

GDMVA, Iowa's Walking Club May 2019

Upcoming events

April 20-Earth Day at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Free admission for everyone during this community event! The GDMVA will have an informational table from 10 AM-3 PM; Grace Ambrose, Peggy Watts, Peggy Doane, and Diana Whited are volunteering.

April 27-Tulips Group walk in Pella, 9 AM. Start point: Git N Go, 209 Oskaloosa St, Pella. Contact Jeanne van Houweling at 515-287-0215
j.vanhouweling@mchsi.com

May 18-Greenwood Park and Waterbury Neighborhood Group Walk, 9:30 AM-noon. Start point: Greenwood Park Shelter 2, 4500 Grand Ave, Des Moines. Shelter 2 is up the hill by Bergman Academy (the former Science Center).

We would like to invite everyone to what we think will be a very special walk through beautiful Greenwood Park and the Waterbury Historic Neighborhood. Begin your walk by the splash-pad that looks like Stonehenge, pass by the pond and the historic Sylvan Amphitheater (NRHP -1995), stop in and see what is new at the Art Center (free admission) and then cross into the Waterbury Neighborhood.

The Waterbury Neighborhood was one of the first neighborhoods in Des Moines designed to follow the natural topography of the land. What makes this area so charming is the diverse architectural styles including distinctive Tudor Revival homes, traditional two-story Colonials, Spanish style, period Arts and Crafts bungalows and at least one Prairie School home. The area has a picturesque and wooded landscape and many sweeping lawns and gardens. The 10K route will feature some larger hills, but don't let that scare you off as the 5K walk was purposely designed to be as flat as possible while still getting a feel for the special flavor of the Waterbury Neighborhood. Something for everyone!

We will also be honoring Bonnie Christensen and Ardith Ortgies for their many, many years of service to the club. They are Charter members of the club and have worn many hats over the years (See bio below). The first walk that Greater Des Moines Volkssport held began at the Science Center so it only seemed appropriate to have their celebration here. Please join us at 12:15 PM for food and fellowship. Bring stories

and memories to share and maybe a lawn chair. We would encourage you to come even if you do not plan to walk and just enjoy the day. Questions? Contact Deb Gaskins 515-238-2486 gaskins.deb@gmail.com

May 24-27-7 Walks/8 Counties! Northeast Missouri County Walk Weekend. Sponsored by the Clay-Platte Tracker Club of Kansas City, The Pace Setters Volkssport Club, and the Dogwood Trailblazers.

May 25-Susan Pinneke's Retirement Celebration Walk and Potluck. Easter Lake Park Shelter #3.

For those who want to do the 10K walk, we'll start about 9:30 AM. 5K walkers can start later, and those who would just like to eat, come about 11:30 AM.

We'll have the walk box and directions at Shelter #3, so no need to stop by Casey's before. EVERYONE is welcome!! Please come and help me celebrate my retirement and try out one of our newest walks!! Many thanks!! ~ Susan

*Please note the June 17 monthly meeting is CANCELLED!
Most club officers will be at the Biennial Convention.*

Wednesday walks

Join us at 6 PM for an hour of informal walking and fellowship. We eat out after we walk on the 4th Wednesday of the month (April 24 and May 22). In case of bad weather meet at the Valley West Food Court. Questions? Call Ardith Ortgies at 277-5139.

April 24-Clive Greenbelt. Behind Car-X on 86th St, just north of bridge.

May 1-Thomas Mitchell Park. Take University Ave (163) to 108th St. Turn north to park entrance.

May 8-Brown's Woods. SE 63rd St, right on Brown's Woods and left to parking.

May 15-Carney Marsh. Take E 14th north to NE 70th St, then east to parking lot.

May 22-Raccoon River Park. 2500 Grand Ave, WDM. Meet near Nature Center and eat out after.

May 29-Glendale Cemetery. 50th St & University Ave, DM

Member spotlight-Bonnie Christenson and Ardith Ortgies

We're going to move from new members to long time members, Bonnie Christensen and Ardith Ortgies.

They have been members from the first GDMVA event in 1985. It was a two-day event: Ardith walked and worked the first day, and then walked again with Bonnie the second day. Before that, they did a volkswalk in Herman, MO, a year and half before GDMVA's first event!

Since then, they have loaded up the car to travel to the lower 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Many of these trips included in their itinerary national parks, lighthouses, historic sites and visits to friends, as well as volkssporting events in the area. Then came a trip to Alaska to tour and to do a walk there with a California club, even before there was an Alas-kan club. In 1994 they took their first overseas trip followed by ten more, including the 50th state, Hawaii.

In total they have walked in 32 countries including Canada and the U.S. Bonnie has attended four national conventions and has now walked just over 800 events; Ardith has attended three conventions and is nearing 850 events.

Both have been instrumental in the club: Ardith has been keeping historian records from before the first event. Together, Bonnie and Ardith produced the GDMVA newsletter for 30 years. They just finished doing it this past year.

Vokssporting is not their only interest. Both Bonnie and Ardith were involved at Salisbury House and the German Genealogy Interest group and crewing at Indianola Hot Air Balloons. In addition, Bonnie is active in the Scandinavi-an club and is a Blood Bank Volunteer. Ardith is in Ray Society and Iowa Archaeological Society.



"Don't be afraid to load up the vehicle and see the sights and do the walks in other states and Canada, because volkssporting is a great way to get your exercise and see and learn about the areas you visit."

April business meeting highlights

President's Report. We welcomed two guests at the meeting: Diane Pettiger and Matthew Harvey. Matthew is looking forward to getting his family involved in volkssporting.

Old Business. *2019 Walk Incentive Program.* Diana W reviewed the 2019 Walk Incentive Program that allows walkers to receive a free walk for every nine walks completed. If you need a card, contact her.

20 State Parks in 2020. Peggy W shared the current status of the joint effort with the DNR to celebrate the State Park Centennial in 2020. The parks have been selected and now we need Points of Contact to partner with park rangers. Sandy Spaulding has created a draft brochure that will be used for marketing. The brochure features Suzy Belle, the mascot used for the AVA convention our club hosted in 2011.

Convention Trip. Phyllis Olsen shared information on the convention trip scheduled for June 6-17.

Earth Day. Diana W shared that the club will sponsor a table at the Earth Day celebration at the Botanical Garden on April 20.

New Business

Election of officers. The election will be held at the May 20 meeting. Those slate includes: President, Diana Ronk; Vice President, Jan Knock, Secretary, Barb Stone; Treasurer, Susan Pinneke; Historian, unfilled.

Volunteer opportunities

- *Earth Day at the Botanical Garden.* On April 20 from 12-1 one volunteer is needed at the Garden. Contact Diana W at diwhited1969@gmail.com
- *Call for nominations.* We still need a historian. Contact Diana R ronkdr@mchsi.com to help guide our group to future success.

Happy birthdays

9-Martha McGahan, 12-Shirley Klonglan,
13-Joan Ackerman, 16-Carol Kirkpatrick,
25-Kathy Pille, 26-Corinne Nelson

Contact us

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Membership susanpinneke@gmail.com

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