



CENTRAL GARDENS URGENTLY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Keep your faith in beautiful things, In the sun when it is hidden, In the Spring when it is gone.

- Roy R Gibson

Looking for a great cause that fuels your love of gardening? One that instills a sense of purpose? One in which you will meet new friends? One in which you can be proud? Please consider volunteering at Central Gardens this year. Central Gardens is urgently seeking support for several key volunteer positions including Vice President, Volunteer Coordinator, Events and Program Coordinator, and Rental Coordinator. Volunteers are also needed for the maintenance and watering teams, Bee Happy Discovery Garden, and to adopt the 23 themed gardens that Central Gardens offers.



Central Gardens has experienced a significant decline in its volunteer roster over the past year due to a good many retirements and moves. Volunteers drive 90% of what it takes to run and operate the Gardens. Without them, Central Gardens is hard-pressed to fulfill its mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. Without more volunteers, Central Gardens faces the grim task of eliminating education programming and events.

Resolve to get involved today! You can make a difference at Central Gardens. Simply jump in and do something new in 2025! All ages and abilities are welcome and needed to sustain Central Gardens. For more information, please scan the QR code & get started today.



CENTRAL GARDENS WINS!

An estimated 12,000 people poured into Clear Lake for the 20th Annual Harvest Festival in early October. The weather was ideal and, according to the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, the event attracted 100 vendors. Central Gardens is honored to report that, for the 4th year straight, Central Gardens took first place in the Harvest Festival light pole decorating contest! The stunning display towered above the pole and sprawled along the curb, filled with dried flowers, pumpkins, and gourds. The picture barely grasps the beauty of it. Congratulations to Michelle Holdridge, once again, for a job very well done!



GRANT SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GARDENS

The Beth Rinehart Charitable Foundation and Farrer Endowment Foundation awarded Central Gardens funding for essential programming and operations in late 2024. The Rinehart grant covered all expenditures for Gardeners of Tomorrow, Central Gardens educational program for teens. Farrer, a long standing supporter, helped fund summer groundskeeper positions for the fourth consecutive year. We are grateful for these foundations, and the good work they do. Thank you!

BEE A MEMBER!

2025 Memberships Now Available!

There are a lot of good reasons to Bee A Member of Central Gardens of North Iowa in 2025 and with rich benefit packages for individuals, families, and corporations, you don't want to miss this opportunity to support this gem of north Iowa and make a difference in the world.

Individual/Family Memberships start at just \$50 and include all of the following:

- ✓ **FREE ADMISSION** to over 360 American Horticultural Society (AHS) gardens and arboretums across North America and the Caribbean
- ✓ **NEWSLETTERS** to stay informed about what's happening at Central Gardens
- ✓ **DISCOUNTS** on bricks, pavers, tickets to the Summer Garden Party, and rentals, depending on membership level
- ✓ **RECOGNITION** in the 2025 Annual Report
- ✓ **PRIDE** in supporting the quality of life in north Iowa

Corporate Memberships start at \$250 and include the following:

- ✓ **FREE SPONSORSHIPS** for 1 – 4 2025 events at Central Gardens, depending on membership level
- ✓ **NEWSLETTERS** to stay informed about what's happening at Central Gardens
- ✓ **DISCOUNTS** on tickets to the Summer Garden Party and rentals, depending on membership level
- ✓ **RECOGNITION** in the 2025 Annual Report
- ✓ **PRIDE** in supporting the quality of life in north Iowa

Members make it possible to offer free admission, maintain and beautify the grounds, and fulfill its mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. Join us today! Simply scan the QR code by hovering your phone camera over the symbol and clicking the link to the membership form and online payment. Look for more information about membership at Central Gardens on our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com or in your mail.

A special shout out to the many members who have already renewed or joined us this year.

Your membership matters, and we're grateful for your support.

Thank you. - Joni



To join us today, simply scan the QR code or
mail your renewal to Central Gardens
PO Box 735 - Clear Lake, IA 50428.



Central Gardens Welcomes New Board Members!

Central Gardens welcomes new members **DEBBY FRIEDRICHS & MICHELLE HOLDREDGE** to the board of directors. In addition to serving on the board of directors, both Debby and Michelle will serve on the Design Committee, one of several committees that report to the board. Nine volunteers currently make up the board of directors. Board terms are staggered so that one-third of the board is up for re-election each year. Terms are three years and members may serve two consecutive terms. Central Gardens has volunteer positions available for key positions, both on and off the board.



For more information, simply scan the QR code.



DEBBY FRIEDRICHS

Born and raised in Marshalltown, Iowa, Debby graduated from high school in 1972 and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1976. She and Bob were married in 1978 and moved to Davenport

while he attended chiropractic college. Their daughter Jessica was born in Davenport. The family moved to Mason City in 1982 and a son, Joseph, was born shortly thereafter. Debby attended massage therapy school and worked as a massage therapist for 25 years alongside her husband in the chiropractic practice. The couple retired in 2022.

In 2013, she completed the Master Gardener program through Iowa State University and she finished the Master Conservation program through Iowa State in 2018. Debby served on the Lime Creek Nature Center board of directors from 2018 to 2024. She also worked at the Boyer Wellness Center as a lifeguard for a year and a half and retired from that in September 2024.



MICHELLE HOLDREDGE

Michelle received a degree in communications from Iowa State University and a master's degree from Truman State University (formerly known as Northeast Missouri State University). She spent the next 12 years as a Speech

Pathologist at Northern Trails Area Education Agency, before becoming a real estate agent in the Ames area. She is currently at Lakeside Brokers.

In 2002, Michelle and her husband, Brian, bought their first cabin in Clear Lake and became full time residents in 2012. Brian owns and operates Holdredge Construction LLC, and also helps Michelle with her decorating endeavors. They have two children, Bryce (Clear Lake) and Mickenna (West Des Moines), and just welcomed their first grandbaby, Brevin, in 2024.

Michelle has been a volunteer at Central Gardens since 2018. Helping with the many events Central Gardens offers, including Fresh on Friday bouquets, designing annual beds and containers, creating floral arrangements for special events, and arranging holiday decorations.

Cupid's Forecast January – General depression, caused by Brain - storms of December.

This is succeeded by a wave of Good Resolutions, accompanied by a general downpour of Ice Water.

- Oliver Herford, Cupid's Fair - Weather Booke: To All Good Harticulturists, 191



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

Address Service Requested

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for info on activities, events, & programs coming up at the Gardens in 2025!

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

Gates open at dawn for the 2025 season.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 8 AM - 12 PM

Plant Sale and Gardening Fair.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 6 - AUGUST 15, 9 AM - 11 AM

Garden Explorers. Free.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 6 - AUGUST 29, 9 AM - 11 AM

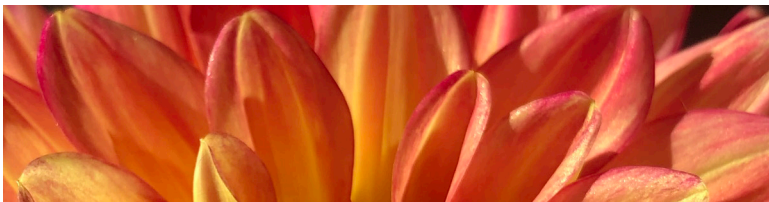
Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 12 NOON

Summer Garden Party. Ticketed event.

SUNDAYS, JULY 20 - SEPTEMBER 7, 5 PM - 6 PM

Picnics & Performances. Free.



2025 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 + UP)



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



CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Clear Lake Bank & Trust
 Sail Inn

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

Bergland + Cram Architects
 Clear Lake Arts Center
 Glen's Tire Service
 Metalcraft, Inc.