{ October 2017 }

What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

Picnics and Performances ends season

Picnics and Performances which highlights free, family-friendly entertainment from mid-July through mid-September on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm ended its season on September 10. Our eight (8) series program featured the following lineup: Dean Franzen - Dean of Juggling, BJ Huffman, Jesse Allen, Spenser Rahm, Jon & Jenn, 2nd Chances, Heartland Marimba Collective, and the Dennis Root String Quartet. Thanks again to our generous contributors, Donna Dull, the Bertha Stebens Foundation, AvanGrid Renewables, Clear Lake Bank and Trust, and the Beth Reinhart Charitable Trust. The series reached a total crowd count of approximately 900 attendees. Thanks to all of you who were here to enjoy, bring your picnics, and be entertained. We loved having you, and the performers spoke of how wonderful it was to play for all of us in this beautiful setting!

Plans are in the works for next year's series – please contact Jody at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com for other acts/ideas you would like to see us book. Pictured here are our September performers, Matthew Coley of the Heartland Marimba Collective and the Dennis Root String Quartet.

Scarecrow event at the Gardens

Central Gardens of North Iowa would like to invite the public to create a scarecrow to add to the festive fall atmosphere in the Gardens. Construct one yourself or gather your friends, family, club, or co-workers together for some fun! Make a traditional scarecrow out of straw and old clothes or let your imaginations run wild and use unconventional materials. There is no charge for participating and, if needed, a traditional wooden t-form can be provided. Scarecrows need to be completed by Thursday, October 5th to display from Harvest Fest through the end of October.

Please contact Bev Clapsaddle at 641-357-2828 or Leigh Trembath at 641-529-0463 to register your scarecrow and receive more details.

Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished. – Lao Tzu

Volunteer appreciations held

In honor of our many volunteers who make this place spectacular in many ways, two appreciation events were held in September and a third will be held October 8. The September 8th event honored the Fresh on Friday volunteers, presenters in the Bee Happy Garden, flower cutters, arrangers and cashiers, refreshment hosts and contributors, and newsletter volunteers and the second event held September 17th honored volunteers who assisted with the Plant Sale/Garden Fair, the Summer Garden Party, Picnics and Performances and the outdoor theatre production Our Town. There will be a third appreciation event to be held October 8 for "Down & Dirty" volunteers, Adopt a Garden volunteers, and gate openers/closers. And a big thank you goes out to the committee who planned, organized, and helped with these celebrations!

Down and Dirty Work session is planned for Sunday, October 8 beginning at 3 pm to get the Gardens ready for the winter. The Gardens will officially close on November 1 so if you are able to help, please come down! There will be lots to do and all volunteers are appreciated!

Central Gardens of North Iowa endowment fund available

We rely on a substantial portion of our income to support the beautiful gardens due to the generosity of donors. Because the Central Gardens of North Iowa Endowment Fund is a permanent fund with the Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation, any dollars you would donate to CGNI are invested and only the income from the fund is granted out. Your contribution will help carry out the mission of Central Gardens now and forever. Gifts to permanent endowment funds of the Community Foundation that benefit Iowa charitable causes are eligible to receive a 25% state tax credit, in addition to the federal deductions for charitable gifts through the Endow Iowa program. To learn more about this fund, contact the Community Foundation today at 319-287-9106.

Pavilion building open year round

Planning a holiday party, family get-together, birthday party, shower or special event over the winter? Please contact Jody at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or call the office at 641-357-0700 to schedule an upcoming rental in the beautiful Nature Education Pavilion. The view of the Gardens is beautiful even in the snow!

From visitor log: "Just beautiful! We've been coming to Clear Lake for years and just discovered you – we'll be back!" – Bloomington, MN