We’ve Got Your Milkweed

by Ann Londrigan

That’s right! Head Gardener Larry Miller says staff and Greenhouse volunteers have planted 17 different species of milkweed for a total of 3,200 milkweed plants.

“The focus of the plant sales is native plants that attract birds and butterflies,” says Miller. “Milkweed for the monarchs and a few noninvasive, nonnative species such as herbs to feed Swallowtail butterflies.”

New this year will be a variety of pansies and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), a perennial native woodland wildflower that is a member of the ginseng family.

**Why is milkweed so important?**

Milkweed is critical for monarchs because it is the sole host plant for the female to lay her eggs and the hatched caterpillar’s food source, says Brenda Larison, University of Illinois Extension certified Master Naturalist and Lincoln Memorial Garden’s resident monarch expert.

“Milkweed blooms also provide nectar for the adult butterflies,” says Larison.

In November and December, Larison works with Miller and the Greenhouse Volunteer Crew to stratify the milkweed seeds collected from the Ostermeier Prairie. Stratifying simulates winter and involves wrapping the seedlings on wet paper towels, then storing them in baggies in a refrigerator for 60 to 90 days. By mid-January, it’s time to plant the seeds in tiny pots to get them ready for the plant sales.

“Yes, I’m into milkweed but equally important are nectar sources, native wildflowers that monarchs can nectar on into the fall, such as aster and zinnia,” says Larison. “Monarchs particularly need these to build up fat to survive the 2,000-mile journey south and their eight months of winter in Mexico.”

Larison leads free monarch education programs for Lincoln Memorial Garden each year. Two monarchs tagged and released at Council Ring 3 have been found in Mexico by Monarch Watch.
Nectar Plants for Every Season

If one of your garden goals is to have blooming nectar plants all year long, this list can help you get started. It’s Master Naturalist Brenda Larison’s short list of her favorite native wildflowers that monarchs like to nectar on. According to Larison, all provide nectar for butterflies and other pollinators. Most require full sun. Milkweed generally blooms mid-season.

**Early Bloomers:**
- Wild white indigo (Baptisia lactea)
- Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea)
- Wild geranium (Geranium maculatum)
- Garden phlox (Phlox paniculata)

**Mid-season Bloomers:**
- Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)
- Spotted bee balm (Monarda punctata)
- Prairie blazingstar (Liatris pycnostachya)
- Great blue lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica)

**Later Season Bloomers:**
- Stiff goldenrod (Solidago rigida)
- New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)
- Spotted Joe Pye weed (Eutrochium maculatum)
- Fragrant hyssop (Agastache foeniculum)

To learn more about native plants and see how they grow throughout the seasons, stop by the demonstration garden near the Ostermeier Prairie parking lot. It is a project of the University of Illinois Extension Logan/Menard/Sangamon Unit Master Naturalist and Master Gardener volunteers in partnership with Lincoln Memorial Garden.

**Native Milkweeds & Monarchs**
Adult education program led by Brenda Larison at the Nature Center.
May 3 (subject to change) | 1:30 p.m.

**Prairie Wildflower Sale**
May 16–17 (subject to change)
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday | Nature Center
1 – 4 p.m. Sunday | Nature Center

**Monarchs and Me**
Children’s education program led by Brenda Larison at the Nature Center.
August 29

Plant sale offerings include:
- Eight herb species, including Basil, Dill, Rosemary and Italian Parsley
- 24 woodland wildflower and fern species, including Bloodroot, Dutchman’s Breeches, Virginia Bluebells, Bellwort and Yellow Trillium
- Nine tree species, including Pink Dogwood, Sugar Maple, Eastern Redbud, Sweet Bay Magnolia
- 24 native forbs and grasses, including Columbine, Prairie Coreopsis, Purple Coneflower, Prairie Blazing Star, Black-Eyed Susan

Get the full plant sale list (and watch for the possible rescheduled date) at www.LincolnMemorialGarden.org or through the Facebook event page.

A sign at the Native Wildflower Garden provides valuable details about the need for gardening with native flowers and grasses.
# About Those Boulders . . .

by Ann Londrigan

In his 1936 design, the Lincoln Memorial Garden’s renowned landscape architect, Jens Jensen, had originally picked out Wisconsin boulders for the entrance. However, these proved to be too heavy to transport. It was Garden founder Harriet Knudson who located the granite boulders visitors notice as they enter the Garden. They came from Graniteville, Missouri, from a quarry just outside Elephant Rocks State Park. After hearing from the ever-persuasive Knudson, A.J. Sheahan Granite Company decided to donate the rocks. From a letter dated April 11, 1938, Mr. Sheahan writes, “We have been selling these boulders, but for a good cause like this, we will give them to you.” What a joy those boulders are for visitors to the Garden of all ages. Thank you, Harriet!

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# What’s in a Name?

Why It’s a Garden, Not a Park

by Kathy Andrews Wright

One of the most common reactions of first-time visitors to Lincoln Memorial Garden is, “I thought this was a garden; where are the vegetable and flower beds?” Or after walking the trails at LMG, people remark, “To me this seems like a park, not a garden.”

Why, in the early 1930s, did LMG’s founders use the term garden instead of park? Kent Massie, landscape architect and former LMG board member, helped me differentiate between a garden and a park.

“For me, a garden—big or small, private or public—is a planted landscape where the intent is for visitors to enjoy and appreciate plants for their aesthetic and/or consumption purposes,” Massie explained. “A garden is planted by humans, and technically the cornfields of central Illinois are gardens. Any garden requires care to maintain the landscape; otherwise, nature eventually takes control in some form of succession.”

In the 1930s, the shoreline of the then-new Lake Springfield was mostly pastured hillsides. Thanks to the efforts of Jens Jensen, Harriet Knudson and Myrtle Walgreen, along with numerous garden club members and teams of volunteers, thousands of hours were spent planting the area set aside for Lincoln Memorial Garden. Intentionally selected plants were placed in specific locations to create a sequence of planned spaces for people to enjoy.

There are more than 100 types of gardens in the world today, from kitchen and balcony gardens to backyard, flower, greenhouse, sacred and therapeutic gardens and the formal botanical gardens and arboretums. Many formal gardens support plant research, conservation, habitat and horticulture purposes, as well as educational activities. Lincoln Memorial Garden was founded on most of these purposes.

In contrast, Massie said a park is a broad term most often associated with a landscape or open space established for public (or sometimes private) use, enjoyment and recreation, which may dictate the construction of facilities such as play and picnic areas or campgrounds.

“While parks usually are manipulated landscapes, they can contain areas where special natural landscapes or cultural features are present and need protected,” he said. “One could say the Cawley Meadow (purchased in 2000) and the Ostermeier Prairie Center (purchased in 1995) might be classified as park lands.”

Other aspects used to differentiate between gardens and parks include:

- **Use:** Gardens generally do not have a sports orientation, and dogs are not permitted; parks most often focus on entertainment of visitors through recreational activities, including walking leashed dogs.
- **Ownership:** Most gardens are owned by individuals or foundations with operating budgets based on donations; parks are usually owned by federal, state, county and city governments and operated on the tax dollar.
- **Size:** Gardens are typically small in size; parks can be lot-sized or, in the case of the largest national parks, cover millions of acres.
- **Biodiversity:** Plants selected for gardens create biologically diverse environments; many parks are monocultures and have little plant diversity in order to maximize their recreational aspects.
# Bequests 101

## What is a bequest?

A bequest is the giving of an asset, often as part of an estate plan (such as through a will or trust) or as a separate designation of a beneficiary. The bequest can be of cash, personal property (e.g. art), capital assets like stock, or proceeds of annuities or life insurance policies. ¹

The bequest can be to a person, organization (including nonprofits), trust or foundation. Anyone can make a bequest and it can be in any amount. Bequests can be simple—"I give my favorite fishing rod to my grandson"—or complex, with conditions about how the gifts can be used. ²

Bequests often are triggered by an urge to do something today that's going to matter down the road, whether it's for an individual we care about, for the quality of life in our community, or for others elsewhere in the world. Bequests offer the opportunity to target what's important to us and to make a difference.

## How do you set up a bequest?

A bequest can be as uncomplicated as a sentence or a paragraph signed and dated by the individual and two witnesses—such as the above example of a fishing rod given to a grandchild. Often bequests are more complicated and require a lawyer's assistance, such as a section in a comprehensive estate planning document specifying what is to be given to whom for what purpose and under what restrictions or requirements. ³

## What if you want to change your bequests?

Basic bequests can be updated periodically as changes occur in your life, including those related to your family, your priorities, needs and goals. If circumstances change, and as long as you are legally competent to do so, you can revoke or change a bequest in a subsequent will or beneficiary statement. It is a good practice to do an annual review of beneficiary lists and other final instructions documents (e.g. wills) to ensure that the most recent version reflects your current wishes.

## What's legally required for a bequest?

There are no specific legal requirements for making a bequest other than: (a) you must be competent to make the gift and the gift is being made voluntarily by you; (b) you need to actually own the asset you are gifting; and (c) the document through which you make the bequest, such as your will, is executed in accordance with any applicable legal requirements. For example, in Illinois, your execution of your will must be witnessed by at least two witnesses who are not beneficiaries of the will and who sign the will in your presence and in the presence of each other.

While Illinois does not require that wills be notarized, it is a good practice to have signatures notarized on all documents making bequests, in order to ensure the validity of the document.

Notifications aren’t required either, but it’s a good idea to let your family and/or others affected know of your intentions and where your will or other documents can be found. Do not store the only copy of these documents in a safe deposit box because access to that box will be limited upon an individual’s death. AARP recommends that wills and similar documents be kept in a fireproof box at your home, with a copy given to your attorney, a relative, friend or agent.

## Also, think about . . .

After you’ve provided for the people, pets and causes in your life, think about your community, the organizations you care about and those that have cared about you through the years – including the schools, the charities, churches, and nonprofits. A bequest is an excellent way to make a legacy gift. Your generosity can make an important change for generations to come. ⁴

1 You can also gift real estate, usually termed a “devise”, but it is in effect a bequest.

2 You can make a bequest in any amount: however for large bequests, there may be a gift or estate tax consequence to the person making the bequest. So, you may want to check with your tax advisor if you are contemplating a large bequest.

3 For bequests to organizations, it is helpful to contact the organization before establishing the bequest to both confirm the true lawful name of the organization to whom you are making the bequest and to confirm any specific wording requirements the organization may want you to include in your bequest.

4 When you make a bequest, you should also consider making a contingent bequest to another organization or for another purpose in the event that, at the time the bequest is to take effect, the organization or purpose to which your original gift is made no longer exists or cannot be carried out.

The above is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Licensed professionals should be consulted for comprehensive, up-to-date legal, financial and tax advice.

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"**Sustained Giving**" is Available for Garden Donors

by Helen Adorjan

Current and potential donors to Lincoln Memorial Garden now have one more option for making their donations to the Garden—“sustained giving.”

These automatic recurring payments, usually made monthly, are an easy way of giving, with benefits for both the giver and the Garden.

To the person making the donation, there is the convenience of regular payments deducted from a credit card or bank account of the donor’s choice, thus helping to manage one’s life and finances. The donor has considerable flexibility and can easily change monthly payments, including increasing, cancelling or temporarily suspending payments.

To nonprofits like the Garden that receive these donations, the regular, consistent payments each month mean a more predictable cash flow.

For more information or to sign up, contact Joel Horwedel at (217) 529-1111.

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1. [Link to additional resources or information]
2. [Link to additional resources or information]
3. [Link to additional resources or information]
4. [Link to additional resources or information]
Thank You, to Our Many Supporters!

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- Thank you to Bill and Barbara Rogers for a gift in honor of Alice Bulinski’s birthday.
- We thank Michael and Susan Shaw for a gift towards Ecology Camp.

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.

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.

The following donors gave in memory of Bob Cramer:
- Przemyslaw and Elena Bryjka
- Curt Evoy
- Kathleen and Jim Faloon
- Pamela Hart
- Lorraine Iocca
- Brian and Lynn Kerber
- Tom and Marilyn Kushak
- Brian Lee
- Nancy and Frank Neuberger
- Diana Nevitt
- Michele Pitts
- Janet Powell

The following donors gave in memory of Duane Slater:
- Michael and Carla Kopec
- Dottie Troop

The following donors gave in memory of Gaile Phillips:
- Country Club Place Association
- Nancy Hahn
- Mark Janus
- Sally Jones and family
- Marilyn Kennedy
- Cathy and Doug Slater
- Dottie Troop

Americall Communications gave a contribution in memory of Joey Sandhaas.

Dottie Troop gave in memory of Lois Strom.

Ann Londrigan donated to the Annual Fund in memory of Carol Londrigan.

In memory of Mary Schnirring, memorial contributions were given by:
- Jo Alessandrini
- Alda Beemer
- Gene and Marilyn Blade
- Jo Ann Bunn
- William Cavanagh
- Scott and Colleen Germeraad
- Julie and William Kellner
- John and Linda Kennedy
- Marilyn Kennedy
- Eric and Darlene Knorr
Brenda and Thomas Poston contributed in memory of Todd Woods.

Springfield Civic Garden Club Monthly Programs

Meetings of the Springfield Civic Garden Club are held on the first Monday of each month at 9:15 a.m. (coffee at 9 a.m.) at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 533 South Walnut Street in Springfield, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are free and open to the public. New members are always welcome. *Please join us!*

Please Note: In light of state restrictions related to COVID-19, please check www.scgc-il.org before attending the May and June events to verify the schedule.

May 2020
- **Gardening Is Murder** — Neal Sanders

June 2020
- **How to Pot Your Pots** — Angi Davis of Monarch Landscaping (Note different time and place: Monarch Landscaping in Auburn at 6 p.m.)

July 2020
- **Trees Forever** — Barb Kearns (NEW location: IL State Museum at 6 p.m.)

August 2020
- **Pollinators** — Ken Johnson (Note different time and place: Trutter Center, LLCC, at 6 p.m.)

September 2020
- **Floral Designs** — Christina Froeliger

October 2020
- **Bulbs** — Jennifer Nelson

November 2020
- **Committee Fair**

December 2020
- **Floral Designs** — Carrie Waterman of A Classic Bouquet (Taylorville)
PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with Illinois’ statewide “stay-at-home” order, Lincoln Memorial Garden’s Nature Center remains closed and all events and programs through April have been cancelled or postponed. Check the Garden’s website and Facebook for updates. The nature trails remain open sunrise to sunset. Follow the State of Illinois guidelines for permitted outdoor activities and social distancing. As always, DOGS (other than service dogs) are NOT allowed on the trails in order to protect and respect our wildlife and all Garden visitors.

**Calendar**

**May**

2 Jr./Sr. Naturalists (Pond Life) | 10 a.m. – noon / 1 – 3 p.m.
3 Monarch Program | 1:30 p.m.
5 Babes in the Woods | 11 a.m.
6 Tiny Adventurers (Pond Life) | 10 a.m. / 1 p.m.
9 Bird Hike | 8 a.m.
9 Wildflower Hike | 2 p.m.
10 Wildflower Hike | 2 p.m.
16 Bird Hike | 8 a.m.
16 Prairie Wildflower Sale | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
17 Prairie Wildflower Sale | 1 – 4 p.m.
26 Nature Photography Program with Chris Young | 7 p.m.
30 Stargazing at Cawley Meadow | 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

**June**

6 8K Trail Race and Fun Run | 7:30 a.m.
8 Ecology Camp begins | 8:30 a.m.