



# Quiet Walker Lodge Bed & Breakfast Inn

*Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa, Iowa*

On a lovely warm sunny day, I met a smiling Linda Rodrigues, one of the owners of Quiet Walker Lodge. At the door of the solarium, I was astounded by the sight of waterfalls cascading into a sparkling koi pond. Linda said, "The koi were flown from



Japan to their California home. We drove them to Iowa in a three day drive using portable air barrels. Guests love to watch them swim and play in the pond"

*The koi pond in the Wakatanka House.*

In answer to my question, as to why she moved to Iowa from San Francisco, Linda replied, "In August 2008, my husband Jim and I decided to move out of California because it was becoming too expensive and crowded. We fell in love with the Dubuque County area and bought the lodge. We updated the main lodge and built the new Wakatanka House addition in 2010. The location serves as both a bed and breakfast and a place for us to do ministry. The new addition has a conference room which can handle up to 30 people, and it has been used by churches for small meetings, businesses, and special events groups. This past year we held the Quad City Basket Weaving Convention at the lodge."

Linda explains, "We are proud of our bed and breakfast and the quality of service we can provide our guests." The main lodge features five themed suites each with a bubble up or champagne whirlpool tub. There is also a party grill outside for those guests who wish to barbecue. Outdoor games

and indoor games are also available. This part of the bed and breakfast also features a great room and dining area."

The Wakatanka House has four suites with a Native American décor and spacious whirlpool tubs. All rooms have zoned heating and air conditioning. The Lakota suite, which is on the first floor, is also handicap accessible with a roll in shower. There is also an elevator for disabled people to use to get to the second floor and enjoy the loft area which overlooks cathedral windows. The wine tasting area featuring native Iowan wine for the guests is very popular.

The Moonlight and Roses suite is a special suite featuring wrap around windows to give the guests a feeling of the outdoors. This room is popular with couples who are having their wedding at the lodge or are enjoying their honeymoon here. Linda offers the use of the



*A view of the Sedona suite.*

property for small garden weddings. Brides love the spectacular grounds for their wedding pictures, many preferring to get married under the weeping willow tree. Hy-Vee provides catering for private events and florists deliver to the site.

Linda's friendliness and love for Iowa helps make Quiet Walker Lodge a special place to visit. Linda maintains the grounds and has two greenhouses where she grows beautiful roses and flowers for the lodge as well as some of the fruits used in the breakfasts. She is also in the process of restoring the forest reserve surrounding the lodge and creating a song bird garden for guests to enjoy.

Linda can't say enough about innkeeper Carol Chalberg. Carol is the queen of hospitality and has lived and worked in England and has directed major special events. Carol enjoys providing that special touch whether it is in decorating the lodge for different holidays or providing that extra special



*The exterior of Wakatanka House*



item for a birthday or anniversary. She also makes full breakfasts for her guest. "She really makes people feel welcome," according to Linda.

The website for the lodge can be found at [www.quietwalkerlodge.com](http://www.quietwalkerlodge.com). Guests can reserve a room online, look at the variety of suites available and even view videos and pictures of the lodge. For



*The main lodge houses five suites.*

those who prefer to reserve a suite by phone, the toll free number to the lodge is 1-800-388-0942. Guests can also email Carol with any questions and she will be happy to reply.

Quiet Walker Lodge is listed with Trip Advisor and people can read the reviews from those who have stayed at the lodge. "We are very proud of our rating and appreciate the wonderful comments that previous guests have written about their experiences here at the lodge," said Linda.

The lodge is only eight miles west of Dubuque just off of Hwy. 52 and is within minutes of the Heritage Trail, Breitbach's Country Dining, downtown Dubuque, and Galena.

The lodge is closed during the months of December and January. They will reopen February 1<sup>st</sup>. Whether you are looking for that special romantic getaway or just some place to spend time with nature, Quiet Walker Lodge is the place to 'come and experience the difference.' Make your reservations quickly for Valentine's weekend as this typically is a busy weekend for Quiet Walker Lodge.

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