



# H<sub>2</sub>O *i*LINE

**March & April 2010**

**Contents:**

- Liquid Asset
- Spring Events at Botanical Center

WATER YOU CAN TRUST FOR **LIFE**

## Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

**F**orbes.com rated Des Moines' drinking water the best in the country in 2008, so why should we be concerned about water quality? The Forbes' rating recognizes Des Moines Water Works superior treatment facilities and knowledgeable, experienced staff's ability to convert highly variable source water to safe drinking water for our customers. But, like too many lowans, the experts at Forbes.com forget that source water and drinking water are two parts of a connected whole.

Source waters are the rivers, streams, lakes and groundwater that feed into public water utilities or private wells. Most source water requires some type of treatment before it can be consumed as drinking water. The extent (and cost) of treatment depends on the quality of the source water. Source water quality depends on what we do on the land – in yards and farms, in commercial developments and natural areas.

Though DMWW has been an innovative leader in removing nitrates, the ever-increasing levels of nitrates in our source water is an indicator of a larger problem in the watershed. Meanwhile, bacteria counts in source water are increasing many times greater than is safe for swimming or human contact. In the last two to three years, we have been further challenged with high levels of ammonia and unprecedented cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms.

Unfortunately, most lowans take for granted their local utility's ability to remove contaminants and deliver safe drinking water every time you turn on the tap. However, if old contaminants continue to trend upward and new contaminants of concern arise, what will the availability, treatment and cost of safe drinking water look like in the future?

Safe drinking water affects everyone and we must all be responsible and accountable for generating the political will to protect Iowa's source water – a resource that ensures there is **WATER YOU CAN TRUST FOR LIFE**.



## A Liquid Asset for All

**I**n a world of sky-rocketing prices on everything from food to fuel, your tap water remains one of the best bargains around.

- ▶ At a fraction of a penny per gallon, tap water provides safety, convenience and freedom.
- ▶ Less than 1% of the average person's total personal

income is spent on water and wastewater services.

- ▶ An 8 ounce glass of water can be refilled approximately 15,000 times for the same price as a six pack of soda.

- ▶ Your DMWW water bill pays for a lot more than simply water. You get sophisticated water treatment, daily testing and monitoring and a vast underground infrastructure that delivers safe, quality water right to your tap.
- ▶ Studies show that bottled water is no purer than tap water, yet bottled water costs almost 2,000% more.
- ▶ DMWW monitors more than 100 contaminants and must meet almost 90 regulations for water safety and quality.
- ▶ DMWW adds small amount of fluoride to your water supply to help prevent tooth decay. Child cavity rates have been greatly reduced.

For more information, visit [www.dmww.com](http://www.dmww.com).

**Des Moines**  
**Water Works**  
Water You Can Trust for Life





# Spring Events are **BL** **MIN'**

Things are really bloomin' at the Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center! With family events, education activities and plant sales, Des Moines Water Works staff and Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Center have planned something for everyone's taste buds this growing season. The Dome is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Regular admission is just \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, \$3.00 for students (ages 4-17) and children under age of 3 are free (special event admission may apply for some events). Memberships are available for purchase and include free or discounted admission to many events. Here is just a sampling of the great events planned for this spring. For a complete list of events and more information, visit [www.botanicalcenter.com](http://www.botanicalcenter.com).

## Rhyme Time in the Gardens-Spring Break Activities March 16-18 · 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Are you looking for something fun to do with the kids over Spring Break? Stop by the Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center for "Rhyme Time in the Gardens." Children and families will get to make rhyme-related crafts, participate in activities and games and go on a scavenger hunt in the Dome, all a part of Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center's Story Time in the Gardens spring garden theme of "There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe." Admission is \$1.00 for ages 1-3, \$3.00 for ages 4-17, \$5.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for seniors. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Easter Bunny Visit & Other Spring Activities March 20 · 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Hop into the Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center to visit the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 20, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Easter Bunny will be handing out treats and there will be a petting zoo with live bunnies, chicks and ducklings. Bring your own camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. The Iowa Egg Council will also be having an egg-ceptional cookout throughout the day, with lots of great samples for everyone. Regular admission.

## Toddler Time March 30 & April 27 · 10:00 a.m.

Enjoy a story with a garden theme, music and movement. Accompanied by an adult caregiver, children ages 1-3 are invited to dance, sing, and play, as they enjoy the company of children their own age. This very special morning always ends with a treasure hunt in the dome. Children 1-3 are \$1.00, regular admission rates apply for other children and adults.

## Story Time in the Gardens Design Change April through May · 10:00 am-3:00 pm

The Dome's gardens will transform into home for Wilbur the pig, Charlotte the spider, and other farm creatures inspired by the book, Charlotte's Web. The gardens will feature fencing, farm machinery, barn doors and a vegetable garden with corn, kale, peppers and tomatoes. Designed by horticulturist, Karey Alvarado.

## Tropical Tunes April 11, 18, 25 · 1:00-3:00 pm

It's Parrot Head time in Des Moines! Beach babies, Bahama mamas and surfer dudes will feel right at home with the sailing songs, reggae, island and surf music Sunday afternoons in April at the Botanical Center. Visit [www.botanicalcenter.com](http://www.botanicalcenter.com) for concert details. Regular admission.

## Iowa Bonsai Association Spring Show and Sale April 17-18 · 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Iowa Bonsai Association spring show and sale will be held in the Botanical Center lobby and Show House.

## Free Admission on Earth Day April 22 · 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Everyone can enjoy free admission to the Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center on Earth Day - Thursday, April 22!

## Charlotte's Barnyard Friends April 24 · 11:00 am-3:00 pm

The classic tale of Charlotte's Web will be brought to life from 11:00 am-3:00 pm on Saturday, April 24, at the Botanical Center! With your regular paid admission to the Dome, you can meet some of Charlotte and Wilbur's friends: calves, a donkey, rabbits and chicks...just to name a few!

## Polk County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale Annual Earth Kind Rose Sale

Saturday, May 1 · 8:00 am-4:30 pm  
Sunday, May 2 · 12:30-4:30 pm

Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale: Selections include annual flowers and vegetables, hardy and tropical perennials and selected treasures. Prices will vary depending on pot size and rarity. Annual Earth Kind Rose Sale: The Botanical Center's Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) will hold its 9th annual rose sale in the Potting Shed by the greenhouses at the south end of the Center. The price of these beautiful roses is \$20.00 each, All sales final.

## Annual Mother's Day Brunch May 9

Instead of buying your mom roses on Mother's Day, bring her to the Botanical Center where she can enjoy an entire dome full of beautiful flowers. The Botanical Center is hosting its 4th annual mother's day brunch on Sunday, May 9. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Des Moines Botanical Center's catering office at (515) 323-6289.

## Flower Power 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk June 12

Save the date for Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center's 3rd Annual Flower Power 5K on June 12!

**Des Moines**  
**Water Works**

Water You Can Trust for Life

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