by Maggie Carson

It's time to mark your calendar for Lincoln Memorial Garden's 2017 Indian Summer Festival, scheduled this year for Saturday, October 7, and Sunday, October 8.

The Garden's annual Festival offers the community a variety of entertainment, arts and crafts, food and games for all ages.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Parents of young children will appreciate a change in the price structure this year; kids 10 and under will be admitted free of charge. Nonmembers can enter for free, too, by becoming a member of LMG at the membership table.

According to the Garden's Executive Director, Joel Horwedel, many of the most popular family activities will return this year, as well as many great musical acts, including Ben Bedford, Amy Benton, Cactus Ranch, Mary Jo Curry, Kraig Kenning and The Deep Hollow.

New bridge, new beginnings
Rebuilt Walgreen Bridge dedicated

by Steven Read

The Walgreen Bridge was declared structurally unsound and closed on May 4, 2016. A little over 14 months later, on a very warm Tuesday afternoon—July 18, 2017—the new bridge was dedicated. Approximately 100 people gathered near the Nature Center for the dedication ceremony. Following opening remarks by Lincoln Memorial Garden Executive Director Joel Horwedel, Springfield's Mayor James Langfelder outlined the long relationship between LMG and the City of Springfield. He cited a quote by Abraham Lincoln that appeared in a recent...
**Director’s column**

*by Joel Horwedel*

What a wonderful summer we have had at LMG! We just wrapped up another season of Summer Ecology Camp. A big thank you goes to Sam and Dani Newman, Amanda Parga, Dylan Power and Annie Gegen. These five individuals served as our Ecology Camp counselors and were excellent mentors to the 210 children who participated.

On July 18, over 100 people helped us celebrate the dedication of the new Walgreen Bridge. If you haven’t had the opportunity to see the new bridge, I encourage everyone to come out and check it out. Also, please remember, the Garden has two golf carts and encourages anyone who has difficulty walking to schedule a tour on one of our carts!

The Garden hosted its 5th annual 8K Trail Run on July 29. Originally scheduled in May, the race was postponed due to weather and rescheduled for the last Saturday in July. More than 175 runners competed in the event. Landon Skelly won the race—and set a new course record in the process, with a time of 00:29:15.8. Race director Susan Helm did another outstanding job coordinating the race. Thanks, Susan!

Looking ahead, planning is well underway for Indian Summer Festival. Mark your calendars for October 7 and 8, and come on out for some family fun and entertainment.

**INDIAN SUMMER FEST—cont’d from page 1**

One of our most popular new features, the Fairy Woodlands, is also returning. The Fairy Woodlands and the new Fairy Garden allow children of all ages to escape into their own wonderland. They will be able to wander among dozens of fairy houses while listening to fairy stories. Participants can also create their own fairy houses using materials provided by the Garden.

Through cooperation with the Girl Scouts, 4-H, Springfield Art Association and the U of I Extension, the Festival will offer pumpkin painting, artisan demonstrations and nature-themed games and activities.

From the Kid’s Korner, visitors will emerge with images of their favorite animals, insects and many other colorful and whimsical designs on their faces thanks to the talents of Mickey Lower and her face painting company “The Zoo Lady and Her Zoo Crew.”

And what’s a great festival without great food? Festival favorites, including pork chop sandwiches, chili, nachos and hot dogs, as well as cold soft drinks and cider (both hot and cold), will be available at the Garden’s food tent. The Springfield Civic Garden Club’s Country Cupboard will offer a wide selection of delicious baked goods, plus coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Throughout the Festival, over thirty vendors will display crafts and handmade items available for purchase. Some vendors, including potters, basket makers and weavers, will be demonstrating the techniques involved in making their items. The vendors add to the enjoyment of the Festival and provide parents something to do while the kids are busy having fun. Come on out and experience the fall colors at one of Springfield’s finest fall festivals!

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**LMG announces photo contest**

*by Kathy Andrews Wright*

In conjunction with the 2017 Indian Summer Festival, LMG is hosting an “Images of Lincoln Memorial Garden” Photography Contest and encourages Springfield-area residents to document the beauty and use of the Garden. The contest includes four categories:

- Birds
- Wildflowers
- Landscapes
- Other Images of Lincoln Memorial Garden

Entries will be divided into two age groups: 15 years of age and under, and 16 years of age or older. Entries must be of print quality (300dpi) submitted electronically as a .jpeg, .jpg or .gif file, and scans of negative, transparencies or photographic prints are allowed. A panel of professional photographers will review the entries, selecting a winner in each of the eight categories. Indian Summer Festival attendees will then select a “Best of Show.” Cash prizes will be awarded.

Entries should be sent by Friday, September 22, 2017, to photocontest@lincolnmemorialgarden.org. Additional details will be posted at lincolnmemorialgarden.org and on the Garden’s Facebook page.
Determine that the thing can be done, and then we shall find the way.” He indicated how appropriate that quote was for this project. ‘The way’ began with a major donation by the family of Walter Hanson and grew with help from many others. Molly Becker and the Molly Becker Remainder Trust were recognized for a very generous donation. Molly was a long time member and volunteer at the Garden.

Steve Read thanked the following individuals and local businesses for their generous donations:

- Norm Brown, Brown Engineers, Inc.
- Gary Clack, Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
- John Blythe, Jones-Blythe Construction Co.
- Mike O'Shea, O'Shea Builders
- Martin Equipment of Illinois
- Selvaggio Steel

Larry Miller, Chuck Allen and the Building and Grounds Crew were recognized for all the work they did to help complete the bridge project, remove the dead trees along Shady Lane and clean up the area around the bridge. Those individuals who have thus far contributed to the Bridge Fund were recognized:

- Mary Fairclough
- Mary Halverson
- Ron and Beth Horwedel
- Blake Ross
- Rob and Sue Sampson
- Phil and Marlene Seton
- Dan and Margie Towery

Karen Pletsch, daughter of Walter Hanson, introduced members of Walter’s family:

- Grandson David and Heather Pletsch
- Great grandchildren Jessica, J.D. and Gage Pletsch
- Granddaughter Amy and Tony Schoenoff
- Grandson Jon and Hethyr Pletsch

Walter’s grandson Jon Pletsch recalled that during the summer of 2016, around the time of what would have been Walter’s 100th birthday, the family toured the Springfield area in search of the best way to remember him. As the family hiked through the Garden looking for the perfect place for a memorial bench, they noticed the “Bridge Closed” sign. Walter was a renowned bridge designer, and early in his career he was the Illinois Engineer of Bridges. Almost immediately the family decided—no bench. This is the place; let’s help build the bridge. A wonderful adventure would soon begin.

Jon shared many fond memories the family and Bampa (Walter) had of Lincoln Memorial Garden—many hikes, ecology camps, Girl Scout activities, making candles at the Indian Summer Festival and wonderful times with Bampa. Growing up in close proximity to LMG, Jon referred to the Garden as the family’s “neighborhood.” Jon closed by saying that he knows Walt would be smiling and very pleased with the family decision to help “build a bridge for Bampa.” At the conclusion of the dedication service, everyone hiked to the bridge where Karen Pletsch “cut the ribbon” and officially opened the bridge.

LMG would like to thank Karen Witter and the Illinois Times for the wonderful article that appeared in the IT on July 13-19. Karen’s father and mother, Ray and Margaret Ackerman, were able to attend the dedication service. Ray, 99 years young, was in a class taught by Walter Hanson at the University of Illinois. Many thanks are due to the State Journal-Register for the front page picture of Karen cutting the ribbon, with Joel’s assistance, and the accompanying article. A special thank-you goes to Dick Adorjan for the pictures he took throughout the entire investigation and construction process.

Donations may still be made to the Walgreen Bridge Fund. Please contact Joel Horwedel at 529-1111.
Great volunteers + great weather = A great race

by Nicholous Stratton

The LMG 5th Annual Trail Run was a smashing success again despite the fact that the weather threw it a big curve ball in May. The event had to be moved from its original date to July because of torrential rains, flooded trails and a parking lot fit only for small river craft. July 29, by contrast, was a beautifully cool and dry summer day. Everything went off without a hitch, beginning with the official race start led by State Representative Tim Butler, who frequently runs at the Garden.

The day’s success was certainly helped by the perfect weather, but the real heroes of this event are the volunteers who enthusiastically take on a trail run, a complicated and many-faceted event. At the top is Susan Helm, who is the race director and ultimately responsible for all of those complicated details. Steve Read handled the layout of the trails for the race, a job that requires the skills of an engineer. How lucky that he happens to be one.

LMG is fortunate to have a crew of volunteers who come out on a weekly basis to handle the huge task of maintaining the Garden trails. Each year they put in extra hours for the run, and many of them come as early as 5:30 a.m. on the day of the race to help with set-up, parking and a myriad of last minute details.

To make sure everyone has a safe running experience, the Springfield Radio Response Team, a separate volunteer organization, sets up along the trail to facilitate communication and assure a quick response if the need arises.

We are famous among Springfield runners for our incredible post-race feast, the unique awards for the winners, the handcrafted finisher medals each runner gets and the beautiful course. Holly Grasch, one of this year’s runners, spoke for many others when she said, “The Lincoln Memorial Garden Trail Run is my favorite run in Springfield. It is so well organized, the trail is very well marked, the volunteers are so friendly and it is a beautiful run. I also love the fact that proceeds go back into the Garden.”

Speaking of those proceeds, Susan Helm gave runners the opportunity to add a contribution to the Walgreen Bridge fund. Boy did they ever respond; $2,000 was collected above and beyond the registration fee. The Walgreen Bridge, which was off limits for last year’s race, was added back to the course.

The Kids’ Run takes place when the trail run is over and this year’s registration was the biggest yet. Each competitor gets a shirt, an official racer’s number and a finisher medal provided by the Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon. Smokey Bear is always there, and this year, Ahh Yoga taught the kids some pre-race conditioning moves.

“Despite the fact that we were dealing with a rescheduled race date, we still had an excellent turnout, lots of enthusiasm and a very competitive race,” Susan Helm remarked. “We are all looking forward to next year.” The people who run this race know they will be well taken care of and they keep coming back. Here’s to the volunteers who make that happen.

Thanks to our generous sponsors

- The Flying Turtles (Bill and Barbara Rogers)
- Frisina Family Wellness Center
- PhysioTherapy Professionals
- Steve and Robin Read
- Davis Financial Group

Congratulations to the winners

- Overall winner—Landon Skelly: 00:29:15 (new course record!)
- Overall female winner—Lydia Rudd: 00:34:55
- Male master’s winner—Bill Owens: 00:34:36
- Female master’s winner—Arlene Hall: 00:45:15

Photos courtesy of Dick Adorjan and Virginia Scott
Springfield Art Association Celebrates Lincoln Memorial Garden

by Kathy Andrews Wright

On Friday July 14, the Springfield Art Association’s H. D. Smith Gallery (in the Hoogland Center for the Arts) hosted a reception for “Inspired by the Garden: Lincoln Memorial Garden Beyond 75 years.” On display through August 19, the more than 50 pieces featured works in all media that were inspired by the spirit and purpose of Lincoln Memorial Garden—from birds to pathways, native plants and more.

The Hoogland Center’s H.D. Smith Gallery is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. For more information on the Springfield Art Association, visit www.springfieldart.org.

Our sincere thanks go to Corrin McWhirter, Gallery Director, and others with the SAA Collective for developing this exhibit.

Artwork, clockwise from top right: Mixed media shadow box by Katherine Pippen Pauley; Fall Festival, pastel, by George King; Explosions of Color, painting, by Pat Kreppert; Tree, mixed media, by Stan Bly; and Exult, painting, by Kevin Veara.

Lincoln Memorial Garden

Mission

The mission of Lincoln Memorial Garden is to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln through re-creation of the native landscape he would have known, and to serve as a place to find inspiration in the changing seasons, learn stewardship of the environment and explore the relationship among plants, wildlife, water, soil, and sunlight in an atmosphere of peace and beauty.
Welcome, new Board member Lori Reardon

by Steven Read

Recently retired, Lori Reardon started to volunteer at LMG in 2015 thanks to encouragement from current Board member Tom Skelly. Lori is a volunteer on the grounds crew and at the front desk of the Nature Center—all during a very busy Tuesday. She loves to lead the maple syrup walks in the early spring, which helps her recall many fond memories as a Girl Scout camp counselor. She thinks of LMG as a “happy place” and feels spiritually connected to the land.

Lori spent most of her career in the hotel business and is retired from the downtown Hilton, where she worked as the Food and Beverage Business Manager. What better qualifications could she have to take over management of the food tent during the Indian Summer Festival! Lori lives in Springfield with her wife, Sue Ebetsch. They are the proud owners of an RV and plan to travel on many grand adventures. We would like to thank Lori for all of her hard work and dedication.

Fall Jr./Sr. Naturalist programs

by Audra Walters

Registration is now open for our fall sessions of Junior and Senior Naturalists. In October, November and December young naturalists will explore the science of one of autumn’s iconic symbols, use bones to identify some of the animals found at the Garden and discover their artistic side through an art in nature program.

October 14 – Pumpkins
November 4 – Bones
December 2 – Nature Art

Junior Naturalists (ages 5-8) meet from 9 a.m. to noon, and Senior Naturalists (ages 9-12) meet from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for all three sessions is $40 for members and $45 for nonmembers. Costs cover class materials and snacks. Naturalists can also register for individual sessions at a cost of $15 each for members and $18 for nonmembers. Register online at lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Leaf ID hikes

by Audra Walters

If your child has been assigned the task of creating a leaf collection and doesn’t know the difference between an oak and a maple leaf, then these hikes will be of interest to you. On Sundays, September 10, 17 and 24, the Garden will present leaf identification and collection hikes to assist students in completion of leaf collection projects. During these hikes, Garden Naturalists will identify and distribute at least 25 leaves. Hikes begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. The cost is $5 per person or free to members. Naturalists will also be available after the hike to answer individual questions. Call the Garden at (217) 529-1111 to reserve a spot.

Bird Hikes

As fall arrives at the Garden, so do a variety of migrating birds. The Garden’s Saturday morning bird hikes, led by volunteer birding expert Kevin Veara, allow participants to seek out these visitors as well as year round resident birds. Bird hikes will be held September 16, 23 and 30 and October 7 and 14. They will begin each of those Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. in front of the Nature Center and are free and open to birders of all experience levels. Binoculars are recommended.

“Monarchs and Me”

by Brenda Larison

After two decades of steep decline, the monarch butterfly population seems to have stabilized in recent years.

Since the mid-1990s, annual population estimates of monarchs overwintering in central Mexico have provided a disheartening picture of the plight of this once common butterfly. Monarch numbers currently stand at around 150 million, compared to a long-term average of 300 million and a peak of 1 billion. This year, however, the official monarch population estimate is on track to increase by about 1/3 over last year. According to recent population projections by Monarch Watch, 2017 should be a “GREAT year for tagging” migrating monarchs this fall.

Thousands of backyard gardeners, organizations and governments, among others, are taking steps to protect the Monarch butterfly and its 2,000 mile annual migration. This September at the Garden, we will once again offer a free, two-Saturday session for children interested in learning more about this amazing butterfly. The sessions are scheduled for September 16 and 23 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Nature Center. Registration for the “Monarchs and Me” class is available at the Lincoln Memorial Garden website: www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Restoration efforts continue

by Joel Horwedel

Over the past several years, Garden staff and volunteers have removed numerous invasive species. Visitors may have noticed that large areas have been cleared and long-forgotten vistas have been rediscovered. As we continue with invasive species removal, we have also begun the process of replanting these areas with native understory species. Additionally, the Garden’s shingle oak population is succumbing to the gouty oak gall, and we anticipate losing our ash trees to the emerald ash borer. With financial support from our longtime partner, Garden Clubs of Illinois, we hope to repopulate these affected areas with new trees in order to offset the losses. Additional tree and shrub plantings are planned for this fall. If you would like to donate to this effort, please contact Joel at the Nature Center (217-529-1111).

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Volunteer Naturalist training

On Wednesday, September 20, we will hold volunteer naturalist training for both new and experienced volunteers. This is an opportunity to come out and learn everything you need to know in order to lead school children on nature hikes through the Garden. At the same time, you will learn more about the natural world, enjoy the seasonal changes and experience the joy of sharing your new knowledge with the many children who visit the Garden.

This training session runs from noon until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Audra at (217) 529-1111 or audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Operations Donations
- Rozanne Robertson
- Daniel Rown
- Leslie and Tim Leitner, in honor of Nathan’s 30th birthday
- Scott and Colleen Germeraad, in honor of Randy Germeraad for Father’s Day

Indian Summer Festival Sponsors
- AIG Matching Grant Fund
- Jo Alessandrini and Guerry Suggs
- Apple Barn
- Davis Financial
- Jim and Mary Grundel
- Bob Naugle
- Robin and Steven Read
- Bill and Barbara Rogers

Memorials
To the following individuals who have chosen to honor the memory of a loved one with a gift to Lincoln Memorial Garden, we say thank you.

In memory of Jason Nagle, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Kathleen Anderson
- Karen Berman
- Richard and Carolyn Berning
- Monica and Derrel Davis
- Bill and Sue Donels
- Kent and Vickie Douglas
- Mary Anne Elson
- William and Karen Ettinger
- Michael and Meise Fahsl
- Pamela Hart
- Ann Hertz
- Jerry Josserand
- Carol and Tom Kerins
- Marilyn Kirchgesner
- Robert and Bobbie Kurmann
- Walter and Mary LaGrow
- Linda Law
- Michael and Judith Luecking
- Jim and Susan Madison
- Melanie and Steve Meyers
- Stephen and Deborah Mohr
- Deanna Moore
- Richard and Cynthia D. Nagle
- Brenda and Thomas Poston
- Marla Pringle
- Judith Rader
- Mary Roseberry and Terry Moore
- Mel and Amy Smith
- Lionel and Rebecca Stirrett

In memory of Candice Kane, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Paula Wolff

In memory of Stanley Stern, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- George T. and Phyllis Fairchild

In memory of Donna Pryer, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Evelyn Conboy
- Valerie Hollinshed
- Connie Leamon

In memory of Mary Long, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Patricia and Steven Fifer

In memory of Natalie Wohlers, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Mrs. Marilyn Kennedy

In memory of Liz Mims, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Sharon and John Kwedar

In memory of Fran Naugle, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Bob Naugle

Annual Fund Donations
- Dale and Pam Brooks
- Carol A. Kissel
- Alma Uphoff Liebman
- Marion Richter

Ecology Camp Thanks
- Barb Lieberhoff, Kristy Morris and the IEPA interns
- Rachel Zaborowski and Girl Scouts of Central IL
- Cassie Branstetter and Molly—Lincoln’s Home Site
- Dick Adorjan
- The amazing Jr. Counselors
- Brent and Erica Beeman
- Kali Gaden
- Chris Ryan and Hope Gooding
- Jennifer Manning
- Chris and Megan Pressnall
- Deborah Sanders
- Angie Satchivi
- Cathy and Doug Slater

Grant for New LMG Brochure
- Rotary Club of Springfield South

Our Wish List
Thank you to everyone who has donated funds for specific items on our wish list.

- Dewalt Compound Sliding Mitre Saw—$500
- Indian Summer Festival sponsorships—any amount
- Donations to Walgreen Bridge Fund—any amount
- Tree restoration project—any amount

If you can help, send a check to the Nature Center at 2301 East Lake Shore Drive, Springfield, 62712. You can also place your donation in the Nature Center’s donation box.
Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center
A Project of the Garden Clubs of Illinois
2301 East Lake Shore Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62712-8908
Address Service Requested

Photo by Mike Tyner

Calendar

September 10, 17, & 24  Leaf Identification Hike — 1:30 p.m.
September 16, 23, 30  Bird Hike — 8 a.m.
September 16 & 23  Monarchs and Me Class — 10 a.m.
September 20  Fall Volunteer Naturalist Training — 12 - 3 p.m.
September 21  Michael Jeffords and Susan Post presentation on their new book, “Curious Encounters with the Natural World . . .”, Illinois State Museum, social at 4:30 p.m.; program at 6 p.m.
October 7 & 8  Indian Summer Festival — 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Cawley Meadow
October 7 & 14  Bird Hike — 8 a.m.
October 14  Jr/Sr Naturalists: Pumpkins — 9 a.m. - noon Junior; 1 - 4 p.m. Senior
October 26  Grapes & Gourds birdhouse building workshop — 2 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m., It’s All About Wine. Register at lincolnmemorialgarden.org
November 4  Jr/Sr Naturalists: Bones — 9 a.m. - noon Junior; 1 - 4 p.m. Senior
December 2  Jr/Sr Naturalists: Nature Art — 9 a.m. - noon Junior; 1 - 4 p.m. Senior

Book signing party and program

Join Michael Jeffords and Susan Post in a celebration of a lifetime of curiosity through the pages of their new book Curious Encounters with the Natural World: From Grumpy Spiders to Hidden Tigers.

When:  Thursday, Sept. 21
Where:  Illinois State Museum
502 S. Spring St., Springfield

The party will start at 4:30 p.m. with a food truck meet-up, cash bar, music and book signing. The presentation begins at 6 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Illinois State Museum, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Illinois Audubon Society and the Springfield Audubon Society.