



Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the year, for gardening begins in January with the dream. -Josephine Nuese

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Your membership to Central Gardens of North Iowa matters. It is mission-critical. Memberships sustain Central Gardens and are the primary source of revenue for operations. Memberships pay for life-giving water for over 22,000 flowers and plants, for the utilities it takes to operate the buildings, pumps, and grounds, and provide garden tools and supplies for volunteers to do their best work.

If you've already renewed your membership to Central Gardens for 2024, thank you! If you haven't renewed, please join us today. It matters.

Please Bee A Member in 2024!



Central Gardens Volunteers Awarded

The volunteers at Central Gardens were honored with a Community Service award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Mason City Chapter, on November 14, 2023. Patty Oelberg, who leads the Chapter with Nancy Marsh, introduced Central Gardens and State Regent, Edith Brunia, presented the award.

The award recognizes that the success of Central Gardens of North Iowa depends upon the continuous involvement from people who give back to their community with their time and talents. Central Gardens is maintained by about 100 dedicated volunteers who maintain the gardens and the grounds, welcome visitors, plan and organize community events and youth programs, serve on committees, and so much more.

Oelberg stated, "all of these men and women warrant recognition for the profound impact they have made in the gardens and in their community." Thank you, DAR! We are grateful!

Pictured above: Front row - Troyce Fisher, Val Edison, Donna Dull, Becke Dorenbush, Kayla Myers, Patty Oelberg.

Middle row - Dave Holstad, Joni Frederick, Mark Dorenbush, Doug Marty. Back row - Nancy Marsh, Merle Tiedemann, Edith Brunia.



RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED! Many hands make our community better! Consider carving out just a little time to volunteer at Central Gardens this year! For more information, please visit our website.

Daughters OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Donna Dull & Val Edison, volunteers at Central Gardens, are members of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, Mason City Chapter, having traced their lineages to patriots who fought in that epic war. Even though both women had a head start (Donna started with a distant cousin who was in the DAR and Val's grandmother was in the DAR in 1907), it is still a lengthy process to prove each generation through birth, marriage, and death certificates all the way to 1776.

Donna is a charter member of Central Gardens of North Iowa and has been a devoted volunteer for over 23 years, serving as the board secretary and historian and working in the office two days a week. Generous with time, talent, and treasure, evidence of Donna's passion for volunteerism, gardening, and learning is found throughout Central Gardens. From her namesake, Mother Earth's Workshop, to the Little Boy Reading statue in the Lily Garden, to sponsoring the Insect Zoo, and purchasing wreaths for the main gates at Christmas time, Donna has brought so much joy to the Gardens.

Val began volunteering for Fresh on Friday in 2018, working with a team to make beautiful bouquets and heading up sales each summer. A Master Gardener, Val and her friend, Chris, adopt the Midwest Garden, a beautiful little garden located southwest of the Ceremonial Lawn. She also serves on the Design Committee and helps in the spring, planting containers and preparing the grounds for opening.

Since its founding in 1890, the DAR has admitted more than 950,000 members. Today, the organization has 190,000 members with chapters across the United States and 12 other countries. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the DAR is a non-profit, non-political women's service organization. It was founded one year after the Sons of the American Revolution formed, partly in response to the many fraternal organizations that emerged after the war. Children of the American Revolution was founded in 1895 for youth.



Donna Dull



Val Edison

FREDRIKSEN Legacy CONTINUES *in central gardens*

Laurence Frederick Fredriksen (1924 – 2011), a gifted ironworker who had a shop in Clear Lake for over 60 years, was generous with his time and talent throughout the community and that included Central Gardens of North Iowa.

Fredriksen fabricated the metalwork that lines the tops of the Nature Education Pavilion and Mother Earth's Workshop. He created the stunning butterfly that sits on the sundial and is prominently displayed in the Butterfly Garden.

Fredriksen also fabricated all of the ironwork on the railings, bridges, and trash cans across the grounds.

In 2023, Fredriksen's family generously donated two of his iron panels to Central Gardens.

Several locations were considered before deciding to place the panels on the south side of the Pavilion at the landing. The panels have made the area a quiet spot to read a book or have a picnic. The panels are a beautiful addition to the property. Fredriksen's legacy lives on in Central Gardens!

SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS (Volunteers setting Fredriksen panels) at Central Gardens brought the Fredriksen project to fruition last fall. Larry Adams donated his time and talent to secure the panels in concrete footings. Todd Bailey furnished the center pole to weld the two panels together. Mark Dorenbush, Martin Balek, Dave Holstad, Roy Markwardt, Vern Katzung, David Burgart, and Roger Walston were all on hand to set the panels in place.





BEENKEN JOINS CENTRAL GARDENS BOARD

Amy Beenken began a 3-year term on January 1 serving as Central Gardens Treasurer and leading the Finance Committee. Amy moved to Clear Lake with her family in 2018. After graduating from Simpson College with a degree in Accounting, Amy worked for 14 years in public accounting as a licensed CPA. She joined Clear Lake Bank & Trust in May 2023 as the Controller. In the past, she has served on the Algona First United Methodist Church Finance Committee and helped with Vacation Bible School, as well as volunteered as a Y-Pal at the Algona Family YMCA. Amy, her husband, Jared, and their three children enjoy spending the summer boating and enjoy the many events Clear Lake offers year-round. Welcome, Amy!

FARRER FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CENTRAL GARDENS

Farrer Endowment Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation located in Mason City, awarded Central Gardens funding for a part-time summer groundskeeper, an essential role for this maturing greenspace. The Foundation has been supporting Central Gardens with grant funding since 2004. Central Gardens is so grateful to Farrer for their generous support through the years! Thank you!

It is the mission of Central Gardens to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.



2024 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 + UP)



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



CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Clear Lake Bank & Trust
Laird Law Firm, PLC
Larson's Mercantile

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

Bergland + Cram Architects
Farmer's State Bank
Holdredge Construction, LLC
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

A SNEAK PEAK AT 2024

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for information on activities, events, and programs coming up in the Gardens in 2024.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Gates open at dawn for the 2024 season.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 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.



In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer. - Albert Camus.