

In this issue

Celebrating a Successful Prairie Restoration

Happy Birthday, Jens Jensen!

Introducing New Foundation Board Members

Cawley Meadow Turns 20

Fall Festival Will Return in 2021

Why Be a Member?

Let's Examine Dandelions

Thanks to Our Many Contributors

Welcome New Members

Memorials

Visit the Garden!

Hours of Operation:

NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center remains closed in 2020 for the health and safety of our visitors, volunteers and staff.

GARDEN

Trails are open every day from sunrise to sunset. Please follow State of Illinois and CDC COVID-19 safety and social distancing guidelines for outdoor activities.

Check our Facebook page and website for updates.

P: 217-529-1111

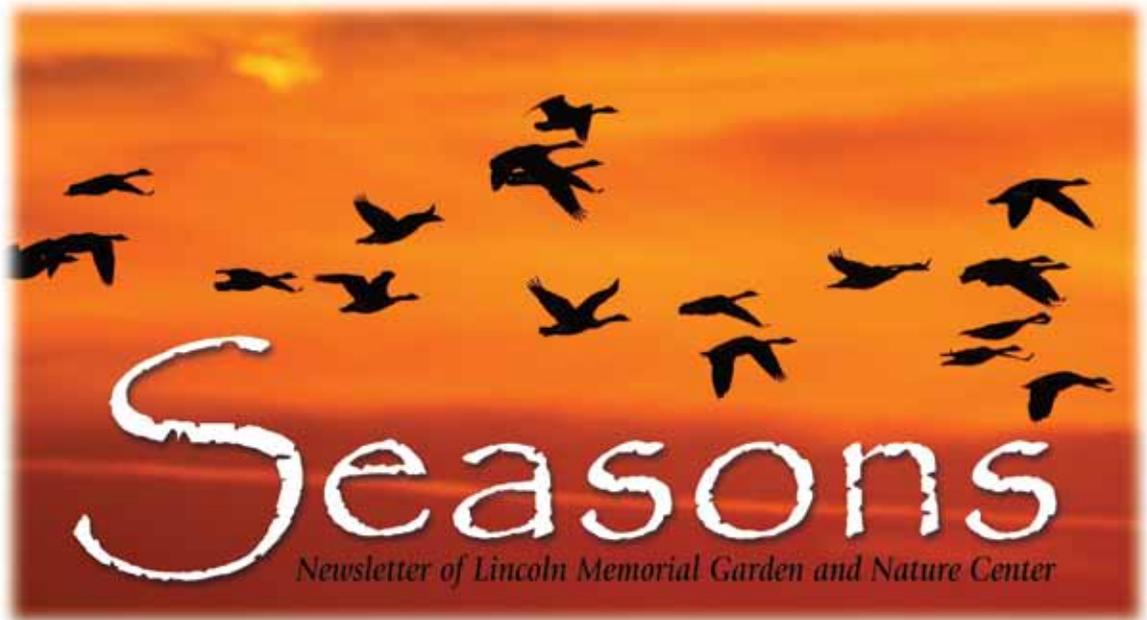


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STAFF

- Executive Director ..... Joel Horwedel
Environmental Educator... Audra Walters
Head Gardener ..... Larry Miller
Gardener ..... Charles Allen
Board President..... Cathy Slater
Newsletter Team .....
Dick and Helen Adorjan, Polly Danforth, Katharine Eastvold, Susan Flanagan, Ann Londrigan, Nicholous Stratton and Kathy Andrews Wright



Celebrating a Successful Prairie Restoration

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Before Mr. Shoub established his farmstead in the mid-1800s, much of Sangamon County was covered in tall-grass prairie, broken only by tracts of timber along rivers and streams and isolated prairie groves. The process of re-creating a tall-grass prairie began in 1995 when the Ostermeier family, owners of the land Mr. Shoub had originally farmed, allowed Lincoln Memorial Garden the use of 29 acres for a prairie restoration project that still blooms and flourishes 25 years later.

Thanks to a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), three prairie sites—the front prairie, middle prairie and back prairie—were planted with a mixture of grasses and forbs.

“As staff and volunteers were working to develop the prairie plots nearly 25 years ago, some 40,000 plants were planted over the course of two summers,” explains Larry Miller, head gardener for Lincoln Memorial Garden. “Most of the grasses and forbs were placed in the middle prairie, which is the largest of the plots. Across the front prairie, between the road and historic hedgerow, a belt of forbs, or wildflowers, were planted with the intent that a strip of showy, colorful wildflowers, such as cup plant, compass plant and purple coneflower, would create visual interest for passersby.”

Considerable effort was expended in developing the wildflower strip, and a lot

of hand weeding took place to remove invasive exotics, such as thistle. Today, little remains of that wildflower strip, evidence that nature does as it desires.

“At the onset, the front prairie had a nice stand of scurfy pea (Psoralidium tenuiflorum),” Miller recounts. “Today this showy, herbaceous wildflower, which reaches heights of two to three feet and produces blue-violet flowers from late spring through late summer, no longer appears in the front prairie, but it does in the middle prairie, where it was not planted.”

Obviously planted with a different mix of native prairie plant seeds provided by the IDNR, the back prairie—located west of the berm—developed into a high-grade sedge prairie, containing a diversity of

—continued on next page



Photo by Bob Naugle



## Director's Message

by Joel Horwedel

Where did summer go? If you've ventured out to the Garden and wandered past the

Nature Center, you noticed that the Accessible Trial project has been in full swing! A half council ring encompasses a permeable paver pad leading from our door toward the lake and Council Ring 3 to a loop through a woodland rich with nature's sights and sounds. Frequent heavy rains during the summer have made grading a real challenge. We hope to have the final grading and seeding complete by the time you read this.

As COVID-19 makes holding events safely nearly impossible, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Fall Harvest Festival. We do look forward to offering a Fall Harvest Festival kit for sale which will include some favorite Festival activities. We'll also be unable to hold our annual Holiday Market in November. We are hoping to welcome people back in early 2021 for Maple Syrup Demonstrations. Our inability to host any of our annual fundraisers has been rough. We ask our Garden friends to please consider additional support this year to help make up for our lost event revenue.

We realize many are experiencing tough times, and so we remain grateful for what we do have. In July, the Garden was selected as the recipient of a donation from Reisch Charities. A special thank you goes to Jeff Egizii and Reisch Charities for supporting LMG during this difficult time. If you haven't been out for a while, the prairies and woods beckon. Come check out our new front entrance and enjoy the fall colors! 🍁



RESTORATION — cont'd from page 1



View from the top of the Prairie Observation Berm. Photo by Ann Londrigan

these grasslike plants that have triangular stems and small flowers that lack the showy petals of wildflowers.

After 25 years, the prairie contains an assortment of grasses and wildflowers that keep the landscape colorful throughout the growing season. Today, the focus is on allowing nature to take its course on species composition and instead minimizing the presence of invasive, exotic plants, such as giant ragweed, hemlock, thistle and sericia lespedeza.

"To maintain a nice diversity of the colorful forbs, we burn the prairie in the fall or later summer, as research has shown that early spring burns promote the growth of grasses over forbs," Miller explains. "Controlling sericia lespedeza is our primary concern now and entails spot chemical spraying, prescribed burns and mowing the prairie in mid-August to prevent the plant from going to seed."

Miller sighs, noting that each stem produces in excess of 1,000 seeds.

"We have been managing for sericia for six years and have made a noticeable difference in the number of plants and the area where it occurs," he says. "It will probably be another 10 years before we can confidently reduce our mowing program and let the fall prairie bloom."

Miller is excited about the Garden's participation in cutting-edge research underway by a team of researchers from the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

"Using drones, researchers are assessing the locations and severity of sericia plants on the Ostermeier Prairie and will produce a map that will minimize the labor-intensive, grid-pattern searches we now have to undertake," Miller elaborates. "This technique is groundbreaking in the control of invasive species."

Walk the paths of the reconstructed Garden prairie throughout the year to relish the ever-changing vista of the habitat that once covered much of the Prairie State. Take in the refreshing mint scent of the lavender-flowered, pollinator-friendly wild bergamot. Pause at the Prairie Observation Berm, binoculars in hand, to watch grassland birds swaying on the heads of cup plants while their melodious songs float across a sea of native prairie grasses. Give thanks to the visionaries who 25 years ago dreamt of a place where visitors could momentarily immerse themselves in what was once the prairie of Illinois. 🍁

## Happy Birthday, Jens!

Danish-American landscape architect Jens Jensen (September 13, 1860–October 1, 1951) is a major reason Lincoln Memorial Garden is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



From the application summary signed on August 12, 1992, by Register Historian Patrick Andrus with the National Park Service: “Significant landscaped garden designed as a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln. The garden is associated with the prominent landscape architect Jens Jensen.”

The application form prepared by Marilyn K. Alaimo, a past president of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, is an illuminating read about the history of the Garden and its historical significance and includes citations, early photos and maps. It mentions the Garden project “received not only national but international prominence...among those sending letters to [Garden founder] Mrs. Knudson in appreciation of the project are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, David Lloyd George, Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsay, Henry Ford, William Randolph Hearst, Mrs. Robert Lincoln...” and the list goes on.

Check it out here: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/28894086>. ☺

### 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.

*Farewell to some, welcome to others, and thanks to all!*

## Introducing Our New LMG Foundation Board Members

by Cathy Slater

At LMG’s Annual Board Meeting, held in April, outgoing members of the Board of Directors are recognized and thanked. At the same meeting, incoming members of the Board of Directors are introduced and welcomed. Cancellation of the Annual Meeting (and all subsequent board meetings thus far, due to COVID-19 safety concerns) prevented this traditional transition from occurring.

With great appreciation for their time and talents shared while serving on the Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation Board, we thank **Denny Cocagne, Drew Davis, Kathy Wright, Wendy Weisenburn and Tom Wilkin**, whose terms have come to an end. We also thank **Dick McDaniel and Ann Londrigan**, who resigned after serving partial terms.

We welcome to the 2020-21 LMG Foundation Board **Mark Allan, Frank Butterfield, Amanda Gardner and Megan Styles**, with **Tom Skelly and Tom Wilkin** filling in for one-year terms.

**Mark Allan** grew up on a farm in Scott County near Winchester. He farmed the family land until 1993. After farming, he worked in the agricultural business, retiring in 2017. He joined the grounds crew at LMG in December of the same year. Since joining the crew, he has developed a great fondness for LMG and everything it stands for. Mark says it is an honor to be asked to serve on the Board, and he will do his best to maintain and carry on the vision for this wonderful garden.

**Amanda Gardner** grew up in and around the Garden. As a child in the 80s, she came to LMG often with her family. Some of her earliest memories are of getting a thumb full of maple syrup, and of making candles. Now she has a family of her own. She shares her love for LMG with her family at the Fall Festival, the Maple Syrup Demonstrations, trail hikes and runs. Amanda is a graphic designer at FitClub and has a passion for fitness. She is also a certified personal trainer and health coach, and she works with clients to help them in their journey to health. The outdoors is

where she feels grounded and alive. Amanda feels fortunate to have trails so close to her home. As we get ready to move into the school year, Amanda is ready to add virtual school administrator to her list of skills as she will be helping her two daughters with their schooling three days a week. Amanda is married to Dr. Matthew Gardner. Her father, Michael Brewer is a regular volunteer at LMG.

**Megan Styles** is a professor in the Environmental Studies Department at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Washington Seattle and a B.A. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. Her research has focused on sustainable agricultural development, rural livelihoods and conservation issues in the United States and East Africa.

She is the author of *Roses from Kenya: Labor, Environment, and the Global Trade in Cut Flowers* (2019, University of Washington Press). She teaches courses focused on environmental sustainability, human dimensions of environmental issues and sustainable food systems.

Megan is also a Springfield native and a graduate of Southeast High School. She grew up walking the trails and attending summer camp in Lincoln Memorial Garden, and she is excited to help this beautiful place continue to thrive.

**Frank Butterfield** is director of the Springfield Office of Landmarks Illinois, the statewide historic preservation nonprofit. Prior to joining Landmarks Illinois, Frank was a director/field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Field Office for three years. Frank has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Boston College and a Master’s of Science in historic preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is also on the board of directors for the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and on the steering council of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Frank and his wife, Mary, had their second date at Lincoln Memorial Garden. ☺

# Cawley Meadow Turns 20

by Ann Londrigan

It was 2008 when Lincoln Memorial Garden held the Indian Summer Festival in the Cawley Meadow for the first time. Before then, this long-running and very popular family festival was held in what's known as the "Historic Garden." The original 60-acre parcel was secured by civic leader Harriet Knudson in the mid-1930s as the city was creating Lake Springfield, and its blueprint was designed by celebrated "Prairie Style" landscape architect Jens Jensen in 1936. It entered the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

Taking the Festival out of the woods and across the street was a bold but necessary move.

According to Jim Mathies, retired executive director of the Garden, the six-acre "Cawley Meadow" parcel had been given to the Garden in 2000 by Joyce Cawley following the passing of her husband Fred. Eight years later, after some major cleanup and planting the landscape, it was still mostly a large open space with little shade. And it was distinctly different from the tucked-in vendor booths along the Historic Garden paths with children's activities spread out in the woodland openings. Who remembers turtle races in Council Ring 3?

"It was controversial," says Joyce Munie, who served as secretary of the Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation Board, along with president and 2008 Festival Chair Carol Herndon.

"We did surveys and exit polls," she recalls. "We asked, 'What did you like about the Festival?' And many said 'We hate it over there!'"

The bottom line was that the Historic Garden needed protection. In their October 31 letter to the editor in *The State Journal-Register*, 2009 Festival Co-chairs Munie and longtime volunteer Chris Davis wrote:

*Lincoln Memorial Garden's foundation is a nonprofit organization charged by the Garden Clubs of Illinois to protect and maintain the garden. The garden was placed on the National Register of Historic Places because it was designed by Jens Jensen, one of the foremost landscape architects of the early 20th century. We moved the festival across the street last year because we could no longer ignore the impact that the footsteps of 4,000 people caused to the trees and other plants within it. We thank all those people who joined us again this year at the festival and all our new visitors*



Chris Davis (left) with Joyce Munie, longtime Garden volunteers working the front gate at the 2019 fall festival. Photo by Ann Londrigan

*who discovered the garden for the first time. Without your generous support we could not continue the work of the foundation.*

Today, Festival-goers love the Cawley Meadow space. The trees along the edges have matured to offer more shade, and each year more benches are added for seating areas. A bandshell was created as an Eagle Scout project with funding from Sutton's roofing and siding company. Thanks to an army of loyal and hard-working volunteers, new activities—such as "Build a Scarecrow," the Tree Troll Trail and the beloved Fairy Woodlands—"magically" appear each year.

"It truly looks like what a festival area should look like," says Munie, who has



*The well-established half-acre wetland in 2019, first created through the work from January 14, 2002, to January 31, 2004, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Lincoln Memorial Garden volunteers, under the U.S. EPA's Source Water Pollution Control Program and the Federal Clean Water Act. Photo by Ann Londrigan.*



The photo above, taken in December 2001, shows just a sampling of the debris that was removed from the Cawley Meadow property by LMG staff and volunteers. Photo by Bob Naugle

continued to volunteer along with Davis after their three-year stint as event co-chairs from 2009 to 2011.

So, what did it look like 20 years ago? Mathies and Garden staff, including Larry Miller, along with many volunteers, inventoried the newly acquired property. Here's a partial list of what they found, which triggered a professional review by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- ❖ A large step van truck
- ❖ Three old farm tractors, a plow, disc and harrow
- ❖ Two 20-cubic-foot dumpsters full of metal including barbed wire, rebar and 55-gallon drums all weighing 30,240 pounds
- ❖ 100 tires
- ❖ 12 appliances
- ❖ Contents of a shed filling six 20-cubic-foot dumpsters and including glass, plastic, hardware, old bikes and unlabeled containers of grease, herbicide, oil, paint and insecticide

According to the EPA final report, "A crew of four Garden staff took about five weeks to clean up the area. This included dragging items out of the woods with tractors, tearing down the shed and mowing fields to find items hidden by the vegetation."

It was a herculean effort for several years.

"From an EPA perspective, there was non-point source pollution with rain and snow and

the different pollutants," says Davis, a 30-year professional with the Illinois EPA and currently manager of the Watershed Management Section. "When we worked on the project identifying all the stuff on the site, it dawned on everyone that it was less than a quarter mile to the lake and chances [were] it would deliver pollutants through the Garden to the lake."

So, much like the Ostermeier Prairie Center, the maintenance of the Cawley property is a stewardship measure.

Says Joel Horwedel, executive director of the Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation: "Adding Cawley Meadow to the Garden's holdings has allowed us the opportunity to develop a dedicated area for our annual fall festival and this important additional buffer to the Historic Garden." 🍁



Cathy Slater, president of the Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation, and past president and festival chair Tom Wilkin, look over the pristine Cawley Meadow grounds in the early morning hours before the start of the 2019 fall festival.



## Festival to Return in 2021 with a New Name

by Cathy Slater, President, Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation

We will greatly miss seeing you at the fall festival this October. Watch for details on Facebook and the website for ways to safely celebrate fall and the Garden as we pivot to virtual offerings due to COVID-19, as we have for most of Lincoln Memorial Garden's signature events and fundraisers in 2020.

We hope a year will make a big difference for the health and safety of all. When we gather again in Cawley Meadow that second weekend in October, the tradition will start anew with a new name: **Lincoln Memorial Garden Fall Harvest Festival**.

Like the location change in 2008, this move may have its detractors. The Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation, as stewards of the Garden, believe the time has come to change the name. "Indian summer" is a term used to describe a period of warm weather in autumn.

The name change will not change this tradition that we hold so dear as generations of festival-goers and newcomers to Cawley Meadow. We thank you for your continued generous support of the Garden and the work of the foundation. 🍁

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**October 9 – 10, 2021**

# Let's Examine Dandelions

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Is it a flower or a weed? That's just a matter of perspective, depending on whether the plant is where you think it "belongs." Many people consider the dandelion a weed, but it is a fascinating plant when examined closely, and it is beneficial to wildlife.

Ask your children to carefully observe dandelions (a magnifying glass may be helpful) and discuss:

- ❖ All those yellow structures on a dandelion are not flower petals but individual, tubular-shaped flowers. Each "flower" actually is a composite of many flowers. How many flowers are there on the dandelion? (*About 150 to 200*)
  - ❖ Folklore considers the parts of a dandelion to represent the celestial bodies: the sun, moon and stars. What part of the dandelion looks like each? (*Yellow flowerhead is the sun, white seed head is the moon and the seeds are the stars*)
  - ❖ Examine flowers during the day and again at dusk. What happens? (*Flowers close at night, and they also will close when it starts to rain; perhaps this helps protect nectar and pollen, or preserves heat overnight.*)
  - ❖ What insects do you find on dandelion flowers? (*Pollinators such as bumblebees,*
- solitary bees, honeybees, hoverflies, beetles, butterflies*)
  - ❖ What birds and mammals do you think will eat dandelions? (*Rabbits, white-tailed deer, goldfinch, bobwhite, wild turkey, white-throated sparrow*)
  - ❖ What do the leaves look like? (*A rosette on the ground with simple, lobed leaves*)
  - ❖ Find dandelions in full sun and in shady areas, and examine differences in their leaf shape. (*Plants growing in full sun have deeply toothed, thick, green leaves; leaves of plants in shady areas are slightly toothed, thin and pale.*)
  - ❖ After flowering, a dandelion flowerhead dries out for a couple of days, and then the fluffy seed parachutes appear. How many seeds do you think a dandelion can produce during a growing season? (*An estimated 3,000 to 23,000*)
  - ❖ Experiment to see how far you can get a parachute seed to float. (*Some drift on the wind as far as five miles.*)
  - ❖ How deep does a dandelion root grow? (*Typically 18 inches, but some up to 15 feet*)



## New Members

*Veronica and Dale Fesser  
Rex Gradeless  
Ann Kelson  
Brenda Suhling Allan*

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## Thank You to Our Many Supporters!

### Annual Fund Donors

Tom Ala  
Amy and Joe Bianco  
Stuart and Mary Byers  
Richard Katholi  
Mary Caroline Mitchell  
Joanne Ter Molen

### Thank you to all who have given to support the Garden through COVID-19

Vivian Bennett-Held  
David and Gina Curry  
Mary Ann Egizio  
Susan and Doug Flanagan  
Brenda Larison  
Colin and Melissa Liberman  
Pattie Piotrowski  
Lori Reardon  
Karen Sue Rogers  
Nicole Simmons  
Steve Washko  
Jerome and Kathy Watson

### Special Supporters

Thank you to **Reisch Charities** and **Jeff Egizii** for a special donation.

Thank you to **Nicky Stratton** for donating toward Ecology Camp programming.



# 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 **Bill Donels**:

- ❖ Carol and Tom Kerins
- ❖ Rick and Kathy Wright

Samantha Reif gave in memory of **Andy Hackenthal**.

Rick and Kathy Wright donated in memory of **Jack Anderson**.

We are grateful for a gift toward operations from the estate of **George Kennedy, Jr.**

# Calendar

## Fall Harvest Festival Kit Sales Sept. 8–Oct. 11

To order your kit(s), go to <http://lincolnmemorialgarden.org/ecology-camp-at-home-kits-available/>



## Sleigh Photos Nov. 7 and 8, 14 and 15



Autumn ~ 2020

# Ecology Campers Enjoyed At-Home Experiences

With great regret, this past summer LMG had to tell families that Ecology Camp would not be taking place at the Garden due to COVID-19 concerns. However, for the first time, the Garden offered take-home Summer Ecology Camp Kits for sale on the web site. Each kit included everything needed to complete one activity, with a number of interesting projects to choose from.

LMG Environmental Educator Audra Walters reports that the Garden sold 75 sets of 6 kits—450 individual kits. Several “ecology campers” sent photos of their completed kit projects. 🍁



Above: LMG board member Max Comstock helping his granddaughter Kinzie Comstock build an Ecology Camp Kit birdhouse.

Left: Kinzie’s friend Jazzlynn Whitnall built a birdhouse, too.

Below: Kinzie Comstock (left) and Jazzlynn Whitnall (right) are ready for a hike with their Ecology Camp Kit walking stick creations.



Left: Knsey and Lawson Doolin from South Elgin, Illinois, designed creative walking sticks.





# Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

*A Project of the Garden Clubs of Illinois*

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## Why Be a Member?

by Ann Londrigan

We're asking members of Lincoln Memorial Garden (LMG) why they value their membership, whether as an individual (\$40), family (\$75), senior (\$30) or other level. In addition to giving you exclusive member benefits—including discounts and reciprocal privileges to **330+** botanical gardens across the country—membership truly makes the Garden what it is today. The Garden receives no taxpayer funding to maintain its 100 acres, the mulched trails, bridges and buildings. Memberships and donations sustain the grounds, environmental programming and special events.

Already a member? Thank you! Please consider giving a very unique gift to your friends and family this year—the yearlong gift of a Lincoln Memorial Garden membership. Learn more: <http://lincolnmemorialgarden.org/membership/>

### Why I Am a Member...

"Places have the power to inspire and replenish us. In fact, they help to form us by summoning us into relationship with the earth and in doing so, transform us! In harmony with the woods, prairie, pond and lakefront, we are drawn more fully into what it means to be human."  
Dan Frachey, *program director for the Chiara Center*

"A big reason for families to join is the programming and education. It is just outstanding. The camps, the junior naturalist programs, Audra [staff environmental educator]. I wouldn't be surprised if our daughter Lucy decides to be a naturalist for her career! We all love the Garden."  
Megan and Chad DeFrain, with daughters Lucy and Pheobe