Crafters prepare for annual Holiday Market

By Nicky Stratton

Brandishing the tools of their trade including pliers, wire cutters, glue guns, scissors, sparkling dust, ribbons and loads of dried flowers, a creative group of volunteer artisans meets each week from early October to mid-November.

Their goal? To help Lincoln Memorial Garden provide you with an early start on the holidays.

The remarkable results of the crafters’ efforts, including wreaths, centerpieces, swags and a tree loaded with ornaments, will be sold at the Garden’s annual Holiday Market. Because most of the material is donated, and because the artists give their time freely, the Holiday Market provides a vast array of affordable holiday decorations. Plus, the proceeds go directly to help the Garden. Everybody wins!

This year the Holiday Market will be held on Saturday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, November 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. Garden members are invited to attend the special preview sale on Friday, November 14 from 4 to 7 p.m.—membership will garner a 10 percent discount. Not yet a member? Join that night so you can get the discount, too.

Not only will the Garden’s Split Rail gift shop be loaded with incredible hand-crafted decorations, but
shop manager Arlene Souther has been busy stocking shelves with gift items that will make early shopping a breeze. The diverse inventory includes games, books, toys, stocking stuffers for kids, unique gifts for gardeners, jewelry, yard flags, scented pottery bowls, and even scented mug mats for your coffee cup.

If the variety of gifts is overwhelming, or you just can’t make up your mind, the Split Rail gift shop offers gift cards. Here’s another idea—how about an Ecology Camp gift certificate for a child or grandchild? Or the gift of family membership to Lincoln Memorial Garden?

Join us for the Holiday Market and kick-start your seasonal frame of mind.

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Our favorite things:
Plan to attend senior naturalist overnight

By Audra Waters

Senior Naturalists (9–12 year olds) are invited to join their fellow nature-lovers for the annual overnight event, Saturday, February 21 to Sunday, February 22 at Lincoln Memorial Garden. This is an opportunity to come out and enjoy a few of our favorite things: playing Predator/Prey and eating pizza and s’mores.

Meet at the Nature Center at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 21. We ask that each Senior Naturalist bring a sleeping bag, pajamas and change of clothes. If participants wish, they can also bring a flashlight, board game and a favorite movie we can vote on for late-night viewing. On Sunday morning, naturalists will enjoy breakfast before parents arrive for pick-up at 9 a.m.

The cost is $50 for Garden members and $65 for non-members. Anyone unsure of membership status can call the Garden to check. This event is limited to 25 naturalists, and does fill, so register early. Online registration will be available at the Garden’s website www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org. Questions? Please call (217) 529-1111 or email audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

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Looking Ahead
Junior/Senior Naturalist programs announced for Spring 2015

Through hands-on activities, games and outdoor investigation, children will discover what’s new at Lincoln Memorial Garden with the arrival of spring. Topics for this series will include:

- March 7  Maple Syrup Time
- April 18  Happy Earth Day!
- May 23  Invasion! When bad plants take over

Each session is limited to 25 registrants. The cost for the three-session series is $40 for Garden members and $45 for nonmembers. If a participant is unable to attend the entire series, individual session registration is also available at a cost of $15 each for members and $18 for nonmembers. Online registration is available at the Garden’s website at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org, as well as a printable registration form.

Junior Naturalists sessions, for children 5 to 8 years old, meet from 9 a.m. to noon. Senior Naturalists, ages 9 to 12 years, meet from 1 to 4 p.m. Questions? Contact the Garden at 217-529-1111 or email audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

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Save the dates for Ecology Camp 2015 — Online Registration will open March 1!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>June 15–19</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>July 20–24</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>July 27–31</td>
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Winter ~ 2014
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.
Birdhouse building contest results

By Kathy Andrews Wright

The results are in and the fifth annual Lincoln Memorial Garden Birdhouse Building Competition was deemed a huge success by the general public, official judges and Indian Summer Festival committee. The number of entries reached an all-time high with 15 entries submitted, including one that contained houses created by four Girl Scouts completing requirements for their woodworking badge.

Judges selected Larry Gregg’s “Robin’s Roost” as the Best Functional entry, earning him a $100 prize. Marion H.D. Gregg’s “Wood Duck Dynasty” was awarded $75 and the Best Whimsical birdhouse title.

The People’s Choice decision was difficult, and despite a nearly constant mist on Sunday, more than 500 voters took the time to review all the choices and vote for their favorites. After the ballots were tallied, Kevin Van Huss was selected as the winning entry and he will be awarded a $50 prize for his “Love Shack” entry.


It’s not too early to start planning your entry for the 2015 contest. Contest rules and an entry form will be posted on the LMG Web site by August 1. Let’s make it even more difficult for the judges and general public to make a decision with a tremendous showing for the 2015 contest.

Photographs of the winning entries are posted on the Lincoln Memorial Garden Facebook site.

New categories this year, thanks to two new benefactors, were Best Youth Functional and Best Youth Whimsical. Jordyn Keiser, Abby Spohrer, Cordelia Anderson and Abigail Broomhead with Girl Scout Troop 6079 received a $50 prize for Best Youth Whimsical birdhouse, entitled “It Takes a Village.” Isabela Burke’s “Chickadee Heart House” was a clear winner with the public—especially those attracted to pink sparkles—earning her the top prize and $50 in the Best Youth Functional category.

Memorials

- Kelly & Karen Grant, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Mrs. Patti Lloyd, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Bruce & Catherine Locher, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Stella & Charles Mansfield, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Jean Simhauser, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Gloria & Marvin Utsinger, in memory of Mary Ann Benya
- Edward J. & Barbara Alewelt, in memory of Mary Ann Benya

Miscellaneous Donations:

Thank you to the following individuals for their support:

- Julie Wullner, Micro-Eye VideoMicroscope Donation
- Larry and Loretta Michaud, Tree Consultation Donation
- Dr. Roland and Susan Cull, Wish List (New Paper Cutter)

Annual Fund Donors

Lincoln Memorial Garden extends its appreciation to recent Annual Fund donors:

Marlene and Scott Mulford
Mary Caroline Mitchell
Susan Hammond
Bill and Barbara Rogers
Stephan and Paula Kaplan
Barb Johnson
Carol and Dick Scott, in honor of David and Virginia Scott’s 50th wedding anniversary

ISF Sponsors

The Indian Summer Festival would not be possible without the generosity of its sponsors. We thank the following for support of the Garden’s successful fall fundraiser:

MAJOR SPONSORS
- Davis Financial
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- King Tech
- Hickory Point Bank
- John & Catherine Huther

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS
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- Patrick Nudo
- Hy-Vee
- Stratton & Reichert
- Sentinel Pest Control
- Allied Plumbing and Heating
- Eck, Schafer, & Punke

ISF EVENT SPONSORS

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Bunn — Entertainment sponsor
Nicoud Insurance — Family Activities sponsor
Arnold Monument — Family Activities sponsor
Craig Dickey — ISF donation

Winter ~ 2014
New battle underway to defend native ecosystem from invasive plant

By Theresa Gegen

*Sericea Lespedeza*, commonly known as silky bush clover, is the latest invasive species to spread to, attack, and require removal from the meadows and prairies of Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Introduced in the United States in the 1940s, this perennial herbaceous plant in the pea family can grow in a variety of habitats. It is a threat to open areas such as meadows, prairies, open woodlands, wetland borders and fields. In those areas, *Lespedeza* crowds out native plants and develops extensive seed banks in the soil.

It grows to from 3 to 5 feet in height, with inch-ling narrow, pointed leaves that are hairy, with a grey or silvery shade of green. From late July to October, tiny flowers, white or yellow with pink and purple veins, bloom singly or in clusters. Flowers produce a single seed that can remain viable in the soil for 20 years or more. The roots of the sericea lespedeza are a woody taproot that branches laterally and grows 3 to 4 feet deep. The plant reproduces by reseeding itself and can form large colonies that crowd out native plants.

The plant is invasive in several states, from Florida and Texas to Wisconsin and New York. It has spread steadily northward in the state from southern Illinois, and extensive efforts are underway to minimize further invasion.

Why can’t we just let *Lespedeza* be?

Longtime *Seasons* readers will recall from a 2013 series on invasive plants that aggressive non-native plant species will, if left to grow and spread, eventually monopolize the areas in which they grow, crowding out native species. In turn, insects can’t exist in overrun areas, because native insects feed only on leaves of native plants and trees. Without a diverse community of insects, birds—who feed insects to their young, especially songbirds—would starve or flock elsewhere. The entire native ecosystem would be under attack.

At Lincoln Memorial Garden, the effort continues to eradicate non-native species, such as *Lespedeza*, that post a threat.

The Garden’s battle against *Lespedeza* began in August, with a plan that was implemented based on the uses of the areas where the plant was invading. Due to the sturdiness of the seeds and its deep root system, *Lespedeza* is not a good candidate for burning off.

In the Historic Garden and Ostermeier Prairie Center, areas of *Lespedeza* were mowed during the late summer flowering stage to prevent seed production but allowing the plant to resprout. After the thatch had dried, herbicide was applied. Triclopyr 4 is a selective, broad leaf herbicide that does not harm grasses. The non-selective Round-up Power Pro Max®, with surfactant and adjuvant properties, was also used in certain areas. The same treatment was scheduled to take place at Cawley Meadow after the Indian Summer Festival.

In the spring, the plan continues with the spray mix being used, avoiding desirable plants. Continual monitoring of newly-sprouted *Lespedeza* will take place until the problem plant is under control.

*Lespedeza* has joined the fast-spreading garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and Japanese honeysuckle on the Garden’s most unwanted list. Visitors are encouraged to learn to identify these invasive plants, help the Garden fight their spread, and remove them from their own gardens and property.
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

Friday, November 14
Holiday Market Members Only
Preview Sale—4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 15
Holiday Market—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 16
Holiday Market—1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 6
Surviving Winter Junior Naturalist Program—9 a.m. to Noon
Surviving Winter Senior Naturalist Program—1 to 4 p.m.