

October 2021



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden. – Minnie Aumonier

Since the gates opened for the season on May 1, Central Gardens has been buzzing with activity and thick with gorgeous blooms, attracting thousands of guests from across north Iowa, thirty-two states, and the Philippines. In all, we estimate that over 20,000 people visited the Gardens this season, an 11% increase over 2020, also a record-breaking year.

While continuing to take precautions for COVID, Central Gardens offered a wide array of over seventy free activities, programs, and events that promised something for everyone in a safe environment. The Gardens provided a stage for performers and sanctuary for those who married, graduated, and celebrated a life here this summer. We heard from hundreds of people with 5-star reviews online and sweet sentiments for the Gardens in the visitor log. Raving of its beauty, one visitor described Central Gardens as a fairyland. It was an amazing summer in the Gardens.

Even as the season winds down, and summer fades to fall, there is still so much beauty in the Gardens. Come and see! Plan your visit today by logging onto www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/Plan-your-visit before the gates close on October 31.



EDIBLE Dahlias

In 1963, the dahlia was declared the national flower of Mexico. Today you can find dahlias in Central Gardens as well as gardens across the country. It is a member of the Asteraceae, related to the sunflower and the chrysanthemum. The ornamental value of dahlia flowers has long been recognized, but their edible tubers also make them an excellent addition to kitchen gardens. View the full article on edible dahlia bulbs at <https://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/dahlia-bulbs-zmaz09aszraw>.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

Shown here are Donna Dull, Merle Tiedemann, and Mark Dorenbush ringing the bell in School Bell Gazebo to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17. Central Gardens, along with the Clear Lake Fire Department, Congregational Church, and individuals across the community, participated in bell ringing for three minutes for the occasion.

Constitution Day was established to commemorate the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787.



THE PERFECT SETTING

The Nature Education Pavilion is available for rent year-round and may just be the perfect setting for your next gathering. Whether you're planning a corporate retreat, a baby shower, or a holiday party, the Pavilion boasts room for forty and a panoramic view of the Gardens. It is furnished with tables, chairs, two refrigerators, ample counter space, a monitor, and WIFI. Contact us today at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or visit our website for more information or to book your reservation.



2022 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Help us plan for next season by establishing or renewing your membership to Central Gardens for 2022! Central Gardens members make it possible to purchase plants and flowers, pay the water bill each month, and provide a force of some 120 volunteers with proper tools and equipment to maintain and beautify the Gardens. Membership dollars keep the lights on, help pay for a part-time groundskeeper, and support other operational costs that make it possible to offer free admission to the grounds and over fifty free programs, activities, and events each year. In short, memberships are the backbone of Central Gardens; sustenance for this gem of north Iowa.

New for 2022, Central Gardens has added a level to its array of individual and family memberships. The Peony will replace the current Rose level at \$1,000 - \$2,499 and the Rose level will increase to \$2,500 or more. Lily (\$50 - \$99), Daisy (\$100 - \$249), Tulip (\$250 - \$499), and Lilac (\$500 - \$999) levels remain unchanged.

Your membership matters to Central Gardens and our promise to you is to make prudent use of your money. Please help us fulfill our mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun in 2022. Log on to <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/> to renew or establish your membership today.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

- Albert Camus



Central Gardens 2021 CORPORATE MEMBERS

Bonnie Hall, Realtor
Clear Lake Bank and Trust
CL Tel
ControlPrint Creative
Don's Body Shop

Farmers State Bank
Gabrielson Agency
Hansmeier Mowing
Hearing Associates
Images Photography

Lake Liquors
Larson's Mercantile
Laurie Cook Photography
McQuaid Agency
Metalcraft

Pla-Ground Family Farms
Rahm Investments
Sail Inn
Schupick and Associates
The Basic Birder

Pavers and Bricks and Cubes

Did you get married this summer? Celebrate an anniversary? Welcome your first grandchild? Or your tenth? Remember a mentor from high school? Celebrate a life? Encounter a hero? Have a milestone birthday? Appreciate a garden enthusiast? Stumble upon a meaningful quote or passage?

Now you can memorialize the meaningful events and memories of your life with a commemorative paver, brick, or limestone cube in beautiful Central Gardens. The 16" granite paver is ideal for short passages, epitaphs, and family names. It starts at \$1,000 and includes up to 144 characters.

A personalized standard size brick is just \$250 and will honor, commemorate, or memorialize the special people and events in your life in the Gardens for years to come.

For \$1,500, you can have a seat in the Council Ring and leave a legacy in Central Gardens. Seating in the Council Ring has been expanded from twelve to eighteen limestone cubes. The cubes are made from native Iowa limestone and measure 18" on all sides. Pricing includes up to 30 letters. Additional letters are available for purchase.

As a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, your contribution to Central Gardens for the brick, paver, and cube program is tax deductible. For more information about bricks, pavers, and the limestone cubes, please visit our website at <https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/bricks-pavers/> or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.



Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul. - Luther Burbank

CENTRAL GARDENS INSTALLS NEW SIGNAGE

Central Gardens has installed new signage to inform and educate visitors about what they will find here. QR codes on the kiosk at the main entrance shown here link to a plant identification system, an interactive map of the Gardens, and a calendar of events. Each of the over twenty themed gardens have been identified with markers as well.



A Look Back ...

From the October 2016 edition of What's Growing On ...

The Kids BEE Happy Garden is now graced with a wonderful cedar picnic table specially outfitted with a succulent tray to be used by all kids participating in next year's Fresh on Friday events, compliments of Superior Lumber in Clear Lake. Shown here is manager Scott Hart who custom-built the table himself, saying, "If it's for the kids to learn more about nature, then I'm there!" Thank you, Scott!





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

Address Service Requested

BY THE WAY...

No offense to garden clubs – we’re fans of them! But, Central Gardens isn’t one of them. Central Gardens is a public garden that differs from a garden club in the same way a city park differs from the Girl Scouts. Central Gardens is free and open to the public whereas garden clubs are closed to members only. We share common interests in horticulture, environmental stewardship, education, and connectivity but differ in organizational structure and purpose.



Sunday, October 31, Gates close at 4 PM for the season

Sunday, May 1, 2022 Gates open at dawn for the 2022 season

Saturday, May 14, 8 AM - 12 PM Plant Sale and Gardening Fair

Fridays, June 3 – August 26, 9 AM – 11 AM Garden Explorers

Fridays, June 3 – September 2, 9 AM – 11 AM Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales & Refreshments

Sunday, June 26, 1 PM Summer Garden Party

Sundays, July 17 - September 4, 5 PM – 6 PM Picnics & Performances

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information about what's going on at Central Gardens.