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The Gardeners of North Iowa are excited to be planning the 2015 National Convention. It will take place in Clear Lake, Iowa on June 25 through the 27. Yes that is right we have moved 7 miles west to beautiful Clear Lake. We were notified last month that the hotel we had been working with in Mason City was sold and going to be torn down but that did not even begin to stop us. With some quick thinking and talking to the right people we are all set to go at the Best Western Holiday Motor Lodge in Clear Lake which is right off Interstate 35.

Clear Lake, Mason City's neighbor to the West by 7 miles boasts many attractions. Some of these are the beautiful Central Gardens, which is located on 2.5 acres near downtown Clear Lake. Winding paths and beautiful flowers will enchant us as one of our garden tours for the convention. We will lunch that day at the Clear Lake Arts Center. Central Gardens is just one of the lovely gardens we will be enjoying both in Mason City and Clear Lake.

The fully restored Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake holds a place in music history as the final concert site of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson. This historic place is just a hop, skip and a jump from the Best Western where we are having the convention.

For those who want, during your spare time, take a cruise on the Lady of the Lake. A Boatload of Fun! The Lady is located right downtown and offers hour and a half cruises around the lake with several departures each day.

We will be able to enjoy the best of Clear Lake and Mason City. Culture, beautiful gardens, musical history "the day the music died" and Meredith Wilson's "Music Man" along with great architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright. This 2015 convention is one you won't want to miss!