

{ June 2017 }

# What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

## Upcoming Events

**JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**Fresh On Fridays**  
**8 AM - 11 AM**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**  
**Sentinel Dedication  
Ceremony**  
**3 PM**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**  
**Summer Garden Party**  
**6 PM - 8:30 PM**

**JULY 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**Fresh on Fridays**  
**8 AM - 11 AM**

**JULY 14-15-16**  
**Outdoor Theater  
Production of  
"Our Town"**  
**7 PM**

**SUNDAY, JULY 23**  
**First of 8  
Picnics & Performances  
programs**  
**5 PM - 6 PM**



### Something Fishy's Going On

Thanks to the generosity of CGNI board member Roger Kopacek our pond is now stocked with 22 goldfish. Bring the kids and grandkids to see if they can spot them all!

### New Mission; New Goals; Same Beautiful Garden

During a strategic planning session in April the CGNI board adopted a revised mission statement that reads: "The mission of Central Gardens is to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun." The board also set three-year goals in four areas: (a) Beautifying the Grounds; (b) Providing Creative Events and Programming; (c) Ensuring Financial Stability; and (d) Expanding the "Reach" of the Gardens. The full strategic plan is available on our website.

### Dorenkamp Memorial



Pictured are family members of Janet Dorenkamp, faithful and long-time volunteer for the Gardens, presenting a check for \$5000 in Janet's memory to be used for reconstructing the lily garden, purchasing a wind spinner sculpture, and placing a granite paver on the garden grounds. We were blessed with Janet's dedicated service and now are doubly blessed with this generous memorial.

### New CGNI Board Members

We are pleased to welcome the following people to the CGNI board of directors: Jeff Badger of Clear Lake, Roger Kopacek of Britt, and Andy Johnston of Mason City. You can read more about them and see their pictures on our website. Each brings unique talents and skills to the board. Welcome to the three of you!

*"Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden?"*  
~ Robert Brault

## Dedication Ceremony for the Sentinel



Please join the Jim and Ann Kuhlman family at 3 pm on Sunday, June 18 for a formal dedication of the stunning sculpture, the Sentinel, which now graces the Central Gardens grounds. This generous gift from Jim and Ann celebrates their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Crafted by Deb Zelenak of Lander, Wyoming, it is made of white marble and is the same type used for the exterior of the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns in Washington D.C. Refreshments will be served. Jim is a long-time board member at Central Gardens.

## Invisible Volunteers

We have so many people who volunteer at the Gardens who rarely are seen by guests and other volunteers. That's because they do their work in the shadows! For example, both at dawn and at dusk the following dedicated people unlock and lock the gates and bathrooms. Thanks go to Joe Plagge, Alice Blomstrom, Charlene Gooch, and Jody Hamilton for their "hidden" talents. Another stealth volunteer is Larry Day whose gorgeous banners often signify there are special events happening at the Gardens. Thank you to Larry, as well.

## We "Toad" You So



Here's the latest addition to the BEE Happy Kids Garden, made possible by a generous grant from the Beth Reinhart Charitable Foundation. This toadstool table and chairs will be perfect for our youngest gardeners. This



furniture will also see heavy use during the Fresh on Fridays programming. Bring your kids and grandkids and have them see for themselves how fun visiting the gardens can be!!

## Mark Your Calendars for the Summer Garden Party

The annual tradition of our summer garden party continues this year on Sunday, June 25, beginning at 6 pm and concluding at 8:30 pm. Once again you'll be treated to fine food and beverages, live music, stunning floral bouquets, beautiful surroundings, and a chance to bid on one-of-a-kind auction items. There's also a door prize (must be present to win) and a surprise feature. (Look for details to be released soon). This is a major fund-raiser for the Gardens and we sincerely hope you'll join us. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Clear Lake Arts Center, Larson's Mercantile, Hy-Vee West, from any board member, and of course by calling Central Gardens. Tickets will also be available at the Gates, beginning at 5:45 pm on June 25.

## Plant Sale and Gardening Fair



Although Mother Nature didn't cooperate very much, we still had a successful plant sale and gardening fair, thanks to the

generosity of so many gardeners who dug up plants from their yards and donated them to us. Rainy weather forced the extension of the sale to two week-ends, but those who braved the elements were rewarded with some fantastic buys. Thanks to Linette Heydt and her dedicated crew for once again organizing and hosting this event.

## “Love Those Bloomin’ Gardeners” Special Brick Sale Promotion

Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc. is offering a limited time promotion for the sale of engraved bricks. Engraved bricks normally sell for \$250 each, but we will be offering them for \$150 from June 1st until September 1st only. The engraved bricks will be placed in the “Gardeners Walk” which is located in front of the Mother Earth Workshop Building. A brick can be inscribed with names of people who love to garden, in memory of someone who loved to garden, or to celebrate someone who currently volunteers or did volunteer at Central Gardens. To order, please contact Jody at [jody@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:jody@centralgardensnorthiowa.com) or call 641-357-0700. Order forms can also be downloaded from our website [centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://centralgardensnorthiowa.com) under the support tab.

### Fresh on Friday’s Bouquet Sales

Beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a dedicated group of volunteers will get up before dawn to pick fresh flowers, arrange them in bouquets, and sell them at very reasonable prices to eager purchasers during our Fresh on Friday’s programming. Kayla Myers and her crew do awesome work with the arrangements. Some Fridays we’ll also have guest lecturers, and there’s always planned children’s activities. Coffee and goodies are available for a small donation on the patio outside the Nature Education Pavilion.

### Fresh on Friday’s Children’s Programming

Volunteer Leigh Trembath has lined up an amazing series of programs designed specifically for kids for the entire summer. Beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be educational activities and a special program from 9:30-10:30 am facilitated by personnel from BE WELLness in Clear Lake that will include tasting experiences. We’ve also purchased more magnifying glasses for exploring and watering cans for pouring as well as planting a new area of miniature plants (pumpkins, tomatoes, dwarf sunflowers, etc.) for our smallest gardeners. All events are free. The Clear Lake Arts Center will be providing nature-inspired art projects for children in July.

## Kids, Kids, Kids!

Not only did we have high schoolers from four different area school districts come to Central Gardens for their prom pictures on the early evening of April 30, we were also blessed to have the following groups of children and youth contribute to the beauty of the grounds:



- Troop 21016 of the Clear Lake girl scouts picked up trash on the outer perimeter of our fences, and did random weeding in celebration of Earth Day.;

- A group of children and their parents from the Opportunity Village autism program met in the Nature Education Pavilion and participated in some activities that celebrated nature;
- We hosted two high school graduation receptions in May; and



- Thirty-one students plus their ten chaperones with the Students Today Leaders Forever organization ([www.stlf.net](http://www.stlf.net))

from Laura Jeffries Academy in St. Paul, MN (a charter school focusing on STEM education) spent 2 ½ hours at the Gardens on May 12 engaging in some team building activities and then fanning out across the gardens to weed, ready the soil, plant, clean, and do other odd jobs, under the skillful guidance of plants manager Barb Nicholas and the support of a team of volunteers. (Thanks goes to Papa Everett’s for supplying pizzas at a discounted price). We love having guests of all ages at the gardens, and particularly enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of our youngest visitors.

## **“Our Town” Comes to Our Garden**

We are pleased to announce that Central Gardens, in collaboration with the Clear Lake Arts Center, will host three outdoor performances July 14, 15 and 16, of Thornton Wilder’s classic play *Our Town*. Directed by Craig Rule, assisted by Mary Alexander and Rachelle Moeller, and supported by an all volunteer cast and crew, this beloved story of the happenings in Grovers Corner circa 1901-1913 is a timeless message about treasuring every moment one is given. More details will be given in our July newsletter.

## **Back By Popular Demand**

“Picnics and Performances” returns to the Naturalist Terrace every Sunday evening, beginning on July 23. This free event is open to the public and features local and regional performers. A specific schedule will be published in our July issue of *What’s Growing On*. Bring your own picnics and beverages along with a lawn chair or blanket and relax with friends and family for an hour of fun entertainment from 5-6 pm.

## **RECOGNIZING A GREAT PLANT SALE SUPPORTER**

Cheryl Flaucher, who lives near Plymouth, Iowa, has been a long-time supporter of the Annual Plant Sale and Gardening Fair here at Central Gardens.



Cheryl has provided at least three van or pick up loads of plants from her acreage as a donation each year. Not only does she donate the plants, they are also potted, labeled and the purchaser is provided growing directions for each plant. We just want to give a shout out to Cheryl and thank her for all she does to provide these beautiful plants that make our Plant Sale so successful. Thanks Cheryl!

## **GRANT AWARD FROM ALLIANT ENERGY**



Central Gardens was notified May 1 of a grant award of \$2,000 from Alliant Energy for Garden Improvements that are to be directed towards the Woodland and Meadows gardens. Both are located on a slight rise just north of the main entrance and are a focal point as visitors arrive. In the fall of 2015, five river birch trees and a hawthorne were removed due to iron deficiencies in the former and damage from an ice storm in the latter. Several large boulders were added for dramatic effect and shadblow serviceberry were planted in that space. Completing the restoration, the Alliant Energy grant will fund the placement of native Iowa shrubs, native Iowa perennials, native Iowa

ground covers including soil preparation.