeff thanked our hosts for opening their home and for providing a wonderful array of appetizers and treats. Jeff welcomed members to the first meeting of 2011 and introduced the new club officers. Twenty-four members were in attendance. Jeff also introduced and welcomed new member, Joel Hovey. Joel and his wife, Julie maintain a 7000-gallon backyard pond.

The minutes of the November 2010 meeting were approved as published in the December newsletter. Treasurer, Jackie Allsup, presented the most recent Treasurer's report, dated February 23, 2011. Jackie reported a balance of \$1899.49 in checking and \$1729.16 in savings for a total in the bank of \$3628.62.

Tom Coyle told members that Ron Weber is upgrading his Koi and therefore has some Koi for sale. Contact Tom if you are interested.

Old Business

Jeff mentioned that the club officers met on January 14 and had discussed the possibility of providing a Kirkwood scholarship in Dorothy Helm's name. Dorothy, an active long-time member passed away last October. Jeff asked members to consider hosting a meeting and passed around a sign-up sheet. Jeff announced that he would like to continue "The 3PS" segment of our meetings. He will contact Dave Bell regarding his possible leadership of the Products, Plants and Problems segment.

Jackie Allsup reported on the EIPS/4-H Fish Project. Jackie, along with the Sindelars and Greg Bickal are mentoring the students. Jackie said that fifteen young people have signed up and that they have had two meetings. The program for their next meeting will cover the importance of water quality and the use of a water quality test kit. Thanks to a generous grant from Cargill, the young fish enthusiasts have been given either a 100-gallon deck pond or a 20-gallon aquarium set-up. Greg Bickal and Jamie Byers are donating fish to the group. Jackie mentioned that the ISU Extension Office has asked for financial support to cover the cost of ribbons and awards. Jackie will check with the 4-H advisor about their specific needs.

Jeff spoke about the possibility of emailing the club newsletter rather than sending a paper copy through the mail. Not only would it save money, it would also be a greener option as it would reduce the use of paper. Newsletter Co-editors, Monica Morley and Maria Hamilton said that they plan to send a postcard to members after April 1 asking whether they would prefer to receive a paper copy or an email copy of the newsletter.

New Business

Monica Morley and Larry Thompson presented a proposal for an E.I.P.S. sponsored educational event to be held Saturday, June 4 from 9-3 at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services Center (KTOS) at 3375 Armar Drive in Marion. Larry, Monica and Tom Coyle talked about potential event speakers. Larry spoke highly of Peter Ponzio of Illinois. Peter is an AKCA judge and as well as a highly-regarded Goldfish expert and judge. Peter has twenty years experience with Koi and 40 years experience with Goldfish and would be willing to speak on one or both of the topics. His speaking fee would be \$70 plus mileage. He would not require a hotel accommodation. Tom Coyle read the bio of E.I.P.S. club member and Hosta aficionado, Josh Spece. Josh owns and operates *In the Country Garden and Gifts* and is a contributing writer to several publications. Josh is well-versed in many topics relating to the care, propagation and the varieties of Hostas, as well as in Water Gardening. In addition to speaking, Josh might also be able to present a hands-on program. His fee is undetermined at this time. Monica has been in contact with Mary Ellen Malinowsky, "The Koi Whisperer" regarding the possibility of serving as the event's keynote speaker. Mary Ellen has been involved with Koi for the last five years. Mary Ellen's fee would be \$495 plus travel expenses and one-night's hotel accommodation. Mary's fee would cover up to three hours of speaking on a variety of topics including Japanese Gardens, Garden Design, Photography, Koi Rescue, Zen Living and Common Diseases of Koi. Monica presented a proposed budget for the event. Following some discussion, Monica made a motion to move forward with the proposed June 4, 2011 Water Gardening Fair and in order to do so; asked for the release of \$800 in funds above and beyond the 2010 Pond Tour proceeds. The pond tour proceeds (\$900) were previously set aside for a future club-sponsored educational event following a vote at the October 23, 2010 meeting. The \$1700 will be used to cover the estimated cost of the June 4, 2011 event. Upon further discussion, the motion was seconded and carried.

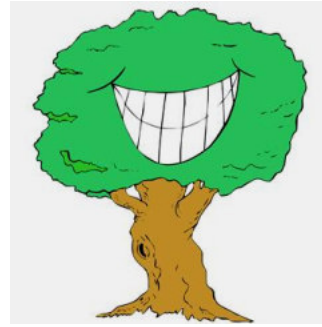
Jackie Allsup announced that Koi Acres, Skandia, MN is hosting an Open House the weekend of May 14-15. Mike Swanson of Koi Acres, has told Jackie that if 40 people from the area are interested in attending, he will send a charter bus down to pick up members or our club as well as members of the Northern Iowa Pond and Koi Club at a cost of \$100 per person. The cost would also cover a one-night double-occupancy hotel accommodation and meals. Members should contact Jackie if interested.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Albrecht, Secretary

EIPS is going GREEN

Members will have the option to access the monthly newsletter via the website instead of snail mail. You will be receiving a card asking for your preference and e-mail address.



Koi for Sale.....

Ron Weber has Koi for sale, ie Kohaku, Grinin Chagoi, Ochiba Shigure. Prices range from \$25—\$100. If you would like to see them, they are inside Ron's basement.

For more info call: Ron at 563-927-3263

563-608-5857 (cell)

March Birthdays



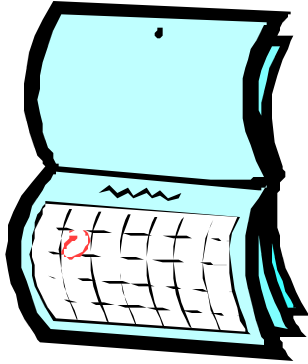
Welcome New Member

Joel Hovey

DeAnna Taylor 5th

Jackie Allsup 10th

Sue Spece 29th



Save this date.....June 4, 2011

Special event to be held at the Kirkwood Outreach Center,
Armar Road, Marion, Iowa

Last year the membership voted to use the pond proceeds to sponsor an educational event and a committee has been formed. We will have several familiar speakers: Jamie Beyer and Josh Spece and a special treat. MaryEllen Malinowski, The Koi Whisperer. MaryEllen is from St Charles, IL and will speak about the Koi Sanctuary and her experiences with Koi rescue. She will also speak on Japanese Garden Designs, Koi for Kids program, Zen Living by design store.

We would like to have a photo display of member's ponds. Photo should be 8" x 10" and on photo paper. Put your name on the back and give to Monica.

More details to follow as arrangements are finalized.

Committee members: Monica Morley & Larry Thompson (Chairpersons)

Kathi & Hugh Albrecht, Erma Thompson, Maria Hamilton, Tom Coyle, Darrel Stout, Jerri & Paul Dickerson, Lois & Ron Jungers, Ed & Connie Raisbeck, Elena Murillo, Jackie Allsup, Jeff Garner

Managing Wildlife Lecture

Rebecca Christoffel, Iowa State University Extension Wildlife Specialist will talk about the life and habits of various mammals and other animals that visit our yards/gardens. She will discuss management techniques for some and acceptance for others. She may bring some animals with her!

The lecture is FREE, but registration is requested by March 25th, as space is limited. To register please call Linn County Extension at 319-377-9839 or email benesh1@iastate.edu.

March 29, 2011 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm

ISU Linn County Extension
3279 7th Avenue, Suite 140
Marion, IA 52302

The first thing we want to do with the pond is make sure all fish are accounted for and they all look healthy. We will also be looking for a small filter system to get our smaller pond up and running. Not planning on making many changes to the pond this year, besides removing some fish and maybe trying a new plant or too. **Jeff Garner**



I've been out peeping, looking for bulbs popping thru the ground. Looked under the dead foliage and saw new leaves on heuchera and mums. I'll also bring my gardening tool pail in the touse and clean out the old and clean it up. We will also sharpen any tools that need sharpening. As for the fish in the basement we'll start increasing ghe length of light they get to acclimate them to daylight. Clean out the birdhouses and pick up sticks. Prune where needed.

It's always wonderful to see the awakening of the earth in the Spring. **LouAnn & Larry Jayne**

March 5, 2011 My Snow Drops are blooming!!!! **Carol Sindelar**



I was recently told, that if you're not standing at the window with our morning cup of coffee and just quivering with anticipation to get out in the gardens then you're not a gardener at all! I find myself doing just that. Standing at the window looking at the ponds and yard and trying to picture a retaining wall here, a pot with flowers there...I've already did the "walk". Checking to see if there is any sign of Spring flowers poking up their heads. I did see one tiny daffodil... I talked to it, trying to encourage it to come out of hiding. The work, ugg..as I glance around the yard I can see raking, trimming, plants that need moved...it almost seems a daunting task. Winter leaves an aftermath of destruction that looks like a tornado went through All those plants you leave behind "for winter interest", now have to be cut down and cleaned up. There's the usual mountain of walnut shells that the squirrels leave behind for clean up. And, you can tell exactly where the rabbit spent most of his time hiding in his snow cave under the raised fire pit. He's left his mess to clean up as well.

I walk slowly as I approach the newly thawed ponds. I don't want to startle the fish. They still pile up near the pond heater. But, they all appear to be ok. We've already done numerous water changes to try to refresh their environment. In slow motion, they move about the pond while I watch. They are not like puppies, that jump all over you and wag their tails with excitement every time you approach. It's hard to know if they are as excited to see me as I am them.

I watch a pair of doves come in to the still silent stream. Soon, I tell them, soon...

Finally going to redo the upper pond. We had a leak someplace late last year and the upper pond is the suspect. Built 20 or so years ago with no plant shelves or filtration, the plan is to raise the sides so I can sit and feed the fish from the edge of the pond. I'm planning for old age. If we get too old to maintain the larger bottom pond, then perhaps we can at least have the upper pond. With that in mind, it's going to be square so I can cover it in the winter. No odd shapes or big waterfalls that make building a structure over it impossible. I got to keep buttering up Harry. He's my consultant, foreman, and construction crew. (He's already holding his back!)

Jackie Allsup





pondalgaeolutions.com

ABOUT KLM SOLUTIONS

KLM Solutions is an authorized international dealer of Healthy Ponds products and programs from Bioverse, Inc. We are based in Muscatine Iowa.

KLM Solutions is committed to providing pond owners with state of the art, natural and other non-chemical alternatives for pond management and control.

Our customer base ranges from commercial developments, golf courses, municipalities, and private landowners. And we take pride in assisting owners of all sizes of ponds, from the smallest to the largest with helpful advice and information.

As an authorized HP dealer, we have a highly trained staff that's ready to serve your pond management needs through our service programs or consultations.

We are dedicated to providing products and services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers while we help to maintain a cleaner and safer environment in which to live

By Phone:

Mark Washburn - KLM Solutions / Sales
563-264-8092

By Mail: KLM Solutions LLC

2269 Ridgeview Drive

Muscatine Iowa 52761

6 Tips for Opening Your Pond This Spring

pondbuilder.web9.hubspot.com

Springtime. Ahh, I just can't wait to hear the soothing sounds of my waterfall and watch my beautiful koi as they come back to the surface to greet me! Here are a few helpful tips to ensure that you have a successful springtime start-up for your pond.

- 1. Remove as much debris as possible.** If you leave sludge build up in the pond it will decay into a food source for new algae growth. Once the ice has melted away or you begin to see activity from your fish, remove as much debris from the pond as possible by hand or using a pond net. It's best to manually remove as much debris as possible and allow the cold weather bacteria to assist with the rest. We recommend using cold water bacteria such as [Spring Clean](#) to assist in removing the smaller debris that has collected. If you live in a warmer climate that doesn't experience freezing keep the pond free from debris as frequently as necessary.
- 2. Begin operating your filtration system.** Add the mats and nets back into your skimmer box and add the mats and biological media back into the waterfall box.
- 3. Install your pond pump or skimmer.** When the pond water is up to around 45 to 50 degrees, installing your pond pump or skimmer will help circulate and oxygenate the water and clear up the pond. Most warm climate areas may have operated their pump throughout the colder months. If you've been operating an aerator, continue to do so as this will help keep oxygen levels high.
- 4. Add beneficial bacteria.** Once your water temperature reaches 50 degrees add a beneficial bacteria to "jump start" your biological filtration such as [Pond Cleaner](#). Continue this on a regular basis throughout the summer.
- 5. Put plants back around the pond.** Bring any hardy plants that may have been stored on the pond's bottom back to their correct spots so that they may begin to grow. Once you see new growth from the plants it's a good time to fertilize.
- 6. Change the pond water.** Early spring is a great time to perform a water change. I recommend at least a 50% change in water at this time. You can do more if you wish but if you are going to do more than 75% of the water then be sure to acclimate the fish back into the pond appropriately. If you are adding water that contains chlorine (like most city water supply) you will need to add a dechlorinator like [Purify](#).

Three FREE lectures presented by ISU Linn County Master Gardeners.

Kirkwood Community College
Cedar Hall Room 234
6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA



It Takes a Garden

presented by: Elvin McDonald

Monday • **APRIL 4 • 6:30pm–8:30pm**

Elvin believes it takes a garden to make a house a home. And even a pot of cheerful pansies at the front door can constitute a garden. Elvin will show gardens that have given him inspiration as well as the transformation of his own suburban yard in West Des Moines. His goal was to create numerous places on the property that would invite him to leave home without getting in the car. There are sitting rooms in front of the house, and in back an Edwardian seat arbor, a tea house, a dining pavilion and a deck that serves as an outdoor family room. Elvin is Director of the Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Center, prominent in American horticulture since founding the Gesneriad Society in 1951 at the age of 14. He has been named to the Garden Writers Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Hutchinson Medal for lifetime achievement from the Chicago Botanic Garden, author of more than 50 gardening books and the principal designer for numerous public and private gardens for individuals such as Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy and actress Glenn Close.

Top Ten Gardening Blunders

presented by: Don Engebretson

Wednesday • **APRIL 13 • 6:30pm–8:30pm**

Every gardener is sure to discover that startling success sometimes goes hand-in-hand with staggering failure. Don wants to help gardeners severely limit any “staggering failure”. His list of blunders meets three important criteria: it must be a common mistake, as common as crabgrass, it must impart a truly gruesome effect on one’s landscape and it must be a blunder that Don has made at least twice during his 20+ years as a gardener! With a strong emphasis on design do’s and don’ts, you will learn how to create a functional, beautiful landscape on your property. Don is a nationally recognized authority on landscaping and garden design and speaks frequently at industry events across the United States. He is an author, field editor and garden scout for Better Homes and Gardens and spent three seasons as the gardening expert on HGTV’s TIPical MaryEllen show, a six-time winner of the Garden Writers Association Garden Globe Award for excellence in garden writing and operates the landscape design and installation company Renegade Gardener Landscaping.

20 of My Favorite Native Trees & Shrubs

presented by: Michael Yanny

Wednesday • **APRIL 20 • 6:30pm–8:30pm**

Learn about 20 outstanding native plants that you should know about including plants with outstanding fall colors, some with fabulous flowers, some whose branches are covered with golden blooms in October and trees that are vital to wildlife. Propagation, plant culture and growing techniques will be addressed. Come learn a little and laugh a lot! Michael has been the plant propagator at Johnson’s Nursery, Inc. in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin since 1980, has been responsible for developing numerous tree and shrub cultivars as well as instrumental in developing an extensive line of local ecotype native plants.

The Creative Gardening Series is presented by the Linn County Extension Master Gardeners, a dedicated group of volunteers, trained by Iowa State University. They share their horticulture knowledge with the community through demonstrations, classes like the Creative Gardening Series, events and the Hortline. For unbiased, research-based answers to your horticulture questions call the Hortline: 319.447.0647.

2011 Tentative Meeting Schedule



		<u>Host</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	
	April 14th	Thursday	Bob & Stephanie Geers	
	April 23rd	Saturday	Erma & Larry Thompson - Dr Peterson	
	May 12th	Thursday	Jeff Garner & Kerry Shaner - Liquid Landscape	
	May 21st	Saturday	Rose & Jim Milden	
	June 9th	Thursday	Daryl Stout & Tom Coyle	
	June 25th	Saturday	Doug & Sheryl Knutson	
	July 10th	Pond Tour		
	July 23rd	Saturday	Jackie & Harry Allsup	
	August 11th	Thursday	LouAnn & Larry Jayne	
	August 27th	Saturday	Linda & Donovan Burke - Jamie Beyer	
	September 8th	Thursday	Ed & Connie Railsback - Ellen Skripsky	
	September 24th	Saturday	Pat & Wayne Beuter	
	October 22nd	Saturday	Open	



If interested in hosting one of the open dates

e-mail mespringcove@aol.com

If you wish to cancel a meeting you signed to host e-mail mespringcove@aol.com

You must be a current Member to host a meeting



EASTERN IOWA POND SOCIETY—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN IOWA POND SOCIETY, COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT ALONG WITH YOUR DUES TO :

EASTERN IOWA POND SOCIETY
206 N. 3RD ST
PO BOX 148
QUASQUETON IA 52326

DUES ARE \$25.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: EASTERN IOWA POND SOCIETY

_____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____ RENEWAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Membership Dues Increase

Due April 1st

\$25.00 Per Family/Household

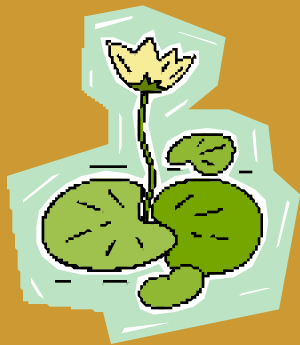
In Effect now

Any questions contact Treasurer, Jackie Allsup

cedarserviceja@aol.com or 319-934-3665

Eastern Iowa

WWW.EIPS.ORG



Visions

Our Mission Statement We are committed to providing a social atmosphere for members dedicated to sharing and learning the pleasure of water gardening. We are a non-profit organization. Membership of this association shall be open to any individual without regard to race, creed, national origin or Sex, who shall render membership dues as specified in the governing documents.

History The Eastern Iowa Pond Society was established by Sharon Weiss in 1996 to encourage and promote water gardening and ponds.

Meetings Meetings are held at different members homes the second Thursday at 7:00PM and the fourth Saturday in April, May, June, July, August and September. During Feb., March, October and Nov. meetings are held once a month on a Saturday. No meetings are held in Dec & Jan.

Yearly Planning A plan-the-year meeting is held on a February afternoon at a central location to hammer out strategies on how the club will conduct business and to plan activities for the upcoming year.

Activities A yearly Pond Tour event involves selected members opening their ponds to the public. Speakers, demonstrations, field trips, plant and fish swap, pot luck, and club projects are all activities that happen during the year.

Dues Dues will be \$25.00 per family, payable November of previous year and delinquent April 1st of each year. These dues entitle a member to participation in all activities and receive a monthly newsletter.



Eastern Iowa Pond Society Inc.
PO Box 148
206 N 3rd St
Quasqueton, IA 52326