



**Club Officers for 2008-2009**

President	Dick Baber	322-8074
V. Pres., Pres. Elect	Gary Guttau	487-3248
Secretary	Dale Willenborg	366-6815
Treasurer	Jeff Jorgensen	487-3355
Past President	Dale Willenborg	366-6815

**Board Members**

<b>2007-2009</b>	<b>2008-2010</b>
John Klein	Judy Guttau
Bob Hibbard	John Schmitt
Denny White	

March 7, 2009

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**Report of Recent Club Meeting**

President Richard Baber opened the Optimist Club meeting on February and Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer. Arlyn Norris won the 50/50 drawing and Gene Seran won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

Gary Funkhouser, Judy Guttau, and Keith Denton provided jokes for the meeting. Dick Baber, Gary Funkhouser, Keith Denton, and Judy Guttau contributed to the Youth Fund. Mick and Judy Guttau contributed because they are expecting another grandchild. The club celebrated Keith Denton's wedding anniversary which will be on 8 March.

The Crescent club is having an organizational meeting on Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Barn.

**Building a Nursery Business**

Lyle Ditmar was the speaker this week. He began his law practice in 1997. He also wanted to start an orchard in 1992-1993 and bought 70 acres knowing little about the business. They planted 300 trees in 1994, planning them with a Ford 8N tractor and a post hole digger.

The next year they planted another 500 trees and, after skipping a year, planted another 500 trees. They now own 170 acres, three tractors, four wagons, and plant a corn maze and a three acre pumpkin patch. This year Ditmar's Orchard will have 4000 trees and plant 1000 tomatoes.

A lot of the sales at Ditmar's Orchard are pick-your-own. Everyone gets a tractor/wagon ride and a lot of people make it a family affair. There is something different every time you come.

Ditmar's has 25 varieties of apples, 5 varieties of cherries, and 300 peach trees. HyVee will feature

their apples in 13 stores this year. Unfortunately, due to a hard frost this winter, the peach tree blossoms were killed for this year.

They produce apple cider on-site. Cider is pure apples, unlike apple juice which is made from reconstituted juice with water and sugar added. They have a machine that uses ultraviolet light to kill bacteria. They made 10,000 gallons of cider last year and are prepared to make 30,000 gallons this year.

Information about Ditmar's Orchard can be found at [www.ditmarsorchard.com](http://www.ditmarsorchard.com).

**CALENDAR**

The March Can Kennel contributions will be for the Jr. Optimist Octagon Club. Total collections are \$67,852 through November 2008.

- Mar 11, Wed, 5:30 p.m. – Can Kennel sorting
- Mar 25, Wed, 5:30 p.m. – Can Kennel sorting

**Birthdays**

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

**Anniversaries**

- Mar 4 – Gene Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith Denton
- Mar 15 – Dick Baber
- Mar 15 – Jeff Nelson

**Speakers**

- Mar 14 – Melvin Houser, County Board of Supervisors
- Mar 21 – Denise Lewis, Nebraska Raptor Recovery
- Mar 28 – Bob Vander Plaats

**Programs**

- March – Chad Guttau
- April – Dale Willenborg
- May – Richard Vorthmann

PS: Letter from a mother to her son

Dear Son,

I'm writing this real slow cause I know you can't read very fast.

We don't live where we did when you left. Your Daddy read in the paper that most accidents happen within twenty miles of home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last family that lived here took the numbers off the house with them for their next house so they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place has a washing machine. The first day I put in four shirts, pulled the chain, and I ain't seen e'm since. It rained twice this week. Three days the first time and four days the second time.

You know the coat you wanted me to send you. Well, Aunt Sue said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with them heavy buttons on it, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

We got a letter from the funeral home. They said if we don't make the last payment on Grandma's funeral bill, up she comes.

Your sister had a baby this morning. I ain't heard whether it's a boy or girl, so I don't know if you're an uncle or an aunt. Your Uncle John fell in the whisky vat. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off, so he drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days.

Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pick-up. One was driving and the other two was in the back. The driver got out. He rolled the window down and swam to safety. The other two drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate down. There's not much news at this time, nothing much has happened.