

Dear Gardeners of America and Friends

The Gardeners of North Iowa are excited to be hosting the 2015 convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

The theme for the convention is "Planting Your Dream in 2015." Our gardens are our dreams whether large and formal, small and intimate, shady or sunny. We dream, plant, watch, and wait for our gardens to grow just as we do for our dreams.

We have on our garden tour "the prettiest farm in Iowa" as portrayed in the Iowa magazine in June/July of 2013. The garden of Stan Fitz in Rockford Iowa was featured in Better Homes and Gardens and his garden is also on the tour. Central Gardens in Clear Lake is 2.75 acres and home to 22 theme gardens including Victorian, wetland, butterfly, shade and more. Kitty Clasing's habitat is shade gardening at it's best and Mary Shultz's large prairie area gives us a totally different side of gardening. The tour will wind up at Judy Mulkey's spacious acreage where we can lounge in the gazebo by the lake and enjoy the beautiful sound of the nearby waterfall they have created.

- In Mason City just 7 miles from the Best Western Hotel is the Historic Park Inn Hotel, the last standing Frank Lloyd Wright hotel in the world. Just down the street is the Stockman House, which is a restored Frank Lloyd Wright home and sits in the area of prairie school homes that numerous well-known architects like Walter Burley Griffin designed.
- The Charles H. MacNider Art Museum hosts the world famous Bill Baird puppets and well as great pieces of art.
- Visit the Music Man Square with the streetscape replica from *The Music Man* complete with 76 trombones. What a fun place to visit! If you loved *The Music Man*, you will love visiting here. There is a museum along with Meredith Willson's boyhood home.
- The Kinney Pioneer Museum lets you experience life on the Iowa frontier.
- East Park features Cannonball locomotive built in 1912, an historical little band shell and beautiful gardens maintained by the Gardeners of North Iowa and other volunteers.
- Clear Lake offers the Surf Ball Room where Buddy Holly, J.P. Richardson (the Big Bopper), and Ritchie Valens played their

last concert before dying in a plane crash. The crash site is a short drive from town.

- Take a tour on the Lady of The Lake and enjoy the relaxing cruise and seeing Clear Lake from the water view. The Lady is an authentic stern-wheeler paddleboat.
- Thursday night Clear Lake hosts Thursdays on Main with live entertainment, food, shops, and much more.

There is so much to see in North Iowa so come early and stay later.

The hotel rate is \$79.00 per night, which includes breakfast.

Reservation must be made by June 3, 2015 to receive this rate.

Registration fee for the convention will be \$195.00 if registered before May 1, 2015 and \$245.00 if after. Registration forms will be on the web page soon and we would love to see you in North Iowa *Planting Your Dream in 2015*.

. Sincerely,

Lee Olson Chairperson

Kitty Clasing Co-Chair

Mary Hamiel Co-Chair

August 1, 2014