

OCTOBER 2023



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves! – Humbert Wolfe

CENTRAL GARDENS TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL PUMPKIN PALOOZA



Last year, Central Gardens expected about 300 guests for its first-ever Pumpkin Palooza. It welcomed 780. It was a good problem to have. Volunteers have organized a celebration of all

things pumpkin for even more people this year with additional games, more pumpkin painting stations, and food trucks on site. This will truly be a fun event for children of all ages!

So, for an afternoon of fun, family-friendly, and free entertainment this fall, plan to come to Central Gardens of North Iowa for the second annual **Pumpkin Palooza on Saturday, October 14, 4 PM – 7:30 PM.** Rain date is Sunday, October 15.

From 4 PM to 6 PM, we'll have carved pumpkins on display, over a dozen kids' activities, including pumpkin painting, art

projects, a story walk, pumpkin-themed games, apple cider and popcorn. Adults can learn new ways to decorate with pumpkins, take in some music, and take photos with their favorite people at the pumpkin-themed photo station. There will be gate prizes for both children and adults!

Then, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, carved "Pumpkins on Parade" placed along the pathways of Central Gardens will be lit up, illuminating a fun and festive eve. Last year, over 60 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals participated in the parade, carving pumpkins to be enjoyed by all. All individuals, businesses, and organizations that would like to display a carved pumpkin for the parade are invited to do so. We'll even supply the pumpkins!

Follow us on Facebook for a schedule of events, frequently asked questions about joining the pumpkin parade, and further details about this fun, festive, family-friendly, and FREE event.

Pumpkin Palooza is a collaboration among Central Gardens, the Clear Lake Arts Center, and the Clear Lake Public Library with generous support from many sponsors, organizations, and volunteers.

CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES FUNDING

The Clear Lake Kiwanis joined POET-Hanlontown and Alliant Energy in sponsoring Central Gardens' 2023 Garden Fiesta that was held on September 24. Thank you, Kiwanis! We appreciate your support!

To financially support the *mission* of Central Gardens, which is to *provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun*, **please donate here**



Seed Saving



Isn't it fascinating that one tiny seed holds all the genetic material of a lustrous plant? Save a seed and preserve all that you love about a plant! Perhaps it's the plant's beauty or taste you want to enjoy again next year. Maybe its resistance to disease and time it takes to bloom are things you want to preserve. Seed saving is a way to preserve a plant regardless of the desired qualities and no matter the reason, seed saving engages us in the rich cycle of life.

Some benefits of seed saving include preserving heirloom varieties, encouraging genetic diversity, and saving money. According to Regeneration International, age-old heirloom varieties are disappearing at an alarming rate and 90% of the crop varieties grown 100 years ago are already gone.

A male plant produces pollen which is carried to a female plant by the wind or by a pollinator. Some plants have both male and female parts and are often called true flowers as they self-pollinate. In both instances, the pollen makes its way inside the female plant, where it connects with the ovaries and produces seeds.

Some plants are easier to save seed from than others. If the plant is open pollinated the offspring will be a true type with the same look and taste as the plant from which it came. However, if the plant is a hybrid, this is not the case, so while it's possible to save these seeds, it will not be a true type and the results will vary.

Seeds mature in different ways in different places for different crops, and the ideal time and method for gathering seeds varies. Bean seeds are a great crop for beginner seed savers as they ripen in the pod. Select the pod after it has dried, open it up and collect the seeds. Then let them dry on a paper towel for a week or so and package them in an envelope or a small glass container and be sure to label it. Zinnias, marigolds, and poppies are a few flowers for which seed saving is also easy. No matter how the seeds are collected, ensure they are dry and hard before storing them in a cool, dry location. Get saving and have fun!

CENTRAL
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of NORTH IOWA

2023 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 + UP)



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



CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Bombie (Bonnie Hall)
Clear Lake Bank & Trust
Clear Lake Noon Lions
First Gabrielson Agency
Laird Law Firm, PLC
Larson's Mercantile
Sail Inn
Stellar Industries

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

Bergland + Cram Architects
Brother's Ace Hardware
ControlPrint Creative
Farmer's State Bank
Glen's Tire Service
Jane Fischer & Associates
Lake Auto Service
Lake Liquors
Laurie Cook Photography
McQuaid Agency
Metalcraft, Inc.
North Iowa Community Credit Union
Pla-Ground Family Farms
Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting

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The Ideal Setting

The Nature Education Pavilion is available for rent year-round and could be the ideal setting for your next gathering. Whether you're planning a corporate retreat, a baby shower, or a holiday party, the Pavilion has room for thirty-five and a panoramic view of Central Gardens Ceremonial Lawn. It is furnished with a large bathroom, tables, chairs, two refrigerators, ample counter space, a monitor, and WIFI. Contact us today at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or visit our website for more information.

And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves... – Virginia Woolf



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

Address Service Requested

A LOOK AHEAD ...

The gates are open just a few more weeks so plan your visit to Central Gardens soon! Then, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for information on activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens in 2024! Here's a look ahead.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 4 PM – 7:30 PM

Pumpkin Palooza. Free.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Gates close at dusk for the season.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Gates open at dawn for the 2024 season.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 8 AM - 12 PM

Plant Sale and Gardening Fair.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 7 – AUGUST 30, 9 AM – 11 AM

Garden Explorers. Free.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 7 – AUGUST 30, 9 AM – 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 12 NOON

Summer Garden Party. Ticketed event.

SUNDAYS, JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 1, 5 PM – 6 PM

Picnics & Performances. Free.



*Life starts all over again when it gets crisp
in the fall. – F. Scott Fitzgerald*