

{ Nov/Dec 2019 }

What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

Gates Closing

There is a time for every season, and we've reached that time when the gates are now closed until May 1. HOWEVER, the Nature Education Pavilion is open year-round for rentals. Do you have relatives in for the holiday get-togethers and you've outgrown your living room? The Pavilion seats 36 people on the upper level and there's a full refrigerator and microwave on the lower level. Check our website for rental rates and more info!

Winter issues of newsletter

You'll note that we'll be cutting down distribution of our newsletter a bit in the "off season." This issue is for Nov/Dec. Our next issue will be for both January and February. Look for our Annual Report in March, and then we'll resume monthly issues again starting in April.

Upgrade 2020 Progressing

The Upgrade 2020 campaign has made good progress towards its goal of raising \$220,000 by 2020 in celebration of the Gardens' 20th anniversary. Improvements slated yet for fall include installing a new irrigation and drainage system (weather permitting) and constructing a new arch and adding new finials to the south gate columns. You can read more about the entire Upgrade 2020 project on our website.

Winter Gardening Tips: Here are some resources you might find helpful-

Clean your garden tools for winter
<https://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/11/how-to-properly-clean-your-garden-tools.html>

Pruning is always an overlooked area and a good winter time activity.

Here are a couple of good articles:
https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/pruning_winter
<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/pruning-trees-and-shrubs>

Midwest plants that benefit from winter protection:

<http://www.homenursery.com/blog/midwest-plants-that-benefit-from-winter-protection>

"Down and Dirty" volunteer recognition

All of the faithful volunteers who are affectionately referred to as the "Down and Dirty" crew were honored at a pizza party on Sunday, October 27th, hosted by the CGNI board of directors. These folks are the ones who come every Sunday night for two hours to plant flowers, shrubs and trees, to weed, mulch, clean the streams and fountain, water, empty trash, deadhead---you name it, they do it. Others have opened the gates at dawn and locked up at dusk every day from May 1 to October 31, adopted gardens, or done numerous other odd jobs required of a garden that occupies 2.75 acres. When you realize that 95% of the upkeep of our beautiful Garden is done by volunteers, their work becomes even more awesome. Thank you volunteers!!!

Art of the Story



Folks were treated to three wonderful storytellers' tales of their "Ten Minutes of Fame" on October 12th. Nicolle Medina told about how a random comment led her to an amazing journey to health; Kevin Hardy recounted his forty-foot fall from a tree he was trimming and how he lived to tell about it; and Paul Willis of Niman Ranch explained how one delicious pork chop contributed to his eventual appearance on the Martha Stewart show. This "Art of the Story" event is part of the Cultural Arts Series, a collaboration between Central Gardens and the Clear Lake Arts Center. The series resumes in April with a new batch of storytelling!

Kuhlman and Plagge Resign From Board



The Board of Directors of Central Gardens is sad to announce the resignation of two officers. Long-time member Jim Kuhlman has been on the board for seventeen years, and served as treasurer for fifteen of those years. He and his wife Ann have also been generous donors to the endowment, to the grounds itself, and most recently through the gift of two sculptures, The Sentinel and The Butterfly, that are prominently displayed on the hillside of the Pavilion and the shade garden respectively. Jim is most proud of the fact that the Gardens

has never undertaken an improvement project until it has the money in hand to pay for it, and loves how the Garden has grown over the years to be such an asset to north Iowa. We can't say "Thank You" enough for all the contributions Jim has given.



The same is true of Connie Plagge who, because of a new policy limiting board members to two consecutive three year terms is resigning. Connie served as vice-president, finance committee member, garden adopter, and faithful Down 'N Dirty volunteer. Her steady leadership and wise council will be greatly missed. She's promised us that she and her husband Jody, who gives an enormous amount of time maintaining the grounds, will continue to volunteer at Central Gardens.

From Our Mailbox "My husband and I recently visited Clear Lake for the first time this past week. We attended the Robert Plant concert at the Surf Ballroom. A friend who lives in Okoboji now, a former Clear Lake resident, suggested we visit the Garden. That was the best tip ever! We did not want to leave! Congratulations on a beautiful space!"

Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go. ~Unknown



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Return Service Requested

**Perez named Central Gardens’
 Development Coordinator**



Meet Angie Perez, Central Gardens’ new part-time Development Director. Angie comes to us from the Elderbridge Agency on Aging (where she worked on fund-raising and marketing) and will be responsible for three major initiatives at the Gardens: (1) Building both the individual and corporate membership bases; (2) writing grants; and (3) securing additional volunteers. Angie will be assisted by a part-time

office coordinator to be named in November. Welcome Angie!

“What’s Growing On” will miss Sharon Knoup



For years, volunteer Sharon Knoup has done the graphic design work for Central Gardens’ newsletter. Her creativity and skill have made this newsletter a popular feature, not only for members but also for visitors who can pick one up at the Gazebo. Now Sharon and her husband are moving South, so we’ll no longer have her services. Thank you, Sharon, for not only formatting this newsletter but also for your years of volunteering in the Gardens, including adopting

the Midwest Garden. We wish you much happiness.

Fall Clean-Up Gets Big Boost

Central Gardens was blessed with two volunteer crews that helped with fall clean-up and gate closing tasks. On Thursday October 17, over 25 kids from Newman Catholic schools pulled



up flowers, washed windows, cleaned up the Kids BEE Happy



Garden, and stacked flower pots. On October 25 a group of 8 from

Alliant Energy helped with major clean-up and watering tasks, as well as doing some last-minute mulching to protect new plantings. We are so grateful to both groups.

**NIACC’s Lifelong Learning Institute
 at the Gardens**

Central Gardens was pleased to host nearly 50 people who attended the “Nature Unleashed” class taught by Jackie Armstrong on October 26. The class proved to be so popular that there will be a repeat on April 15, again at the Gardens. For more information, check on line at <https://www.niacc.edu/continuing-education/lifelong-learning-institute/>