Holiday Market

by Maggie Carson

With the holiday season just around the corner, Lincoln Memorial Garden would like to invite you to attend its annual Holiday Market, held Saturday and Sunday, November 19–20.

In addition, a special Preview Party to kick off the holiday season this year is scheduled for Friday, November 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Light refreshments, including wine and cheese, will be offered to shoppers, as well as the opportunity to do your shopping early.

Come choose from many handcrafted and nature oriented gifts, such as walking sticks, pottery, birdbaths, soaps, candles and books.

The Holiday Market will also have many unique toys and games, and distinctive jewelry from area artisans. The Holiday Market will help you find those special gifts for kids, teachers, spouses, gardeners, and maybe a little something special for you.

In addition to gifts, a talented group of Springfield area artists and crafters has produced a wide variety of wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments, and centerpieces. They have generously donated their time and their talent to these extraordinary one-of-a-kind creations. They have made works of natural art to decorate your door, your table or your Christmas tree.

—continued on next page
HOLIDAY MARKET—cont’d from page 1

These designs will accent your holiday table and would also make distinctive gifts. Funds from every purchase you make go directly to support the Garden’s operating budget. So while buying a gift for friends or family, you are also giving a gift to Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Talented artisans have volunteered their time to create one-of-a-kind treasures to display in your home or give as gifts.

Calendar of Events

Friday, November 18
   Holiday Market Preview Party — 4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 19
   Annual Holiday Market — Split Rail Shop at the Nature Center; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 20
   Annual Holiday Market — Split Rail Shop at the Nature Center; 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 3
   Junior and Senior Naturalist Programs —
      9 a.m. to Noon; and 1 to 4 p.m.
      (information online)

Saturday, December 23 – January 3
   Nature Center closed

Thursday, February 16
   Midwestern Milkweed: Long-term trends and their relevance for monarch butterflies —
      Speaker: Greg Spyrreas, INHS botanist,
      7 p.m. in the Nature Center

Saturday, February 18 – 19
   Senior Naturalists Overnight —
      Starts 6 p.m. Saturday evening; concludes 9 a.m. Sunday

Director’s message
by Joel Horwedel

In early October LMG celebrated the 48th annual Indian Summer Festival with a beautiful weekend of weather. The festival was a major success breaking both attendance and profit records. So many of you helped us put on this amazing event; it is hard to comprehend the level of generosity that our volunteers provide. To everyone who helped volunteer at the festival, I am extremely grateful and appreciative of your support and dedication. I can’t thank you enough!

In the coming weeks you will be receiving our annual fund letter. I want to remind everyone how important annual fund donations are to LMG. Annual fund donations account for over thirty percent of our operating dollars! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.
Walgreen Bridge update

by Steven Read

The Board of Directors has authorized the construction of a clear span, weathered steel bridge pending the results of soil boring analysis and several other restrictions. We must determine the bearing capacity of the soil so we can prepare final cost estimates. We want to be assured there will be no cost increase “surprises” after construction begins. The bridge will span from one bank to the other and be fabricated from weathered steel, which will require no painting or maintenance. The weathered steel handrail will resemble the double “XX” pattern of the existing wood handrail. Protection against falling through the railing will be included as required by code.

Many members have been involved in informal discussions regarding appearance, projected construction costs, and future maintenance costs. Some were involved with previous fundraisers to repair and replace portions of the existing wood bridge and handrail. The consensus is that we do not want to subject future Board members and future donors to expensive repair and replacement costs.

While we have not officially begun to conduct a fundraising campaign, we have already received a very generous gift from the Molly Becker Charitable Remainder Trust. Molly was a long time Garden volunteer. We have also received a very generous commitment from Karen Pletsch and her family from the Walter Hanson Family Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

We have received valuable consulting services and input (at no cost to the Garden) from Kent Massie and Neil Brumleve of Massie Massie & Associates; Norm Brown of Brown Engineers; and Gary Clack of Hanson Professional Services. We are very appreciative of their interest and support of this project.

John Blythe of Jones-Blythe Construction Co. and Mike O’Shea of O’Shea Builders have both generously agreed to donate the majority of the construction labor required to construct the bridge. We will work closely with them and make every effort to schedule their portion of work to accommodate their availability. Both are eager to help maintain Lincoln Memorial Garden as the local treasure it truly is.

Formal fundraising will not begin until the early part of 2017. With the gifts and labor donation commitments we have received thus far, we are not far from our projected goal. We are tremendously appreciative for all of the enthusiastic support and encouragement we have already received from many Friends of the Garden.

IRA owners can turn their required annual distributions into charitable donations

For persons aged 70 ½ and over with Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) the on-again, off-again tax provision permitting direct tax-free donations of up to $100,000 to charities is now a permanent part of the U.S. tax code.

Under U.S. law, IRA owners must begin taking money out of their IRAs when they reach age 70 ½. This Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is usually added to taxable income for that year. However, under this updated provision, the RMD (or part of it) can instead be donated directly to a charity and that dollar amount subsequently would not be included as taxable income on the individual’s federal tax return.

Persons who would like to use this option to help support Lincoln Memorial Garden should contact their tax advisor or their plan provider to learn more about the opportunities and procedures. Gifts must be completed by December 31st for the 2016 tax year.

“My soul can find no staircase to Heaven unless it would be through Earth’s loveliness.”
— Michelangelo Buonardo
Indian Summer Festival: Fun for All

by Maggie Carson

Lincoln Memorial Garden’s Indian Summer Festival lived up to its motto of “Fun for All.” At this year’s Festival, held Oct. 8 and 9, the weather was perfect, the food was wonderful and a wide variety of entertainment and activities delighted attendees of all ages.

According to the Garden’s executive director, Joel Horwedel, attendance was the highest in the 48-year history of its annual fall event. “It was exciting seeing so many people come out to the Festival. I know the great weather helped, but I have to give a lot of credit to the staff and the dedicated volunteers for making this the best Festival ever.”

One of the most popular new Festival features was the Fairy Woodlands, created by Garden volunteers in the woods near the southeast corner of the meadow. The new Fairy Woodlands was large enough that all the fairy houses the children created could remain in the area for the entire duration of the festival. Children were able to escape into their own wonderland, among dozens of fairy houses to create their own fairy houses, using materials provided by the Garden. We even spotted parents and grandparents who couldn’t resist joining in.

A special feature this year were presentations from the renowned “Friend of the Bees,” Arvin Pierce. Pierce described the importance of bees and other pollinators as part of our ecosystem. He explained that without these amazing creatures our food supply would be put at risk. And there’s the added dividend of some tasty honey.

—continued on next page
INDIAN SUMMER FEST — cont’d from page 4

Throughout cooperation with the Girl Scouts, 4-H, Springfield Art Association, U of I Extension and Henson Robinson Zoo, the Festival offered such things as pumpkin decorating, artisan demonstrations, a puppet show and zoo animals. Visitors emerged from the Kid’s Korner with images of their favorite animals, balloons, and many other colorful and whimsical designs on their faces, thanks to Mickey Lower and her face painting company “The Zoo Lady and Her Zoo Crew.”

Results of the 2016 Birdhouse Competition

by Kathy Andrews Wright, ISF Birdhouse Competition Coordinator

Wonderful fall weather brought record crowds to the 2016 Indian Summer Festival. Nearly 1,450 of those attendees participated in selecting the People’s Choice winning birdhouse in the 7th annual Birdhouse Building Competition at Lincoln Memorial Garden. Springfield resident Dan Downey crafted the most popular entry, garnering votes from people all ages with his treehouse-inspired birdhouse.

Official judges reviewed the 12 entries and named Downey’s birdhouse as the Best Whimsical entry. Kevin Van Huss, Springfield, designed the Best Functional birdhouse, which resembled a log cabin and was clad with pinecone scale shingles. Winners in the youth categories were Isabela Burke, Springfield, whose magic lamp birdhouse was named the Best Youth Functional birdhouse, and OakLee Pedigo, Girard, who received the Best Youth Whimsical birdhouse honor with his use of natural wood materials to create an apartment-style birdhouse. New to the 2016 contest was a category for gourd birdhouses, with Stacy Reddecliff, Springfield, taking the honor.

Judges were Francine Appleton, President of the Springfield Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society; Wade Kammin, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited; and Kevin Veara, Springfield artist and LMG bird hike leader.

Snowy winter days are a perfect time to start planning and constructing entries to the contest! Information about the 2017 Indian Summer Festival Birdhouse Competition, including contest rules and an entry form, will be posted on the LMG website by August 15th. Let’s continue to grow the contest—and enhance backyard habitat for cavity-nesting birds—with a tremendous showing for the 2017 contest.

And what’s a great Festival without great food. Attendees enjoyed grilled pork chops, popcorn, chili, nachos and hot dogs as well as cold soft drinks and hot and cold cider at the Garden’s food tent. The Springfield Civic Garden Club’s Country Cupboard also offered a wide selection of delicious home baked goods, plus coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Adding to the festivities from 11 to 4 each day were several talented musicians from the area, including: Cactus Ranch, Ben Bedford, Amy Benton, Burr Oak String Band, Kraig Kenning and the Deep Hollow, playing a variety of music from bluegrass to folk-rock. “The bands, especially Deep Hollow, seemed to be more popular than ever,” said Larry Miller. “I hope they continue to have this high quality entertainment.”
Keep an Eye Out for Crazy Worms

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Scientists across the United States are concerned about the impact one of the newest invasive invertebrates could have on plant communities by depleting nutrients, changing the soil structure, damaging roots and altering the ability of the soil to hold water. Known in the scientific community as Amynthas spp., its common names—jumping worm, snake worm and crazy worm—provide accurate descriptors of its habits.

Native to southeast Asia, crazy worms were first identified in Illinois in 2015. As of June 2016, they had been documented as occurring in Cook, McHenry, DuPage and Williamson counties. Only able to travel about 30 feet per day, they are spreading across the country in cargo, root balls in garden plants and as bait dumped at the end of a fishing expedition.

Crazy worms are voracious consumers, having the potential to denude forest floor vegetation and leaf litter. One study found that these worms quickly decreased the mass of the nutrient-rich leaf litter by 84 to 95 percent. Unfortunately, the nitrogen and phosphorous they leave behind is at the surface rather than available at root level.

The University of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science is interested in information on potential new populations of these worms. If you suspect you have a population, contact Extension Forester Chris Evans at cwevans@illinois.edu or (618) 695-3383, or the Plant Clinic at plantclinic@illinois.edu or (217) 333-0519.

How to Identify a Crazy Worm

- True to its name, it thrashes about wildly when handled or disturbed
- Can reach lengths of 4 to 8 inches
- Skin is glossy or iridescent and is usually darker on top than on the bottom; clitellum (colored band) is smooth and milky white
- May shed its tail as a defensive mechanism
- Lives in leaf litter and as deep as 3 to 4 inches in the soil
- Produces unique soil reminiscent of coffee grounds
- Adults may be seen from mid-summer through the first hard freeze. Quick breeders, they will reach sexual maturity in 60 days. Eggs will survive an Illinois winter. The worms are able to reproduce without mating.
Save the dates for Ecology Camp 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>June 5 – 9</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>13 – 15 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>June 12 – 16</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>June 19 – 23</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>June 26 – 30</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>July 10 – 14</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>8, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>July 17 – 21</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>9, 10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>July 24 – 28</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior Naturalist Overnight
February 18, 6:00 p.m. – February 19, 9:00 a.m.

We invite naturalists ages 9–12 to come out this winter for a time of fun, food, and exploration. At our annual Overnight we will camp out in the Nature Center, spend time out on the grounds playing the LMG time honored favorite Predator/Prey, and take a late night hike to witness the nocturnal happenings in the Garden. We will also enjoy pizza for dinner, s’mores and stories around the campfire. After our outdoor fun we will warm up with indoor games and movies. There might even be time left over for sleep. Before parents arrive on Sunday, naturalists will enjoy breakfast.

We will meet at the Nature Center at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, and pick up is at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 19. Cost is $50 for Garden members and $65 for nonmembers. Registration is available online at the Garden’s website www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org. Questions? Please call (217) 529-1111 or email Audra at audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Our Wish List

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

- **Air Hose Reel** — $100
- **12” Compound Sliding Miter Saw** — $600
- **Donations to Walgreen Bridge Fund** — 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.

WANTED:

**ONE ELECTRICAL GEEK**

Repair the Lighted (currently unlighted) Match Displays in the Discovery Room:

- ✔ Snake Match
- ✔ Leaf Match
- ✔ Tree Match
- ✔ Plant Match

*(We know the answers!!)*

Salary: **Volunteer**
Age: Yes
Benefits:
- • **Enjoy the Nature Center**
- • **Enjoy the Garden**
- • **Many happy kids**

To apply for the job, please contact Joel Horwedel at 529-1111

Lincoln Memorial Garden
Annual Fund
Stop for a minute and picture the Garden

Do you know what it takes to run Lincoln Memorial Garden, a 100-acre, privately funded, not-for-profit, free to the public garden?

$370,000 a year.

How do we raise those funds? We do it every year with your help. You help when you pay your membership, when you attend special events, when you send your children to camp or buy a gift at the Split Rail Shop.

Also, you help when you contribute to the Annual Fund Drive. The Annual Fund is crucial. It provides at least 30 percent of our operating budget, which pays for supplies, services, tools, printing, equipment repair, invasive species eradication, trail maintenance, salaries and much more.

So you will be hearing from us soon asking you to support Lincoln Memorial Garden with an annual fund donation.

Please stop for a minute, picture the Garden, and give as generously as you can.

Photo courtesy of Mike Tyner