



MAY 2024

What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa



The world's favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May. – Edwin Way Teale

WELCOME BACK TO CENTRAL GARDENS!

Spring has come at last and Central Gardens of North Iowa is open! Come stroll the grounds and take in the glory of nature waking up from its doldrum state. Watch the spectacle as thousands of new bulbs sprout to life in the Lily Garden. Feel the wonder as daffodils, pansies, iris, tulips, and violets burst with color across the grounds.

The gates are open dawn to dusk every day of the week – holidays too – and we welcome you!



Get Ready, Get Set, Grow!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 am to noon**, when Central Gardens will host its annual Plant Sale and Gardening Fair on the Activity Lawn, just inside the main entrance. The event offers a wonderful way to support Central Gardens and maintain your own garden at the same time.

Volunteers are preparing hundreds of plants from within Central Gardens as well as the community. We welcome donations of perennials – hostas, salvia, ferns, irises, daylilies and any other plants – that may have been a bit too successful in your garden. Please leave them at the School Bell Gazebo by Friday, May 17th.

In addition to the plant sales, local vendors will showcase garden art and decor. Professionals will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. And, as always, there will be a make and take gardening project for children.

For over 20 years, this event has been a popular way to start off the season. A special Maypole dance is planned for 10 AM. We hope you will join us on May 18th!



The Plant Sale and Gardening Fair is sponsored by Larson's Mercantile, Don's Body Shop, and Sail Inn.

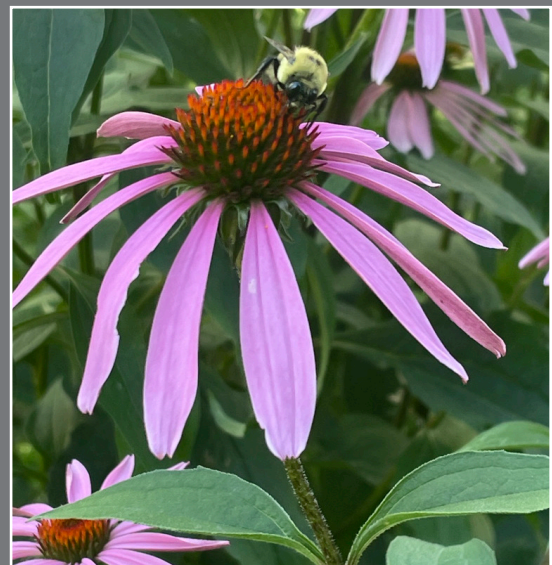
THE NATURE OF NATIVE PLANTS

According to The Nature Conservancy, nearly half of all insects worldwide have disappeared in the last 50 years and nearly 70% of the world's birds, amphibians, mammals, fish and reptiles have also vanished. Planting native plants can help improve the planet's depleted biological diversity.

Native plants are those that are found naturally in a geographic area. That is, plants that have not been introduced either accidentally or intentionally. Unfortunately, some non-natives become invasive and take over the natives, making it hard for insects, birds, and mammals to flourish.

Join ISU wildlife biologist Adam Janke, PhD. at the Nature Education Pavilion on **Thursday, May 16th at 6:30 PM**, for a free lecture about growing native plants.

WE ALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



SAVE THE DATES!

Events and Activities at the Gardens!

OPENING DAY

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Gates open daily from dawn to dusk through October 31. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

YARD GAMES Bring your friends and family to Central Gardens to play Cornhole and Bocce Ball on the Activity Lawn. The games are free and all equipment is provided.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 5, 2 PM – 4 PM

Come find your place in Central Gardens! Join us for refreshments and get information about volunteering at Central Gardens. All ages and abilities are welcome!

LINE DANCING

Tuesdays May 14 – Sept 17, 9:30 AM– 10:30 AM

Join us inside the main entrance in the fountain courtyard for line dancing with Mary Jo. All ages and abilities are welcome. Free.

THE NATURE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Join ISU wildlife biologist Adam Janke, PhD. as he explains how to grow native plants and shares information about some of his favorites that are best suited for the north Iowa climate. Free.

PLANT SALE AND GARDENING FAIR

Saturday, May 18, 8 AM – 12 PM

This annual event features a wide variety of perennial plants and garden art for sale and offers a free garden education and planting activity for kids.

MAYPOLE DANCE Saturday, May 18, 10 AM

Come celebrate spring with an old-fashioned dance around the Maypole! Free.

FRESH ON FRIDAY

Fridays, June 7 – August 30, 9 AM – 11 AM

Fresh-cut flowers from the Gardens, arranged in stunning bouquets by talented volunteers, are available for purchase. Plus, enjoy complimentary coffee or infused ice water and treats on the patio with friends. A fun way to start the weekend!

GARDEN EXPLORERS

Fridays, June 7 – August 30, 9 AM – 11 AM

Kids can dig in, taste, and explore in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. A special garden activity is featured each week along with visits from Lime Creek Nature Center, the Clear Lake Arts Center, Surf Music Enrichment Center, and much more! Free.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY Sunday, June 23, 12 PM

This annual fundraising event is a time for the community to support Central Gardens and enjoy live music with Mr. Jeff, delicious food and drinks, and a spirited auction.

PICNICS & PERFORMANCES

Sundays, July 14 – September 1, 5 PM – 6 PM

A fresh lineup of local and regional musicians will perform in this eight-week, family-friendly summer concert series. Free.

JULY 14: Jessica McClintock – Acoustic

JULY 21: The Mercury 3 – Rockabilly

JULY 28: Nonsemble – Swing, Pop, 70s

AUG 4: Juni & Betty – Americana, Folk, Indie

AUG 11: Come Back Buddy – 50s

AUG 18: Bridges 2 Harmony
Youth Gospel Choir (TBD)

AUG 25: Liv McNair – Country

SEPT 1: Jordan Messerole – Rhythm & Blues

SAVE THE DATE

continued...

COOKING UP CULTURE

Tuesdays July 16, Aug 20, Sept 24, 6 PM – 7:15 PM
Guest chefs share their unique food cultures with a dish to sample and recreate at home. For adults and youth ages 10 and older. Classes are free, but registration is required. Special thanks to Healthy Harvest of North Iowa for their collaboration and support of this program.

BUGS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES

Saturday, September 7, 2 PM – 4 PM
Come explore the ISU Insect Zoo, tag a monarch, and learn about native and honey bees. Clear Lake Public Library staff will be on hand to help build native bee houses. Free.

PUMPKIN PALOOZA

Saturday, October 12, 4 PM – 7 PM
An event celebrating all things pumpkin with carving contests for local businesses, pumpkin painting, food demos, activities, music, and a lighted pumpkin parade. Free.



Earth laughs in flowers. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

CENTRAL
GARDENS
of NORTH IOWA

WELCOME TO THE BEE HAPPY DISCOVERY GARDEN



The Bee Happy Discovery Garden is an organic specialty garden within Central Gardens that sits just west of Mother Earth's Workshop. While some regard it as a children's garden, this garden is a sensory experience for all ages. Here, buzzing bees pollinate tomatoes, goldfinches sample sunflowers, and hens proudly announce the laying of an egg. Smell the aromatic herbs by rubbing a leaf between your fingers, and breathe in the earthiness of the soil after a rain. Feel the soft, wooly lamb's ear or paperlike leaves of the strawflower and soak in the bounty and beauty of nature.

With a rainbow theme this year, this garden will explode with color as rainbow chard, purple broccoli, red leaf lettuce, golden beets, and carrots of all colors flourish. Come and explore a variety of plants and flowers that provide food for us and for pollinators. Plus, visitors can taste what's growing in the garden during Fresh on Fridays, beginning June 7.

Perhaps the best sensory experience of this garden is hearing the sounds of glee and joy as happy kids participate in Garden Explorers, a free program that welcomes children of all ages. With parents, grandparents, even great-grandparents in tow, little ones love to work and play in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden! Come be part of the experience!





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

Address Service Requested

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 US Postage
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 Permit No. 7
 Mason City, IA

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



CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

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- Clear Lake Bank & Trust
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- Larson's Mercantile
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- Brother's Ace Hardware
- ControlPrint Creative
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- Glen's Tire Service
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- Jane Fischer & Associates
- Lake Liquors
- Laurie Cook Photography
- Metalcraft, Inc.
- North Iowa Community Credit Union
- Pla-Ground Family Farms
- Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com

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