

{ September 2017 }

# What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

## Upcoming Events

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**Picnics & Performances**  
**5 pm - 6 pm • Free**  
**Dennis Root String Quartet**

### Volunteer Appreciations Coming Up!

Central Gardens could not be the beautiful and welcoming place it is without our volunteers who we appreciate so much! In their honor, three upcoming Appreciation events will be coming up in September and October. The first will be held Friday, September 8 from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Nature Education Pavilion for Fresh on Fridays helpers and presenters in the Bee Happy Garden, flower cutters, arrangers and cashiers, refreshment hosts and contributors and newsletter volunteers. Volunteers - check your emails for further details!

### A Random Act of Kindness.....

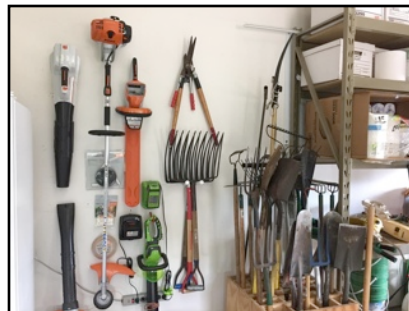
Executive Director Jody Hamilton relates... "I was given \$10 on a Friday from a woman who wished to remain anonymous to purchase two bouquets at Fresh on Friday to give to anyone I wanted and tell them to have a wonderful day. She insisted I not tell the recipient who the bouquets came from. I don't know who was moved the most, the recipients or me. It was an awesome feeling."

### Woodlands, Meadow and Lily Gardens get Facelift

A huge thank you goes out to our wonderful hard-working volunteers, Alliant Energy, and the Janet Dorenkamp family for making our gardens even more beautiful. Close to 400 plants, shrubs and trees are being added to these gardens for improvements needed this season. Come by and check them out! You will be impressed! And those thinking of adopting a garden, this would be a good time for these gardens as they are all re-done and ready for someone to tend to them!



### Additional grant Funding



Central Gardens was graciously awarded two grants recently. Grant monies of \$2,000 were awarded by the Farrer Endowment Foundation to be used toward paying a portion of the operational costs that are involved in increasing the demographic reach of the Gardens through programming, events and other activities. Also received was a Capacity Building Grant from the Iowa Arts Council for \$2,500 for the purchase of garden equipment, tools, gloves, and other supplies to enhance our volunteers' experience in the Gardens.

### Picnics and Performances

August performers appearing in our popular series Picnics and Performances were Jesse Allen, Spenser Rahm, Jon & Jenn and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances. This free, family-friendly entertainment happens every Sunday night from 5 pm to 6 pm through September 10. We are so appreciative of our generous grant awards from the Bertha Stebens Foundation and AvanGrid Renewables. Also sponsoring the September performances is the Beth Reinhart Charitable Trust. The September lineup includes Matthew Coley with the Heartland Marimba Collective and The Dennis Root String Quartet.

*Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine,  
food and medicine for the soul. – Luther Burbank*



### **Flower Cart for Sale**

Our flower cart needs a new home! This trusty old cart would look great in a garden, as a lemonade stand and can be used in all different ways. We are

taking offers through September 15. The cart is on display at the Bee Happy Kids Garden. Please submit offer to Central Gardens of North Iowa, PO Box 735, Clear Lake, IA 50428.

For questions or further information please email [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com) or call the office at (641)357-0700.

### **Clear Lake Library Hosts Children's Story Time**



The Clear Lake Public Library hosted the Children's Story Times (ages 0-5) in the Gardens three Wednesday mornings in August. We want to thank our volunteer readers, Denise Fritz, Sandy

Nyhus, and Donna Dull for reading books about nature to these little ones! And thanks to Mollie at the Library for hosting these fun times at the Gardens!

### **Apple Valley Residents help with Newsletters**



Residents from the Apple Valley Assisted Living facility here in Clear Lake have graciously agreed to help us fold and stuff the newsletters each month. Last month 10 volunteers were able to do approximately

500 newsletters in just a little over an hour! We had a great time visiting too and look forward to our monthly get-togethers!

### **Quotes from the visitor log**

*Very peaceful and calming. Good mini getaway.*

– Mason City, IA

*Great rest stop from I-35!*

– Little Canada, MN

*Very peaceful and quiet and you can see the love that God put into this restful place.*

– Walled Lake, MI

### **Lots of Activity in the Gardens**

August was very busy in the garden with tours, weddings, baby showers, Fresh on Fridays, Brownie Troop Bridging ceremony, Picnics and Performances, Story Times, Work Sessions, bridal showers as well as the normal visitors going through our gardens, enjoying the peace, serenity and beauty that abound. We are so thankful to have this gem to share with one and all! Plan your next event with us – we would love to have you. Remember, the Nature Education Pavilion is open year-round!

Contact [jody@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:jody@centralgardensnorthiowa.com) or call the office at 641-357-0700 to schedule an upcoming event!

### **Down and Dirty Garden Sessions**

Volunteer opportunities are available for those who like to get their hands dirty (or not!) every Wednesday evening from 5pm – 6:30 pm in the Gardens. A listing of items needing to be completed will be posted each week at the Mother Earth Workshop so if you have the time, please come down and help! I'm sure we will find something for you to do and it is greatly appreciated as always! There will also be two big Sunday work sessions before the gates close November 1. We'll keep you posted!

### **Fresh on Fridays Wraps up**

Wow! What a success we had with our Fresh on Fridays events that began June 2 and ended August 25. Lots of great presenters, children's activities, beautiful bouquets that made the series one of our most attended and successful yet. We want to thank all those who participated and especially thank the Beth Reinhart Charitable Trust who with their grant funding provided the new hand-carved Toadstool Activity Table in the Kids BEE Happy Garden, programming support for the children's activities held and plants and seeds, shovels, seed packets and more to make this a great gardening experience for all!

**NOTE: We can always use donated vases and flower pots! Thanks!**