

{ September 2019 }

What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

upcoming events

Check out specifics on our Facebook page and website.

SEPT 1 • 5:00-6:00 PM • FREE

Picnics and Performances
Guest Musician: Ravensfire Band

SEPT 8 • 5:00-6:00 PM • FREE

Picnics and Performances
Guest Musician: Ruthless Ruth

SEPT 8 • 6:30 PM

Volunteer Recognition Celebration
for all Events Volunteers

SEPT 15 • 1:00-5:00 PM

Preservation Celebration

SEPT 15 • 5:00-6:00 PM • FREE

Picnics and Performances
last show of the season with
The Planet Passengers

SEPT 26 • 10:00 AM - NOON

NIACC's Lifelong Learning
Class: Nature Unbalanced"
(Pre-registration required)

Preservation Celebration Expands

CGNI is hosting a Preservation Celebration Sunday, September 15th from 2-5pm. Free admission and all ages are welcome! Immediately following will be a concert by Planet Passengers.

Preservation acts to maintain, protect or keep something in existence and reduce or postpone its loss. The bounty of our gardens is extended beyond the

growing season through a variety of preservation techniques, including canning, freezing and fermentation. The health benefits from fermentation have been widely documented. What do you seek to preserve? Perhaps it is an old family recipe or the best ever berries from your garden. Maybe it is a gift from nature, such as a healthy lake, clean air or native wildflowers. Perhaps it is a simple desire to preserve your health to the best of your ability. Come celebrate, learn and feast on all things PRESERVATION! Sample the goodness of nature at a table loaded with pickles, preserves and more! Vendors, demonstrations and informational tables. Speakers include: Sarah Underberg-Agri-Cultured Foods, Paul Willis-Niman Ranch, Lynn Herbert-NetZro and Seed Savers Exchange (Decorah).



Fresh on Fridays wraps up for the season

Literally hundreds of children enjoyed the twelve Friday morning learning sessions (all free of charge) all summer long. In the Kids BEE Happy Garden, June's theme was foods; July's was outdoor arts appreciation, and August's was movement. Our young Green Gardeners wrapped up their Wednesday sessions August 21st with a visit from Steve Strasheim of Twisted River Farms and Ashley Coleman of Simply Nourished. The young gardeners will return to celebrate the end of the growing season with a family picnic and garden clean up.

Fiesta in the Gardens a Huge Success

Hundreds of people enjoyed The Fiesta in the Gardens on Sunday August 19 by sampling and voting on their favorite salsa, watching dancing and tortilla making demonstrations, getting their hair adorned with flowers, having fun making crafts, and sampling the wares of food trucks on site. Kids broke pinatas and all who attended enjoyed the musical talents of Mariachi de Colores (Mariachi of Many Colors).



By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer's best of weather, and autumn's best of cheer. ~ H.H. Jackson

Outdoor Theater Production of Panache a success

Over two-hundred and fifty people attended the outdoor evening performances of Panache, presented by the Iowa River Theater Players group of Rowan, Iowa, that was staged in Central Gardens on August 3 and 4. The play was the second in a three part Cultural Arts Series offered to the North Iowa community through a collaboration between the Clear Lake Arts Center and Central Gardens. The third event in the 2019 series is "The Art of the Story" to be held on Saturday, October 12 at the Clear Lake Arts Center. More details will be coming in the October issue of What's Growing On. Mark your calendars!



Upgrade 2020 capital campaign notes

Central Gardens is in the midst of its capital campaign to raise \$220,000 (half of which will go to the Central Gardens endowment) in honor of our 20th anniversary in 2020. One part of the effort is something we're calling "The People's Campaign" that has as its goal to get 500 donations of \$20 each. For the cost of a pizza, people can contribute to our beautification and infrastructure improvement efforts. The Gardens are meant to be accessible to everyone, and we're committed to always having free admission and as many free activities and events as we possibly can.

Here's a message we received from one \$20 donor: "Thanks to all who make Central Gardens such a beautiful, relaxing place. We love coming to the Sunday night concerts and to come and walk through, admiring all the beauty and it is so peaceful. We pray you make your goal, and God bless all that keep it beautiful for everyone." If you would like to help support Central Gardens with a tax-deductible donation, you can contribute by sending cash or a check to PO Box 735, Clear Lake, IA 50428.



Besides the eighth street sound barrier project, other improvements to be made this fall include tiling and re-sodding the Ceremonial Lawn, adding an arch and filials to the main entrance pillars, and

hanging banners announcing Central Gardens on 8th Street. Sidewalk superintendents welcome!

Garden of the Month

The stream garden transverses the grounds from the south end of the Ceremonial Garden and under three bridges to just north of the patio at the main entrance. The



The water lilies compliment the "head" of the garden, and the babbling brook nature of the stream invites visitors to just stand and enjoy the sights and sounds of its beauty. (And also see if they can spot the goldfish!) We are grateful to Julie and Merle Tidemann who are the garden adopters. Hip boots are a pre-requisite!

Price Reduced for Nature Education Pavilion Rentals

The CGNI Board of Directors has reduced the rental rate for the Nature Education Pavilion to \$50 per hour daily, including week-ends. The Pavilion is available for rent year round, not just when there is access to the grounds, and makes an ideal spot for birthdays, weddings, business retreats, etc.. September rentals in the Pavilion include a medical auxiliary meeting, a club meeting, a Care for the Caregivers event, and a class. Rental requirements are available online at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

"On the Road" with Central Gardens

During the past month we have been pleased to have a presence at the Farmer's Market, the Clear Lake Art Sail, the Chautauqua Celebration, and on KIMT, featuring a story about our Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign.