



*Oh what is more sweet than the month of June
When our senses thrill and our hearts keep tune
To the song of the birds and the rose in bloom?*

*Oh what is more fair as the sun climbs high
Than the azure hue of the summer sky
And the snow-white clouds drifting idly by?*

*Oh what is more pure than the summer air
That wafts from the woodlands and gardens fair
A fragrance and perfume so rich and rare?*

*And if we could hold in some magic way
To your trailing robes for a single day,
Dear month of June, we would bid you stay.*

- Excerpts of June by Lottie Brown Allen

you are invited to **OUR GARDEN PARTY!**

Please join us for what promises to be a fun and festive afternoon at the **2022 Summer Garden Party on Sunday, June 24, from noon to 3 PM on the Ceremonial Lawn at Central Gardens.** The event will feature live music by local favorite, Bill Jarnigan, a fun, lively auction by Gary Heydt, and food catered by Scott McCormick.

Auction items include ISU vs Big 12 Team football tickets, fused glass by Chris White, gift certificates from Country Landscapes and Images Photography, and much, much more. All proceeds from this signature fundraising event will support costs associated with maintaining and beautifying the Gardens. Those costs include water, utilities, and the purchase of flowers, plants, and related material – costs that are all on the rise, making the success of this years' event even more critical.



Tickets are **\$40** in advance, **\$45** at the gate, or reserve a table for eight for just **\$250**. To purchase tickets, please send payment to Central Gardens of North Iowa, PO Box 735, Clear Lake, IA 50428 or pay online at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/Donate. If you have any questions, please contact us at 641-357-0700 or info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES FUNDING

Alliant Energy has provided Central Gardens grant funding for Pumpkin Palooza, a celebration of all things pumpkin, scheduled this fall.

The City of Clear Lake has allocated funding to Central Gardens for operational expenses such as utilities and water, insurance costs, and the purchase of tools, plants, and shrubs needed for the grounds.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

at Central Gardens

The Bee Happy Discovery Garden is an organic, specialty garden within Central Gardens with 11 raised beds, an arbor, bean tepee, bee house, and a chicken coop. A variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers are grown in this garden that is designed to foster learning, exploration, creativity, and play in children of all ages.

Connectedness to nature is positively linked to children's psychological wellbeing and development and has been found to improve concentration, learning, creativity, cognitive development, cooperation, flexibility, and self-awareness. It has also been found to prevent childhood obesity. Other studies suggest that is essential for young children to develop a healthy microbiome, or personal microbe ecosystem, and establishing a close relationship to dirt, nature, and eating veggies fresh from the garden can help to achieve that as well.

Through garden development and thoughtful programming, our goal is to provide youth with an interactive garden space that inspires curiosity, builds knowledge, kindles passion, and strengthens respect for all living things. This summer, Central Gardens will offer three programs targeting different age groups. All of our youth programs are free and open to the public.

Garden Explorers take place every Friday morning throughout June, July, and August. This program is for all ages but primarily for kids from 2-12 years old. Kids can help water, feed the chickens, pick and taste vegetables, observe pollinators, and feel empowered to be a partner to mother nature. The garden serves as a sensory playground where creativity and discovery abound!

In addition to volunteer led garden activities, each week various community partners provide their own activities to educate and inspire, providing rich programming and connecting families with entities they may not already be familiar with. Some of our community partners include Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, Clear Lake Arts Center, Clear Lake Public Library, Lime Creek Nature Center, and many more.

A new offering this year is **Bugs and Blooms**, a program ideally suited for youth in 3rd through 5th grade. This three-session class will allow kids to dig in a little deeper into how nature works and build practical skills through fun gardening activities.

Middle School and High School students can participate in **GROW!**, a program designed to be very flexible for this busy age group. There will be a variety of areas to explore, including gardening, cooking, community service and more. We will team up with the local food pantry and the Cerro Gordo Iowa State Extension to help reduce food insecurity. Our new Italian and Asian cooking gardens will provide an opportunity to learn about other cultures as well as how to prepare some dishes using these vegetables. Youth may also choose to help out with the Garden Explorers or sell produce and bouquets on Friday mornings.

Come visit the Gardens on a Friday morning this summer and you'll find the garden all abuzz with laughter and learning! Adults are welcome too!



FEATURED VOLUNTEER: *Alice Hanley*



Alice Hanley

Alice Hanley has had a heart for Central Gardens from the beginning. She admired the vision Julie Wright and others had to shepherd the site of four former

Clear Lake schools into green space for north Iowa, and has marveled at how the Gardens have developed over nearly 22 years.

During one of her walks through the Gardens six or seven year ago,

someone mentioned to Alice that Central Gardens needed help opening the gates each morning. She had wanted to get involved at the Gardens for some time but wasn't one to dig in the dirt. She thought gatekeeping was something she could do and she dove right in.

Alice is a devoted volunteer not only to Central Gardens but also to organizations across north Iowa. She's been involved with Macnider Art Museum, 43 North Iowa, Wright on the Park, Clear Lake Arts Center, One Vision, First Congregational Church, the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and

scores of other organizations. In fact, if there is a nonprofit in north Iowa, she has probably been involved in it. "I feel everybody should help in some way," says Alice.

Alice continues to open the garden gates every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, at dawn, from May 1 until October 31. If you're interested in volunteering at Central Gardens, please contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or visit our website.

CENTRAL GARDENS HIRES GROUNDSKEEPER

Seventeen-year-old Roger Rietjens, a junior at Clear Lake High School, has joined Central Gardens as a part-time groundskeeper for the summer. Roger volunteered for spring clean up and the Plant Sale and Gardening Fair last year, and he proved himself to be a hard worker, conscientious and willing to learn. He has been working weekends this year, long before school let out, to tend to the grounds. Roger is experienced with lawn and garden care, a member of Clear Lake Classical, and a life guard at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp. Welcome Roger!



Roger Rietjens

Thank You MEMBERS

Central Gardens relies on membership dollars to fulfill its mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. Memberships keep the gates open, dawn to dusk, every day, without admission fees and support dozens of programs and events that are offered free of charge. We are so thankful for our members who support us year-round so that the gardens bloom again each spring. A special thank you to the following corporate members:

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS

Fridays, June 3, 10, 17, & 24, 9 AM – 11 AM *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales & Refreshments*

Fridays, June 3, 10, 17, & 24, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers (Free)*

Saturday, June 4, 7 AM – 8 AM *Morning Bird Walk (Free)*

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM *Garden Coaching Lecture Series (Free)*

Mondays and Thursdays, June 6 - September 1, 10 AM *Golf Croquet Open Play (Free)*

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM *Line Dancing with Mary Jo (Free)*

Friday, June 17, 10:30 AM – 11 AM *Yoga Buds (Ages 4+, Free)*

Friday, June 24, 6 PM – 8:30 PM *Garden to Glass Botanical Mixology Class (Ticketed event)*

Sunday, June 26, 12 Noon *Summer Garden Party (Ticketed event)*

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for information about these and other events coming up in 2022 Central Gardens.

