



ISU INSECT ZOO IS COMING SOON!

Mark your calendars for **FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, from 9–11 AM**, when Iowa State University will bring its Insect Zoo back to Central Gardens! The display features a variety of insects and similar arthropods, such as spiders, beetles, cockroaches, ants, bees, millipedes, centipedes, crickets, grasshoppers, stick insects, scorpions, mantids and woodlice, tarantulas, and scorpions. The Zoo is free, open to the public, and a marvelous spectacle for children and adults.



The Insect Zoo will fill 6–7 eight-foot tables in the upper level of

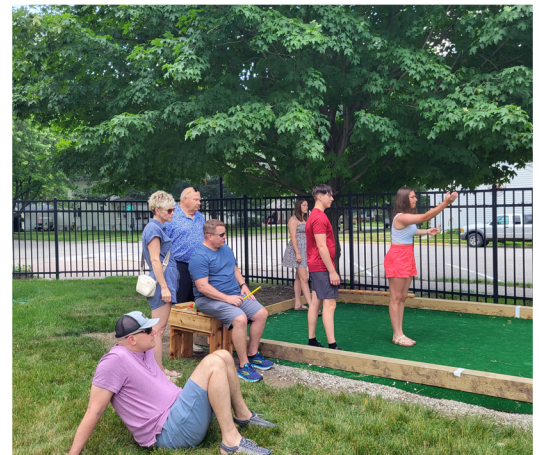
the Nature Education Pavilion with live animals and preserved insect displays. The display is hands-on, interactive and fun. The come and go format allows participants to walk through, look, and ask questions at their own pace. The Zoo will be staffed with 2–3 people to help participants handle the animals, talk facts, and answer questions.

Please join us in the Pavilion for a display sure to fascinate and awe children and adults of all ages! Our deepest thanks to Donna Dull for funding the Insect Zoo for the second year straight!

BOCCE BALL is in Central Gardens!

Central Gardens has built the first public bocce ball court in Clear Lake and it is already generating a lot of interest. Bocce is one of over 70 free activities, educational programs, and cultural events Central Gardens will offer this year. The game is intergenerational, enjoyed by people of all ages.

A core group of volunteers raised the ground, built the box, leveled the playing surface, and laid the turf, saving thousands of dollars to bring bocce to the Gardens. Private donors have covered most of the costs associated with materials and supplies for the court and to support the game. Many donors have used Thrivent Action Grants for the project. Located near the southeast corner of the Activity Lawn, all supplies to play bocce ball in the Gardens are provided.



Bocce is a centuries old game with roots in ancient Egypt and the Roman empire. A popular past-time in Italy, it was introduced into the American sporting scene by Italian immigrants over 200 years ago. Today it is played throughout the country, in parks, restaurants, bars, retirement homes, backyards, and in league and tournament settings.

Bocce is played on a long, narrow court, designed with static sides and a flat, level surface of either crushed stone, sand, or artificial turf. Typical games consist of a minimum of two people, or in teams of up to four people, although there are many regional variances. Eight 4 ½ inch balls (in two different colors, four of each) are tossed in one direction at a smaller target ball called a pallino. The object of the game is to get more balls closer to the pallino than your opponent's balls.

WHY VOLUNTEER AT CENTRAL GARDENS??

*I'm a word nerd and researched the etymology of **volunteer**....*

By Angela O'Ohara

It comes from Old French and Latin. As mysterious as the English spelling of any French borrowing, to volunteer is to give one's time, energy, money, or skills freely. Why would anyone choose to get dirty, sweaty, and stuck with thorns regularly?

Allow me to share my why for showing up at Central Gardens of North Iowa each week, and perhaps you can relate!

First, volunteering at Central Gardens fills my people cup! I started my job in March 2020 and living near Madison, Wisconsin meant observing strict social distancing measures. I craved community the entire three years I spent east of the Mississippi River. Even now in Clear Lake, I work from home, alone and writing at a computer all day. Not even a talkative kitty "coworker" can make me laugh like another human can.

This past spring, I hoped to make new friends at a Garden volunteer meeting. I was impressed with the opportunities to adopt garden areas, plan events, and help with administrative tasks. I chose to work in the food garden, because flowers are pretty but veggies taste better! I have enjoyed the company of Garden volunteers; some I've known nearly my whole life! Growing up in Clear Lake, I shared a babysitter with Leigh Trembath's girls. My brother was in Dave Burgart's scout troop and is still close friends with his and Jeanne's youngest son. Though I'm outnumbered generationally, the other volunteers have been gracious and patient! I hope more North Iowans, even folks younger than me, open their hearts and minds to what these mentors can share about nurturing flowers, grasses, trees, vegetables, and berries.

The second, most important reason I volunteer at Central Gardens is that it feels like home. Growing up north of Clear Lake, my brother and I made up games, created forts, and traipsed all over the acreage woods. My dad taught me to recognize the kyoo kyoo kyoo call of a cardinal, to estimate the sunset with my hands, and that milkweed is a friend

to butterflies. I reveled in our slice of Iowa heaven. After graduate school, I came home and challenged myself to sowing a garden again, something we'd neglected in recent years. Throughout the summer, I watered, weeded, and sang to eggplant, peppers, carrots, lettuce, squash, sunflowers, and many tomatoes. My dad passed away tragically that next year, and a few years ago, Mom sold the acreage and moved to town. I have longed for a connection to Nature, my dad, and home since.

When my husband and I moved back to Clear Lake last summer, I was thrilled with our proximity to Central Gardens. Now, I'm only a short walk away from a Garden path stone etched in Dad's honor. My renewed friends of all ages are mere blocks from our front door every Tuesday night. Volunteering at Central Gardens of North Iowa feeds my soul.

We are so lucky to have this garden in north Iowa, kept thriving through the time and energy of volunteers. Please join me and the rest of the crew at Central Gardens. We would love to hear your volunteer why and share our love of the Garden with you!





HARVEST DINNER COMING THIS FALL

Come celebrate the bounty of fall in the beauty of Central Gardens on **Sunday, September 10, from 5 PM to 7 PM**, with a six-course farm-to-table harvest dinner. Musical guests are north Iowa singer-songwriters, Juni and Betty. This is a ticketed event for just 30 people, so order yours soon by contacting us at 641-357-0700 or online at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives. – Gertrude Jekyll

Central Gardens RECEIVES FUNDING

The John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation of Forest City awarded Central Gardens a grant to completely refurbish the Herb Garden, transform the Meadow Garden into a new Sculpture Garden, restock annuals and perennials for the Cutting and Annual Gardens and other areas, support Fresh on Friday bouquet sales, and ensure Central Gardens' relevance year-round with seasonal flora and décor. We are so grateful to the Hanson Family Foundation for their enduring support for the Gardens! Thank you!



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- Laurie Cook Photography
- McQuaid Agency
- Metalcraft, Inc.
- North Iowa Community Credit Union
- Pla-Ground Family Farms
- Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting



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

Address Service Requested

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for details on these and other activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens.

TUESDAYS, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, AND 29, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Line Dancing. Free.

FRIDAYS, AUGUST 4, 11, 18, AND 25, 9 AM – 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales & Refreshments

FRIDAYS, AUGUST 4, 11, 18, AND 25, 9 AM – 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Garden Explorers. Free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 9 AM – 11 AM

ISU Insect Zoo. Free.

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, AND 27, 5 PM – 6 PM

Picnics and Performances. Free.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 6 PM – 7:15 PM

Cooking Up Culture. Free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 10:30 AM – 11 AM

Yoga Buds. Free.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 10 AM – 4 PM

Art in Bloom. Free.



I like gardening. It's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself. – Alice Sebold