

May 2022

CENTRAL
GARDENS
of NORTH IOWA

What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

Spring is proof that there is beauty in new beginnings. – Matshona Dhliwayo

WELCOME BACK TO Central Gardens!

Come stroll the grounds and take in the beauty of spring in action as the grass greens and bursts of daffodil, pansies, violets, and iris spread color across the Gardens. You'll find crocus and tulips opening too; triumphant over a relentless winter. Once again, the gates are open dawn to dusk, every day of the week, and we welcome you!

ALL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please join us for the annual May Day Call for Volunteers on Sunday, May 1, from 2 PM to 4 PM to find your place within Central Gardens. Refreshments will be served on the Terrace at the Nature Education Pavilion. You'll learn about opportunities to dig in the dirt, plant flowers, serve on a committee, help with events and programs, and so much more. We need people of all ages and abilities, of varied interests and skills, to serve Central Gardens in variety of ways. Come and enjoy a refreshment and visit with volunteers who can answer questions and get you plugged in.

Welcome **KIRBY SCHMIDT**

Central Gardens welcomes Kirby Schmidt to the board of directors. Kirby grew up on an Iowa farm near Farnhamville and lived there until attending Iowa State University where he graduated with a BS degree in Agriculture Education. After teaching Vocational Agriculture for two years in Webster City he went on to attend the University of Iowa where he received a Juris Doctorate of Law in 1973. He and his wife, Joyce, then moved to Grundy Center, Iowa, where he practiced law with a general practice law firm for 42 years. They raised their two children there and enjoyed small town life. Their son is a Physical Therapist in Grundy Center and their daughter is a writer and homemaker living near Forest City. Kirby retired in 2016 and they moved to Clear Lake where they enjoy the constant activity of this small city.

They live near the north shore and enjoy entertaining their children and six grandsons on their pontoon boat. They spend several months each winter in Fountain Hills, Arizona where he enjoys hiking and golfing. Kirby enjoys how the beauty of the Gardens is comparable to the beauty of a golf course. He is excited to be a part of the Central Gardens team and looks forward to learning what he can offer to help perpetuate the Gardens as one of the most beautiful and therapeutic places in north Iowa. Kirby serves on Central Gardens finance committee.



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SAVE THE DATES!

Events and Activities at the Gardens!

OPENING DAY *Sunday, May 1, 2022*

Gates open daily from dawn to dusk through October 31. Donations are welcome.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE *Sunday, May 1, 2 PM – 4 PM*

From events to gardening, come see how you can be part of our beautiful, growing gardens!

Cornhole Bring your friends and family to play this modified giant bean bag toss on the Activity Lawn.

Garden themed boards and bags are available at the School Bell Gazebo. Free.

MORNING BIRD WALK *Saturdays, May 7 and June 4, 7 AM – 8 AM*

An early morning walk through the Garden with a local birding enthusiast will open your ears and eyes to identifying some of our feathered friends. Bring your binoculars. Free.

GROW! *Informational sessions on May 15 and May 25, 6 PM – 7 PM, and May 26, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM.* This summer program for middle and high school youth is designed to be flexible for this busy age group. Youth will find a variety of areas to explore, including gardening, cooking, community service, and more. Free.

GARDENING FAIR AND PLANT SALE *Saturday, May 21, 8 AM – 12 PM*

This annual event features a variety of perennial plants and garden art for sale. Free garden education and planting activity for kids.

MAY POLE DANCE *Saturday, May 21, 10 AM*

Celebrate Spring with an old-fashioned dance around a May Pole during the Plant Sale & Gardening Fair. Free.

FRESH ON FRIDAY *Fridays, June 3 – September 2, 9 AM – 11 AM*

Enjoy complimentary coffee or infused ice water and purchase beautiful bouquets of fresh cut flowers from the Garden. Free Q & A session on cut flowers and bouquet making at 10 AM.

GARDEN EXPLORERS *Fridays, June 3 – August 26, Drop in 9 AM – 11 AM*

Kids may taste, explore, and help out in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. Gardens activities, special visitors, and Pollinator Pals cards each week. Program partners this year include Clear Lake Arts Center, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, Lime Creek Nature Center, Surf Music Enrichment Center, ISU Insect Zoo, Iowa Waste Exchange, and Landfill of North Iowa. All ages are welcome. Free.

GARDEN COACHING: TIPS & TECHNIQUES FOR THE HOME GARDENER *Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.* Central Gardens teams up with Cerro Gordo ISU Extension to offer this informative series to help get your gardening season off to a great start. Free.

GOLF CROQUET *Open Play Sundays, June 12 - September 4, 2 PM – 4 PM*

Play golf croquet on your own on the Activity Lawn. Equipment is available for check out. Free.

LINE DANCING *Tuesdays, June 14 – September 27, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM*

Enjoy a fun line dancing class in Central Gardens! All ages and skill levels are welcome! Free.

YOGA BUDS *Fridays, June 17, July 1, & August 12, 10:30 AM – 11 AM*

Youth ages 4 and up can let their imaginations run wild as they mimic animals and shapes found in nature. Free.

FROM GARDEN TO GLASS BOTANICAL MIXOLOGY CLASS *Fridays, June 24 and August 26, 6 PM – 8:30 PM.*

Cost: \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Mix up botanical cocktails with Herbalist Christen Sherwood. Alcohol and alcohol-free options available. All materials supplied. Must be 21 to attend. Class size limited to 14.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY *Sunday, June 26 1 PM – 4 PM*

Support the Gardens and enjoy live music, refreshments, heavy appetizers, and a fun auction at this annual fundraising event. Tickets available in advance and at the gate.

BUGS AND BLOOMS *Tuesdays, July 9, 16, and 23 1 PM – 2:30 PM*

A summer program that is ideal for youth in grades 3 through 5, but all are welcome. Free.

ARTISTS PAINT OUT *Saturday August 20, 8 AM – 5 PM (Rain date, Sunday, August 21)*

Central Gardens and the Clear Lake Arts Center (CLAC) invite artists who work in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel or charcoal to come to Clear Lake to paint in plein air.

PICNICS & PERFORMANCES *Sundays, July 17 - September 4, 5 PM – 6 PM*

Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, a beverage of choice, and enjoy live music and entertainment on the Activity Lawn near the School Bell Gazebo. The lineup this year will not disappoint! You won't want to miss a week!

PRESERVATION CELEBRATION *Sunday, September 11, 2 PM – 7 PM*

An event to celebrate and equip for the preservation of nature, food, and culture. Free.

GARDEN FIESTA *Sunday, September 18, 2 PM – 5 PM*

Celebrate Latinx culture in north Iowa with food, art, music, and kids' activities. Free admission and activities. Featuring the Parranderos Latin Combo (PLC) from Des Moines.

PUMPKIN PALOOZA *Saturday, October 15, 4 PM – 7 PM*

Celebrate all things pumpkin with pumpkin carving for youth and adults, food demos, and a pumpkin parade. Free.

*Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at
www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for details on
events and activities coming up this year at Central Gardens.*



CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES FUNDING

In April, the John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation awarded Central Gardens a grant to completely refurbish and expand the Hosta Garden, establish a new Hosta of the Year specimen, and enhance the Medicine Wheel Garden with edging stones for its twelve trees to create annual planting beds that add color and interest on the patio at the main entrance.

The Worth County Development Authority awarded Central Gardens a grant to purchase a changing table and two Step 'n Wash units to make the bathrooms in Central Garden family-accessible.



Central Gardens of North Iowa
 P.O. Box 735
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