

July 2022

CENTRAL  
GARDENS  
of NORTH IOWA

# What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

*The hum of bees is the voice of the garden. – Elizabeth Lawrence*

## RECORD ATTENDANCE at the Summer Garden Party!

On Sunday, June 26, nearly 200 people turned out for Central Gardens' annual Summer Garden Party, one of just three fundraising events the Gardens hosts each year. While a bit breezy at times, the weather was ideal; beautifully displaying the Gardens as the gem that it is. Bill Jarnigan entertained the crowd with Ricky Nelson tunes followed by Gary Heydt, who orchestrated a fun and lively auction. And the crowd was generous, their hearts for Central Gardens apparent.



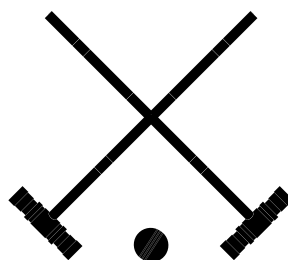
Dozens of volunteers worked for several weeks to put together a successful, fun-filled event. One of our guests, Kathy Ingram, commented the next day, "We so enjoyed the Garden Party ... Such a wonderful event to celebrate the growth and success of Central Gardens." Our heartfelt thanks to Clear Lake Bank and Trust for their funding of the event. Other sponsors included Bombie (Bonnie Hall), Brothers Ace Hardware, ControlPrint Creative, Country Landscapes, Hearing Associates, Images Photography, Lake Liquors, Larson's Mercantile, and Yohnco. Thank you for supporting Central Gardens!

## GOLF CROQUET AT CENTRAL GARDENS

The origins of croquet are cloudy. It may have started in Africa and made its way to Ireland and then on to England. The original illustrations in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, published in 1865, show Alice playing croquet. The Wimbledon Club began in 1868 as the All England Croquet Club. Its logo is Lawn and Tennis Club. And it is that heritage that has the Wimbledon tennis tournament players wearing white and playing on grass courts.

The game came to North America with the English colonists and later spread as a popular backyard family game. Organized croquet began in the United States post WWII. In the 1990s, a new flavor of the game, golf croquet, emerged and has enjoyed popularity worldwide. Golf croquet is a simpler form of the game, with fewer rules and a faster format than the more formal 9-wicket game.

Golf croquet is played at Central Gardens on the Ceremonial Lawn, and there is no charge for instruction and use of equipment or facilities. Join us on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM for an introduction to golf croquet, followed by open play at 3 PM. Organized groups play on Monday and Thursday mornings. Other sessions may be added as demand warrants. For further information and scheduling questions, please call Ann at 612-850-8975.



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# PICNICS & PERFORMANCES IS BACK!

The seventh season of Picnics and Performances kicks off on Sunday, July 17 at 5 PM with Carter Guse, a 16-year-old singer songwriter who will perform a range of genres from the 50s to today. This beloved series has grown in popularity each year, both among guests and artists who want to perform in the Gardens. Over 1,000 people attended Picnics and Performances in 2021 and we expect even more this year with the expansion of the series to eight shows.

Mark your calendar because you won't want to miss a week. All shows are on Sunday afternoons, 5 PM – 6 PM. Enjoy free admission each week thanks to the generosity of our donors. Admission to Central Gardens is always free. Donations are welcome.

Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, a beverage of choice, and enjoy live music and family-friendly entertainment on the Activity Lawn near the School Bell Gazebo all summer long.

*Special thanks to the Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation for underwriting the series again this year and to corporate sponsors CL Tel, Glen's Tires, and Schupick and Associates.*



**JULY 17 CARTER GUSE** performs a variety of music from the 50s to today.

**JULY 24 PAUL WEITZEL AND THE HATS** offers a mix of original Americana and covers from Bob Dylan, John Prine, Jason Isbell and others.

**JULY 31 MELISSA DORENKAMP & SAM CROSSER** performs an eclectic mix of show tunes.

**AUGUST 7 LEVI SMITH & BRENT ESTLUND** are back by popular demand for an amazing acoustic performance.

**AUGUST 14 COME BACK BUDDY** performs 50s rock 'n roll, providing great entertainment for dancing and fun.

**AUGUST 21 IOWA SHAKESPEARE EXPERIENCE (ISE)** presents its innovative short play Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy.

**AUGUST 28 JIM & DAVE** play the best of the 50s, 60s, & 70s, including pop, blues, country, rock 'n roll, ballads, & more.

**SEPTEMBER 4 MATT WOODS**, blues musician with Iowa homegrown roots and 2021 Blues Music Award Nominee.



## CENTRAL GARDENS WELCOMES RISING STARS

The ISU Rising Star Internship is a paid internship for eligible Iowa State University students working under the supervision of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach regional directors and staff mid-May to early August. Pictured here are four Rising Star interns who are working on manual for Central Gardens' volunteers this summer. From left to right are Cooper Frakes, Sarah M. Nelson, Aleyda N. Ramirez-Reyes, and Rebecca C. Crawford. Welcome Rising Stars!

# CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES FUNDING



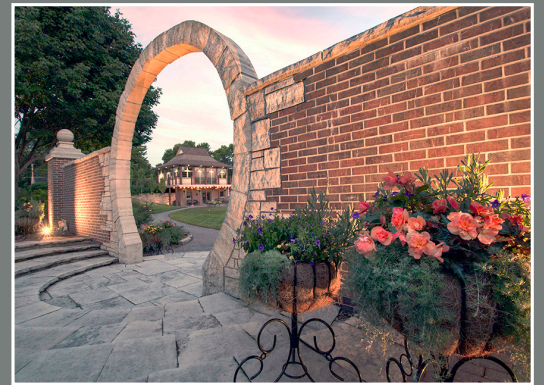
Grant funding is a mission-critical revenue stream for Central Gardens, providing essential support for maintenance, beautification, programming, and events. In June, Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation awarded funding for the seventh season of Picnics and Performances, July 17 through September 4, and Clear Lake Bank & Trust provided funding for the Summer Garden Party fundraiser that took place on June 26. The Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa provided funding for youth programs in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. Also in June, Central Gardens received a gift from the John Ruan Foundation Trust. In 2021, the Trust selected Central Gardens as “a very worthy organization as part of {their} annual giving program.” We are so grateful to these and other funders that keep the Gardens strong and beautiful. Thank you!

## Rent The Gardens

Central Gardens doesn't just grow beautiful flowers, organic vegetables, and diverse flora, it also grows unique experiences, laughter, and treasured memories shared with family and friends. The Gardens is host to numerous private events and gatherings throughout the year including anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, and more. And love is always in full bloom at the Gardens, with nearly twenty “I Do’s” taking place under the Moon Gate each year.

Central Gardens proudly offers several one-of-a-kind locations that are sure to be the perfect spot for your next event. The Nature Education Pavilion, Moon Gate and Theater Steps, Ceremonial and Activity Lawns, Council Ring and School Bell Gazebo, and the Naturalist and Reunion Terraces are available for groups of all sizes.

Let Central Gardens be the backdrop at your next get together. For more information about rental options, visit our website at: <https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/rent/> or contact us at [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com) or 641-357-0700 to check for availability, set up a tour, and reserve your date today.



## CENTRAL GARDENS VOLUNTEERS AWARDED

Becke Dorenbush, current president of Central Gardens and past-president Troyce Fisher are pictured here after having been presented with the Paul Harris Fellow award by Mason City Noon Rotary Club president Connie Bleile at the club's June 13 meeting. Also pictured is Corine Hadley, long-time Rotary member and Central Gardens supporter, who nominated Becke and Troyce for the designation. The award acknowledges those who have displayed “Service Above Self” in their volunteer contributions to the community. In their thank you remarks, Fisher and Dorenbush commended the Rotary Club for its long-standing support of Central Gardens. Mason City Noon Rotary has supported Central Gardens since its inception in 2000 and continuing to the present with both financial and hands-on volunteer efforts. Congratulation Becke and Troyce!





Central Gardens of North Iowa  
P.O. Box 735  
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**Address Service Requested**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS

**Fridays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments*

**Fridays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Garden Explorers for kids (Free)*

**Friday, July 1, 10:30 AM – 11 AM** *Yoga Buds, ages 4 and up (Free)*

**Sundays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2 PM – 4 PM** *Intro to Golf Croquet and Open Play (Free)*

**Tuesdays, July 5, 12, 19, & 26, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM** *Line Dancing with Mary Jo (Free)*

**Tuesdays, July 9, 16, & 23 1 PM – 2:30 PM** *Bugs and Blooms, 3rd – 5th grade (Free)*

**Sundays, July 17, 24, & 31, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances (Free)*

*Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com) for information about these and other events coming up this year in Central Gardens.*

