

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Schwichtenberg Kay  (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY, 1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600  (Street) WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 02/14/2017	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO [CENT]	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Executive Vice President	
		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) Units	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) 50.9039	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) I	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) By 401(k) Plan (1)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(2)	03/31/2021	Class A Common Stock	37,500	\$ 10.63	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(3)	01/29/2022	Class A Common Stock	50,000	\$ 13.82	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(4)	01/20/2023	Class A Common Stock	14,690	\$ 30.94	D	

**Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Schwichtenberg Kay C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY 1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597			Executive Vice President	

**Signatures**

/s/ Kay Schwichtenberg	02/21/2017
*Signature of Reporting Person	Date

**Explanation of Responses:**

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) The units represent interests in the CENTA Stock Fund in the Issuer's 401(k) Plan, which consist of shares of CENTA stock and cash.

(2) Options were granted on April 16, 2015, of which 12,500 have vested and been exercised and the remaining 37,500 shares will vest and be exercisable as follows: 12,500 shares on March 31, 2017; 12,500 shares on March 31, 2018; and 12,500 shares on March 31, 2019.

(3) Options were granted on January 29, 2016, of which 12,500 have vested and are exercisable and the remaining 37,500 shares will vest and be exercisable as follows: 12,500 shares on January 29, 2018; 12,500 shares on January 29, 2019; and 12,500 shares on January 29, 2020.

(4) The options shall vest in four increments of 25% on January 20, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

**Remarks:**

Exhibit 24.1: Power of Attorney

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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints George Yuhas, Howard Machek, Zora Mohseni and JoAnn Jonte, and each of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer, director, and/or person who holds more than 10% of the stock of Central Garden & Pet Company (the "Company"), Forms 3, Forms 4 and Forms 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and the rules thereunder;

(2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Forms 3, Forms 4 or Forms 5 and timely file any such forms with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any other authority; and

(3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned, pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in his or her discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or his or her substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done pursuant to this power of attorney. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, Forms 4, and Forms 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the attorneys-in-fact.

The undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 21st day of February, 2017.

/s/ Kay Schwichtenberg  
Signature  
Kay Schwichtenberg  
Print Name