



CHANGES TO THE GROUNDS: 2020 UPGRADE PROJECTS AND MORE

The mild temperatures throughout November and much of December allowed work to continue on projects that have been funded by generous donors to the 2020 Upgrade capital campaign that ended in September. Having exceeded the goal to raise \$220,000 to complete twelve upgrades to the grounds, Central Gardens has been able to address a wish list of improvements that are both practical and beautiful.



John F. Kennedy said change is the law of life. For most of us, the turn of the page to 2021 is a welcome change and we look to the new year with great hope and expectancy.

At Central Gardens of North Iowa, work is well underway to put together a line-up of events and programs for the new year that promises something for everyone. Here's a sneak peek at changes around the Gardens for you to come and see when the gates open again on May 1. From small changes to big, we think you'll agree, Central Gardens is evolving into an even more beautiful public garden that is welcoming, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. We are grateful for our beloved volunteers, members, and donors who have made these changes possible for all to enjoy. Thank you for supporting the mission of Central Gardens of North Iowa!

SIGNAGE: This metal fabricated arch and new finials at the main (south) entrance are the latest addition to the grounds and will serve to welcome guests for years to come.

LIGHTING: Accent lighting has been installed at the southwest corner sign and under the bridges, highlighting those features and providing a warm glow.

CEREMONIAL LAWN: Treatment for the barnyard grass that plagued the new seed for this project has been successful and the beauty of the lawn is sure to be fully realized in the spring.

MULCH: The mulch area has been relocated to its own enclosure on the southeast edge of the grounds and will be further enhanced in the spring.

COUNCIL RING: A Council Ring has been installed that not only adds more seating and a gathering spot in the Gardens, but also beautifies the south Activity Lawn.

CUTTING GARDEN: The cutting garden has been graded to improve irrigation and layout and will be expanded for Fresh on Friday's bouquet sales, programs, and events.

Watch for more changes in the spring when work resumes to enhance the Gazebo for performers, reimagine the donation boxes and the BEE Happy Discovery Garden, install retractable awnings on the Pavilion and Mother Earth's Workshop, and more.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: THE COUNCIL RING

Jens Jensen (1860 – 1951), the famed Danish-American landscape architect, who regularly included council rings in his designs, said "a ring speaks of strength and friendship and is one of the great symbols of mankind." In that spirit, the Central Gardens' Council Ring provides a focal point, a gathering space for small meetings and lectures, an elevated space to take in concerts, a quiet space from which to enjoy a garden view. Located on the Activity Lawn, the ring itself is complete and can be seen from the street. Stone cubes of native Iowa limestone will go in this spring to form the Council Ring.

For \$1,500, donors may sponsor one of twelve cubes that will be arranged in an inner circle that mirrors the larger ring. The limestone cubes measure 18 inches on all sides.

Each cube will be engraved with a memorial or dedication note as desired by the sponsor.

To order yours, or for more information, please email us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.





BECKE DORENBUSH NAMED CENTRAL GARDENS PRESIDENT

Becke has watched Central Gardens grow and change since its inception 20 years ago. She has watched buildings be built, gardens mature, and events and children's programming develop. Now, as we watch 2020 Upgrade improvements come to completion together, she looks forward to a memorable 2021 with the Plant Sale and Gardening Fair, Fresh on Friday, the Summer Garden Party,

Picnics & Performances, the Fiesta, Movement Saturdays, and much, much more.

Becke has been a dedicated board member since 2017, a regular volunteer at Down & Dirty, and a long-standing garden adopter. She also serves on the Gardens Events and Finance Committees and chairs the Membership and Marketing and Summer Garden Party Committees.

As President of Central Gardens, Becke is dedicated to encouraging people to visit, explore, and enjoy this

extraordinary space. She reminds us that we each have an opportunity to contribute to the Gardens growth and beauty by volunteering, becoming a member, and renewing our memberships. Bring your family and friends for a visit or to take in any of the forty free events lined up for next season and consider asking them to be a member of Central Gardens as well. Together, we can ensure Central Gardens continues to be a premier destination and supporting the quality of life in north Iowa.

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

If you like to start or plant seeds, each year's glossy seed catalogs are a rich present to dive into with abandon. It's a wonderful time of year to explore germinating and growing needs, to plan, and to find seeds that fulfill the needs of gardeners and their gardens. Some seeds need to be started early with seed starting mix, a bright, sunny window or grow lights, and even heat underneath them. Other seeds, such as carrots and beans, grow best when planted directly into the garden soil. Check out online seed catalogs by Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Mansfield, Missouri which feature heirloom seeds along with their stories. These catalogs are fun to read even if there isn't room for everything in one's own garden. Enjoy!



*It's the most wonderful time of the year
There'll be seeds for starting
Then harvests for carting
And watching your fine garden grow
There'll be scary pest stories
And tales of the glories of
Gardens a long time ago*

BE THE CHANGE:

Be a Member, Tell A Friend, Leave a Legacy

As a nonprofit, charitable organization, Central Gardens relies on memberships to directly support operational costs that average \$85,000 a year. They are simply vital to ensure resources are in place to provide over forty free events each year including Fresh on Fridays, Picnics & Performances, BEE Happy Discovery Garden programs for children, Movement Saturdays, and so much more.

ALL MEMBERS ENJOY THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

NEWSLETTERS to keep you informed about what's happening around the Gardens, **RECOGNITION** in the Annual Report, A **WINDOW CLING** with the Central Gardens logo for your display, **PRIDE** in supporting the quality of life in north Iowa

Additional benefits, including tote bags, tickets to the Summer Garden Party, rentals, and sponsorship of events, are available at higher giving levels. All memberships to Central Gardens are tax deductible.

LOG ON TO <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/> to establish or renew your membership or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information.

Central Gardens is grateful for our new and renewing members, including 2021 corporate members Clear Lake Bank and Trust, CL Tel, Control Print Creative, Don's Body Shop, Farmers State Bank, Hansmeier Mowing, Images Photography, Lake Liquors, McQuaid Agency, Metalcraft, and Sail Inn.

BE THE CHANGE: Cont'd

For lasting change, remember Central Gardens in your will. Simply ask your estate planning attorney to add the following language to your will or living trust.

I give, devise, and bequeath to Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation existing under the laws of the State of Iowa and located in Clear Lake, Iowa, _____ (percent of my estate, dollars, property, securities, etc.) to be used for _____ (however you wish your gift to be used) at Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc.

CENTRAL
GARDENS
of NORTH IOWA

CENTRAL GARDENS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Central Gardens board of directors has named Leigh Trembath vice-president and welcomes new board members Barb Leonard, Brianna Sholly, Jennifer Merfeld, and Vernon Johnson to the roster.

Terms are staggered so that one-third of the board is up for re-election each year.

Terms are three years and members may serve two consecutive terms.



Leigh Trembath

Leigh and her husband Stuart have been residents of Clear Lake since 1982 when they married and moved here from Chicago.

Planning to stay just

a few years they found Clear Lake a wonderful place to live so they set down their roots and raised two wonderful daughters here. Volunteering and being an active member in a community is important to Leigh, with past participation on the North Iowa Soccer Club, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, and Clear Lake Farmers Market boards. Since 2006, Leigh has been involved at Central Gardens with a special focus on education, developing Fresh on Fridays, and building the BEE Happy Discovery Garden. Leigh gardens organically and feels it is important to be a curious gardener, asking questions and learning from nature. When not gardening, Leigh loves taking photos, walks in nature, reading and spending time with family, which also includes their two bernedoodles, Eva and Oscar.



Barb Leonard

Barb retired after teaching first grade for 26 years. She has lived in Clear Lake with her husband Jim all of their married life – 47 years. They have

two daughters, a son-in-law, and two granddaughters. Her hobbies include painting (oil, acrylic, and watercolor), golfing, crossword puzzles, reading, and flower gardening. She volunteers at Fresh on Fridays cutting and making arrangement which she loves.



Brianna Sholly

Brianna (Bri) lives in Ventura with her husband, two toddlers, and two dogs. Their family loves spending time outside gardening, birdwatching, hiking, and exploring. She has a background in conservation, having received her M.S. in Wildlife Science from South Dakota State University in 2015.

Bri's current position is as the Youth Services Librarian at the Clear Lake Public Library. She has really enjoyed partnering with Central Gardens over the last few years, including Story Time in the Gardens and the more recent

StoryWalk®, and she's excited to take on this new role and become even more involved in the Gardens.



Jennifer Merfeld

Jennifer and her husband Bob moved to Clear Lake after graduating from Iowa State University. Together they raised three active children while Jennifer

worked as a marketing professional in the technology sector and Bob made his career in the agriculture industry. As a long-time resident, Jennifer has volunteered for a variety of events and organizations, including as a youth soccer coach for North Iowa Soccer Club and as a member of the Clear Lake Parks and Recreation board. Having been raised in a small town nearby, Jennifer spent many weekends and summers in Clear Lake and continues to enjoy its beauty and charm.



Vernon Johnson

Vernon wasn't available for this publication but will be featured in the April newsletter.



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THE 2021 EVENTS

- SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021** *Opening Day – Gates open at dawn*
- FRIDAYS, JUNE 4 – AUGUST 27, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Fresh on Fridays Bouquets*
- FRIDAYS, JUNE 4 – AUGUST 27, 9 AM – 11 AM** *BEE Happy Discovery Garden*
- SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 5 PM – 8 PM** *Summer Garden Party*
- SATURDAYS JULY 10 – JULY 31, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM** *Movement Saturdays*
- SUNDAYS, JULY 25 – SEPTEMBER 12, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances*
- SUNDAY, JULY 25, 5 PM–6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Cedar County Cobras*
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 5 PM–6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Juni and Betty*
- SUNDAY, AUG 15, 3 PM–6 PM –** *Garden Fiesta – Parranderos Latin Combo (PLC)*
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 5 PM - 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances –*
The Wonderful World of Woody

*For information on these and other events and activities
at Central Gardens, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at
<https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com>.*