

MARCH 2021



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself.

- May Sarton

Central Gardens remembers former board members Julie Steinberg and David Backus who passed away this winter. Julie served on the board in 2013 and remained active at the Gardens and other community non-profits in the years since. She passed in November from a Glioblastoma brain tumor. David served as a board member from 2008 to 2013. He passed away in January from complications due to COVID-19 and asked that memorials be directed to Central Gardens on his behalf. We are grateful for their service and support of the Gardens. And for all who engage others in giving to Central Gardens, thank you.

CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING

Grant funding is an important revenue stream for Central Gardens, supporting operations, kids' programs, and underwriting events. In December, Central Gardens received \$1,400 from the Farrer Endowment Foundation of Mason City for the purchase of a laptop and software. The City of Clear Lake awarded the Gardens \$10,000 for operational costs. Clear Lake Parks and Recreation has allocated \$821 for the purchase of mallets for golf croquet. In February, the AgVA Foundation of Mason City awarded Central Gardens \$2,000 for the purchase of a small chicken coop for the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. Also, this spring, the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation will install a water refilling station at Central Gardens. Our sincere gratitude to each of these grant makers for their support of our mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. Thank you!



HERO'S WALK AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Eleven bricks and two 16" granite pavers have been placed in the newly formed Hero's Walk near the Sentinel at the north entrance of the Pavilion. A brick campaign was held last summer to launch the new walk commemorating heroes among us and those we have lost. From military heroes to community leaders and COVID-19 health heroes, you will be awed by the sentiment found in these stone treasures.

Central Gardens offers several options to honor, memorialize, and celebrate the special people and meaningful times of our lives. Purchase a brick for \$250 or a paver for \$1,000 for placement in one of the Gardens many walkways. Donors may have an 18" limestone seating cube engraved with thirty letters for placement in the Council Ring for \$1,500. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations to Central Gardens are tax deductible.



SAVE THE DATES!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN THE GARDENS

Opening Day Saturday, May 1, 2021

Gates open daily from dawn to dusk through October 31. Free admission.

Cornhole Bring your friends and family to play this modified giant bean bag toss on the Activity Lawn. Garden themed boards and bags will be available at the School Bell Gazebo. Free.

Grow Your Garden Lecture Series A four-session lecture series on what else...gardening! Offered in partnership with Cerro Gordo ISU Extension. Stay tuned for details.

Learn to Play Golf Croquet

May 15, May 16, June 5, & June 6, 2 PM -3:30 PM
For adults and youth 14 years and older.
There is no charge and equipment will be provided.

Gardening Fair and Plant Sale

Saturday May 22, 8 AM - 12 PM
This annual event features a variety of perennial plants and garden art for sale. Free garden education and planting activity for kids.

Fresh on Friday Fridays

June 4 - September 3, 9 AM - 11 AM
Enjoy complimentary coffee or infused ice water and purchase beautiful bouquets of fresh cut flowers from the Garden. Free Q & A session on cut flowers and bouquet making at 10 AM. Garden Explorers program for kids.

Garden Explorers Fridays

June 4 - September 3, Drop in 9 AM - 11 AM
Kids may taste, explore and help out in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. All ages are welcome. Check out our Facebook page or visit the website for the weekly schedule. Free.

Team Harvest-Unite-Grow-Share (HUGS)

For youth entering sixth grade and older. Help care for the Bee Happy Discovery Garden while learning from nature, each other, and the larger community. Class size limited to 15. Registration coming soon. Free.

CLEAR LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE GARDENS

Story Walk Follow the garden path to read a story and end up in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden! New books will be posted in June and in July, in English and in Spanish. Free.

Story Time Wednesdays

August 4 - August 25, 10:30 AM -11 AM
For children ages 0-5 and their families, and we ask that a responsible adult caregiver accompany children attending. Free.

Silent Book Club Give yourself permission to settle down in the Gardens with a good book. Watch for details on our website and Facebook page.

Golf Croquet Open Play

Sundays, June 13 - September 5, 2 PM - 4 PM
Play golf croquet on your own on the Activity Lawn. Equipment is available for check out. Free.

Drum Circle on the Full Moon

Fridays, June 25, July 23, and August 20 7 PM - 8 PM
Bring your drum and share your rhythmic spirit with the circle. No charge but a free will donation is appreciated.

Summer Garden Party

Saturday, June 26 6 PM - 8:30 PM
Support the Gardens and enjoy live music, refreshments, heavy appetizers, and a fun auction at this annual fundraising event! Details to come.

Movement Saturday

Saturdays, July 10 - August 14, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Start your weekend with a free exercise class featuring yoga, Tai Chi, and barre provided by local instructors. All skill levels are welcome! Free.

Artists Paint Out

Saturday July 17, 8 AM - 5 PM (Rain date, Sunday, July 18)
Jointly sponsored with the Clear Lake Arts Center. Free registration and more information at: <https://form.jotform.com/210189274170150>.



Save The Dates: Cont'd

Picnics & Performances Sundays, July 25 – September 12, 5 PM – 6 PM

Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, a bottle of wine, and enjoy music on the Activity Lawn near the School Bell Gazebo.

July 25	Cedar County Cobras – American boot-stompin roots and blues.
August 1	Rich Mock of The Mockingbirds performing a rock and blues solo.
August 8	Juni and Betty – Juni West teams up with Betty from Betty and the Gents
August 15	Parranderos Latin Combo (PLC) – A special performance by an amazing Latin music group from Des Moines for the Garden Fiesta.
August 22	Rockin' Woody – A musician, magician, juggler, and all-around funny guy
August 29	Levi Smith & Brent Estlund Local favorite teams up with Iowa rock & roll hall of famer for this acoustic performance.
September 5	Spenser Rahm – A comedy, country, experimental, folk, indie, other / not classifiable, songwriter artist from Clear Lake.
September 12	Planet Passengers – A little blues, some light jazz, a few classics, and a touch of rock & roll.

From Garden to Glass

Botanical Mixology Class

Thursday, July 29, 6 PM – 8 PM

Cost: \$40

Mix up botanical cocktails with Herbalist Christen Sherwood.

Alcohol and alcohol-free options available. All materials supplied.

Must be 21 to attend.

Class size limited to 14.

Garden Fiesta

Sunday, August 15, 3 PM – 6 PM

Celebrate Latinx culture with food, art, music, and kids' activities.

Free admission and activities.

Preservation Celebration

Sunday, September 19, 2 PM – 5 PM

An event to celebrate and equip for the preservation of nature, food, and culture. Free.

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>.





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

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WEBSITE REFRESH COMING APRIL 1, 2021

Central Gardens has contracted with Emerge Marketing Solutions, a website design and development firm from Manning, to redesign and refresh the Gardens website to better showcase the beauty here, making it mobile-friendly, and improving user experience. For stunning photography, details on all the events and programs planned for 2021, an interactive map, and much more, log on to www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com April 1 to start planning your visit to the Gardens in May!

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GARDENS

Support the mission of Central Gardens and our ability to provide over 80 free events this year by establishing or renewing your membership to Central Gardens.

Log on to <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/> or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information.

Thank you to the dozens of individuals and companies that have established or renewed memberships to Central Gardens for 2021 including Bonnie Hall and Associates, Clear Lake Bank and Trust, CL Tel, ControlPrint Creative, Don's Body Shop, Farmers State Bank, Hansmeier Mowing, Images Photography, Lake Liquors, Larson's Mercantile, McQuaid Agency, Metalcraft, Sail Inn, and The Basic Birder.