

NISO NOTES

Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra

June 20, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

Friends of the Symphony Present Garden Tour *by Shirley Matheis*

Don and Sherri Ten Napel

White fences, red buildings and evergreen trees set the stage for Don and Sherri Ten Napel's 5½-acre home of 39 years. A variety of shrubs and flowers--both perennials and annuals--were added gradually over the years. Three years ago the landscaping under the large maple trees was designed and installed by Green World.

Bernie and Marilyn Weidenaar

Four flower beds in the front yard, framed by a circular driveway, display a variety of perennials, evergreens and shrubs of complementary colors and textures, and large pots of annuals. Foundation plantings include mature trees and bushes, containers of annuals, and three window boxes.

A raised vegetable garden can be seen in the backyard by the bike trail. As an artist, Marilyn loves the seasonal changes of color, fullness and design that God provides in nature, as well as the pleasure of working with her hands in the rich Iowa soil.

The Dordt Prairie

In the 1800s, Northwest Iowa was covered by tall grass, but now 99.9 percent of that tall grass prairie has been converted to other uses, making the native grassland one of the most endangered ecosystems on earth. The Dordt College prairie restoration project, begun in



2008 under the supervision of Professor Robert De Haan, has brought many unique and beautiful native wildflowers back to the community.

About 80 species of wildflowers and grasses grow on a 20-acre

plot through which the Sioux Center recreation trail winds from the southeast corner of the Dordt campus toward East First Street. De Haan says that prairies are like a parade. Throughout the summer months, flowers come and go just like the floats in

the parade. In order to see all of them, you need to visit often. It is said that in the first year after planting, the prairie sleeps, in the second year it creeps, and by the third year it leaps. At this point the prairie is leaping!

Kevin Schmidt's Tucket's

As a boy, Kevin was fascinated with the Arizona desert through which his family traveled on their way to California. He has tried to create a little of that world here in Iowa. Kevin's office resembles a Tucson adobe

bunkhouse. Yuccas and agaves give a real southwestern appearance. His plantings are mostly perennials and geraniums. Overflowing pot plantings are one of his favorites.



Kevin prefers to grow what he knows, seldom experimenting with new things. As the trees gradually shade more of the yard, he moves plants that need full sun. The still pond is a quiet distraction from busy Highway 75. The island is always under construction, limited by time and checkbook rather than by imagination.

At the end of the day, as Kevin sits in his Iowan desert sanctuary with a glass of wine and a good cigar, watching the sun set in the west, he thinks, "Life is good!"

Garden Tour 2011

Sioux Center, Iowa

June 28 ~ 4 - 8pm

June 29 ~ 9am - 1pm

Tickets available at the

Sioux Center Chamber Office - 303 N. Main Ave.

June 27 & 28 - 8:30 am to 5 pm

June 29 - 8:30 am to 12 pm

Tickets also available at each garden site both days.

Melanie Witt, Horn Player

by Shirley Matheis

Thanks to the naughty boys in the trumpet section of a middle school band, Melanie Witt has been playing French Horn with NISO since before it was officially named. Having already had to overcome the reputation of her rambunctious older brothers, by the eighth grade she decided that the best way to avoid the director's blanket castigation of the trumpet players was to switch instruments.

That small act of self-assertiveness was followed a few years later by Melanie's choosing to attend Dordt College rather than taking advantage of a full scholarship to Olivet College, the alma mater of her family in Michigan.

At Dordt, Melanie studied under Julie Hulstein, longtime NISO French Horn

player, who encouraged her to join the fledgling orchestra directed by Nobuya Matsuda. In her last two years at Dordt, she studied French Horn under NISO Conductor Henry Duitman, who prepared her for her senior recital.

Although Melanie has been teaching elementary grades ever since her graduation from Dordt with a music major in 1987, she still cherishes the hope of being a music teacher someday. She has been giving private lessons on various band instruments all those years, which is one of the reasons she plays with NISO—it keeps her practicing along with her students.

Melanie is married to Kenton, a Dordt alumnus who is a Beef and Dairy Nutrition Consultant for Agri King. The Witts live in Orange City, where Melanie currently teaches fourth grade at Orange City Christian School and coaches middle school track. She is one of the liturgists in her church and sometimes plays trumpet or French horn there as well.

The Witt children have all been involved

in music. College-aged Caleb plays cello; daughter Talitha, who will be attending Northwestern College in the fall, plays violin; and eighth-grader Jeshua plays cello with NISYO and drums.

Melanie's love for the orchestra began when she played for four years with the Lansing Youth Orchestra and in the high school band. Now she loves playing with NISO. Although she has enjoyed the variety of guest conductors for the past two years, she is very eager to begin the new season with Dr. Christopher Stanichar as regular conductor.

Maybe we should thank those obstreperous Michigan trumpet players!

Fabulous Firsts by Bonnie Reinders

NISO looks forward to this fall and the 2011-2012 concert season, labeled *Fabulous Firsts*. Four performances will follow, all at 7:30 p.m. in the BJ Haan Auditorium at Dordt College.

The St. Olaf Orchestra from St. Olaf College opens the season on Saturday, October 15, with a guest concert. The 92-member ensemble, directed by Steven Amundson, has been called by *Time* magazine "one of the best college orchestras in the nation."

Local trumpeter Richard Bogenrief will play with NISO on Tuesday, November 15, for the fall concert, entitled *Number One!* Selections include "Leonore Overture No. 1" by Beethoven, "Trumpet Concerto" by Arutiunian, and Kalinnikov's "Symphony No. 1."

The *Fabulous Fifties* are featured in the Winter Pops Concert on Saturday, January 21. "Rave On!" Productions will present a tribute to Buddy Holly, including

many favorite tunes from the 1950's. Lead singer Billy McGuigan has achieved national acclaim for his portrayal of the rock and roll legend. The band has performed all over the country to rave reviews.

The concluding spring concert on Tuesday, April 17, promises to be a *Magic Carpet Ride*. Guest artist Maxim Kozlov, cello, will appear with NISO. Pieces played will include "Festival March" from *Aladdin Suite*, "Cello Concerto No. 1" by Saint-Saëns, and "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov.

It is notable that another "first" involves Christopher Stanichar, who has led NISO as a guest conductor several times. He will take over on the podium as the continuing conductor, a position that has been vacant for three years, since the departure of Henry Duitman, former director of instrumental music at Dordt College.

Dear friends and supporters of NISO:

Wow! The Season of Celebration has come to an end, and what a season it was. The solo and ensemble artists, the guest conductors, new continuing conductor Christopher Stanichar, the spring fundraiser with over \$3500 raised, the high school show choirs, The Boston Brass, and Respighi: FANTASTIC. Congratulations, as well, to Melissa Cox of Sioux Center on winning the 25th anniversary drawing for a season ticket.

Thank you to all who made this anniversary season one to remember. I can't wait for the next season of **Fabulous Firsts** and am also looking forward to the garden tour later this month.

Our new campaign for donation support begins shortly, and the board asks you to consider giving a financial gift. These gifts are truly the foundation of our budget, so we need your help.

As board chairman, I want to express my thanks to all the board committees, the staff and directors of NISO, and the Friends of NISO for your work and creative genius that makes the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra a phenomenal musical organization that enriches all of Northwest Iowa.

See you in October at the St. Olaf Orchestra Concert, one of the most recognized and acclaimed college orchestras in the United States.

Musically yours,
Norma Snyder Jones

Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra

498 4th Ave NE ~ Sioux Center, IA 51250 ~ 712.722.6230

niso@dordt.edu ~ <http://niso.dordt.edu>