

JAN/FEB 2023

CENTRAL
GARDENS
of NORTH IOWA

What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it. -John Burroughs

Resolve to get Involved!

It's that time of year again! That's right. It's **time to plan our gardens** for spring, summer, and fall! Like many of you, volunteers at Central Gardens have been combing through seed catalogs and magazines, making selections for the annual beds, Bee Happy Discovery Garden, and the Cutting Garden, and taking stock of how best to beautify and maintain Central Gardens this year. Vegetable and flower seeds from All-American Selections (AAS) have arrived and several volunteers are getting those and other seeds started in their homes. The plants will be moved to the Gardens when spring arrives at last and they're ready to transplant.

What are your plans for the coming season? As you think about your own garden, won't you consider giving a bit of yourself to Central Gardens this year? **Central Gardens needs volunteers** who are available this spring to transplant hundreds of plants, lay mulch,

and haul away winter debris. There will be an inevitable break in a pump, fountain, or water line, and, with Merle's retirement, we need a volunteer or two with expertise in pond care.

Work begins in early April to prepare the grounds for the **gates to open on May 1**. Just one hour a week would help,

but two hours would ensure our timeline. Please help! Simply contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or at 641-357-0700 to get started.



GRANT SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GARDENS

Farrer Endowment Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation located in Mason City, awarded Central Gardens funding for a part-time summer groundskeeper, a role that has become essential as the Gardens mature. The Foundation has been a longstanding supporter of the Gardens with grants dating back to 2004 for site development. Central Gardens is so very grateful to Farrer for their generous support through the years! Thank you!

Our heartfelt thanks to Walmart in Mason City as well for providing funding for Central Gardens first-ever Pumpkin Palooza that was held in October and attended by some 780 people. We are grateful, Walmart! Thank you!

Plan Your ESCAPE



Don't miss out! An individual membership to Central Gardens is your ticket to free or discounted admission, parking, and special events at over 345 gardens and arboretums across North America and the Caribbean. Find participating gardens that are near your next destination at www.ahsgardening.org/rap. Join us today! Simply scan the QR code to become a member of Central Gardens and start planning your escape!

DOUG MARTY NAMED CENTRAL GARDENS PRESIDENT

Central Gardens board of directors has elected Doug Marty as its president effective January 1. While Doug grew up near Chicago, his father's family had a cabin on Clear Lake since the 1920s, and he had the opportunity to visit Clear Lake for a couple of months each summer. He has spent many happy hours waterskiing on the lake and drifting around in an innertube. Professionally, he was an executive with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for 20 years and the Minnesota Historical Society for 5 years. He and his wife Laura retired in 2020 and decided their future was in Clear Lake, so they purchased and started to restore an 1870s house on Main Avenue. Doug and Laura have two children, one is a wildland firefighter in California, and one is a research scientist in North Carolina. Laura has been an active gardener for many years, while Doug is an avid woodworker. Both

began volunteering at the Gardens in 2021, and Doug joined the board in 2022 as vice president. Visiting Clear Lake for so many years and watching Central Gardens of North Iowa grow from a seed of an idea to what it is today has been an absolute joy for him and he credits the efforts of Central Gardens many volunteers, which have been extraordinary. As president of Central Gardens, Doug looks forward to continued work with the board and other volunteers to fulfill our mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.



HOME GARDENING SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 3RD

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program has announced it will again host the Home Gardening Webinar Series, beginning on January 3 and ending March 8. The series is free and open to the public. All webinars will be live with questions and answers at the end. Registration is required and limited to 500 participants.

Designed for anyone who is interested in gardening or horticulture, the series aims to inspire and educate. Throughout the series, participants will hear from experts at Iowa State, the University of Illinois, North Dakota State University, Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Reiman Gardens on a variety of topics of interest to local gardeners.

Zoom registration for each webinar session is available at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/webinar-series>, or on the Iowa State University Master Gardener Facebook page.

For more information, please contact Alicia Herzog at 515-294-3627 or mgardener@iastate.edu.

RENT THE GARDENS! Looking for a place to host a shower, hold a business meeting, or have a birthday party? Central Gardens proudly offers the Nature Education Pavilion for rent year-round. The Pavilion features floor-to-ceiling tinted windows with a view of the Ceremonial Lawn and surrounding gardens. It is equipped with Wi-Fi, a monitor for projection, a full-size refrigerator on the lower level and beverage cooler upstairs, microwave, ample counter space on both levels, a large bathroom, tables and chairs, as well as

three high-top tables. The Pavilion can be rented alone or in combination with the Moon Gate and Ceremonial Lawn for events such as weddings and celebration of life services May through October. No matter what you're planning, no matter what time of year, from small gatherings to large events, Central Gardens provides a stunning backdrop for all to enjoy. For more information about renting the Gardens, please visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com or contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.



OTHER CHANGES TO THE *Board of Directors*



David Burgart was elected by Central Gardens' board of directors as vice president effective January 1. David grew up on a family farm in northeast Iowa that was self-sufficient with milk cows, chickens, beef cattle, hogs, and a large garden and orchard. He retired in 2016 after 40 years working as a software engineer. David

and his wife, Jeanne, who is also a volunteer at Central Gardens, have four children and four grandchildren. Their children are spread out around the United States, Cedar Rapids, IA, Los Altos, CA, Seattle, WA and Arvada, CO, so he and Jeanne get plenty of opportunities for travel to visit them. David loves visits with his grandchildren, camping, canoeing, gardening, reading, and volunteering for other organizations such as the RSVP and SHIIP. David began volunteering at the Gardens in 2014 and joined the Central Gardens board of directors in November 2019. He is looking forward to helping Central Gardens grow and succeed in its third decade of operation.



Former president, Becke Dorenbusch, will continue to serve as a member of Central Gardens board of directors and on working committees including Membership and Marketing, Summer Garden Party, and Grants Review. In addition to caring for the Low Shrub Garden, which Becke and husband Mark

adopted, the couple will continue to participate in weekly Down and Dirty work sessions. Becke will also be working closely with Joni Frederick, Central Gardens part-time development coordinator, to attract and retain a broader base of local and regional business support this year.



Tyler Weigel is the newest member to join Central Gardens' board of directors. Tyler was born and raised in Clear Lake and then attended the University of Northern Iowa. From there he moved to Minneapolis for a few years working in the insurance sector before returning to Clear Lake to work for CLB&T Insurance in 2013.

Tyler married his wife Britney in 2016 and they have two sons, William and Joseph. Tyler and his family can be found around the community taking in all the events and attractions Clear Lake has to offer year-round. Tyler is also involved in the Clear Lake Jaycees and the Clear Lake Noon Lions. He looks forward to getting more involved with Central Gardens and giving back to a great asset that Clear Lake offers.

2023 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 AND UP)
Hearing Associates, PC

GARDENER (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
CL Tel
Don's Body Shop

CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Clear Lake Bank & Trust
First Gabrielson Agency
Larson's Mercantile
Sail Inn

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

ControlPrint Creative
Glen's Tire Service
Jane Fischer & Associates
Lake Auto
Metalcraft, Inc.
North Iowa Community
Credit Union
Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting





Central Gardens of North Iowa
P.O. Box 735
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Address Service Requested

Though the grounds are sleeping, Central Gardens volunteers continue to plan for the coming season. Check out the lineup of events, mark your calendars, and follow us on Facebook for updates as we fill in the details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023, 2 PM – 4 PM *Volunteer Open House*

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

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

TUESDAYS, MAY 26 – SEPT 26, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM *Line Dancing (Free)*

FRIDAYS, JUNE 2 – SEPT 1, 9 AM – 11 AM *Garden Explorers (Free)*

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

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

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

SATURDAY, SEPT 9, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM *Preservation Celebration (Free)*

SUNDAY, SEPT 10, 5 PM – 7 PM *Harvest Dinner (Ticketed event)*

SUNDAY, SEPT 24, 2 PM – 5 PM *Garden Fiesta (Free)*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 4 PM – 7:30 PM *Pumpkin Palooza (Free)*

