

# Summer 2023

Vol. 59 No. 3

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## Visit the Garden!

### 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



#### STAFF

Executive Director ..... Joel Horwedel

Environmental Educator ... Audra Walters

Head Gardener ..... Marissa Jones

Board President .....  
Melissa Skinner-Liberman

Newsletter Team .....

Dick and Helen Adorjan, Polly Danforth,

Colleen Germeraad, Melissa Skinner-

Liberman, Megan Styles, Cathy Slater,

Audra Walters, and Kathy Andrews Wright



Newsletter of Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center

## Community Presentations

For nearly 90 years, LMG has sponsored free community presentations, usually on a Thursday evening at 7 p.m. In case you missed the last few and are curious to know what these natural and cultural resource presentations are like, here is a short recap of the last three sessions. Watch the website and social media for announcements of future presentations.



### Fishing for Success: Restoring Illinois' Ospreys

by Patrick McDonald

*Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biometrician*

During the 2022 osprey recovery program hacking efforts, 12 fledglings were released, including two transmitter-bearing birds whose migration paths were tracked. A bird from Lake Shelbyville began its migration on September 13 and reached Panama on September 26. The distance of its route was approximately 2,300 miles, or an average of 177 miles per day. A bird fledged at Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area began its migration on September 6 and paused for 23 days in southeast Missouri before reaching Panama on October 18. It traveled approximately 137 miles a day for a total of 2,600 miles.



### Snow Geese

by Randy Smith

*Illinois River Project Director for The Nature Conservancy*

From the 1970s through the 1990s, the snow goose population exploded because changing agricultural practices along wintering areas and migration routes increased the abundance of foods available. Snow geese must bring all the nutrients they need for successful reproduction with them to the arctic breeding grounds as no food is available on the frozen, snow-covered ground where they nest until around the time their young begin to hatch.

—continued on next page



## Director's Message

by Joel Horwedel

Happy summer! After a busy spring, we welcome summer with the start of our 8K Trail Race and annual Summer Ecology Camp. During the next three months, we will have several evening programs, and I encourage you to check out our events calendar.

In April, we hosted our annual Lunch in Bloom event at Island Bay Yacht Club. A huge thank you to Melissa Skinner-Liberman, Cathy Slater, Susan Flanagan, Cyndee Wilkin, and Brenda Allan for all their work making it a wonderful event. Many thanks as well to our LMG volunteers who helped with our April and May plant sales. We hosted our annual volunteer party in April to thank our many wonderful volunteers. This event was also a farewell party to Barbara Rogers, former Board President, and her husband, Bill. We wish them all the best on their new adventure in New Orleans, and we will miss them greatly.

At the annual meeting in April, outgoing board members Susan Flanagan, Marilyn Krueger (Garden Clubs of Illinois), and Christine Ramirez-Campbell (Springfield Civic Garden Club) were honored for their service on the board. Marilyn and Christine were excellent partners and should be recognized for their outstanding leadership of their organizations. Susan Flanagan was Secretary for her entire two terms. Her outstanding note-taking was very much appreciated, especially over Zoom during the pandemic!

By the time you read this, we hope that a contractor will have been selected for our Children's Woodland Garden project. We anticipate construction to begin mid-summer and continue into winter with completion sometime in the spring of 2024. We will be closing Maple Lane during this project; however, the Garden will still be fully accessible by using Shadbush Lane. We are super excited to see this project finally take off!

Please mark your calendars for our annual Fall Harvest Festival. This year's event will take place on October 7 and 8. Planning is underway, and we are excited to announce the addition of two new food trucks for the event! Popular activities such as fairy houses and tree trolls will be returning as well as some new children's activities. Tater Tot Rocks will conduct a special children's show on Saturday morning, and The Deep Hollow is scheduled to close out the Festival on Sunday. As usual, we will have many arts and crafts vendors! I hope you will be able to make it out for this fun-filled family weekend, and I hope to see you out in the Garden this summer! ☺

Historically, only the healthiest birds reproduced successfully, but with more food available, most birds were able to successfully breed because of the large nutrient reserves they obtained. One estimate indicated a snow goose population peak of 20 million birds.

### Bobcats in Illinois

by Stan McTaggart

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Diversity Program Manager

More than 18 percent of successful deer hunters reported seeing a bobcat in 2021. This trend has increased annually since 2005 when only 4 percent of successful deer hunters saw a bobcat.



Photo by Paul Becker

The home range of a male bobcat in southern Illinois is 20.2 square miles, but a female will range only 6.2 square miles. Juvenile bobcats disperse along stream corridors and railroad tracks, with an average distance of about 27 miles reported in one study.

Bobcats primarily eat small mammals (mice and voles, 33 percent of diet), rabbits (23 percent) and tree squirrels (19 percent). Only 11 percent of their diet is large mammals, and 10 percent is birds. ☺

## Lincoln Memorial Garden Mission

Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center welcomes everyone to experience the native landscape known to Abraham Lincoln.

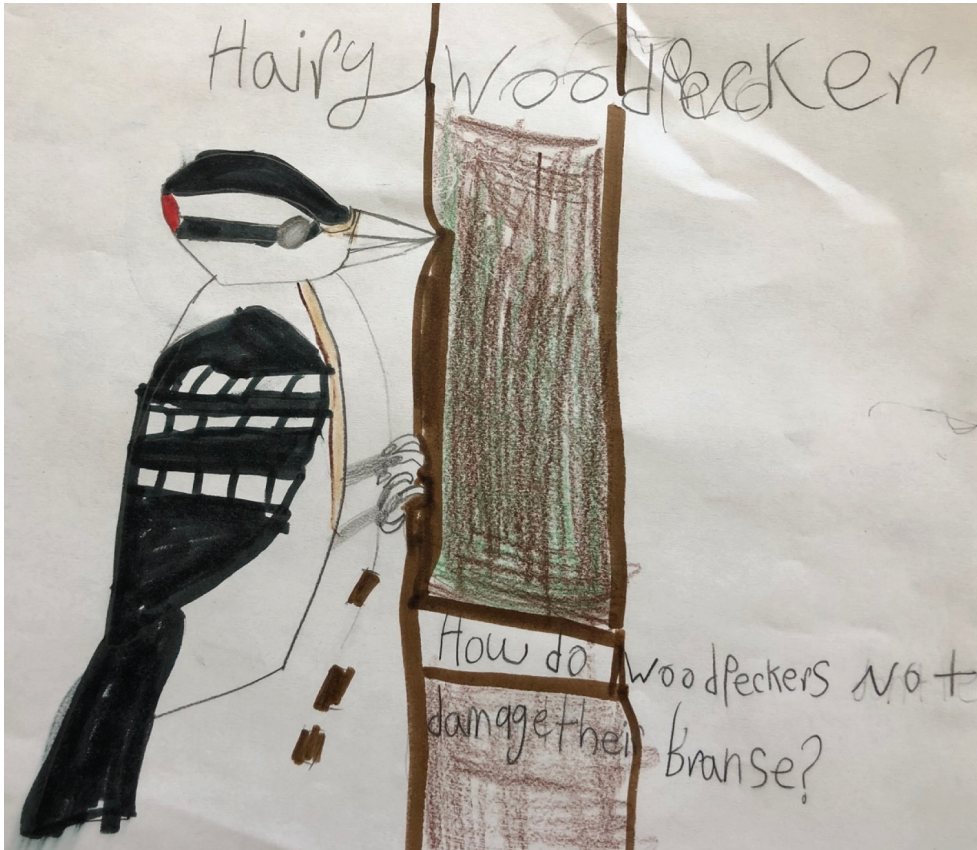
In an atmosphere of peace and beauty, LMG's landscape, designed by Jens Jensen, is a place to find inspiration in the changing seasons and learn stewardship of the environment through thoughtful nature education.





## Ask Ms. Audra!

**Hey, kids!** Do you have a question about a plant or an animal that you have seen at LMG? Have you wanted to know a bit more about a topic you studied at Summer Ecology Camp or Junior Naturalists? Do you have a cool nature drawing that you would like to share? Now is your chance! We would love to hear from you.



### How do woodpeckers not damage their brains (sic)?

Question submitted by **KB Logue**  
*Mrs. Pratt's 2nd Grade, Chatham Elementary School*



It was long thought that woodpeckers had adaptations that acted like shock absorbers to protect their brain. These included spongy skull bones and a tongue that wraps around the back of their skulls to absorb the impact of hitting the tree/wood. However, a recent study shows that this is not true. The woodpecker's skull and beak act more like a rigid hammer and not much or any of the impact is absorbed. If the impact was absorbed, the birds would have to hit the tree even harder to get through the wood. Ultimately, a woodpecker's brain is smaller and lighter than a human's, so even with the amount of force with which they hit a tree, it is nowhere near as much as the force of a concussion. ∞

Questions may be directed to the following email addresses and should include "Ask Ms. Audra!" or "Message Ms. Marissa!" in the subject line:

Educator – Audra Walters  
audra@lincolnmemorialgarden.org

Head Gardener – Marissa Jones  
marissa@lincolnmemorialgarden.org



## New Members

Mary Feagans  
Janet L Keistler  
Pat Kittilstad

## 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.

Thank you to John and Ruthanne Hammel for their donation in memory of **Paul Biggers**.

The following donors gave in memory of **Charlotte Powell**:

- ❖ Michelle and Dave Burke
- ❖ Ellen Dotzert
- ❖ Richard and Patricia Dumler
- ❖ William and Karen Ettinger
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- ❖ Phillip and Jodi Speiser
- ❖ Linda and Charles Sprinkel
- ❖ Elaine Urekar
- ❖ Sarajane Wright



# Evaluating Lincoln Memorial Garden Prairie Reconstructions

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Harriet Knudson envisioned a garden that would celebrate the life of Abraham Lincoln, including plants native to the three states where he had lived. Enlisting the help of landscape architect Jens Jensen, the Lincoln Memorial Garden (LMG) landscape began to take shape in the 1930s when former agricultural fields were converted into a lakeside setting of oak and hickory groves and plant-rich prairies.

Today, interest in recreating prairies, and aiding pollinators, is at an all-time high. The importance of restoring and recreating prairies is evident when one considers that only 0.01 percent of Illinois' original 22 million acres of prairie remain.

To understand the quality of prairies at the Garden, the LMG Board voted to utilize funds from the Roseanne Robertson bequest for an inventory of the plants on the 19.25 acres of grassland reconstruction sites developed over the past 90 years. Undertaken during the 2022 growing season, the inventory was conducted by Paul B. Marcum, a botanist with the Prairie Research Institute, Illinois Natural History Survey. The primary objectives of the study were to document and map the plant diversity, including invasive species, within the grasslands.

Of the nine reconstructions evaluated, four are traditional tallgrass prairies (16.05 acres), two sites are tallgrass prairie/savannas (2.3 acres) and three are forest openings (0.9 acres). Marcum found an overall good species richness, with a total of 251 Illinois native species noted. Tallgrass prairie reconstruction sites contained 200 native species and tallgrass prairie/savannas and forest openings had 138 and 129 native plant species, respectively.

The report noted that the primary concerns for the quality of the reconstructions are the overabundant dominant native grass species, the invasion of woody species, and the presence of invasive species.

"Paul Marcum scientifically verified our observations that one or a few large prairie grasses, especially big bluestem (*Andropogon*

Photo by Bob Naugle



Photo by Janessa Mills



Photo by Kathy Andrews Wright



Photos by Virginia Scott



gerardii), dominate our prairies,” Lincoln Memorial Garden Head Gardener Marissa Jones said. “Aggressive native species, including big bluestem, are suppressing plant diversity and reducing the potential ecological value of the prairies.”



Marcum also identified the presence of 62 non-native invasive species but noted that only a handful are likely to be significant threats to restoration activities. *Sericea lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*)—pictured above—is one of the species of greatest concern. For several years, Garden staff and volunteers have been working to remove this plant from prairies through hand removal, chemical treatments, and prescribed fire. The work will continue until the plant and dormant seed in the seed bank is obliterated.

“The information obtained from the study is invaluable to our daily actions to manage the prairies and to determine the success of our management actions,” Jones noted.

“I am especially intrigued by Marcum’s recommendations that we introduce early growing season prairie species to our prairies,” she continued. “Plants such as pussytoes, shooting star, violet wood sorrel, Indian paintbrush, bastard toadflax, and lousewort will diversify our plantings and provide greater food resources for early season pollinators and native wildlife.” ∞



# Lincoln Memorial Garden PHOTO CONTEST

**Lincoln Memorial Garden invites photographers to capture the magic of LMG.**

**ENTRIES DUE by 5 p.m. on AUGUST 25, 2023**

- ◆ Four categories in two age groups
- ◆ Electronic submissions of original works only
- ◆ Cash prizes
- ◆ Rules and entry requirements\* at [www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org](http://www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org)

\*photos not compliant with the rules will be disqualified

LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN



“In every walk with nature  
one receives far more than he seeks.”

— John Muir





## Save the Date for the 2023 Fall Harvest Festival!

LMG's seasonal fundraising event will be held in Cawley Meadow the weekend of October 7-8, featuring new and returning food vendors: Pizza Guy, Smokin' House BBQ, and Sweet Shack.

Activities abound, including a local blacksmith demonstrating his skills and the Sangamon Valley Wood Carvers offering a soap carving workshop for kids from 1 to 2 p.m. each day. The family friendly event will open with kid-familiar music from the "Tater Tots."

To make the ever-popular Build a Scarecrow activity successful, donations of used child-sized cotton or flannel shirts, blue jeans, pants, hats, belts, ties, and scarves are needed and can be dropped off at the Nature Center anytime before the festival.

## Community Scientist Opportunities at LMG!

What are Community/Citizen Scientists? They are volunteers who collect data for research who are not professional scientists but may use the data results to become informed.

### Illinois Bat Conservation Program at LMG

Play a part in The Illinois Bat Conservation Program's statewide research of the state's bat population. Through acoustic monitoring during the months of July through September, join this scientific study along a designated LMG trail loop. As a volunteer Community Scientist, your research will include walking with provided acoustic monitoring equipment, recording the echolocation calls of bats. Monitoring begins ½ hour after sunset for one hour to three hours.

Interested families, partners, and budding scientists are encouraged to complete the Interest Form to learn more and share availability for monitoring: [bit.ly/LMGBats](https://bit.ly/LMGBats) (or scan the QR Code). After completing the form, you will be contacted to schedule a night for monitoring bats at LMG!

More information is available at The Illinois Bat Conservation Program website: <https://Illinoisbats.org>.



### Project Wingspan at LMG

Play a part in the Pollinator Partnership's Project Wingspan at LMG learning about and collecting native prairie seed. Project Wingspan is a multi-year landscape scale project that aims to increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of pollinator habitat throughout the Midwest and Great Lakes region.

Eleanor Schumacher, Project Wingspan State Coordinator Illinois and NRCS Pollinator Liaison, will meet with interested community friends and volunteers to share more information about Project Wingspan's role with native prairies and pollinator habitat connectivity on August 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Nature Center.

Interested friends and volunteer Community Scientists can participate in Project Wingspan's Seed Collection Training online at <https://www.pollinator.org/wingspan> to learn more.



Photo by Cindy Harris

**PLEASE NOTE: Seed collecting by the general public is prohibited at LMG and is only approved for LMG events.**



# Thank You to Our Many Supporters!

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Springfield Civic Garden Club

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Estate of Diana Albach

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Estate of K. Sarah Spaulding

## ***Contribution to Friends Fund***

Estate of K. Sarah Spaulding



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# Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

*A Project of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.*

2301 East Lake Shore Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62712-8908

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Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 500

## CALENDAR

### June

- 3 7:30 a.m. | 8K Trail Race and Kid's Fun Run
- 9 6:30 p.m. | Illinois Bats Conservation Program
- 24 9:30 a.m. | Forest Therapy

### July

- 29 9:30 a.m. | Forest Therapy

### August

- 11 10:30 a.m. | Project Wingspan with speaker Eleanor Schumacher
- 11 6 p.m. | Back to School with World Bird Sanctuary
- 12 8 -10 p.m. | Star Party at Cawley Meadow
- 26 9:30 a.m. | Forest Therapy

### September

- 16 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Monarchs and Me Class

