

August 2021



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all, it teaches entire trust. - Gertrude Jekyll

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES HAVE A HOME IN CLEAR LAKE

No garden truly blooms until butterflies dance upon it. K. D'Angelo

With reports showing that the monarch butterfly population is shrinking, Central Gardens of North Iowa submitted for and is now qualified as a Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

Central Gardens is the perfect spot for these beautiful butterflies, with nearly three sprawling acres of over 20 themed gardens. But you don't need acres of land to help these travelers.

This is an incredible accomplishment. According to ISU entomology professor Steve Bradbury, the loss of habitats in the U.S. and forest degradation in Mexico have contributed to the Monarch's decline. They rely on milkweed and flowers for their habitat. The larvae use the milkweed for their diet, and the females lay their eggs on these perennials.

Want to help the Monarchs? You can simply plant milkweed or biennial or perennial nectar plants in your yard. Or if you prefer to see these majestic butterflies at Central Gardens, grab your camera and visit us.

To learn more about Monarch butterflies and to create a habitat, visit www.monarchmania.com.



THE GARDEN FIESTA

Join us on the Activity Lawn for a celebration of Latinx culture in north Iowa at the Garden Fiesta coming up on Sunday, August 15, 3 PM – 7 PM. The event will feature authentic food, art, lots of kids' activities, and live music. Admission and all activities are free.

Parranderos Latin Combo (P.L.C.) will perform from 5 PM – 7 PM. This Latin music group, based in Des Moines, will have you moving to their music! The group's self-titled debut album includes nine original songs written in Iowa and recorded in San Juan, Puerto Rico by Grammy award winning engineers Ramon Martinez and Carlos Velazquez.

In addition to music, there will be a station to place flowers in your hair, vendors, dance instruction, taco trucks, and much more. Kids will have plenty of fun creating giant bubbles, trying out instruments, and making crafts at the creativity station. There will be two piñatas to break, one for the little ones and one for those a little older. Please join us to learn, celebrate, and have fun together!

This event has been made possible with generous support from the Iowa Arts Council, the John Ruan Foundation, a private donor, and Central Gardens' corporate members, Hearing Associates and CL Tel.

BACK TO SCHOOL AT CENTRAL GARDENS

The site Central Gardens is located on had been home to four Clear Lake schools over a 100-year period, from 1888 to 1988. When it was formed in 2000, Central Gardens took its name from Central School, the last school that had been on this ground.

Those roots are still evident today with the variety of programs and events Central Gardens provides that serve to educate and inform people of all ages about horticulture, gardening, habitats, and the environment. But, stroll through the grounds, from the School Bell Gazebo to the magnifying glasses standing ready in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden to the bronze barefoot boy perched on a tree stump with a book, and you'll find out even more about our heart for learning.

Bricks and pavers form the pathways that meander through Central Gardens, telling stories about its history and about the hearts and lives of those in our community. And now, for a limited time, Central Gardens is offering a significant discount for brick and paver purchases to commemorate a special event or person in your life. **Order a standard size brick for just \$200 or a 16" granite paver for \$800 before Labor Day, September 6, and have them placed in one of the following pathways:**



- >> *The Alumni and Faculty Walks, located on the north edge of the property on either side of the Moon Gate, are lined with bricks and pavers that honor or memorialize those who have attended or taught at any of the Clear Lake schools since the first school was built in 1855.*
- >> *The Wedding Walk, also located on the north edge of the property, in between the Alumni and Faculty Walks, commemorates weddings and anniversaries.*
- >> *The Hero's Walk runs north of the Nature Education Pavilion, behind the Sentinel and beneath the flag. It serves to honor the many kinds of heroes that are among us or have died before us.*
- >> *The Gardener's Walk is a long stretch outside Mother Earth's Workshop that is open to bricks and pavers of all kinds.*
- >> *Likewise, the Reunion Terrace, west of the Ceremonial Lawn, is also open to all kinds of bricks.*
- >> *The Rotary Walk, which starts at the south bridge, honors Rotarians from across Iowa.*

In addition to bricks and pavers, Central Gardens has just 6 cubes left to form the 12-seat Council Ring located on the Activity Lawn. For just \$1,500, you can support the mission of Central Gardens and leave a legacy. The cubes are made from native Iowa limestone and measure 18" on all sides. They will be custom engraved with a memorial or dedication as desired. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/bricks-pavers/>.



Central Gardens CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Clear Lake Bank & Trust
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Support for:

PICNICS AND PERFORMANCES



The sixth season of Picnics and Performances, one of Central Gardens' signature events, kicked off on July 25 with boot stompin' roots and blues music that did not disappoint. The seven-part series features local and regional musicians, magicians, and other entertainers who perform a free, hour long, family-friendly show on Sunday afternoons through September 12, 5 PM – 6 PM. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic, a lawn chair, and a favorite beverage, sit back and enjoy a show in a beautiful garden environment.

Central Gardens relies on grants, sponsorships, corporate memberships, and private donors for funding that makes it possible to provide the series with no admission fee. We are proud to announce that the Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation, a private foundation located in Mason City whose purpose is to give for the benefit of people in Mason City and Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, through 501(c)(3) organizations or governmental organizations, has underwritten the series for the sixth straight year.

From the beginning, when Picnics and Performances launched in 2015, the Stebens Foundation saw the value of providing arts and entertainment in north Iowa and supported the Gardens commitment to do so. Funding from the Foundation has made it possible to offer the series free of charge and to pay the performers a modest honorarium.

Central Gardens received a grant from Avangrid Renewables for the 2021 season of Picnics and Performances as well, further supporting our ability to offer the series at no charge to the public.

We are grateful for the generous support for the series from the Bertha Stebens Foundation, Avangrid Renewables, and from Central Gardens' members Don's Body Shop, Donna Dull, and Mike Frank. Thank you!

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF *Central Gardens*

It is the mission of Central Gardens to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.

Central Gardens relies on volunteers, corporate and individual members, grant funders, and other types of donors to fulfill its mission. Their generous support allows us to maintain and beautify the grounds, offer free admission, and provide over 50 free activities, events, and programs each year. It takes a village.



Now you're invited to get more involved in the mission of Central Gardens! Already a member? Become a volunteer! We have a lot of opportunities for you. Already a volunteer? For as little as \$50 a year you can further support the mission, as well as the budget, by being a member. Already a member and a volunteer? Support the mission of Central Gardens by inviting a friend or loved one, a local business, or a philanthropist to join us too.

Please visit our website at <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com> for information about getting involved at the Gardens. Contact us online or at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information.



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

Address Service Requested

AUGUST EVENTS

The fun continues this month at Central Gardens! Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at <https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com> for details on these and other FREE activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens.

- Sundays, August 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2 PM – 4 PM** *Golf Croquet Open Play – equipment provided.*
- Sunday, August 1, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Rich Mock*
- Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM** *Line dancing with Mary Jo*
- Fridays, August 6, 13, 20, & 27, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments*
- Fridays, August 6, 13, 20, & 27, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Garden Explorers*
- Friday, August 6, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Musical Petting Zoo – Surf Music Enrichment Center*
- Saturdays, August 7 & 14, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM** *Movement Saturday*
- Sunday, August 8, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Juni West*
- Friday, August 13, 9 AM - 11 AM** *Foodie Friday/ Little Locavores – Healthy Harvest of North Iowa*
- Sunday, August 15, 3 PM – 7 PM** *Garden Fiesta*
- Sunday, August 15, 5 PM – 7 PM** *Parranderos Latin Combo (P.L.C.)*
- Friday, August 20, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Art in Bloom – Clear Lake Art Center*
- Friday, August 20, 7 PM – 8 PM** *Sturgeon Moon Drum Circle*
- Sunday, August 22, 5 PM = 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Rockin' Woody*
- Friday, August 27, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Yoga Animal Adventure*
- Sunday, August 29, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Levi Smith*



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