NEW Walgreen Bridge Has Arrived

by Steven Read

The old, wooden Walgreen Bridge was demolished by O’Shea Builders on February 21. The remnants were sawed into pieces and hauled to dumpsters by members of the Grounds Crew. When work began on the foundations, a several-month-long drought was broken, and we received quite a bit of rain. Every effort was made to minimize damage to the trails and inconvenience to Garden visitors. Helitech Civil Construction completed installation of the helical piles on April 4. Jones-Blythe Construction completed the concrete foundation work on April 7. The foundation area was backfilled and covered with erosion-control fabric. The labor and equipment provided by Jones-Blythe Construction and O’Shea Builders were donated. Selvaggio Steel donated the anchor bolts.

—continued on page 4

Ecology Camp update

by Audra Waters

Parents, if you are still looking for activities to keep your youngsters busy this summer; Lincoln Memorial Garden’s Ecology Camp is just the answer. Our week-long sessions are designed to teach kids about nature and the environment through Garden exploration, hands-on activities, environmental games and more.

We still have openings in many of our full-day sessions for campers age 7 to 12. Sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the cost is $130 for Garden members and $170 for nonmembers. Online registration is available at lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

For additional information contact Audra at (217) 529-1111 or audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.
Greetings! I hope everyone’s summer is off to a fantastic start and that you had the opportunity to visit the Garden during the spring and witness the beautiful assortment of woodland wildflowers! It has been a great spring at the Garden and as we transition to summer we anxiously look forward to the re-opening of the new Walgreen Bridge. Planning for a formal ribbon cutting ceremony is under way and we will be notifying all members of details on the July 18 event.

Recently, life members Paul and Jackie Carey made a donation to the Garden for a new display panel in the Nature Center, as well as a new golf cart. Thanks to their generosity, we now have a beautiful display panel in the Discovery Room with photos of children in nature taken by LMG Board Member Dick Adorjan. We also have a shiny new golf cart! Thanks so much Paul and Jackie!

At our Annual Meeting in April we welcomed seven new members to the board. For more information on our new board members please check out the article on page 6. During the annual meeting, Tom Wilkin accepted the role of president as Steve Read’s two-year term was up. I would like to thank Steve for his service on the board as well as his leadership during the past two years. Steve did a fantastic job navigating this organization through the Walgreen Bridge issue and I can’t imagine going through the process without him. Thanks so much for your hard work and dedication Steve! ~

Lincoln Memorial Garden is the inspiration behind upcoming exhibits at the Springfield Art Association’s (SAA) M.G. Nelson Family Gallery and the SAA Collective Gallery.

“Many artists thrive off the possibilities of a common starting point,” said Corrin McWhirter, SAA Collective Gallery Director. “This exhibition feeds that challenge with a central inspiration that can branch off in a million directions. Lincoln Memorial Garden is a hidden gem within the Springfield Community, and is a great location for artists to renew their creative energy.”

A free opening exhibit reception, open to the public, will take place on Friday, July 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at both locations.

“The evening of July 14th promises to be a fun gallery hop for art lovers and friends of Lincoln Memorial Garden to get a full picture of the inspiration participating artists took from the Garden,” McWhirter explained.

The exhibit at both locations opens on July 6. The exhibit at the SAA Collective Gallery (housed inside the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th Street) will run through August 19 (Gallery hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, and noon to 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday). The M.G. Nelson Family Gallery (700 North 4th St.) exhibit will run through August 29 (Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

For further information on the exhibit, visit springfieldart.org. Artists interested in participating in the exhibition should visit springfieldart.org/call-for-entries for more details on how to submit. ~

Top of page: “A View of the Lake” by Sue Scaife
Above: “Embrace” by Tracey Maras
Left: “Exult” by Kevin Veara
Springfield hosts one of Illinois’ rarest mammals

by Kathy Andrews Wright

While Lincoln Memorial Garden is widely recognized as a valued gem within Sangamon County as a respite for wildlife, those who enjoy watching nature will also appreciate the fact that residing on public land on the far western side of Springfield is one of the state’s rarest mammals.

The Franklin’s ground squirrel (Poliocitellus franklinii) is an Illinois-threatened species, and occurs in scattered locations in the northern two-thirds of Illinois.

Franklin’s ground squirrel is larger in size than the more common thirteen-lined ground squirrel, and although it resembles the gray squirrel its ears are smaller and tail is shorter and not as bushy. A true hibernator, this ground squirrel is active less than half of the year. Even during the warmer months, squirrels venture out of their burrow primarily to feed on carrion, insects, bird eggs, small birds and plant material.

Historically called the gray gopher or prairie squirrel, the Franklin’s ground squirrel is an ecotone species, preferring the transition zone between the woodlands and grasslands, and specifically grasslands where the grasses are short enough for the squirrel to scan their surroundings when standing on their hind legs. Today, Franklin’s ground squirrels may be found in fencerows, old fields, roadsides (if not mowed frequently), prairie cemeteries, ditch banks, and, as in the case of the Springfield population, abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

Lincoln Memorial Garden recognizes the partnership effort under way by Sangamon County, Springfield Park District, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Sangamon Valley and University of Illinois at Springfield to protect Centennial Park’s population of Franklin’s ground squirrel.

Just as our staff, volunteers and visitors know and recognize the natural resources present in the Springfield community, we also should acknowledge the uniqueness of our community as a host for the largest known Illinois population of one of Illinois’ rarest mammals, the Franklin’s ground squirrel.

New Members

Akindele Adaramola
Kendra and Brent Boesdorfer
Kim L. Cessna
Tiffany Garland-Sutter
Mark Hardiman
Nico Hartman
Dan P. Hohl
Jeanette Holmberg
Tia Holt
Angela Musick
Pattie Piotrowski
Barbara Jean Raycraft
Vickie Ringhouse
Christina Marie Rollins
Jennifer Sylvia

Tree and shrub planting in the Garden

Visitors to the Garden may notice many new trees and shrubs. Thanks to a donation from the Garden Clubs of Illinois, the Garden is in the process of planting several hundred new trees and shrubs. Many of the Garden’s original shingle oak trees are dying due to the gouty oak twig galls caused by a wasp. Many of the shingle oaks are located along Maple Trail behind the Nature Center and Garden staff and volunteers will be planting a wide variety of oak species in this area. Also, many of the areas that have had large-scale bush honeysuckle removal will be replanted with native shrubs including spicebush and viburnum. The Garden board and staff would like to thank Garden Clubs of Illinois for their help with this project.
The bridge was delivered on May 16 (shown above). Fabricated by Anderson Bridges, LLC, near Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the supplier was chosen because of their low price, recommendations from local contractors, AISC certification, and being an IDOT-approved bridge fabricator. They were very cooperative throughout the entire design and construction process. The bridge was delivered to the site in two 35-foot sections. A large track backhoe provided by Jones-Blythe unloaded the two sections and moved them into position to be bolted together. Martin Equipment of Illinois hauled the excavator to and from the Garden at no cost to the Garden. Once the 70-foot-long bridge was bolted together, two track excavators moved it into its final position. O’Shea Builders donated the use of a second excavator and the labor to set the bridge. The bridge is constructed of weathering steel, meaning the rusting process will provide the protective coating for the steel and no future painting will be required.

Once the bridge was set in its final position, measurements were taken for the 16 fall-protection panels that will be installed to keep Garden visitors safe. The fall-protection panels have been ordered and we expect they will be fabricated and delivered by the end of June. The bridge will be open to Garden visitors shortly thereafter.

We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the community—a community that recognizes the priceless value of Lincoln Memorial Garden.
Above: A bridge section is shown being moved into position. The next pictures show critical custom-made bolts, and Steve Read (yellow vest) working with O’Shea employees to secure the bolts.

Below: The new Walgreen Bridge is now in place, although not open to the public just yet. There will be an official opening ceremony on July 18. Check www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org for details.
Welcome new board members

by Steven Read

We are pleased to welcome a very outstanding group of individuals who have agreed to serve on the LMG Board of Directors.

Anita Bierbaum is the current Garden Clubs of Illinois President. She resides in South Barrington and belongs to the South Barrington Garden Club. Anita has been part of the Garden Clubs of Illinois since 1998 and has held many positions in her local club, council of garden clubs and GCI District IX, and has held several positions on the GCI Executive Board. She is very excited to be part of the planning for the new children’s garden at LMG.

Denny Cocagne is originally from Taylorville. He worked in Springfield in public accounting for the past 43 years and retired in 2016. Denny and his wife Nancy have one son, Tom, who lives in the Chicago suburbs with his son. Denny is an avid motorcyclist and has ridden in 49 states. Denny spends time working on Habitat for Humanity projects. Although he has limited recent exposure to Lincoln Memorial Garden, he looks forward to being involved and has volunteered to serve on the grounds crew—and already knows what bush honeysuckle looks like!

Melissa Skinner-Liberman taught fourth grade at Farmingdale Elementary and second grade in Chicago. She is currently a stay-at-home parent as she, and husband Colin Liberman, keep busy with their four children. Melissa is involved with Junior League, Girl Scouts, Springfield Art Association, Young Philanthropists and serves on the Board for Ronald McDonald House. She has fond memories of her visits to LMG as a child for the maple syrup time and with the Girl Scouts for badge opportunities. Melissa enjoys running the trails and appreciates the many offerings that LMG provides to the community. She and her children look forward to junior naturalist classes as well as building fairy houses during Indian Summer Festival.

Sally Noble is the current Springfield Civic Garden Club President. She and her husband John have been married for 44 years and have two children and four grandchildren. Sally is an active member of Calvary Church and loves working in her flower garden. She became interested in floral design after taking a class from Ada Lynn Shrewsbury. She has been a floral exhibitor at the Illinois State Fair for several years and was the Superintendent of Floriculture for three years. She served a previous term as President of the Springfield Civic Garden Club from 2007-2009, and has served on numerous committees. Her favorite Garden Club event is Arbor Day, and she has served as chairman for over 15 years. Sally enjoys working with children and seeing the excitement of planting a tree in one of the city parks.

Bridget Selinger was born and raised in Springfield and graduated from Benedictine University. Bridget began her insurance career in 2008 with Troxell and is now an Insurance Consultant selling all lines of insurance. She is president of Westside Rotary and serves as a mentor for Owen Marsh School; Board member for the Salvation Army and Community Connection Point; member of Illinois Women and Leadership, Young Springfield Professional Network, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and Junior Circle of Hope. Bridget is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Springfield.

Crystal VanDeventer is the Executive Director of the Lincoln Land Health Information Exchange and has served as a healthcare reform strategic consultant for several leading healthcare systems in the country. Daughter of longtime Garden advocates, Mary Marie Snodgrass and the late Paul M. Snodgrass, Crystal grew up on Forest Ridge. Her father was instrumental in preventing the development of a subdivision on the Ostermeier property and laid the groundwork to secure the land for the Ostermeier Prairie Center and protect the Garden’s watershed. Crystal’s adult children, Paul and Laura, have fond childhood memories of the family’s annual tradition of attending the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Crystal is excited to give back to the Garden in honor of her parents.

Wendy Wisenburn took a part time job at a local garden center after being a full-time mom to her three children. She came from farming families (although she never lived on a farm) and felt like the soil was calling her. After working for two years, Wendy took a giant leap and built her own greenhouses and launched her business. She now grows geraniums for the benefit of local not-for-profits. She recently sold her lovely geraniums at our plant sale for the benefit of LMG. Wendy joined the Springfield Civic Garden Club, and through friends began volunteering at LMG with the Split Rail Artisans. She has served on the Board of the SCGC for the past two years and looks forward to serving on the Board of LMG.

The 1970s at LMG

by John “Bill” Hammel

The decade of the 1970s was an exciting time at LMG. A major emphasis focused on understanding and continuing the vision of Landscape Architect Jens Jensen. As part of this ongoing effort, shoreline sections were armored with rocks, trails widened, benches secured to concrete footings and the bridges and council rings repaired.

Attendance at education programs both on- and off-site greatly increased resulting in the need for adding a part-time director position which later became the second full-time staffer.

Numerous adult volunteer interpreters, including members of the Junior League, were necessary to maintain and improve the high quality of our on-site programs. Hundreds of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts completed a multitude of projects. A self-guiding trail was established and Western Illinois University conducted a graduate class for teachers. High school and college interns brought energy, skills and new ideas.

Many organizations scheduled activities at the Garden and volunteers provided free public programs on the weekends. The Indian Summer Festival continued in popularity and
the new Maple Syrup Time attracted many visitors and school field trips.

Damage from the 1978 Easter ice storm threatened to temporarily close the Garden for safety concerns, but volunteers responded and the grounds were kept open. The LMG board approved prescribed burns in the forests and sun-openings (prairies) to reduce wild-fire danger, control exotic plants and encourage native wildflowers.

The volunteer hosts and hostesses provided security for the nature center, handled sales for the Split Rail Shop and responded to inquiries from both phone calls and walk-in visitors. The artistic shop volunteers created impressive decorations using natural materials, the sale of which helped to financially support LMG.

The Board of Directors and its numerous active committees thoughtfully guided the Garden on its path to the future.

John “Bill” Hammel served as the Lincoln Memorial Garden Naturalist from 1969 to 1980.

---

8K Trail Race Sponsors
- Frisina Wellness Clinic

Annual Fund Donations
- Claudia Buchanan
- Kathy Campbell
- Susan Hammond
- Kathy Hendricksen
- Marti Hixon
- Nancy Junker
- Stephan and Paula Kaplan
- Stephen K Lewis
- Dr. and Mrs. Eric Lohse
- Diane Smyth McEvoy
- Greg and Colleen Pinto
- Maureen and Randall Fletcher
- Ernest and Ruth Poani
- James and Donna Russell
- Springfield Lakeshore Improvement Assoc.

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 Rita Lounsberry, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Jim and Linný Matheis

In memory of Candice Kane, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Joe and Daisy Corgan
- Paul and Rebecca Fields
- Jim Huston
- Suzanne Knox
- Karla Krueger
- Maureen Mostacci
- Lyn Schollett
- Libby Shawgo

In memory of Ken Beauchamp, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Cathy and Doug Slater

In memory of Mary Francis Matthews, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- John Weitekamp

In memory of Fran Naugle, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Jim and Linny Matheis
- Marie Murfin
- John and Barbara Stull

In memory of Jim Simmons, memorial donations were received from . . .
- Candice Clark
- Rebecca and Kevin Hampton
- Nancy Hunter
- Gary and Mary Watts

In memory of Winnie the Dog, a memorial donation was received from . . .
- Winnie’s Warriors

In honor of Jim Stuckley’s 90th birthday, a donation for Operations was received from . . .
- Leslie and Robert Leach

---

Save the date
Indian Summer Festival
by Tom Wilkin

Planning is under way for Lincoln Memorial Garden’s 2017 Indian Summer Festival. This year’s annual event is scheduled for the weekend of October 7 and 8.

The Festival committee is again working with numerous vendors, naturalists and educators, and hopes to meet or exceed the success of the 2016 event.

The Fairy Woodlands were so well received that we are working on additional features, including the addition of a Fairy Garden. Also in the planning stages is expansion of the art installation area.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Tom Wilkin at (217) 494-4173 or call staff of the Garden at (217) 529-1111.

Additional details will be available at lincolnmemorialgarden.org or on our Facebook page.

---

Walgreen Bridge Fund
- Walter Hanson Family Fund

Acorn Legacy Fund
- Karen C. Schwenk

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
- MAJOR SPONSOR — Bank of Springfield

Lunch in Bloom Sponsor
- Jo Alessandrini and Guerry Suggs
- Judith Anderson
- Ralph and Karen Barr
- Caroline Cavalier
- David and Laurie Farrell
- Joan Gardner
- Lois Jazo
- Charlene Powell
- Samantha Reif
- Dottie Troop

Donations for Monarch Butterfly Program
- Everett and Linda Cashatt
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

Calendar of events  For event details visit lincolnmemorialgarden.org

July 18  New Walgreen Bridge dedication, 1 p.m.
July 29  Rescheduled 8K Trail Run
August 12  Perseid Meteor Shower 8-11 p.m., Cawley Meadow
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

YOU could be the new editor of Seasons

Our newsletter, Seasons, is created five times each year by a small but valuable team of Garden volunteers. They write, edit, shoot photographs, and design this publication so that you stay informed about the people and activities at the heart of the Garden community.

Now we’re looking for a new editor.

If you have skills as a writer and editor, consider the fun and satisfaction of contributing your talents to the Garden in this important way.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Executive Director Joel Horwedel at joel@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.