



What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness? - John Steinbeck

GRANT SUPPORT FOR *Central Gardens*

Central Gardens received several grants in 2021 that made it possible to present signature events such as the Garden Fiesta and Picnics and Performances, employ a part-time summer groundskeeper, purchase a golf cart, and so much more. Without grant support, Central Gardens would be unable to offer programs and events at no charge, support arts and culture in the community, and enhance learning for all generations.

- Central Gardens is proud to have been one of 118 organizations across 47 Iowa communities selected for marketing support to promote the safe return of arts and culture by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. A total of \$1 million in grants were awarded, ranging from \$1,000 to \$18,000 that were created with federal CARES Act funds that Governor Kim Reynolds allocated to the department.
- The Farrer Foundation of Mason City has generously supported Central Gardens with grant awards since 2004. Most recently, the Foundation awarded Central Gardens with operational funding to support the salary of our part-time summer groundskeeper.
- The Clear Lake Noon Lions awarded Central Gardens grant funding to construct a limestone-edged walkway from the Garden's main path to the Council Ring, making the space more accessible for persons with mobility issues.
- The Beth Reinhart Charitable Trust awarded Central Gardens a grant to establish an ethnic potager and cooking program for local youth in 2022.
- The Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund awarded Central Gardens funds to purchase gardening supplies that support the expansion of youth programming among three age groups: 1 – 8 years old, 9- 12 years old, and youth that are over 13.



CENTRAL GARGENS 2022 *Corporate Members*

A warm welcome to new corporate members, Glen's Tire Service in Clear Lake and Peak Management of Rochester, MN, and a huge thank you to renewing members Clear Lake Bank & Trust, First Gabrielson Agency, Hearing Associates, Images Photography, Lake Auto Service, Metalcraft, and Sail Inn!

Membership dollars support operations that make it possible to fulfill our mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. To establish or renew your membership, please visit our website at <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/>.

Designer Level (\$2,500+)

Hearing Associates, PC

Caretaker Level (\$500 - \$999)

Clear Lake Bank & Trust

First Gabrielson Agency

Sail Inn

Planter Level (\$250 - \$499)

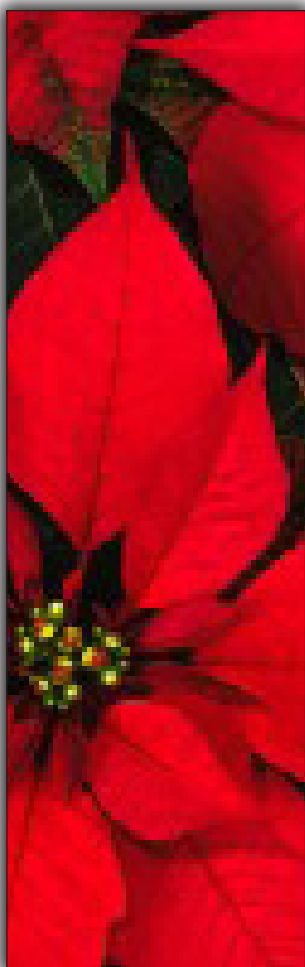
Glen's Tire Service

Images Photography

Lake Auto Service

Metalcraft

Peak Management, LLC



TIPS FROM THE GARDENS:

Poinsettias, Continued

This is part two to what began in the November-December 2021 issue of What's Growing On about caring for poinsettia. You've gotten it through the holidays and you can enjoy your poinsettia again next year by following these steps.

1. **After the holidays**, place the poinsettia in a very sunny indoor spot and keep soil barely moist. Fertilize as package recommends.
2. **March:** Trim to 6 – 8 inches tall after its leaves fall. Continue to water and fertilize.
3. **May:** When poinsettia shows strong, new growth, repot and bring outdoors. Give plant 6 – 8 hours of sunlight daily. Protect from harsh afternoon sun. Fertilize weekly.
4. **Mid-July:** Trim one-quarter of the growing tips to encourage branching. Leave at least 2 – 3 large leaves on each stem. Continue watering and fertilizing.
5. **Early autumn:** Bring indoors when overnight lows are below 60 degrees F.
6. **October 1 to December 15:** Place the poinsettia in complete darkness from 5 PM until 8 AM in temperatures around 65 degrees F. Any light – even for a moment – will ruin your efforts. Place in a sunny location during the day.
7. **Mid-December:** After bracts start to color, a long night is not as necessary, but keep giving it 6 – 8 hours of bright sunlight until completely colored. Stop fertilizing and place the plant in its holiday location. Enjoy!



The Medicine Wheel, or Sacred Hoop, is an ancient symbol important to generations of Native American tribes. Movement in the Medicine Wheel and in Native American ceremonies is circular, and typically in a clockwise or

'sun-wise' direction. This is to express the cyclical movement of nature and invites us to work in harmony with those cycles: life and death, the seasons, times of plenty and lack. Balance, both in relationship with one's surroundings and within one's self, are foundational to the Native American worldview.

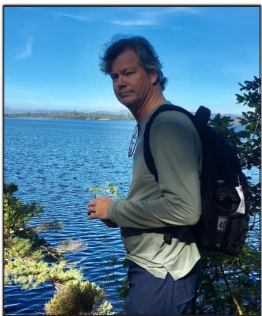
For the Lakota Sioux, symbols on the Medicine Wheel relate to the four hills (infancy, youth, maturity, and old age) and the four races (yellow, red, black, and white). The East is the yellow dawn, the direction of renewal, birth and rebirth, the rising of the sun, peace, and light. The South is the red heat of the noonday sun, the direction of vigor, passion, and warmth. The

West is black, where thunderclouds form. It is the direction of power and of life-giving rain. The North is white, the direction from which the cold wind blows. It is the direction of wisdom and fulfillment of the wind.

Within Central Gardens, the Medicine Wheel Garden is located just inside the main entrance and is so-named because the design incorporates this Native American symbolism. It features a Bur oak, the state tree of Iowa, and designated as the Tree of Life in the courtyard center, with 12 species of hophornbeam trees surrounding the circle to honor each month. The stones placed at each compass point represent the four seasons.

Doug Marty & Anne Eldridge JOIN CENTRAL GARDENS BOARD

Central Gardens welcomes Doug Marty and Anne Eldridge to the board of directors. Doug will serve as the board's vice-president as well as on the finance committee. Anne will continue to serve on the membership & marketing committee.



Doug grew up in Deerfield Illinois and spent every summer in Clear Lake at a cottage on the North Shore (the cottage by the golf course with the Hollyhocks). He attended Drake University where he met his future bride Laura Marty (the real gardener in the family). They made their home in

northern Virginia as Laura had their two children and Doug started the first part of his career at Anderson Consulting building computer systems for banks and investment houses. After a number of years of travel, they decided that they wanted a different lifestyle and they moved to Williamsburg, VA where Doug started the second part of his career as an executive in historic museums, spending 20 years with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, followed by five years at the Minnesota Historical Society as Deputy Director. Doug retired last year during the pandemic and he and Laura moved to Clear Lake. Their daughter lives in California and is a wildland firefighter. Their son lives in North Carolina and is a research scientist. Having spent many summer evenings strolling the grounds of Central Gardens over the past 20 years, Doug is happy to be joining the organization.



Anne recently retired from her career as Executive Assistant to the CEOs of National Bank of Arizona (Phoenix, Arizona) and California Bank and Trust (Irvine, California). Anne and her husband Ron, have five children and six grandchildren, who live

in Seattle, Los Angeles and Phoenix. Anne's love for Clear Lake began early. Her grandparents had a home on South Shore Drive and she spent several weeks every summer in wonderful Clear Lake, Iowa. A few years ago, Anne and Ron decided to buy a summer home here in Clear Lake. Their "summer" home has turned into a "forever" home. Although they will stay in Phoenix during the coldest winter months, they plan to spend more and more time in Iowa. Anne is excited to be a part of Central Gardens of North Iowa and plans to enlist Ron to volunteer at the Gardens as well.





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CENTRAL GARDENS EVENTS:

Volunteers have been hard at work putting together a lineup of activities, educational programs, and events for all to enjoy. Here's a look ahead at the 2022 season.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 *Gates open at dawn for the 2022 season*

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2 PM – 4 PM *Volunteer Open House*

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 7 AM – 8 AM *Morning Bird Walk*

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 8 AM – 12 PM *Plant Sale and Gardening Fair*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 3 – AUG 26, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 3 – AUG 26, 9 AM – 11 AM *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales & Refreshments*

TUESDAYS, JUNE 7, 14, 21, & 28, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM *Garden Coaching*

TUESDAYS, JUNE 14, 21, & 28, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM *Line Dancing with Mary Jo*

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1 PM *Summer Garden Party (Ticketed event)*

SUNDAYS, JULY 17 – SEPTEMBER 4, 5 PM – 6 PM *Picnics & Performances*

Wherever you go, go with all your heart. – Confucius

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for information about these and other events coming up this year in Central Gardens.