

APRIL 2023

CENTRAL
GARDENS
NORTH IOWA

What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart. – Rainer Maria Rilke

Volunteer Positions Available At Central Gardens

Did you know that you can make a difference at Central Gardens by increasing your involvement as a volunteer? Volunteers are needed right now to prepare Central Gardens for opening day on May 1 and to maintain and beautify the grounds throughout the season. Immediate help is needed to clear winter debris, uncover planters, urns, and spigots, and to fire up the watering systems and fountain. Soon, hundreds of plants and flowers will arrive that need to be planted as well. And there will be truckloads of mulch to spread around the beds.

But you don't have to enjoy digging in dirt to find a place here in the Gardens. There are several committees that serve all aspects of the organization including all the activities, programs and events Central Gardens



offers. The Finance Committee is looking for an Assistant Treasurer who can take over when the current Treasurer's term ends at the end of the year. Central Gardens is also looking for a Volunteer Coordinator who can organize the work, the people, and promote volunteerism in the Gardens.

Roughly 90% of what it takes to run and operate Central Gardens is done by volunteers and our roster is down from what it was last year. Won't you consider becoming a volunteer at Central Gardens? Contact us today and in no time, you'll find a niche for yourself at Central Gardens. Or, join us on Sunday, April 30, between 2 PM and 4 PM to learn more about volunteering at Central Gardens. We look forward to hearing from you!

NEW BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS IS A BIG HIT

For 2023, Central Gardens implemented a new benefit for members that is rapidly gaining in popularity. Members of Central Gardens have received free admission to gardens across the country thanks to a pass-through benefit from the American Horticultural Society (AHS), saving hundreds of dollars in fees.

We've heard from members who have visited the Desert Botanical Garden, in Phoenix, AZ, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, in Durham, NC, Airlie Gardens, in Wilmington, NC, Tohono Chul Park, in Tucson, AZ, Denver Botanical Gardens, and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, in Sarasota, FL, all free of charge. Pictures of these gardens are featured throughout this issue of What's Growing On.

The process is seamless: simply present your Central Gardens membership card and enjoy the benefits of being a member of the gardens you visit. With over 345

participating gardens and arboretums across North America and the Caribbean, 8 in Iowa alone (including Reiman Gardens in Ames and the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden), you're sure to find participating gardens at or near your next destination.

Visit www.ahsgardening.org/rap to locate participating gardens and start planning your next adventure to gardens everywhere! Visit our website to become a member of Central Gardens today!





SAVE THE DATES!

Events and Activities at the Gardens!

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 30, 2 PM – 4 PM

From gardening to events, come find your place at Central Gardens!

OPENING DAY *Monday, May 1*

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

Free admission. Donations are appreciated.

CORNHOLE Bring your friends and family to play this modified giant bean bag toss anytime on the Activity Lawn. Garden themed boards and bags are available at the School Bell Gazebo. Free.

BIRD WALKS *Thursday May 11, 8 AM and 6:30 PM*

Enjoy a walk through the Gardens with a local birding enthusiast who will open your ears and eyes to identifying some of our feathered friends. Bring your binoculars. Free.

GARDENING FAIR AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 20, 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 20, 10 AM*

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

LINE DANCING *Tuesdays, May 23 – September 26, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM*

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

GARDENERS OF TOMORROW INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS *on Tuesday, May 23 and Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 PM – 7 PM.*

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.

STROLLING STORIES *Thursday, May 25, 5:30 PM*

Join Clear Lake Public Library for a stroll through the Gardens and a story. Designed for families with children ages 3 – 6 but all are welcome. Free.

FRESH ON FRIDAY

Fridays, June 2 – September 1, 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 2 – September 1, Drop in 9 AM – 11 AM

Kids can taste, explore, and help out in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. Garden activities and special visitors 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.

YOGA BUDS *Fridays, June 16, July 21, & August 18, 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.

INTRODUCTION TO GOLF CROQUET

Sundays, June 4 – June 25, 2 PM

Come learn the interactive and easy to learn game of golf croquet on the beautiful Ceremonial Lawn. Free.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Wednesdays, June 7 – July 19, 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

Explore sounds and songs, make music with instruments, and explore how our bodies move with games and activities. Designed for ages 2 – 6, but all are welcome to join. Free.

FROM GARDEN TO GLASS

BOTANICAL MIXOLOGY CLASS *Friday, June 23, 6 PM – 8 PM and Saturday, July 22, 3 PM – 5 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 is limited to 14.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY *Sunday, June 25, 12 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.

PICNICS & PERFORMANCES

Sundays, July 16 - September 3, 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

Saturday, September 9, 1:30 PM -4:30 PM Share your ideas and learn how to preserve those things that are important to us, including food, flowers, culture, the environment and more. This is a fun and interactive event for all ages. Free.

HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, September 10, 5 PM – 7 PM Autumn's bounty of local food will be celebrated with an amazing dinner served amidst the Garden's fall glory. Limited tickets available.

STORY WALK

All day, every day, September 15 – October 15 Start inside the main gate and follow the signs through the Gardens to read a bilingual story in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month! The StoryWalk® is a wonderful way for readers of all ages to combine literacy skills and healthy exercise. Free.

GARDEN FIESTA

Sunday, September 24, 2 PM – 5 PM Celebrate Latinx culture in north Iowa with food, art, music, and kids' activities. Free admission and activities. Todos son bienvenidos!

PUMPKIN PALOOZA

Saturday, October 14, 4 PM – 7:30 PM Celebrate all things pumpkin with pumpkin carving for youth and adults, food demos, activities, 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.

COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARY

Last spring, Central Gardens partnered with the Clear Lake Public Library to create a Community Seed Library. On April 1, 2022, patrons found a small seed collection near the Library's upstairs circulation desk with information on how to plant and care for a garden. There has been a movement across the country to start these collections of seeds (flower, grass, vegetable, and herb) that patrons can then borrow to plant at home. We use the term borrow in the hopes that patrons will then donate back any unused seed or harvest seeds off their plants to be added into the seed library for the next season. The movement, and this collaboration between the Gardens and the Library in particular, is hoping to encourage the community to garden, reconnect people to the outdoors, encourage local food consumption,

create a community-sustained seed collection, and provide information and education about gardening. In its first spring season, the Clear Lake Community Seed Library distributed over 540 free packets of seeds to the community!

If you were able to enjoy the program last year, we encourage you to stop by again this year and see the facelift it received. Thanks to wonderful donations from Woodford Lumber, Brothers Ace Hardware, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Cerro Gordo County Conservation, and ISU Extension Office, the library quickly outgrew the desktop container that it started in last year. Librarians have been hard at work creating a new seed library, recycling an old metal cabinet that now holds over 1000 seed packets for patrons to choose from! Stop by the Clear Lake



Public Library to browse the collection located by the magazine/newspaper sitting area upstairs.

If you're a seed harvester in your own garden or

want to learn how and help grow the collection of seeds in the library, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to Brianna Sholly at the library by calling 641-357-0315 or emailing librarykids@cltel.net to learn more about the project, donate seeds to the community library, or volunteer to lead a program related to gardening/harvesting. After all, it is a COMMUNITY seed library!



Central Gardens of North Iowa
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