



Welcome, winter. Your late dawns and chilled breath make me lazy, but I love you nonetheless.
- Terri Guillemets

New Member Benefits: RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS



Central Gardens of North Iowa is excited to announce that, beginning January 1, it will participate in the American Horticultural Society's (AHS) Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP), and that's good news for our members. RAP promotes horticulture across North America by encouraging people to visit gardens and other horticultural institutions. The program boasts more than 345 participating gardens and arboretums in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and the Caribbean.

While admission to Central Gardens is always free, other gardens across Iowa and across the country do charge admission and parking fees. "A 2023 membership card to Central Gardens is your ticket to free admission, free parking, and free or discounted admission to programs and events at gardens across America and beyond," says Becke Dorenbusch, Central Gardens president.

You'll find seven other organizations that are also participating in Iowa, including Greater Des Moines

Botanical Garden, Vander Veer Botanical Park in Davenport, and Reiman Gardens in Ames. Do you winter in Florida? More than 40 gardens and arboretums participate in RAP across that state. With hundreds of participating gardens across North America and in the Caribbean, there is likely to be one near your next destination.

Support the Gardens and take advantage of the Reciprocal Admissions Program and other member benefits offered by Central Gardens by establishing or renewing your membership for today. Simply scan the QR code or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com. You're also welcome to email us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or give us a call. We're happy to help.

For more information about RAP and a complete listing of participating institutions, visit the AHS website at www.ahsgardening.org/rap.

CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES AAS DESIGNATION

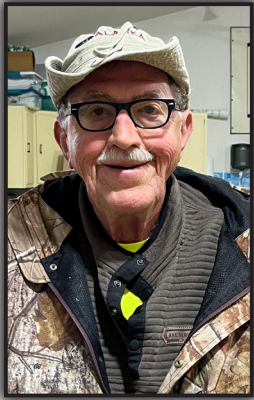
Central Gardens has received the honor of being designated an All-American Selections (AAS) demonstration garden, one of 10 such gardens in Iowa and nearly 200 across the US.

All-American Selections is an independent non-profit organization that tests new, never before sold, varieties for the home gardener. Founded in 1923, its mission is to promote new garden varieties with superior garden performance judged in impartial trials in North America. Each winter, AAS announces flower and vegetable winners of its field trials. As a demonstration garden, Central Gardens will receive free seeds and seedlings

to plant and signs for identification. For several years, Central Gardens has planted AAS winners in the Plant of the Year and Bee Happy Discovery Gardens. Information about Central Gardens will be posted on the AAS website to encourage visits by gardeners from across the country.



Thank You, MERLE TIEDEMANN



For over 13 years, since 2009, Merle Tiedemann has been a mainstay of Central Gardens. It all started one summer morning when he and his wife, Julie, brought their grandson to Fresh on Friday to participate in activities in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. They met Roger and Gail Haringa that day and, having persuaded nearly everyone that has served with the Down and Dirty crew to join him, Roger enlisted Merle's help too. Merle recalls that by the end of the day, he had a key to the gate.

Merle devoted himself to the heavy-lifting it takes to maintain and beautify Central Gardens. The pond, fountain, and stream have been under his care, and Mother Earth's Workshop his domain, for many years now. He's pulled stumps, cleared heavy brush, and made repairs big and small throughout the grounds. He is a skilled craftsman and he can fix anything.

He greets visitors with a great smile and has been a strong advocate for Central Gardens, encouraging grandchildren and other family members to get involved. "The boys needed hours for Boy Scouts, so we'd line up hours here," Merle said. They went on to organize Tiedemann family volunteer days at the Gardens with as many as 10 members joining

in. In 2020, Central Gardens hired Merle's grandson, Drake, as its part-time summer groundskeeper. For two years, until he graduated from Northwood-Kensett High School, Drake worked under the tutelage of his Grandpa Merle and together they tackled lengthy job lists nearly every day.

Merle retired from Central Gardens at the end of this season. We will miss his great care in the day-to-day upkeep of the Gardens, his dedication, and his friendly face. Central Gardens is so grateful to Merle for the love and dedication he has poured out for this beautiful place. He has accomplished so much here and we wish him well. Thank you, Merle!

A Sale and a Celebration

Stroll the paths around Central Gardens and you'll probably notice the special people, quotations, and meaningful events that have been captured in bricks and pavers along the way. Bricks and pavers are organized in the Gardens across various themes. There's a walk for Rotarians and one for heroes. The Alumni Walk celebrates alums of the four schools that stood on these grounds. The Faculty Walk commemorates faculty and staff of Clear Lake schools. The Wedding Walk is dedicated to weddings and anniversaries and the Gardeners Walk, which runs alongside Mother Earth's Workshop, celebrates gardeners and gardening. You'll find pavers filled with stories outside the Pavilion on the Victorian Terrace and sweet sentiments scattered on bricks on the Naturalist Terrace.

New this year, Central Gardens has designated the path that lies between the Shade and Lily Gardens at the northwest entrance as the Friendship Walk. The Friendship Walk is a celebration of friendship and all that bonds us as friends and as a community. Bricks and pavers may

be placed in the new walk that honor and memorialize friends and friendship the world over.

Normally \$250, now for a limited time a personalized standard size brick may be purchased at a discounted price of just \$200. A 16" granite paver, ideal for short passages, epitaphs, and family names, is also available for the sale price of \$800. Don't delay! This sale ends December 31, 2022. As a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, your contribution to Central Gardens for a brick or paver is tax deductible. For more information, or to place your order, please visit our website at <https://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/bricks-pavers/> or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.



Central Gardens WINS!

Thousands poured into Clear Lake for the 18th Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 1st. The weather was ideal and, according to the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, the event attracted record numbers. And, for the second year in a row, Central Gardens took first place in the Harvest Festival light pole decorating contest! Congratulations to Michelle Holdridge for a job very well done!



HAPPY
Holidays!

2022 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 AND UP)

Country Landscapes
Hearing Associates, PC

GARDENER (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

CL Tel
Yohnco

CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Bombie (Bonnie Hall)
Clear Lake Bank & Trust
Dean Snyder Construction
Don's Body Shop
First Gabrielson Agency
Lake Liquors
Larson's Mercantile
Sail Inn
Stellar Industries

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

Brothers Ace Hardware
ControlPrint Creative
Farmers State Bank
Glen's Tire Service
Images Photography
Jane Fischer & Associates
Lake Auto
Laurie Cook Photography
Metalcraft, Inc.
North Iowa Community Credit Union
Peak Management
Pla-Ground Family Farms
Schupick & Associates, PC
Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting
The Basic Birder



CENTRAL
GARDENS
of NORTH IOWA



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Address Service Requested

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FOR DETAILS ABOUT THESE AND OTHER EVENTS

COMING UP IN 2023 AT CENTRAL GARDENS!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4 PM – 7 PM *Pumpkin Palooza (Free)*

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 *Gates open at dawn for the 2023 season*

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 8 AM - 12 PM *Plant Sale and Gardening Fair*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 2 – AUGUST 25, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers (Free)*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 2 – SEPTEMBER 1, 9 AM – 11 AM *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments*

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1 PM *Summer Garden Party (Ticketed event)*

SUNDAYS, JULY 16 - SEPTEMBER 3, 5 PM – 6 PM *Picnics & Performances (Free)*