

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * BALOUSEK JOHN		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY [CENT]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)			
(Last) (First) (Middle) 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/09/2004		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(Street) LAFAYETTE, CA 94549		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)					
(City) (State) (Zip)		Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned					
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	02/09/2004		A	297	\$ 0	2,843	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)															
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 33.761	02/09/2004		A		2,962		(1)	08/09/2007	Common Stock	2,962	\$ 0	2,962	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BALOUSEK JOHN 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310 LAFAYETTE, CA 94549	X			

Signatures

/s/ John Balousek	02/10/2004
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) One-third of the total options granted will become exercisable at each of 6 months, 18 months and 30 months after the date of the grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.