2013 Garden Tour

4-8pm Tuesday, June 25
9am-1pm Wednesday, June 26
By Shirley Matheis

The summer season is a time to support NISO by enjoying the outdoors. The “garden variety” on this year’s tour is anything but ordinary!

Ground Effects
2075 S. Main Ave

Ground Effects is an employee-owned business that has been providing friendly, helpful, and personal service in Northwest Iowa for 15 years. Their high quality services and products include landscape and hardscape design and installation, landscape maintenance, property management, a full service garden center, and a flower shop.

Door prizes will be awarded each day.

**A 30-minute seminar about new plants and favorites will be presented at 9 AM on Wednesday morning.


Waterfall Garden: Anne Hooyer
1708 4th Ave SE

It was Anne Hooyer’s mother who taught her the joys of gardening. Anne’s garden is a labor of love and a work in process. She began in 2009 with the waterfall and the stonework around the house. Her next big project was expanding the flower bed that runs along the entire east edge of the property, where she spends summer mornings and evenings nursing perennials and annuals to life. Last year the gas fire pit was completed. Moving the heavy rocks in place required strong backs, but now they make for great “chairs” around the fire. Many evenings are spent on the patio enjoying the rippling waterfall. Anne thanks God for the blessing of beautiful flowers.

Zarephath Prayer Garden: Jen & Tom Sandbulte
1573 Sunrise Cir

The Sandbultes began developing their prayer garden about three years ago. The inspiration for the garden’s name was the story told in I Kings 17:7-16. It was at Zarephath that the prophet Elijah asked a widow for water, and asked her to use the last of her oil and flour to make bread for him. “She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family” (I Kings 17:15). A variety of elements within and around the cross-shaped landscape design represent truths of the Bible—from the fall of humanity to Jesus’ birth, death, resurrection, and His coming again. Although the garden is not yet complete, Tom & Jen enjoy sharing it with the community. You are encouraged to come.

Greenworld, Inc.
309 7th St. NW

Greenworld, Inc. is a full-service landscape company that has been serving Northwest Iowans since 1981. Their experienced staff, innovative design team, and skilled foreman are passionate about providing excellent customer service. They can handle any challenge, and are capable of creating a landscape that reflects you! The Greenworld nursery is well-stocked with quality trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.

Door prizes will be awarded each day.

**A seminar about gas fire pits will be given at 5:00pm and 7:00 pm on Tuesday night.

Visit them online at www.Greenworldlandscaping.com or find them on Facebook!

Shade Garden: Darlene & Marion Mouw
1203 5th St. NE

After trying for years to grow grass under shade trees, Darlene & Marion Mouw finally decided that they needed a new plan. The result is a flourishing low-maintenance shade garden with plantings of various hostas, little rocket legularia, grasses, and hydrangeas. A stone walkway leads to a small patio bordered by a low stone wall that holds concrete pots of succulents. Hanging pots of Boston ferns frame the view from the porch. Along the back fence are day lilies, burning bush, and another variety of hydrangeas. Lawn ornaments and a unique bird feeder add interesting accents. All this adds to the Mouw’s enjoyment of their porch.

$15 per person or 2 for $25

Tickets available at the Sioux Center Chamber Office, June 24 & 25 from 8:30am to 5pm and June 26 from 8:30am to 12pm. Tickets also available at each garden site both days.
Meet the Musicians: Janelle Bolkema, Student Violinist
By Amber Vis

Janelle Bolkema started playing violin when she was six years old. Her grade school music teacher, Nancy Vermeer, not only gave Bolkema violin lessons, she also made a big impact on Janelle’s life. Bolkema described Vermeer as “a very nurturing and influential teacher.”

Bolkema started orchestra at Sioux Center Christian in first grade, and she remembers always enjoying it. She also remembers her parents taking her to NISO concerts. “I would watch Mrs. Vermeer in awe, wanting to be just like her,” Bolkema said.

Both Vermeer and Bolkema’s subsequent teacher, Jan Klein, helped Bolkema grow immensely in her musical abilities.

Bolkema joined NISO in the fall of 2005 when she was a freshman in high school. Vermeer encouraged Bolkema to join, and her past experience of attending NISO concerts made her eager to do so.

After high school, Bolkema attended Dordt College, majoring in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood. She continued to play for NISO during her four years there and graduated from Dordt this past year.

NISO Music Director Bradley Miedema said, “Janelle is a very fine musician who plays beautifully with solid technique and wonderful expression; the consistency and reliability in her playing make her a valuable member of NISO.”

Miedema has appreciated working with Janelle in Dordt’s Chamber Orchestra for four years, where she served as a first violinist player for two years, principal second violin for one year, and principal first violin/concertmaster this past year.

“Shes a humble leader who quietly goes about her business of making music at a very high level without seeking attention and without any type of ‘diva’ attitude,” Miedema said. “Her contributions to both orchestras at Dordt—Chamber Orchestra and NISO—have been greatly appreciated and will be missed next year,” he added.

Bolkema’s future plans are to serve God through teaching. She also hopes to serve by giving violin lessons on the side. “I have enjoyed my time participating in NISO. I am not sure about my location in the future, but if I am called to stay in this area, I would love to continue playing violin for NISO,” Bolkema said.