

Spring 2022

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Hours of Operation:

NATURE CENTER

10 – 4 — Tuesday – Saturday

1 – 4 — Sunday

Closed Monday

GARDEN

Garden is open every day
sunrise to sunset.

P: 217-529-1111

E: joel@lincolnmemorialgarden.org

www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org



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Head Gardener Larry Miller

Gardener Marissa Jones

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Katharine P. Roberts, Megan Styles,

Audra Walters, and Kathy Andrews Wright

Guest Contributors: Susan Dees

Hargrove and Luke Hockenys



Lunch in Bloom scheduled for May 22

by Helen Adorjan

Lunch in Bloom is back!!!

After a 2-year hiatus because of the pandemic, the event is back on the calendar, with all its charm of past years—the food, the friends and the excitement of a raffle. Garden friends are once again invited to gather at the Island Bay Yacht Club for this Spring Soiree.

DATE: Sunday, May 22, 2022, at Island Bay Yacht Club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MENU: A delicious buffet luncheon with both a Macadamia Nut and Panko Breast of Chicken and Oven Roasted White Fish with a Butter Sauce. And, of course, all the accoutrements.

The vegetarian option will feature Portabella Mushrooms Stuffed with Spinach. A similar gluten-free meal will be available upon request. The children's menu (for 12 and under) will be Chicken Strips and Tater Tots. Luncheons include dessert as well as beverages—iced tea, lemonade and coffee.

A cash bar, with wine, beer and soda, will be available during the social hour. While friends greet one another and exchange pleasantries, the relaxing piano music of local talent Ed Clark will be playing in the background.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS: Persons wishing to attend Lunch in Bloom can register and pay online at the Garden's website, <http://www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org>. Others can mail in their requests and payments for luncheon tickets (priced at \$50 per adult and \$20 per kid's meal).

—continued on next page

On the trail with eastern bluebirds

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Perched on a low-slung branch over the open prairie landscape of Lincoln Memorial Garden, the eastern bluebird heralds the onset of spring with its low-pitched, warbling song. Vividly feathered in deep blue and rusty red, the male bluebird proclaims his interest to a nearby, more subtly colored female.

Considered a medium-distance migrant, the eastern bluebird is a common migrant—spring migrants arrive in Illinois as early as February—and summer resident throughout Illinois. Eastern bluebirds typically winter in the southern reaches of the state.

—continued on page 3





Director's Message

by Joel Horwedel

Happy spring!

As the first flowers emerge from the ground, the Garden kicks into

full swing with programs and projects. We are hopeful that 2022 will be a return to normalcy! A huge thank-you goes to all of our Annual Fund donors! With your support, we surpassed our previous record, and we are so thankful to our wonderful, generous members.

With the approach of spring, we are excited to announce the return of Lunch in Bloom, our 8K Trail Race and our Summer Ecology Camp. Additionally, we will be holding our annual plant sales in April and May and unveiling our iBeacon project for the visually impaired. Later this year, we hope to unveil our final plan for the Children's Woodland Garden.

Several smaller projects are also in the works, including a prairie plant inventory, a bat monitoring project, new split-rail fencing, a large scale bench replacement and a frog survey. Please watch our website and Facebook page for information regarding these exciting projects and more.

At our April meeting, we will say thank you to five outgoing board members who have played a huge role at the Garden. Max Comstock, Scott Germeraad, Tom Skelly, Tom Wilkin and Kathy Wright have all served the Garden in so many ways, and we will all miss them. We are so grateful for their service.

Please watch your mailbox in May, when our annual membership renewals will be sent out. As always, please enjoy spring splendor at the Garden; I hope to see you out on the trails! ☺



Virginia spiderwort, *Tradescantia virginiana*



The deadline to RSVP is May 16, 2022. Mail-in requests should include your name and phone number, plus the number of each category of ticket wanted (Adult – \$50 and Children – \$20). Any vegetarian or gluten-free meals need to be ordered at this point, as well. In addition, payment for tickets should be included as well. These tickets will be held at the Yacht Club to be picked up when checking in for the luncheon. (Note: \$27 of each adult ticket is tax deductible as is \$12 of each child's ticket. Consult your tax advisor for information on this.)

RAFFLE: All eyes will be on the colorful "Buckets of Bounty" artfully displayed in the Yacht Club's Crow's Nest, where guests can admire and decide which of the selections they would most desire. The four brightly colored gardener buckets—each overflowing with a variety of gifts and fun—are the prizes for the lucky raffle winners. The Blue bucket will be filled with items for Summer Fun. The Red bucket is for Vibrant Veggies. Green is for Flavorful Herbs. Purple is the Pollinator Delight. Raffle tickets will be available at the Yacht Club on the day of the luncheon.

The raffle will round out the day of casual elegance at the Yacht Club, with fond memories of a delightful luncheon spread and the camaraderie of fellow Garden supporters. ☺

Ecology Camp registration is open!

As spring begins to bloom across the landscape, Lincoln Memorial Garden is getting ready for summer, and we invite your children to join us! If you have kids who love nature, mark your calendars for this year's Ecology Camp sessions. Online registration is open now on the Garden's website. ☺

Session	Dates	Time	Ages	Cost (Member / Nonmember)
1	June 6–10	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	6, 7, 8	\$175/\$215
2	June 13–17	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	6, 7, 8	FULL
3 AM*	June 21–24	8:30–11:30 a.m.	4, 5, 6	FULL
3 PM*	June 21–24	12:30–3:30 p.m.	4, 5, 6	\$80/\$100
4	June 27–July 1	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	8, 9, 10	\$175/\$215
5	July 11–15	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	9, 10, 11	\$175/\$215
6	July 18–22	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	10, 11, 12	\$175/\$215
7	July 25–29	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	12–15	\$175/\$215

* These sessions meet Tuesday through Friday only.

According to eBird.org, the first 2022 Illinois sighting of an eastern bluebird was recorded in Peoria County on January 1.

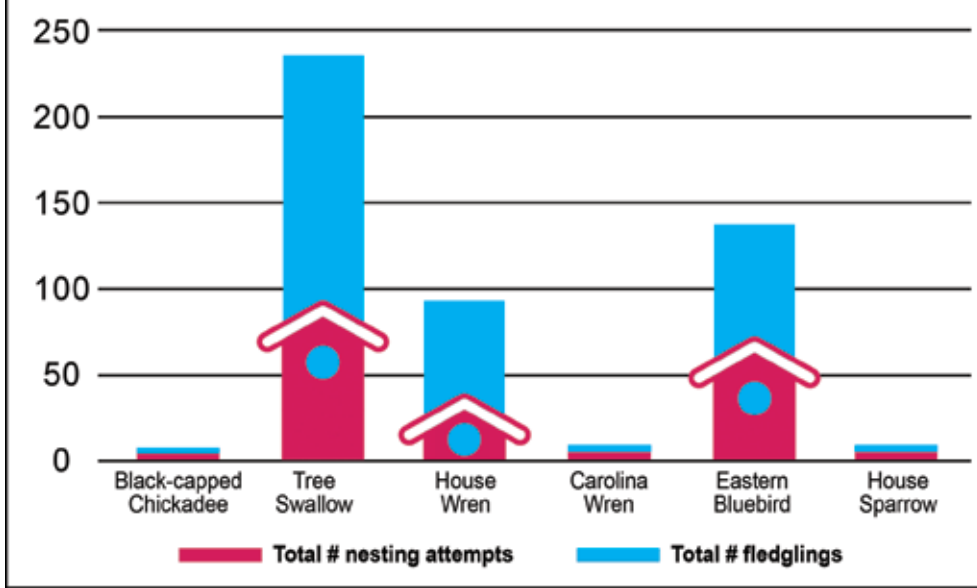
Bluebirds nest in old woodpecker holes and natural tree cavities but readily adapt to human-made nest boxes, such as those at Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Data are reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch program, meaning that the activities on the prairies at LMG contribute to a larger study on bird populations.

Observant Garden hikers often ask Kammin why most of the nest boxes are placed in pairs 10 to 15 feet apart.



Nesting Box Success at Lincoln Memorial Garden



According to Wade Kammin, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Springfield, the Lincoln Memorial Garden bluebird box project started informally in 2011.

"I contacted LMG about installing a couple of bluebird houses in the prairies as a way to help out and, selfishly, because I wanted a way to enjoy bluebirds," Kammin explained.

In 2013, following the initial success of seeing baby bluebirds fledge, Wild Birds Unlimited donated more houses, and a 15-house bluebird trail was established throughout both the Ostermeier and Cawley Prairies.

"With a larger trail set up, members of the Master Naturalist group offered to help monitor the boxes," Kammin continued. "We hold regular meetings to coordinate schedules and to train monitoring skills. Boxes are monitored every week from early spring through late summer and data is collected on species, number of eggs laid and how many babies fledge."

"Tree swallows also use these nest boxes and are dominant over the bluebird," Kammin explained. "Given a chance, the swallows might take over every house if they were spaced singly. A pair of tree swallows nesting in one house generally won't tolerate another pair of swallows nesting nearby. They will, however, accept a pair of bluebirds as neighbors. The close placement of the boxes allows both species the opportunity to raise young."

Nest box monitors also have recorded nesting house wrens, Carolina wrens, black-capped chickadees and house sparrows utilizing boxes at the Garden.

When walking the trails skirting Ostermeier and Cawley Prairies this spring, take a moment and pause to delight in the warbled "cheer, cheerily, cheer-cheerful-charmer" song of a courting eastern bluebird.

To learn more about constructing bluebird boxes and establishing a bluebird trail visit illinois.gov/dnr/education/Documents/BLUEBIRD.pdf.

New Members

- Becky Aiken
- Lee Boblitt
- Brigitte Franzen
- Mary Hitt
- David Holloway
- Emily M. Lee
- Michelle Lucas
- Katie J. Mailey
- Hillary Nevins
- Craig P. Reynolds
- Amanda L. Rollins
- Bill Roseberry
- Christopher Schnell
- Christine Scribner
- Rebecca Steele
- Savannah Wainwright

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.

Great silk moths of Lincoln Memorial Garden

Photos and article by Susan Dees Hargrove

Lincoln Memorial Garden has the perfect habitat for “great silk moths.” If you have ever seen the ethereal pale green luna moth with lavender and golden touches, white furry body and flowing graceful tails, you have seen a great silk moth. The caramel polyphemus moth, adorned with black, grey, pink and white, flashing its stunning gold and black eyespots, is another example. I have seen both at LMG.

Don't feel too bad if you have never seen one of these beautiful moths. They are not that common and becoming less so. They only live long enough to reproduce or become bird or bat food, so a week-old luna moth is considered elderly. They have no mouthparts or digestive system, having done all their eating as ravenous caterpillars. As adults, the moths live off the stored fats accumulated during the caterpillar stage. Most of these moths are large, ranging from 2–6.5 inches in wingspan, depending on the species. Most of them are very colorful, and most have eyespots on the wings. They are called “great silk moths” because at one time it was thought they could provide silk commercially from their cocoons. (This did not work out.)

Why is LMG considered a perfect habitat for these creatures of the night? It has to do with what the caterpillars eat, how much light there is at night, insecticide use and how many predators are present. Great silk moth caterpillars eat the leaves of certain species of native trees and some shrubs, many of which are available at LMG. These moths and most others are drawn to lights at night, where they become easy prey for bats, toads and other predators; LMG has only the few necessary security lights on at night. LMG also uses the bare minimum of insecticides for vegetation management purposes.

This article will explain more about the life cycles of several great silk moths I have seen in and near LMG during my 30 years of being a Garden neighbor and 50 years of rearing great silk moths.

The lovely *luna moth* has a wingspan of 3.75–5.25 inches and can be seen starting in late April through June in Illinois. They are double brooded. Second-brood moths can be found in late July and August. There can be a partial third brood in the south. Caterpillars of the last brood spin cocoons that



Above: A freshly emerged female luna moth found near Lincoln Memorial Garden on April 30, 2015.

then overwinter until the following spring. Caterpillars eat mainly walnut and hickory leaves but will also eat leaves from sumac, birch, persimmon or sweet gum. LMG has all of these species. I have raised them on sweet gum and birch. Mature luna caterpillars are almost 2.5" long, lime green with yellow markings and red accents. When it is time to spin their cocoons, the caterpillars turn a beautiful pink and then crawl down to the ground, wrap up in leaves and spin their cocoons. The cocoon is thin and papery, and the pupa wriggles around a lot.

Like most great silk moths, when the luna moth emerges from its cocoon, it climbs up to a secure perch and hangs. The wings look like wadded-up paper. The abdomen is overly large, engorged with fluid. Within 15 minutes of the moth pumping fluid into the hollow wing-veins, the wings become their full size and very soft, and the abdomen is back to its final, smaller size. The moth hangs motionless for several hours while the wings harden and become flight-worthy. Typically, the luna moth will continue to stay perched at the emergence site until evening. It is conserving its limited energy for breeding, as well as camouflaging itself from predators by looking like a leaf. At dusk or after, the male luna moths vibrate their wings in order to warm up the flight muscles sufficiently to fly. The females usually will stay at their emergence sites until they are bred, unless they are disturbed by a predator or other creature.

Great silk moth reproduction is an incredible miracle of exquisite timing. The female of each species is packed with around 300 eggs. She can mate only on her first or possibly second night of life. If that doesn't



The two polyphemus moths are a mated pair after finishing mating. The female is on the left and the male on the right. The female is one I raised in July 2021, and the male is one she “called in.” Note the color variations.

happen in time, she must lay her eggs anyway, and then there will be no caterpillars and no next generation from that female. Each species has a particular nonauditory “calling time” in which the females give off a pheromone unique to that species. Males can “smell” a scant one or several pheromone particles from up to two miles away from a female. The males then fly towards the calling female, and she chooses one as a mate. If the weather is stormy or cold, these cold-blooded moths will not fly or mate. If the population of a certain species is low, there may be no males for the available females, and no breeding occurs. A bat or bird or mouse may also detect the unmated moths and eat them. If the male manages to find the female, and she accepts him, they mate for nearly 24 hours. During that time, the moths are vulnerable to predation. After mating is finished, the female flies to various acceptable larval food plants and lays eggs on leaves at night until she is spent.



Above: A polyphemus caterpillar that I had found crawling down our silver maple tree in October 2020. That caterpillar ended up turning into a female moth that I then bred and raised her babies.

The **polyphemus moth** has a wingspan of 4.5–6 inches and a lot of color variation. The base color can range from a rich caramel to a pale tan, with lots of black or hardly any around the rear wing eyespots. Some polyphemus moths are suffused richly with pinks, and others have very little. Polyphemus moths, like the luna, are double brooded and occur at roughly the same time as the lunas. Larvae eat over 50 kinds of trees and shrubs, including maples, birches, cherries, apple, dogwood, elm, oak, poplar, plum, roses, walnuts and willows. LMG has many maples, as well as most of the other species on the list above. I have raised polyphemus caterpillars on maple and oak. Mature polyphemus caterpillars are nearly three inches long, almost fluorescent green, with parallel yellow lines along their sides and glowing silver and red bumps on each segment. The mature caterpillar wraps itself in a leaf, spins the cocoon and spins the leaf petiole to the branch. Polyphemus cocoons are about the size of luna cocoons but are hard and white. The cocoons can be found swinging in the wind from branch tips. Polyphemus caterpillars also may climb down from trees and spin cocoons elsewhere. One time I was cycling along East Lake Drive by LMG at six in the morning in the cool of a 100-degree forecast day and saw something large and brown in the road. It was a polyphemus moth! Thankfully, there were no cars coming. I put it on a tree at LMG and cycled on, smiling.

Perhaps you may be fortunate enough to find a great silk moth or its caterpillar or cocoon at LMG. Keep your eyes open—you never know! ☺

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Susan Dees Hargrove is a life member of LMG and has loved wandering the trails for over half a century.

New orienteering courses continue history of Scouting at LMG

by Luke Hockenyos, Life Scout, Troop 13 (Abraham Lincoln Council, Scouts BSA)

Lincoln Memorial Garden has long been home to wonderful educational opportunities for people of all ages. From Ecology Camp to Master Naturalist classes, LMG has provided opportunities to become engrossed in nature. From even the earliest plantings of the Garden, youth volunteers have been integral to furthering the Garden’s mission, with Scouts aiding in the plantings of some of the first acorns.

This tradition continues, with many Scouts completing their Eagle Scout projects throughout the Garden. On a recent hike, you may have noticed small pavers with green placards scattered around the garden. I had the opportunity to create an orienteering course at the Garden as a part of my Eagle Scout project.

In Springfield, we currently have very few orienteering courses, most of which suffer from issues of age and inaccuracy and are not accessible to most people. I aim to change this and familiarize more people with the skills of navigation and orienteering, the sport of point-to-point navigation. As a part of this project, three orienteering courses have been erected in the Garden. Small markers have been placed at each control point throughout the Garden; these correspond to a pamphlet that lays out the instructions for the courses. Orienteers will learn about the history of the Garden and explore some of its most iconic areas.

The orienteering pamphlets are now available on the Lincoln Memorial Garden website, in both digital and printable versions: <http://lincolnmemorialgarden.org/education/orienteering/>. Next time you embark on a Lincoln Memorial Garden adventure through the gorgeous landscape designed by Jens Jensen, take a new challenge and learn some new skills! ☺

Bird hikes

Kevin Veara, marking his twenty-fifth year of leading bird hikes at the Garden, returns to the trails this spring in search of feathered visitors and residents. Hikes begin at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. on the following Saturdays: April 16, 23 and 30 and May 7, 14 and 21. Bird hikes are free and open to the public. ☺



Yellow-rumped warbler

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 Rick and Kathy Wright

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.

In memory of **Judy Kramer**:

- ❖ Carl and Brenda Anderson
- ❖ Brent and Janica Baird
- ❖ Amber Chandler
- ❖ Mary and James Daugherty
- ❖ Charles Kresse
- ❖ Michael and Marsha Matzke
- ❖ Cynthia and Timothy

McDonald

- ❖ Roger and Melissa Pfeiffer
- ❖ Delford and Portia Richter
- ❖ Dana and Kent Weatherby
- ❖ Vicki Zook

In memory of **Virginia Forrer**:

- ❖ Wylma Graves
- ❖ Illinois Queen Initiative
- ❖ Bill and Barbara Rogers
- ❖ Barbara and Charles Schweighauser
- ❖ Cathy and Doug Slater
- ❖ Angela Zinnen
- ❖ Jacqueline Charles

Hilda Justison gave in memory of **Mark Justison**.

George and Phyllis Fairchild gave in memory of **Edwin Pearsons**.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hammel gave in memory of **Orvetta Robinson**.

Thank you, Nathalie Gasper, for giving to the Garden in honor of **Cathy Slater**.



Woodland wildflower hikes

In April and May, the Garden explodes into an array of color as spring woodland wildflowers begin to bloom. Come out and experience the show with one of our wildflower hikes. These are a perfect opportunity to learn about these splendid spring arrivals, from the earliest bloodroot to the end-of-season Celendine poppies. Join one of our naturalists on the following Sundays: April 24, May 1 and May 8. All hikes begin in front of the Nature Center at 2 p.m. ∞

The forest is the therapist: Forest Bathing comes to LMG

Forest Bathing, also called Forest Therapy, is a practice of deepening a sense of connection or relationship with nature through a one-and-a-half to two-hour walk. It is typically a slow wander through nature, but it can be adapted in many ways for different groups and abilities. A Forest Bathing walk is not a naturalist walk, a rigorous walk or actual bathing (all clothes stay on!) The experience is led by a certified guide, who does not serve as a therapist—the forest is considered the therapist—whose



Photo by Virginia Scott

role is to open the possible connections by offering suggestions (which we call invitations) that help the participant develop a more sensory and embodied relationship with the surrounding nature and forest. In addition, this experience has been shown to lower blood pressure, reduce anxiety and depression and help us slow down from our hectic lives.

Lincoln Memorial Garden will be hosting two Forest Therapy sessions during the month of April. Longtime Garden member and supporter Cassandra Claman will serve as the guide for these sessions. In order to enhance the overall experience, group size is limited, and preregistration is required. The next session will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 23. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Please contact the Garden at (217) 529-1111 if you have any questions.

Learn more about Forest Therapy here: <https://www.natureandforesttherapy.earth/about/the-practice-of-forest-therapy> ∞

FOUNDED 1936



Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

A Project of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

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Tuesday, April 12	5 p.m.	Woodland Wildflower Plant Sale closes (online only)
Saturday, April 16		Plant Sale order pickup (Ostermeier Prairie Center)
Saturday, April 16	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Thursday, April 21	5-6 p.m.	Volunteer social hour
Thursday, April 21	6-8 p.m.	Volunteer Dinner and Larry's Retirement Reception
Saturday, April 23	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Saturday, April 23	10 a.m.-12 noon	Junior Naturalists (5-8 years): April Showers
Saturday, April 23	1-3 p.m.	Senior Naturalists (8-12 years): April Showers
Saturday, April 23	9:30 a.m.	Forest Therapy
Sunday, April 24	2 p.m.	Wildflower Hike
Wednesday, April 27	10-11 a.m./1-2 p.m.	Tiny Adventurers (3-5 years)
Thursday, April 28	7 p.m.	Frogs & Toads program with Marissa Jones
Friday, April 29		Prairie Plant Sale opens (online only)
Saturday, April 30	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Sunday, May 1	2 p.m.	Wildflower Hike
Saturday, May 7	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Sunday, May 8	2 p.m.	Wildflower Hike
Tuesday, May 10	5 p.m.	Prairie Plant Sale closes (online only)
Saturday, May 14		Prairie Plant Sale order pickup
Saturday, May 14	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Saturday, May 21	10 a.m.-12 noon	Junior Naturalists (5-8 years): Fox & Coyotes
Saturday, May 21	1-3 p.m.	Senior Naturalists (8-12 years): Fox & Coyotes
Saturday, May 21	8 a.m.	Bird Hike
Sunday, May 22	11:00 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lunch in Bloom
Wednesday, May 25	10-11 a.m./1-2 p.m.	Tiny Adventurers (3-5 years)
Thursday, May 26	7 p.m.	Osprey program with Dr. Ting (UIS)
Saturday, May 28	10 a.m.	Monarch butterfly program and milkweed giveaway
Saturday, June 4		8K Trail Race and Kids Fun Run