



I love spring anywhere, But if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden. - Ruth Stout

Haunted Heart, the white and purple iris pictured here, received the American Iris Society's top award, the Dykes Medal, in 2018. Dykes Medal winners are the best of the best of iris bred in the United States. To qualify, they must first receive the best in class award for their type of iris.



You'll find this beauty alongside the 2019 Dykes Medal winner, a bright orange Bottle Rocket iris, and the yellow First Interstate iris in the Plant of the Year Garden. These irises are classified as tall bearded iris and they will soon give way to a different type, the Siberian iris. Look for Swans in Flight, a Siberian iris and the 2016 Dykes Medal winner, to bloom very soon.



SUMMER GARDEN PARTY 2021

Come to the Summer Garden Party on Saturday, June 26, at 6 PM, and reminisce with your friends! This year's signature fundraiser features musician Bill Jarnigan performing favorite tunes by Ricky Nelson, a live auction, and more. Build your own BBQ sundae and enjoy beer, wine, sun tea, lemonade, and delicious desserts. Your support of this beloved event ensures our ability to operate, providing a beautiful greenspace in north Iowa that is free and open to the public in addition to over 60 free events and children's programs this year.

Please join us for what promises to be a fun and festive evening and help us raise money for Central Gardens. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the gate, or reserve a table for eight for \$250. To purchase tickets, please send payment to Central Gardens of North Iowa, PO Box 735, Clear Lake, IA 50428 or pay online at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/Donate. If you have any questions, please contact us at 641-357-0700 or info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

A Bee House FOR THE GARDENS

The Bee Conservancy, a New York based nonprofit organization founded in 2009 in response to the bee crisis, awarded Central Gardens a native bee house last month. Located in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden, the house is constructed of FSC certified, sustainably sourced pine with cardboard tubes to attract a variety of native bee species.

Whereas honey bees tend to be social, living and working together in colonies year-round, native bees live solitary lives, building their own nests, and separating after mating. All bees sting, so we encourage visitors to use caution when near the bee house. We look forward to learning more about these gentle pollinators in the months ahead!



Free Lecture Series: **BACKYARD FRIENDS & FOES**

Central Gardens has partnered with ISU Extension and Outreach, Cerro Gordo County Master Gardeners, and the North Iowa Beekeeper's Club to offer a series of four lectures on backyard friends and foes. The series kicks off on Tuesday, June 15, 6 PM – 7:30 PM with Dr. Donald Lewis lecturing on Beneficial Insects.



or panicked about insects in the home, garden or landscape." Lewis said people are often surprised to learn what is really causing their damage, and that the solution may be

The series continues on June 29 with Jan Libbey on Toads and Frogs. Dr. Lewis returns on July 20 to talk about Insect Pests and, on August 24, Ronnie Vonderohe with the North Iowa Beekeepers Club will present on Beekeeping. The lectures are free, open to the public, and registration is not required. Join us at the Nature Education Pavilion for this free lecture series and get better acquainted with your backyard habitat!

For more than 40 years, Dr. Lewis has helped Iowans understand insects. "I help Iowans who are curious, worried

something other than what they first thought. Bring your insect samples and your questions!

Tips From the Gardens: **ALL ABOUT HERBS**

HARVEST herbs in the early morning before the hot sun wilts the leaves and oils evaporate. Snip only the amount to be used that day with garden shears.

PURCHASE small amounts of fresh herbs with leaves of good color and no sign of wilting and blemishes.

STORE herbs, unwashed and dry, in a tightly covered plastic or glass container. Place in the refrigerator and use within a few days.

WASH herbs before using with a light rinse, drain, and pat dry with a soft towel.

MEASURE herbs by pressing leaves lightly into a measuring spoon or cup. Do not pack down.

BLEND complementary mild-flavored herbs such as chives, parsley, and sweet basil.

ADD strong-flavored herbs like thyme, rosemary, tarragon, and sage sparingly.

SUBSTITUTE fresh for dry herbs by tripling the amount a recipe calls for.

FREEZE herbs as soon as possible after picking or purchasing. Wash, dry thoroughly, and place in small tightly sealed plastic bags. Label and freeze.

DRY herbs by cutting branches with enough stem for hanging. Wash, gently separate plants into small bunches and tie together at stem ends. Hang in a warm, dry, dark location that is free of dust until the leaves become crisp and brittle. Strip leaves and buds from the stems, crush them or pack them whole into airtight containers.



Thank You, **THRIVENT MEMBERS**



Our warmest thanks to Thrivent members who have given to Central Gardens through the Thrivent Choice Program! Your support has made it possible for us to purchase cleaning supplies, pay for mailings to our members and volunteers, print maps of the Gardens for visitors, purchase high-top tables for the Pavilion, and so much more. For more information about the Thrivent giving program and how you can put Thrivent dollars to work for Central Gardens, please visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

Central Gardens Thanks Our **2021 CORPORATE MEMBERS**

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BEFORE YOU GO ...

Your membership matters to Central Gardens. Roughly 90% of what it takes to run and operate the Gardens is provided by volunteers, but it still takes money. It takes membership dollars to pay the water bill, run the fountains, mow the lawns, purchase plants and flowers, equip our volunteers, and offer free admission to the grounds. Memberships also make it possible to publish, print, and distribute this newsletter. To ensure continued delivery, please establish or renew your membership today at <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/> or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information.



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

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JUNE EVENTS IN THE GARDENS

Central Gardens is abuzz with things to do in June! Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for details on these and other activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens.

Fridays, June 4, 11, 18, & 25, 9 AM – 11 AM *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments*

Fridays, June 4, 11, 18, & 25, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers (Kids)*

Friday, June 4, 9 AM – 11 AM *Musical Petting Zoo – Surf Music Enrichment Center*

Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6, 2 PM – 3:30 PM *Learn to Play Golf Croquet*

Friday, June 11, 9 AM – 11 AM *Foodie Friday/ Little Locavores – Healthy Harvest of North Iowa*

Friday, June 11, 9 AM – 11 AM *Jump and Tumble – Turbo Tumbling*

Sundays, June 13, 20, and 27, 2 PM – 4 PM *Golf Croquet Open Play – equipment provided*

Tuesday, June 15, 6 PM – 7:30 PM *Beneficial Insects with Dr. Donald Lewis*

Friday, June 18, 9 AM – 11 AM *Art in Bloom – Clear Lake Art Center*

Friday, June 18, 9:30 AM – 10 AM and 10:30 AM – 11 AM *Kids Drum Circle*

Friday, June 25, 9 AM – 11 AM *Bees and Bubbles*

Friday, June 25, 7 PM – 8 PM *Strawberry Moon Drum Circle*

Saturday, June 26, 6 PM – 8:30 PM *Summer Garden Party*

Tuesday, June 29, 6 PM – 7:30 PM *Toads and Frogs with Jan Libbey*

For information on these and other events and activities at Central Gardens, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com

