

July 2020



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

Aristotle said *the essence of life is to serve others and to do good*. Surely, we could put that to wise use today, twenty-three hundred years later! The sentiment is timeless; the execution still lacking for too many.

Come serve at Central Gardens and express your own heart full of grace, comforted in a broken world, safe. Tend to the daylilies and cannas, the salvia and the succulents, and in so doing, refresh. Join a committee and use those talents you've longed to express to serve your community and to improve lives across north Iowa.

John Kennedy said anyone can serve and everyone should. In this season of uncertainty, when all of our plans are tentative, indulge in something tangible at the Gardens. Please email us today at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com to join our volunteer force.

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace.

A soul generated by love.
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

JULY'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER: THE TIEDEMANN FAMILY

A couple of weeks ago, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, Merle and Julie Tiedemann's entire extended family served some forty hours weeding, hauling, planting, cleaning, organizing and doing whatever else they could to get Central Gardens "company ready" for the Fourth of July. It was the five grandchildren that rallied the family and organized the first Tiedemann Family Volunteer Day.

The two grandsons from Ankeny are earning hours for Boy Scouts, and the three from Northwood have come to love the Gardens since Drake began his duties as the summer groundskeeper.

The Tiedemann grands are not only developing skills, their service also improves the quality of life for north Iowans and for visitors to Clear Lake from around the world. We are grateful and, frankly, delighted by this family's dedication and service to the Gardens! Thank you Merle, Julie, and family!



Please consider organizing your own Family Volunteer Day at Central Gardens of North Iowa.

Follow us on Facebook or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com

for information about volunteer opportunities today!

THANK YOU METALCRAFT!

We've been able to try using face shields instead of masks for work around Central Gardens thanks to the generosity of MetalCraft, a leading manufacturer located in Mason City. Normally manufacturing name plates, labels, barcodes, and RFID tags, MetalCraft developed a prototype for face shields just as coronavirus came to Iowa. Within weeks, the company secured a contract with the State to produce the shields for distribution to hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities. In addition to Central Gardens, MetalCraft has donated shields to physician and dental offices, hospices, food banks, and to museums in Iowa and Massachusetts.



Many volunteers around the Gardens prefer the face shields over masks, stating the shield doesn't fog glasses and requires less adjusting while actively gardening. If you're a volunteer and would like to have a face shield, please let us know. And, if you'd like to get a face shield, simply sign up to volunteer at Central Gardens and we will provide you with one!

Thank you, MetalCraft! As Iowans, we are proud of your efforts to ease this pandemic and, as your neighbors, we are grateful for your support of Central Gardens by providing our volunteers protective gear.

CENTRAL GARDENS WELCOMES ISU INTERN KYLEE SMITH

Kylee Smith is a summer intern at Central Gardens from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Office in Cerro Gordo county. Kylee will be a senior this fall and majors in Agricultural Education. Her goal is to teach agriculture in a small high school in Iowa, Wyoming, or Texas. She moved from Rockford to Clear Lake with her parents in June and, to no one's surprise, says they are LOVING it here!

This summer, Kylee has been working with the Harvest-Gather-Share team which meets during Fresh on Fridays (*Fridays through August 28, 9 AM – 11 AM*) at Central Gardens. The team has covered topics concerning food

NEW SUCCULENT GARDEN TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

Whenever Jackie Caffrey visits her former exchange student in Norrköping, Sweden she asks to see the half-acre mosaic succulent garden in town. During her visit last spring, Jackie had an opportunity to observe the process of creating the mosaic. Inspired by the color palette and diverse textures, Jackie envisioned a smaller scale mosaic succulent garden to celebrate Central Gardens of North Iowa's 20th anniversary this year.

In January, the board of directors approved the plan for the new garden and Kayla Myers, another devoted volunteer, sat down with Jackie, along with graph paper, pencil, a plant catalog and a vision for the adaptation, and began to map it out. The design strives to provide visual appeal and texture using different heights, curved edges, and a focal point.

This spring, the soil was amended and proper drainage was provided before the new succulent garden was planted. For Jackie and Kayla, designing, planting, and now tending to the succulent garden has been a labor of true love. Visitors can find inspiration for their own succulents from this new garden located at the south entrance of the grounds. Come watch this garden grow and see the grace and beauty Jackie and Kayla have created here!



insecurity, pollution, and organic farming. With the youth, the team has cared for, learned about, and harvested vegetables from the BEE Happy Garden and learned how to design and use different techniques to make bouquets. In the coming weeks, the team plans to cover nutrition, light treatments, and many more fun topics and activities. Come visit the Gardens today and stop by to say "hi" to Kylee!



TIPS FROM THE GARDENS

Have you noticed that deadheading is a popular task right now? Did you know that if you deadhead salvia it will bloom even more? Many of us did not know that! Check out a short tutorial on how to deadhead salvia at <https://www.thegardencontium.com/blog/how-to-deadhead-salvia>.

Have you picked up a tip or trick from your service or visits to Central Gardens? We'd love to hear about it! Write to us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com, subject line Tips from the Gardens.



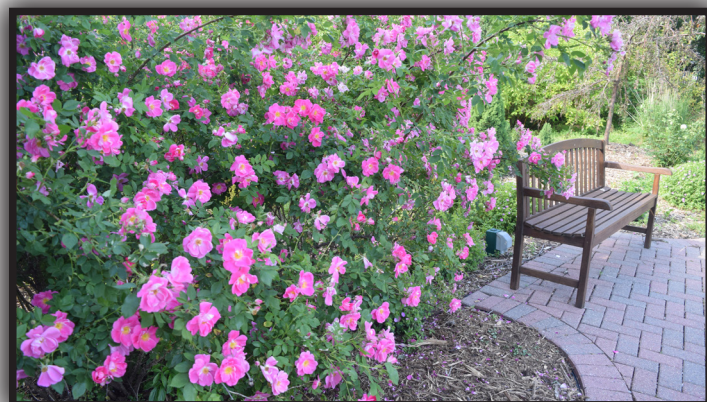
THE GRACE TO GARDEN

While the pandemic has constrained our movement, restricting us more to our homes than many of us would like, it has also provided a boon for gardening centers as we seek opportunities to develop new interests, dive deeper into current interests, or simply make changes that are aesthetically pleasing in this socially distanced environment. It's as if we understand that our desire for beauty, structure, purpose, and grace are fulfilled in gardening.

But we are not the first to have discovered what gardening can do for us during times of stress. According to Beth Cody, Ames author of Iowa Gardens of the Past – Lost & Historic Gardens of Iowa: 1850 – 1980, Iowans have long sought comfort in the soil during times of uncertainty, creating beautiful gardens across the state as world wars, epidemics, economic downturns and depressions, droughts, and plagues waged against us.

We are in good company with those gardeners with their vintage gardens for they remind us that we are far more resilient than we know and the desire for grace and beauty transcends suffering.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circle of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.
– Mary Sarton



YET ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT CENTRAL GARDENS: MEMBERSHIP

Our hearts for the scores of volunteers that serve Central Gardens is matched only to the appreciation we have for our members. The Gardens rely on annual individual and corporate memberships to sustain operations that support opening the gates and offering numerous free, public programs and events each year.

Like other businesses, Central Gardens is learning to operate in a changed environment. But new 'normals' don't come easily. We'd like to pause here to tell you we are grateful for the many members that have stuck with us or joined us during this season of uncertainty.

And a warm thank you to Bonnie Hall Associates, CL Tel, Don's Body Shop, Ellen Montgomery PA-C, Farmers State Bank, Hearing Associates, PC, Hosmer's Toyota, Images Photography, Iowa Farm Girl Enterprises, Larson's Mercantile, North Iowa Credit Union, North Iowa Orthodontics, Spenser Rahm with Edward Jones Investments, Sail Inn, and Schupick & Associates, PC for their corporate memberships.

Won't you consider becoming a member?
Individual or corporate memberships are available now at <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/>.



Central Gardens of North Iowa
P.O. Box 735
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Address Service Requested

FREE EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS THIS SUMMER!

FRIDAYS, JUNE 5 – AUGUST 28, 9 AM – 11 AM *Fresh on Fridays Bouquets*

FRIDAYS, JULY 3 – AUGUST 28, 9 AM – 11 AM *Harvest-Gather-Share*

SATURDAY JULY 11, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM *Qi-Gong with Debbie Mitchell*

SATURDAY JULY 18, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM *Yoga with Terri Mulford*

SATURDAY JULY 25, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM *Qi-Gong with Debbie Mitchell*

SUNDAYS, JULY 26 – SEPTEMBER 13, 5 PM – 6 PM *Picnics and Performances*

SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM *Qi-Gong with Debbie Mitchell*

For details about these and other events at
Central Gardens, please check our website at

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com

and follow us on Facebook.

