Q and A: A conversation with Audra Walters

By Peggy Boyer Long

It should prove to be a seamless transition for the new environmental educator at Lincoln Memorial Garden. After all, Audra Walters, a 33-year-old Springfield native, first volunteered with the Garden while still in high school, putting in a shift at Indian Summer Fest. In the years since, she just kept coming back.

"You come out here and you can't leave," she says, "because things change, and it's just fun."

While completing her degree in Environmental Studies at Marian College in Indianapolis, Audra returned to the Garden between her junior and senior years as a volunteer with Ecology Camp. After graduation in 2002, she signed on as a continuing volunteer, helping with the camps and the Junior and Senior Naturalist programs. In 2008, the Garden hired her part-time to educate children about basic scientific principles and environmental issues. In the process, she got her own education on the Garden's special ecology—its flora and fauna, including our turtles, snakes, salamanders, and insects.

—continued on next page

Spring tree and wildflower sales bring a touch of the Garden to your own yard

By Joel Horwedel

There's no better way to welcome spring after a long winter than to polish your trowel, plan for your garden, and buy flowers and trees at our annual plant sales.

The popular Woodland Wildflower Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the Lincoln Memorial Garden Nature Center. The event resumes on Sunday, April 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.

You'll find at least two dozen varieties of native trees, including blossoming species such as dogwood and redbud, offered as bare-root saplings at very reasonable prices. You'll also find many of your favorite Garden
NAL SALES — cont’d

Do you envision new approaches and programs?
I’d really like to get more programs for the high school and college kids. There are four universities around here and lots of high schools.

We do have our high school volunteers, but there’s still a lot of potential. We’ve had the astronomy program for the general public and I think that might be something that would interest kids. They like to go out at night. It’s inexpensive. It would give them something they can come to with their friends. And, because it’s not a place you normally go at night, it’s kind of cool to be here then.

And maybe we could work with the high schools to get a project out here on the grounds, or get a high school science club to come out and do something with the younger children.

What about programs for adults?

I think now, especially with the [University of Illinois Extension] Master Naturalist program taking off the way it has; those volunteers bring a lot of new projects and topics. There’s the wildflower garden and the bluebird trail—projects that are new that we didn’t have an opportunity to have programs about before. We have a new crop of people who can bring their knowledge to the Garden.

I’ve also thought about offering programs at senior centers because we don’t reach out to the senior community as much. A lot of those people used to come to the Garden, but they’re just not able to anymore. At events, we’ll see people bringing grandma, but she may not be able to come out on her own.

Why is this position a good fit for you?
When you’re working in a position like this, with your love of the outdoors, you can go outside and do the things you want to do. I like going outside and playing games, not just with kids but with family activities. Having volunteered and worked at Lincoln Memorial Garden for so long I have a love for this place. You know, as a volunteer, how easy it is, when you love something, to share it with other people.

What interests you most about the Garden?
You never know what you’re going to see.

A whole herd of deer—or, we just saw a salamander the other day down in the basement. You never know what you’re going to find.

PLANT SALES — cont’d from page 1

wildflowers for sale, including celandine poppy, jack-in-the-pulpit, Virginia bluebell, wild geranium, and bloodroot.

If your garden has sun as well as shade, you won’t want to miss the Prairie Wildflower Sale on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, May 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. You can choose from cardinal flower, butterfly weed, purple coneflower, blazing star, and dozens more sun-loving varieties.

Put the sales on your April and May calendars. These events offer many plants that you’re not likely to find at local nurseries—and, of course, the proceeds benefit the Garden. Experienced staff members will be on hand at both sales to tell you about the plants being offered and advise you on good choices.

Birds and Blossom Time Hikes

By Audra Walters

Spring has finally arrived in Central Illinois after a brutal winter. At Lincoln Memorial Garden, spring means it is peak time for migrating birds and blooming wildflowers. This spring we will once again be offering a series of bird and blossom time hikes, to give you an opportunity to learn more about our feathered friends and native blossoms.

Bring your binoculars as Kevin Veara leads bird walks at 8 a.m. on Saturdays, April 12, April 26, May 3 and May 10 as well as on Sunday, May 18. Veara is an extremely knowledgeable and friendly bird expert. All levels of birders are welcome.

April welcomes the colorful blooms of native wildflowers and trees at the Garden. Join our expert guides to learn more about woodland wildflowers and trees as you walk the trails. Blossom Time hikes take place at 1 and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, April 13 and May 4.

All hikes are free and begin at the Nature Center.
Lincoln Memorial Garden to Host 8K Trail Run

By Maggie Carlson

With the success of the 2013 event, organizers are actively planning the next Lincoln Memorial Garden 8 kilometer Trail Run and Children’s Fun Run, scheduled for Saturday, May 17.

Runners and walkers will experience six miles of trails, footbridges, a pond, eight stone council rings, and dozens of wooden benches with Abraham Lincoln quotes. The race includes a 4.97-mile loop starting and ending in the Garden. The run will be chip-timed and this year the race is considered a Springfield Road Runner’s participation race. Race results will be posted on www.itsracetime.com.

Trail running is increasing in popularity worldwide and consists of running on hiking paths rather than paved surfaces. While the trail may slightly more rugged, runners and walkers will experience the natural beauty of the Garden’s 100-acre woodland area on Lake Springfield.

Runners sometimes mention the reduced physical impact experienced in trail runs compared to typical road races.

“Many runners who had never been to the Garden before were impressed with the Garden’s beauty and the challenge of the course,” said Susan Helm, who is organizing this year’s run.

The Children’s Fun Run will immediately follow the 8K race and consists of shorter distances around the pond, organized into three age groups. Children from toddlers to age 12 are encouraged to participate. The Children’s Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m.; the fee is $6.

As with all Garden events, free parking will be available in a lot across from the Garden at 2301 East Lake Shore Drive.

Specially-created awards will be given to the overall winner in each runner category and to the top one-third of finishers in all age categories. In addition, an award will be given to all participants. The first 200 children to register will receive a participatory award.

For registration information, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for 2014 Lincoln Memorial Garden. The cost is $30 to register online ($35 after April 13), and includes an event T-shirt, as well as post race entertainment, and food. All proceeds will go to support Lincoln Memorial Garden.

For more information about registration or sponsorship, contact Susan Helm at susan helm@comcast.net or (217) 502-3992 or Lance Cull at ltcull@aol.com or (217) 652-5651.

Memorials

- Bruce Yurdin, James Elmore, Joel Johnson, Marilyn Hughes, Paul and Ruth Biggers, Susan Dees Hargrove, Barbara Germann, James and Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Dale and Rhoda Sharpee, Mary Trask, Darcy Cambellin, Eleonora Holmes, Thomas and Susan Uzzo in memory of Daniel Leikvold.
- Gwen Lewis in memory of Becky Hartley.
- Beck Dragoon in memory of Yvonne Louis Salay-Tyson.
- Kay Taylor in memory of Peg Farney.
- Linda Shudrowitz in memory of Christine Shudrowitz.
- Lawrence and Amy Baughman in memory of Lil Lavursky.
- Andrew and Anne Smith in memory of Dorothy Myercough.
Lunch in Bloom is traveling to New Orleans
By Jo Alessandrini

The ninth annual Lunch in Bloom is traveling to New Orleans.

This year, attendees will be stepping aboard the Mississippi Queen and floating down river to New Orleans for a foot-tapping, finger-snapping good time. The luncheon, to benefit Lincoln Memorial Garden, will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the beautiful Island Bay Yacht Club. The date is later than usual in the calendar year due to renovations at the club.

At the luncheon, we will enjoy lively, upbeat Dixieland music until noon, then dine on a variety of riverside delights. As we float down river we start in St. Louis, stop in Memphis, and end up in New Orleans. Each city has its own unique culinary specialties. For the St. Louis port of call we are serving Tuscan-style roast pork, roasted red and sweet potatoes, and pistachio apple salad. In Memphis we have southern-style fried catfish filets with hushpuppies and tartar sauce. New Orleans will feature roasted garlic glazed breast of chicken with a lemon herb sauce, Creole rice pilaf, bacon smothered green beans, and Sister Schubert rolls. Dessert will represent all three cities with gooey butter cake, pecan pie, and bread pudding with a vanilla whiskey sauce. Before lunch, you can munch on a cheese-garlic biscuit while enjoying ice tea, coffee or lemonade. A cash bar will be available for wine, beer or soda.

The luncheon features four fabulous raffle prizes:
- Four box seats and a parking pass to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game (valued at $312) donated by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
- A lovely soothing electric inside/outside waterfall fountain (value $190)
- A Martha Stewart cookbook and a $75 gift certificate to Robert’s Seafood Market
- A charming dark red bird house with shake and copper roof, plus nesting material, a book on bird houses, and bird seed from Wild Birds Unlimited (value $82).

That’s not all. Towards the end of the event, we will draw names for fun door prizes such as gift certificates, potted plants, and garden decorations. Each person attending the luncheon will receive a door prize ticket. Attendees can also play the “heads and tails” game by purchasing a $2 bead necklace. The prizes for this game are either two reservations to the New Orleans’s brunch on November 23 at Island Bay Yacht Club or two reservations for a complete dinner with wine at Island Bay.

Lunch in Bloom 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 appropriate section of your invitation to Lincoln Memorial Garden with a check by May 31.

The Lunch in Bloom committee would like to thank the following for their generous support: Brian Barstead from Ameriprise Financial, Ron and Beth Horwedel, James and Mary Jo Potter, Nicky Stratton, Guerry Suggs and Jo Alessandrini, and Warren-Boynton State Bank.

Y’all come join us for a really good time and for a look at the beautifully renovated Island Bay Yacht Club!
In appreciation

We thank the following for their donations in support of Lincoln Memorial Garden.

**Acorn Legacy Fund**
Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation
Mary Gartung
Russell and Sharon Ruda
Nicky Stratton
Scott and Julie Kaiser
Jo Alessandrin
Dotto Troop
Kelly and Karen Grant
Catherine and John Huther

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David and Mary Caroline Mitchell
David and Barbara Peterson
Virginia Pictor
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Doug and Joanne Whitley

**Miscellaneous Contributions**
- Physiotherapy Professionals: Trail Race sponsorship
- Patrick Nudo: Pancake/Sausage Breakfast sponsorship
- Russell and Mary Lou Davis: Pancake/Sausage Breakfast donation
- Richard and Carol Herndon: Silent Auction donation
- Judith Everson: in honor of John Huther's birthday
- Shirley Naughton: in honor of John Huther's birthday

**Our Wish List**

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

- **Lunch in Bloom Sponsorships** — $200
- **Video microscope donations** for Nature Center
- **2-ton floor jack** — $150
- **Donations for new hand tools** — any amount

If you can help, send a check for the cost of the item, or a portion of the cost, to the Nature Center at 2301 East Lake Drive, Springfield, 62712. You can also place your donation in the Nature Center’s donation box.

Lincoln Memorial Garden
LMG and Friends of the Brookens Library present *Jens Jensen: The Living Green*

*By Joel Horwedel*

Lincoln Memorial Garden, in partnership with Friends of the Brookens Library at the University of Illinois-Springfield, is honored to announce a private screening of the award-winning documentary *Jens Jensen: The Living Green*.

The documentary will be screened on Wednesday, June 4 at the Brookens Auditorium at UIS at 7 p.m. Prior to the screening, a cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 followed by a dinner at 6 p.m. Cost of the dinner is $25 per person and advance registration is required. Individuals may attend the screening only.

Following the screening, a question and answer session will be held with the film’s director, Carey Lundin. Dessert will be served.

We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting evening devoted to Jens Jensen. For more information please contact Joel at 529-1111.

**Film Synopsis: Jens Jensen: The Living Green**

Today, four out of five of us live in a city. Yet the physical and emotional value of parks to urban life is only beginning to be made. A century ago, Jens Jensen rose from street sweeper to “dean of landscape architects” to pioneering conservationist when he risked his career to stage the Dunes Pageant, the first environmental event. It drew 70,000 people to a theatrical retelling of the history and value of the land. He whipped-up a conservation fervor that effectively stopped the steel manufacturers from industrializing the entire Indiana Shoreline. His Prairie Style revolutionized park design with over 600 naturalistic landscapes for clients like Henry Ford and Frank Lloyd Wright. His dramatic story could not be more prescient. Striking cinematography and an evocative soundtrack illuminate colorful witness from Prairie School architect Alfred Caldwell and an intensely reflective interview with Jensen.

**Calendar of Events**

**Wednesday, April 9**—Annual Meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation; social hour at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 12**—Bird Walk led by Kevin Veara, 8 a.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Saturday, April 12**—Woodland Wildflower Sale, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Nature Center

**Sunday, April 13**—Woodland Wildflower Sale, 1–4 p.m. at the Nature Center

**Sunday, April 13**—Blossom Time Walks, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Tuesday, April 15**—Volunteer Appreciation Party, 6 p.m. at the Nature Center

**Saturday, April 26**—Bird Walk led by Kevin Veara, 8 a.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Saturday, May 3**—Bird Walk led by Kevin Veara, 8 a.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Sunday, May 4**—Blossom Time Walks, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Saturday, May 10**—Bird Walk led by Kevin Veara, 8 a.m. meet at the Nature Center

**Saturday, May 10**—Prairie Wildflower Sale, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Nature Center

**Sunday, May 11**—Prairie Wildflower Sale, 1–4 p.m. at the Nature Center

**Wednesday, June 4—Jens Jensen: The Living Green**, documentary film screening at Brookens Library at the University of Illinois Springfield. Cocktails 5:30, dinner at 6 p.m., screening at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, June 8**—Lunch in Bloom 11:30 a.m. at Island Bay Yacht Club

**Monday–Friday starting June 9**—Ecology Camp
2014 Summer Ecology Camp Dates Announced

By Audra Walters

Every summer, Lincoln Memorial Garden hosts its Ecology Camp for children aged 4–12 years. Our camp programs offer children a chance to explore nature and garner a love for the outdoors. Our experienced counselors will lead campers in trail hikes, hands-on activities, environmental games, and much more.

Planning for this year’s camp has already begun. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to register your young naturalists. Half-day camp sessions for our youngest campers run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at a cost of $65 per child for members and $85 per child for non-members. Our older campers can enjoy full day sessions that run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at a cost of $130 per child for members and $170 per child for non-members.

Sessions are limited to 36 campers; sessions do fill so be sure to register early.

Online registration is available at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

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Annual Meeting to be held April 9

By Joel Horwedel

The Annual Meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation will be held on Wednesday, April 9, at the Nature Center. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7. Business will include the yearly financial report, a report from the Acorn Legacy Committee and the election of new board members and officers. All Lincoln Memorial Garden members are invited to attend.

This year’s slate of officers and board members are: president, Nicky Stratton; president-elect, Steven Read; and treasurer, Sharon Kwedar. Board members serving their second three-year terms are Susan Helm, Kathie Kojis, Steven Read, and Jim Read; new members serving their first three-year term include Drew Davis, Tom Wilkin, Deb Finney, Kathy Andrews-Wright, and Bill Hunt. Barbara Rogers will serve as this year’s past president and Kathie Kojis will continue her term as secretary. Connie Klutnick will begin her second year on the board as president of the Springfield Civic Garden Club, and Carol Yee, Garden Clubs of Illinois president, will begin her second year on the board.

Other board members continuing their terms are Dick Adorjan, Jack Anderson, Brent Beeman, Joan Gardner, Mary Grundel, Karen Kirk, Sharon Kwedar, Karen Nachtwey, Tom Skelly, Bruce Strom, and Jane Treadwell.
Springtime is Membership Renewal Time

By Joel Horwedel

Lincoln Memorial Garden members know it’s that time of year again! The Garden is in bloom and the prairie and woods are alive with the coming of spring. It is also time to renew your annual Lincoln Memorial Garden membership.

Thanks to the continued support of our members, Lincoln Memorial Garden has been a treasure in our community for over 75 years. During that time, members have donated countless hours of volunteer work and financial support and their efforts have created a natural garden that continues to grow and flourish every year.

We hope the Garden will continue to inspire its visitors for many years to come, but that can only happen with the contributions made by new and returning members. Together, we can realize the dream of Harriet Knudson and Jens Jensen by honoring the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and inspiring future generations to enjoy nature.

As a member, you are entitled to reciprocal benefits at other American Horticultural Society (AHS) gardens, a 10 percent discount in the Garden’s Split-Rail gift shop, discounted rates for many programs and invitations to members-only events.

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support. Look for your renewal notice in the mail or email this month or visit the Garden’s website at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org and renew online. We look forward to seeing your renewal soon!