



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. – Helen Keller

Better Together, the theme for National Volunteer Week April 17 through 23, is more than a motto; it's a call to action. Not surprisingly, volunteer rosters at nonprofits across the country have diminished in recent years. As the pandemic subsides, and spring ambles in, many of us are longing to reconnect this year in a more meaningful way. There's a place for you at Central Gardens and we invite you to join us to care for this beautiful place.

Volunteers are needed to tend to every aspect of Central Gardens. We rely on volunteers to maintain and beautify the grounds, plant flowers, mulch, weed, and water. We need gatekeepers who can open the gates each day at dawn and close them at dusk. About sixty volunteers are needed to implement and orchestrate the many programs and events we have lined up this year. These include the Plant Sale and Gardening Fair, Fresh on Friday bouquet sales and refreshments, children's activities in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden, Summer Garden Party, Picnics and Performances, the Garden Fiesta, Preservation Celebration and much more. Volunteers are also needed behind the scenes who can serve on committees, help with office work, clean the Pavilion, and distribute rack cards.

Volunteerism is an expression of civic life; an opportunity to plug in to something greater than oneself, and the benefits for doing so are tremendous. Following are the top 10 reasons we think you should take up the call and volunteer at Central Gardens this year:

1. ***It will get you out of the house and into nature.*** Whether you volunteer for a few hours a week, or an hour a month, the Gardens will stimulate your mental muscle and get you out of your comfort zone.
2. ***You will learn new things.*** You'll learn about nature and gain valuable hands-on experience at the Gardens.
3. ***You'll meet new friends.*** Volunteering at Central Gardens is a great way to meet new friends and to strengthen existing relationships with friends, family, and coworkers who come along beside you.
4. ***You'll find a greater sense of community here.*** By bringing your time and talents to the Gardens, working alongside others with a heart for gardens, you will feel more connected to the community as a whole.
5. ***You'll have fun.*** There is always a lot of laughter and fun at Central Gardens, especially in the midst of hard work.
6. ***You can socialize here.*** We host a social hour after each work session, and there are many other opportunities to connect and socialize at the Gardens as well.
7. ***You can learn valuable skills.*** Whether from hands-on experience or by developing interpersonal skills, Central Gardens has opportunities to learn valuable job and life skills.
8. ***Your self-esteem will improve.*** Being in nature, utilizing one's talents, contributing to a greater good, are all known to improve feelings of worth and esteem.
9. ***You'll be happier.*** Doing things that you love to do, connecting with others, accomplishing things for a greater good all contribute to feelings of happiness and content.
10. ***You'll find a sense of purpose here.*** Whether you like to dig in the dirt, help with events, or work on a committee, you'll find that being part of something bigger than yourself at Central Gardens is meaningful and provides a greater sense of purpose.

To learn more about volunteering at Central Gardens, please join us on Sunday, May 1, 2 PM – 4 PM for a volunteer open house. Volunteers will be on hand to answer all of your questions. Come and find your place in the Gardens!

EASTER EGG HUNT *at Central Gardens*

The Clear Lake Jaycees will host a citywide Easter Egg Hunt at Central Gardens on Saturday, April 16, at 10 AM. The event is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars and join us in the Gardens for a whole lot of Easter fun!



THIS SPRING, TRY PROCRASTINATION!

by Brianna Sholly

A few days of warmer weather always has gardeners ready to get out and start working in the yard; but believe it or not, you may be better off waiting. Many insect pollinators, like bees and butterflies, overwinter in leaf litter or dead plant material. They emerge in the spring, generally once temperatures average about 50-55 degrees during the day since they are unable to produce their own body heat. Waiting to deadhead last year's flowers, move piles of wood, or clean up those leaves that blew in just before the first snow could mean more beneficial insects for you to enjoy this year. In Iowa, we generally think of pollinators as honey bees and butterflies, but in fact there are several hundred species of pollinators in our state, including species of moths, flies, beetles, and most importantly, native bees and wasps.

If you've already cleaned things up this year, it's never too late to decide to try a new strategy next year. When fall rolls around, clean up just what you absolutely have to, like the piles of leaves in front of the doors, but leave the rest for late next spring. Use extra leaves to pile onto flower beds to not only insulate them and protect the plants, but create a layer of detritus, the dead material that eventually breaks down into quality top soil.

Did you know that pollinators are responsible for producing one out of every three bites of food we eat, as well as helping pollinate over 100 crops in the United States? If you enjoy coffee, chocolate, vanilla, tomatoes, lettuce, pumpkins, or almonds, you can thank pollinators for those foods. What better reason to 'procrastinate' in the garden? While you're at it, go ahead and let the clover and dandelions in the yard grow - they provide an essential nectar source at a time when not a lot else is blooming!

Central Gardens Membership

Membership dollars are needed right now to purchase plants and flowers for the 2022 season. Please help keep the Gardens a beautiful, welcoming place for all to enjoy. Log on to www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com today to renew or establish your membership to Central Gardens. For information about the benefits of membership, please visit our website, email us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com, or call us at 641-357-0700.

2022 CORPORATE MEMBERS

Designer Level (\$2,500 - \$5,000)

Country Landscapes
Hearing Associates, PC

Gardener Level (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

CL Tel

Caretaker Level (\$500 - \$999)

Bombie, Inc.
Clear Lake Bank & Trust
Dean Snyder Construction
Don's Body Shop
First Gabrielson Agency
Sail Inn
Stellar Industries

Planter Level (\$250 - \$499)

ControlPrint Creative
Farmers State Bank
Glen's Tire Service
Images Photography
Lake Auto Service
Larson's Mercantile
Metalcraft
Peak Management, LLC
Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting



CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES FUNDING

Central Gardens received three (3) grants in recent weeks that are funding important operations and support for youth programs. We are grateful to the following organizations – and their advocates for Central Gardens – that have made this possible.

The Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors has awarded Central Gardens \$2,000 for operational support. Funds will be used to help cover costs associated with purchasing plants and flowers, paying the water bill, and maintaining the grounds.

The DM Dull Fund has provided funding for a live insect zoo for the Bee Happy Discovery Garden that will display a variety of insects and similar arthropods, such as spiders, beetles, cockroaches, ants, bees, millipedes, centipedes, crickets, grasshoppers, stick insects, scorpions, mantids and woodlice.

Clear Lake Jaycees is funding the purchase of 1200 Pollinator Pal/Beneficial Bugs cards for youth to collect from the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. Each week for 12 weeks beginning in June, we will highlight a Pollinator Pal or Beneficial Bug on a 4X6 card. Kids can collect the cards so that, by the end of the summer, they will have a collection of 12 different Pals and Bugs that they can watch for in their own gardens.



Central Gardens of North Iowa
P.O. Box 735
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR Opening day is right around the corner!

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 – AUGUST 26, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 3 – AUGUST 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 Lecture Series*

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 12 PM *Summer Garden Party (Ticketed event)*

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

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.