Spring 2017
Vol. 53   No. 2

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Visit the Garden!
Hours of Operation:
NATURE CENTER
10 – 4 — Tuesday – Saturday
1 – 4 — Sunday
Closed Monday
GARDEN
Garden is open every day sunrise to sunset.
P: 217-529-1111
E: joel@lincolnmemorialgarden.org
www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org

STAFF
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Environmental Educator .. Audra Walters
Gardener ......................Larry Miller
Gardener ......................Charles Allen
Board President...............Steven Read
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Maggie Carson, Polly Danforth,
Meggie Davlin, Susan Helm,
Steven Read, Nicky Stratton,
Kathy Andrews Wright and Tracy Zeman

Wildflower and bird hikes

Spring is the perfect time to head out to Lincoln Memorial Garden, and we have several opportunities to enhance your visit.

From the middle of April until early May spring wildflowers and flowering trees fill the Garden with color. During this time we offer our spring wildflower hikes to help visitors identify the blooming flowers as well as the various flowering trees and shrubs. This year’s hikes will be on April 8, 9, 15, 29, 30 and May 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. each day.

If wildlife is more your style, be sure to join birder Kevin Veara for one of our spring migration bird hikes. Groups will explore the different ecosystems of Lincoln Memorial Garden in search of winged visitors. All ages and experience levels are welcome to attend any or all of these hikes on April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, and 20. Hikes leave from the Nature Center at 8 a.m.

Ecology Camp

With spring in full swing and summer right around the corner, it’s time to get your young nature lover signed up for Ecology Camp. During each session of camp kids will get the opportunity to explore the Garden’s varied ecosystems and learn more about ecology, native plants, insects, animals, and our environment.

Each camp session is limited to 36 campers and sessions do fill up, so be sure to register early. Online registration is available at the Lincoln Memorial Garden web site: www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org

If you would like any additional information or have questions, please contact audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org or call (217) 529-1111.

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Director’s message

by Joel Horwedel

It’s the busy season again at LMG! The coming of spring means that the Garden is in full swing with events, activities, and opportunities to get outside. I encourage everyone to check the calendar on the back of the newsletter or our website calendar to stay up to date on all of our happenings.

By the time you read this, our Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction will have come and gone. Thank you to all of our members and friends for all of the wonderful items donated to the Silent Auction. This fundraising event would not be possible without your support! Also, thank you to Joyce Munie, Chris Davis, and Elena Hornshaw for all of their hard work and many hours of donated time setting up and making our Silent Auction possible.

On May 20, LMG will hold its Fifth Annual 8K Trail Run. Five years ago LMG board member Susan Helm came up with the idea for the Trail Run and has never looked back. Susan co-chaired the race for the past four years and this year she took the reins and chaired the event by herself. Due to Susan’s hard work and attention to detail, our race has become a popular destination for runners from all over the state. Thank you, Susan! Take a moment today to register and give the race a try, or plan to come out on May 20 and experience the excitement of the race.

Registration open for the 2017 8K Trail Run

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Registration is open and many runners are already training for the fun—yet challenging—Fifth Annual Lincoln Memorial Garden 8K Trail Run. Lincoln Memorial Garden board member and race chair Susan Helm advises interested runners to register soon as this popular race always sells out well in advance of race day. A maximum of 300 adult runners will be allowed, with the cap for the children’s race set at 100.

As in the past, LMG appreciates the assistance of members of the Capital Area Amateur Radio Emergency Response Team who will serve as volunteer race marshals. Their communication capabilities are crucial over an extensive course through wooded terrain.

One more dedicated team needs to be mentioned—the hard-working group of volunteers who come weekly to prepare the trails for the race. While this work is conducted annually, it starts a little earlier in preparation for the May run.

Not interested in racing? May is a great time to visit LMG to view spring woodland flowers and migratory songbirds. After cheering on racers and seeing the awards presentation, make time to hit the trails and enjoy the nature of the Garden.

Date & Time:
Saturday, May 20, 2017 8K Trail Run begins at 7:30 a.m. The Kids Fun Run starts at approximately 9 a.m.

Description:
The 4.97–mile loop course starts and ends at the Lincoln Memorial Garden main parking lot and will be chip timed. This is a Springfield Road Runner Club participation race.

Awards:
An award will be given to the overall winner in each runner category and to the top one-third of finishers in all age categories. This year’s award will be a custom-made award with direct ties to Lincoln Memorial Garden, Abraham Lincoln and nature. All participants and children will receive a participation “medal.”

Cost:
Registration is $30 until April 16 at 11:59 p.m. when the price increases to $35. Included in the registration fees are a dri-release T-shirt, participation medal, post-run live entertainment and food. Children’s Fun Run for toddlers through age 12 is $6 and includes a T-shirt and participation medal. Smokey Bear will make an appearance at the children’s event.

Registration:
To register for the 8K and the Children’s Run go to getmeregistered.com or lincolnmemorialgarden.org. Questions? Contact Joel Horwedel (217) 529-1111 or joel@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.
Hey you. WHO, me? ...that’s right, YOU!

There’s a pretty damn good chance if you are reading this, you are a loyal member of Lincoln Memorial Garden. Thank you! As a member you are contributing not just your money, which comes in handy—got to admit that—but you are also expressing your enthusiasm for the Garden. That’s very important.

Thank you for that, too.

Now, if you aren’t a member. How about becoming one? Couldn’t be simpler. There are several categories of membership and plenty of good reasons to join. Just go to www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org and click on membership. Everything you need to know is right there. Your membership will reap many benefits for you and for LMG.

Walgreen Bridge update

by Steven Read

When it was decided to close the Walgreen Bridge last spring, we all dreaded the many obstacles we faced. We began to review and analyze our options. Our first priority was to finance the project without an additional fundraiser. As we began our decision-making process, we received a very generous gift from the Molly Becker Charitable Remainder Trust. Shortly thereafter, we received a very large pledge from Karen Pletsch and her family from the Walter Hanson Family Fund. Since then several other Garden members made individual donations.

Valuable professional services were provided by Kent Massie and Neil Brumleve of Massie Massie & Associates; Norm Brown of Brown Engineers; and Gary Clack of Hanson Professional Services at little or no cost to the Garden. John Blythe of Jones-Blythe Construction Co. and Mike O’Shea of O’Shea Builders agreed to donate the majority of the construction labor and equipment required to demolish the existing bridge, install the new foundations, and erect a prefabricated bridge.

Thanks to all of the in-kind donations, the Garden’s cost to replace the bridge is projected to be less than $120,000. Even without a formal fundraiser, generous friends of the Garden have stepped up and donated or pledged enough to exceed that goal.

The bridge was recently demolished or more accurately—a small nudge and the bridge toppled over. Pieces of the guardrails fell off the bridge even before demolition began. The timber connections, the ends of the major support timbers, and the X bracing were all in much worse condition than we even expected. Plans for the new bridge were recently submitted to the City of Springfield and a building permit has been secured.

We are very appreciative for all of the input and support we have received from so many Friends of the Garden.

List of donors as of this writing:
Walter Hanson Family Fund
Molly Becker Charitable Remainder Trust
Mary Fairclough
Mary Halverson
Ron and Beth Horwedel
Blake Ross
Rob and Sue Sampson
Phil and Marlene Sefton
Dan and Margie Towery

The automobiles in the photo above provide a clue about the advanced age of the Walgreen Bridge. At the right, demolition began bright and early February 21, 2017. The second photo reveals rotted timbers. (Photos courtesy of Steven Read)
Volunteer Appreciation Party

Volunteers do so much for Lincoln Memorial Garden. They are responsible for leading school groups, maintaining the grounds, greeting visitors, working at special events, managing the gift shop, serving on the board and various committees, making crafts for the gift shop, and so much more. As a way of saying thank you, and in a small way show our appreciation for everything that our volunteers do, we’re having a Volunteer Appreciation Party on Thursday, April 20 at the Nature Center.

We’ll have food and drinks starting at 6 p.m. followed by a program on Short-Eared Owls presented by Libby Errickson.

If you plan on attending please RSVP to audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org or call (217) 529-1111 no later than April 17.

12th annual Lunch in Bloom

by Nicky Stratton

It doesn’t matter if your calendar is the old-fashioned ink to paper variety or the new-fangled Google version, you need to immediately add Lincoln Memorial Garden’s popular annual event—Lunch in Bloom.

“While Lunch in Bloom is certainly a fundraiser,” said Garden director Joel Horwedel, “it is foremost a great opportunity for Garden friends to come together and celebrate the arrival of spring while enjoying the beautiful lake view from the Island Bay Yacht Club.”

The date this year is Sunday, April 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In keeping with a very popular tradition the food will be excellent, the weather perfect, the pre-dinner music melodic, and the room will be filled with people who love the Garden.

The buffet style luncheon menu includes mixed greens with candied pecans, dried cranberries, golden raisins, dry bleu cheese, and a poppy seed dressing; red bliss potatoes; buttered green beans; Sister Schubert rolls; and ice tea, lemonade or coffee. There are two entrees—Macadamia nut breast of chicken with an orange citrus cream sauce, and Tilapia with a lemon beurre blanc sauce. The dessert table will consist of an assortment of beautifully decorated cupcakes in lavish spring colors.

A vegetarian option of spinach and sundried tomato stuffed portabella mushroom is available for those guests who request this option when making their reservation.

For all who enjoy a relaxing cocktail before luncheon the cash bar offers a signature drink of vodka lemonade with a swirl of raspberry syrup, or its popular Bloody Mary.

The raffle each year is unique in that each raffle prize has an assigned number. When you purchase your tickets, please circle the number on each ticket of the prize you would like to win.

Prizes will include: Four first base field box seats to the April 25 Cardinal-Toronto Blue Jays baseball game; two tickets to the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington, with a backstage tour and a pre-performance wine and cheese basket; a basket of bicycle accessories for the serious or casual biker, plus a tune-up by the Bicycle Doctor; an overnight stay at the historic Senator Rickert Residence Bed & Breakfast and a gift certificate to Gallagher’s Restaurant, both in Waterloo, IL.

Luncheon tickets are $45. Raffle tickets are $10 each or three for $20. These can be purchased online at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org or by returning the designated section of the invitation with a check to the Garden by April 21. This is a popular event so make your reservations early.

Annual Meeting scheduled for April 12

by Steven Read

The Annual Meeting for the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation will be held Wednesday evening, April 12, at the Nature Center. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting immediately following at 7 p.m. All Garden members are invited to attend.

Officers for the upcoming year include Tom Wilkin, President; Cathy Slater, President-Elect; Tom Skelly, Treasurer; and Susan Flanagan, Secretary.

Board members who have agreed to serve a second three-year term are Drew Davis, Tom Wilkin, and Kathy Andrews Wright. New board members include Denny Cocagne, Melissa Skinner-Liberman, Bridget Selinger, Crystal VanDeventer, and Wendy Weisenburn.

Sally Noble will begin her first year on the board as president of the Springfield Civic Garden Club. Anita Bierbaum, President of Garden Clubs of Illinois, will begin her first year on the board as well.

Other board members who will continue to serve are Dick Adorjan, Brent Beeman, John Buhnerkempe, Max Comstock, Meggie Davlin, Scott Germeraad, Mary Grundel, Sharon Kwedar, Britney Izinghausen Libka, and Richard McDaniel.

Please join us. Remember, all Lincoln Memorial Garden members are invited.

Pedal 4 Petals
Update on Eastern Monarch populations and ongoing efforts

by Kathy Andrews Wright

The iconic long-distance migrant, the monarch butterfly, continues to draw great interest from a variety of parties, including scientists, landowners, educators, conservationists and the backyard gardener, and from that interest a number of initiatives have occurred.

Biologists continue to monitor the eastern monarch wintering population, and the 2016-2017 numbers aren’t good. Surveying Mexico’s transvolcanic mountains during the winter of 2016-17 revealed a decrease of 27 percent, with monarchs occupying 2.91 hectares of forest. During the 2015-2016 winter, monarchs were found on 4.01 hectares. While monarch overwintering populations do naturally fluctuate in size, the long-term trend indicates an overall decline in numbers. The highest season was 1996-1997 when colonies covered 18.19 hectares, with the lowest season being 2013-2014 when the colonies totaled only 0.67 hectares. As a point of reference, a hectare is 2.47 acres, or about the size of a baseball field.

Biologists attribute the 2016-2017 decline to an extreme and unusual winter storm that struck as monarchs were beginning to migrate north. But, abundant and available habitat and good weather conditions on the breeding grounds allowed monarchs to quickly produce large numbers of individuals.

In February, Dr. Greg Spyreas, Illinois Natural History Survey Plant Ecologist and Botanist, made a presentation at Lincoln Memorial Garden and explained that several hypotheses exist for the monarch decline. Spyreas’ research focus is on the milkweed hosts for monarch larvae, and the idea that milkweeds are declining.

Using 20 years of Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) wetland and grassland data, Spyreas has been tracking how the abundances of four milkweed species have changed in Illinois, and what site and landscape factors are associated with those changes. Research results will be published in the near future.

Taking Action

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list the eastern North American portion of the monarch butterfly population under the Endangered Species Act, with a decision expected in June 2019. A Species Status Assessment and Status Review are under way to provide the scientific foundation for the policy decision.

In the meantime, programs are taking place throughout Illinois, by diverse stakeholder groups who are working to bolster habitat for the monarch.

On November 16, 2016, Governor Rauner issued a proclamation declaring May 2017 to be Monarch Butterfly Month in Illinois. The intent of the proclamation is to encourage all Illinoisans to value and recognize the importance of the monarch butterfly and help restore the monarch butterfly population. The full proclamation can be viewed on page 3.

In December 2016, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the Monarch Butterfly Conference Report. Take-home messages from the report include: planting regionally appropriate native milkweeds; following regional best practices for restoration; enhancing the availability of nectar plants for adult butterflies; maintaining restored sites; minimizing the use of insecticides, and limiting the use of herbicides; and, monitoring plantings and the use of plantings by monarchs and pollinators.

—continued on next page
The Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group, led by researchers at the University of Illinois-Chicago is engaging transportation and utility organizations and promoting opportunities for restoring and enhancing pollinator habitat along roadsides, railroads and utility corridors.

The Keystone Policy Center (keystone.org/our-work/agriculture) brought together a diverse group of scientists, conservationists, farmers and the private sector, to find collaborative solutions to strengthen monarch populations and habitat.

Chicago Wilderness is developing a regional plan for monarch conservation that can act as a model for other urban regions. This effort builds upon the Urban Monarch Conservation Design developed by The Field Museum and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/keller-science-action-center/science-action-chicago/monarchs-view-city). The products include a Guidebook and a set of mapping and analytical tools to identify the best places and methods to create habitat in urban areas.

What will it take to ensure the monarch continues to brighten the skies over Illinois? Through modeling programs, biologists suggest that maintaining a minimum population size that occupies 6 hectares of overwintering area would greatly reduce the risk of losing the monarch migration, and that an additional 1.6 billion milkweed stems, and a diverse nectar supply throughout the migratory range, are necessary.

Fortunately, the interest and energy of diverse stakeholder groups provides a collective action, and hope for the future.

Mark Your Calendar

Midwestern Milkweeds and Monarchs, Sunday, May 7, 2017, 1-2:30 p.m.

Brenda Larison will present her popular program at Lincoln Memorial Garden, updating participants on the status of Illinois’ state insect and providing tips for growing milkweeds, critical for the egg laying and larval development phases of the monarch. Seedlings of common, swamp and orange milkweed will be given away. After the presentation, join Brenda for a walk to Ostermeier Prairie Center and search for milkweeds and other pollinator-friendly prairie plants.

Monarchs for Kids, September 16 and 23, 2017

Back by popular demand, Monarchs for Kids provides a fun-filled program learning about monarchs, and a chance to tag a monarch to track its long-distance migration to Mexico. Watch for updates on the program on Facebook and the LMG web site.

Photos, clockwise from top of page: monarch chrysalis attached to the underside of a leaf; newly emerged monarch hanging on its chrysalis; monarchs that migrated to Mexico for the winter; monarch caterpillar feeding on common milkweed leaves.

To learn more, or to participate in the collaborative effort in Illinois, visit dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/MonarchButterflySummit.aspx.
WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is the official state insect of the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, monarch butterflies, as well as other pollinating species such as bees and bats, help move pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing flowers and making it possible for plants to produce food needed to feed people and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, the population of the monarch butterfly has declined at an alarming rate, a decrease of more than 90 percent in the past 20 years; Illinois has been designated as a high-priority area for monarch conservation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service; and,

WHEREAS, the monarch was identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the most recent Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, created by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); and,

WHEREAS, many factors contributed to the decline of monarchs and other pollinators, such as habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has already taken several steps to educate citizens on preserving and restoring the monarch population: the IDNR coordinated an Illinois Monarch Butterfly Summit on September 9, 2016; monarchs and native bees were highlighted in the Division of Education tent at the 2016 Illinois State Fair; and an education webpage and nine video podcasts are posted on the IDNR website; and,

WHEREAS, every citizen has the ability to make a difference and restore the monarch butterfly population by planting milkweed, reducing pesticides and herbicides, educating others, establishing monarch waystations, and supporting other monarch conservation efforts;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as MONARCH BUTTERFLY MONTH in Illinois, and encourage all Illinoisans to value and recognize the importance of the monarch butterfly and help restore the monarch butterfly population.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this SEVENTEENTH day of NOVEMBER, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and SIXTEEN, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND...
We offer heartfelt gratitude to the following contributors and sponsors of events and programs at Lincoln Memorial Garden:

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New Members

Carol Anderson
Debbie Bruce

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 Lucille A. Anderson and Don T. Anderson, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Judith Anderson

In memory of Margaret Grubb, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Susan and Doug Flanagan
- Nancy Haines

In memory of Cliff Henderson, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Susan and Doug Flanagan

In memory of Rita Davis, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Joyce Munie

In memory of Jim Simmons, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Charlene Myers
- Shirley Emerson
- Greg and Sharon Smith
- Michael and Monica Koval

A Memorial Bench in memory of Joyce Liberman, was donated by . . .
- Colin and Melissa Liberman

Going Native

LMG wildflower and tree sales

The Garden’s two annual wildflower sales will be held the weekends of April 22-23 and May 13-14. The time for both sales is 9 a.m to 4 p.m on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 22 -23, woodland wildflowers and trees will be the main attraction. The woodland wildflowers love shady spots that many other flowers don’t like and will provide years of enjoyment as they reappear each spring.

You can choose from bluebells, trillium, woodland poppies, bloodroot, dutchman’s breeches, spider wort, wild geranium, several varieties of ferns, and more. In addition to flowers, we will also have herbs this year! Prices range from $3 to $8.

Along with the wildflowers, a wide variety of trees and shrubs will be available. These woody species are bare root native stock, between 2 to 5 feet tall, and are priced from $7 to $20. Trees and shrubs offered for sale include redbud, dogwood, persimmon, sugar maple, swamp white and shumard oak, silverbell, cranberry viburnum and more.

On Mother’s Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14, prairie wildflowers take center stage. Bring mom out and buy her some beautiful flowers for Mother’s Day! Over two dozen species of wildflowers will be on sale including popular favorites like purple coneflower, royal catchfly, and butterfly weed. Prairie enthusiasts might enjoy adding Queen of the Prairie, lead plant or prairie smoke to their garden or restoration. There will be plenty of choices and most wildflowers will be priced around $7.

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.
April 8, 9, 15, 29, 30, May 6, 7
Wildflower Hikes – 2 p.m. Nature Center.

April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20
Spring Bird Hikes with Kevin Veara – 8 a.m. Nature Center.

April 18
Spring Volunteer Naturalist Training – 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Nature Center.

April 20
Volunteer Appreciation Party – 6 p.m. Nature Center.

April 22–23
Woodland Wildflower and Tree Sale – Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Nature Center.

May 6
Junior Naturalists – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Senior Naturalists – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

May 7
Monarch Program – 1 p.m. Nature Center.

May 13–14
Prairie Wildflower Sale – Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Nature Center.

May 20
8K Trial Run and Children’s Fun Run – 7:30 a.m.

June 5 through July 28
Ecology Camp