

PENNINGTON BROOKS III  
 Form 4  
 September 15, 2008

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 PENNINGTON BROOKS III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
 [CENT]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 09/11/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

1280 ATLANTA HIGHWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

MADISON, GA 30650

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |                                   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 09/11/2008                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 6,000 A \$ 4.26   | 325,900  | D                                 |
| Class A Common Stock            | 09/11/2008                           |  | F <sup>(2)</sup>               |   | 5,023 D \$ 5.8  | 320,877  | D                                 |
| Class A Common Stock            | 09/12/2008                           |  | S <sup>(3)</sup>               |   | 200 D \$ 6.14   | 320,677  | D                                 |
| Class A Common                  | 09/12/2008                           |  | S <sup>(3)</sup>               |   | 777 D \$ 6.13   | 319,900  | D                                 |

|                            |  |        |   |                             |
|----------------------------|--|--------|---|-----------------------------|
| Stock                      |  |        |   |                             |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock |  | 98,080 | I | By L.P. <sup>(4)</sup>      |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock |  | 13,876 | I | By Spouse<br><sup>(5)</sup> |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock |  | 15,208 | I | By LLC <sup>(6)</sup>       |

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

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(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |       |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|-------|
|   |  |   |   | Code                                 | V (A) (D)   | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date  | Title                                     |       |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$ 4.26  | 09/11/2008                              |   | M                                    | 6,000   | 08/02/2007   | 08/02/2010  | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock                | 6,000 |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                     | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| PENNINGTON BROOKS III<br>1280 ATLANTA HIGHWAY<br>MADISON, GA 30650 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Brooks M.  
Pennington

09/15/2008

\_\_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) Options exercised through sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b-5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price and withholding tax liability incurred upon the

(2) above-reported exercise of options. The amount of shares withheld is based on the respective average of the high and low sales price on the date of exercise.

(3) Sale effected under sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

By BPCB Partners L.P. The general managing partner of BPCB Partners L.P. is BPCB Management Company LLC ("BPCBLLC") and

(4) Mr. Pennington is the sole member of BPCBLLC. Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

(5) Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of 13,876 shares of the Issuer's Class A Common Stock owned by his spouse.

By Pennington Management Company II, LLC, in which Mr. Pennington has an ownership interest. Mr. Pennington is the President of

(6) Pennington Management Company II, LLC. Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

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

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