Every maple syrup season, many families and individuals come to take part in the weekend programs to learn the secrets of maple syrup. In addition to these guests, hundreds of school children come with their teachers to get first (sticky!) hand experience in the syrup process. Volunteers are needed to help guide these groups of eager learners.

If you enjoy working with children and don’t mind being outdoors in the cold, please join us! There will be Maple Syrup Time volunteer training on Thursday, February 18 from Noon to 3 p.m. During this training session, experienced and novice volunteers will be taught the traditions and processes of maple sugaring. Volunteers will also learn how to lead children on maple tree hikes throughout the Garden. Please dress for the weather, as much of this training will be outside. Lunch will be provided. RSVP at (217) 529-1111 or to audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Maple Syrup Time is the Garden’s sweet tradition

By Kathy Andrews Wright

In only a few weeks, the sap will start to form in the sugar maple trees! The sugar maple trees have announced spring’s arrival for thousands of years, and at Lincoln Memorial Garden, we celebrate winter’s leaving, too.

The Garden has been the place for “city” people to come to make syrup for the last 40 years. That means we have had lots of experience transforming watery maple sap into thick, delicious maple syrup.

Before Lake Springfield was constructed, sugar maple trees grew on both sides of the creek which meandered in that location. This creek was named Sugar Creek because of the number of these trees. Sugar maples have continued to grow abundantly around the lake.

For three weekends in February and March, you are welcome to join the Garden staff as we carry on the “sweet” traditions of tapping trees, collecting the flowing sap and cooking the sap until it becomes pure golden syrup.

Get rid of your family’s cabin fever and head out to the Garden. Weekend group demonstrations run from Saturday, February 20 through Sunday, March 6, 2016. Two sessions are held daily at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Groups will form at the Nature Center. Every session is free and open to the public.
Pancake Breakfast: Reservations recommended

By Kathy Andrews Wright

Gather family and friends, old and young alike, and make plans to attend the annual Lincoln Memorial Garden Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. A highly popular tradition, reservations are strongly suggested to minimize wait time. Reservations may be made at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

The breakfast will take place on the weekends of March 12–13 and 19–20 between 8 a.m. and noon at the Nature Center. The cost of the breakfast is $8 for adults, $5 for youngsters under 12 and free for children under the age of 3. In addition to pancakes and sausage, juice and coffee will be served.

Pancakes and bidding—An exciting combination

By Kathy Andrews Wright

For more than 15 years, the annual Silent Auction has accompanied the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at Lincoln Memorial Garden. With an interesting array of beautiful, valuable and exciting objects (even some that are edible), the auction generates lively bidding wars. Proceeds help underwrite Garden activities throughout the coming year. What can you expect to find in the auction? We do not have details at this time, but past auctions have included fine art, antiques, gift certificates to local dining establishments, tickets to sporting events, objects for your garden, adult beverages to restock a depleted holiday cabinet, themed gift baskets, and more!

Plan your breakfast outing with time to peruse the contributions and place your bids. You might even want to check back before bidding closes on Sunday, March 20 to make sure you’re still in the running for the items your heart desires!

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.
What a wonderful time this is at Lincoln Memorial Garden, thanks to very generous donors.

As many are aware, the Garden’s tractor fleet was well beyond the “aging stage.” The efforts of gardeners Larry Miller and Chuck Allen had been “kind of” able to keep the tractors running “most of the time.”

The need for a reliable tractor was obvious. We applied for and received a challenge grant from Brandt Consolidated in late July. Thanks to the generosity of subsequent donors, the balance needed to purchase the tractor was achieved by November. What a fast and generous response!

Lincoln Memorial Garden purchased a new Kubota Tractor Model # L3301 with 33.5 horsepower. Thanks to a special year-end closeout deal by the local distributor, we also purchased a grader box, ballast box, loading forks, third-function hydraulic preparation for the front end of the tractor, R4 off-road tires, and a much-needed trailer. We also purchased a new front-end grapple claw attachment. The new tractor was delivered on December 2.

Although the outside work at the Garden has slowed, the new tractor has already been put to good use. The grader box has allowed us to grade and maintain the gravel drives as well as work on necessary grading in the Maple Grove parking area. The grapple claw attachment allows workers to move and stack logs with greater speed and safety than volunteers grunting and groaning trying to roll and lift logs onto loading forks. The only problem we have is trying to get Larry off the tractor!

We would not have need for a tractor if we did not have such a good group of building and grounds volunteers. We are grateful for their diligence and hard work. Our current volunteers include Jack Anderson, Kathy Burda, Wayne Carlson, Susan Flanagan, Zack Foster, Rich Johnson, Karen Kirk, Geoff Kucera, Valerie Leonatti, Steven Read, Samantha Reif, Tom Wilkin, and Julie Wullner. We can always use more help. Please contact Larry Miller for volunteer opportunities.

We especially want to thank Brandt Consolidated, Bunn-O-Matic, and Springfield Electric Supply Co. for their very generous donations. We assure them and all of our generous donors—listed below—that we will be good stewards of the new tractor and put it to good use as we continue to work hard to maintain and improve the Garden.

**Tractor Donors**

- Brandt Consolidated Inc.
- Bunn-O-Matic Corp.
- Springfield Electric Supply Co.
- Mrs. Walter Brissenden
- James and Kay Caruso
- Susan and Doug Flanagan
- Kelly and Karen Grant
- Jim and Mary Grundel
- Richard and Carol Herndon
- Ron and Beth Horwedel
- Geoff Isringhausen
- Sharon and John Kwedar
- Robin and Steven Read
- Rozanne Robertson
- Virginia and David Scott
- Nicky Stratton
Sounds of nature featured at Roots of Nature Workshop in April

By Tracy Zeman, Illinois Audubon Society

Educators are invited to join us on Saturday, April 16 at Illinois Audubon Society for a fun and educational day focused on the wonder and exploration of nature for children. The theme for Roots of Nature 2016 is “Nature’s Music: The Sounds Animals Make and Why.” The presenter for the day is David Stokes, an award-winning environmental educator. Stokes’ programs are hands-on, minds-on science and incorporate the use of sign language, storytelling, animal artifacts, and music.

Stokes will spend the morning session outside in the sanctuary. Through listening and observation, educators will learn techniques for focusing young children on the “sounds of spring.” The afternoon session will move indoors. Through songs, stories, live animals, puppets, and toys, participants will examine “sounds in nature,” imitate them, and discuss what they mean and how educators can share the joy of nature’s sounds with young children.

This workshop will send educators away with new concrete skills they can use in their indoor and outdoor classrooms to help connect their students to nature and foster an early love of the environment. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 16. Registration fee is $40 and includes lunch and snacks.

Please visit illinoisaudubon.org to register. Roots of Nature is co-sponsored by Illinois Audubon Society and Lincoln Memorial Garden. ~

Best place for photos? Of course!

Lincoln Memorial Garden earned a spot on the State Journal-Register’s ballot for the annual teen Abe Awards as a choice for the best place to take photos. According to the paper, this is a “chance to vote for the best of everything that concerns central Illinois teens.” Considering the number of photographers we see taking beautiful and handsome prom photos every year, we should be a winner. ~

New Members

Terry Bauer
Lisa Beam
Deanna Cagley
Jane Cecelia Dunne-Brady
Ricky Lanham
Matt and Kelly Minder
Robin Mottaz
Lori Reardon
Mary Ellen Wells

LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Carol and Edgar Yee

2015 Indian Summer Festival Sponsor
Bruce Stratton

8K Trail Race Sponsor
Bill and Barbara Rogers

Honorarium
Mrs. Walter E. Brissenden, in honor of Susie Hammond

Acorn Legacy Fund
Thank you to Karen and Randall Witter for their donation to the Acorn Legacy Fund.

Memorials

- Edward J. and Barbara Alewelt, in memory of Monica McCormick
- Franklin Coble, DVM, in memory of Mr. Lanzy Baker, Mr. Harold Workman, and Eileen Bullard
- Matthew Read and Tracy Zeman, in memory of Kathy Zeman
- Joyce and Ted Lewandowski, in memory of Donna Schechter

Our Wish List

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

- Aquarium supplies—$100
- Junior/Senior Naturalist supplies—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.
Predators, Prey welcome at Senior Naturalist Overnight

Parents: Now is the time to register your nine- to 12-year-olds for the Senior Naturalists overnight, scheduled for February 20, 2016. This is the annual winter overnight at the Garden, where your children will be eating our food (not yours!) and playing boisterous games like Predator-Prey.

Nine- to 12-year-olds: Encourage your parents to get you out of the house for a night of fun at the Garden! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear your camouflage gear. The Garden staff will meet you at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. on February 20. Every Senior Naturalist must have his/her own sleeping bag, pajamas, and a change of clothes. You may also want to bring a flashlight, a board game, and a favorite movie for late-night viewing. Senior Naturalists will have breakfast at the Garden before parents pick them up at 9 a.m.

The cost for this mini-vacation is $50 for Garden members and $65 for non-members. The February overnight is limited to 25 naturalists and fills up quickly, so register early. Online registration can be filled out on the Garden’s website, www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org. If you have any questions, call (217)529-1111 or email audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Ecology Camp registration opens March 7

Summer is coming! While it is still winter outside, this is the perfect time to start planning how your young nature lover will spend the summer months. Every summer hundreds of campers attend LMG’s Ecology Camp. Whether your child has never been a camper or cannot wait to come back, there will be activities for all. Daytime activities include exploration of the Garden, outdoor games, nature crafts, and many other fun activities. Programs are offered for children ages 4–15.

Yes, there will be a new session this summer for campers aged 13–15 years. During this session of camp, teens will get to take part in traditional outdoor activities such as hiking, playing Predator-Prey, and making nature crafts. In addition to these activities, campers will learn leadership, team-building, and survival skills. This session does not take the place of the current Junior Counselor program. This is an opportunity for older campers who don’t want to miss out on being “kids” again!

Spring events for Junior and Senior Naturalists

Mark your calendars or planners for another memorable spring season of Junior and Senior Naturalist programs here at the Garden. When spring becomes a reality, we can wander the trails and rediscover the Lincoln Memorial Garden that is not covered in snow! The dates and topics for this series are as follows:

March 5
Maple Sugaring Traditions

April 9
Nature’s Colors and Camouflage

May 7
Mysteries of Migration

Junior Naturalists (5- to 8-year-olds) meet from 9 a.m. to noon. Senior Naturalists (9- to 12-year-olds) meet from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost for the three-session spring series is $40 for Garden members and $45 for non-members. Individual session registration is also available at a cost of $15 each for members and $18 for non-members. Online registration is available at the Garden’s website, www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org. A printable registration form is available at the same website.
Annual Fund Drive

Thank you to all who have contributed so far to our Annual Fund Drive. This is our largest single fundraising effort of the year. All the money raised goes to the operating fund of Lincoln Memorial Garden.

While the drive starts in late November, it is not considered closed until the end of March, when our new fiscal year starts. So, there is still time to help if you can.

People who do not know much about the Garden assume that we are part of the Springfield Park District or the City of Springfield park system and that we receive public money from those sources. As you know, that’s not true. We are responsible for raising every dollar that goes to keep Lincoln Memorial Garden open and free to everyone.

Your support of the Garden’s Annual Fund drive goes a long way towards making that possible. Thank you, again and again.
A day to remember

By Steven Read

A rainy, dreary Saturday was followed by a beautiful day on Sunday, November 1, as over 125 friends of the Garden gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Nature Center. Thanks to the efforts of many, the Garden leadership was able to contact many of the families that were involved in the planning, funding, and operation of the Nature Center 50 years ago.

Evelyn Grummon, age 100 and one of the very first volunteers in the Nature Center, joined us as an honored guest. Judy Lott, Jim Matheis, and Dale Brooks shared their personal remembrances of the Nature Center and the families and friends involved. The family of Margaret Gaule had previously shared stories about Margaret and her love for the Garden. Kent Cochran (grandson of Harriet Knudson) shared his personal thoughts of what the Garden meant to him and his family as he was growing up, and as his children were growing up.

Mark Cochran (grandson of Harriet Knudson) may have provided the stars of the day. His daughter, Mary Karcher (great-granddaughter of Harriet Knudson), shared her thoughts of the Garden. As part of the program, Mary read the poem “Lincoln’s Living Memorial” written by Claire Martindale exclusively for the dedication service in 1965. At Mary’s side—or in her arms—much of the afternoon was Makenna (great-great-granddaughter of Harriet Knudson).

It was a good day for all of us.

I think all of those who dedicated the Nature Center in 1965 would be pleased with our efforts. Time after time, story after story, families shared the importance of the Garden and the Nature Center in their lives. The Garden was often the main nightly topic of conversation at the family dinner table.

We are honored to remember their dedication and service 50 years ago and hope others will remember—after the next 50 years.
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

Hamamelis, American witch hazel; a small tree that blooms in winter. Look for it while hiking the trails at Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Thursday, February 18
Maple Syrup Time Volunteer Training — Nature Center; Noon to 3 p.m.

Saturday, February 20
Senior Naturalist Overnight — Starts 6 p.m. Saturday; concludes 9 a.m. Sunday

Saturdays and Sundays, February 20 through March 6
Maple Syrup Tree Tapping Demonstrations — Free to all, meet at the Nature Center; demos start at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day.

Saturday, March 5
Junior/Senior Naturalist Program: Maple Sugaring Traditions — see page 5

Saturday/Sunday, March 12, 13, 19 and 20
Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast and Silent Auction — 8 a.m. to Noon; Reservations highly recommended, 529-1111. $8 adults, $5 children under 12, and free for kids under 3 yrs.

Saturday, April 9
Junior/Senior Naturalist Program: Nature’s Camouflage — see page 5

Saturday, April 16
Sounds of Nature Workshop for Educators — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Illinois Audubon Society.

Saturday, May 7
Junior/Senior Naturalist Program: Mysteries of Migration — see page 5