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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

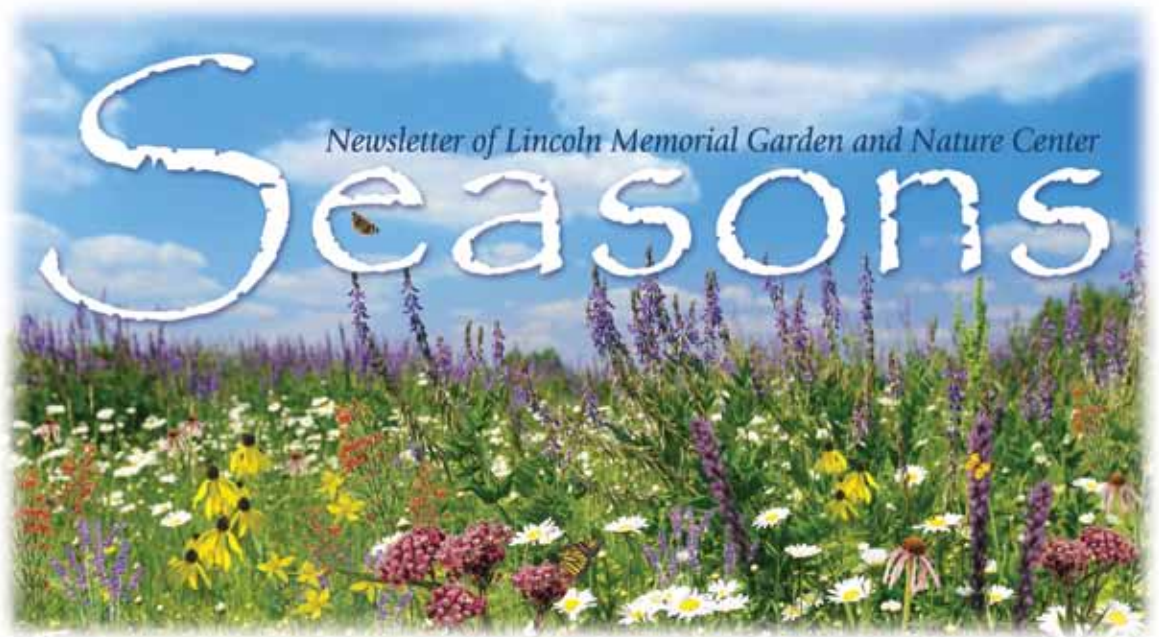
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STAFF

- 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, Katharine P. Roberts, Melissa Skinner-Liberman, Megan Styles, Audra Walters, and Kathy Andrews Wright



Garden gaining tree frog refugia

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Hiding in the woodland vegetation unnoticed, the mating gray tree frog may only betray its presence with a high-pitched, buzzing trill—likened by many to the call of a red-bellied woodpecker.

A common, native species, the gray tree frog is only 1.25 to 2 inches in length. Its upper body is warty and may be gray, brown or green in color, and its belly surface is white. A light spot present beneath each eye and yellow inner thighs are additional diagnostic features. An arboreal species, the gray tree frog secretes mucous from membranes on its toe pads, helping it climb vertical substances, such as tree trunks, windows and the sides of buildings. Tree frogs breed from April into August, laying their eggs on vegetation within woodland pools and other temporary bodies of water.

Lincoln Memorial Garden Head Gardener Marissa Jones is interested in assessing the size of the gray tree frog population inhabiting the Garden.

“We seldom see tree frogs, as they are active at night when they feed on small insects and spiders,” Jones explained. “During the day they seek a cool, moist refugia to escape the summertime heat.”

The creation of artificial refugia allows researchers the opportunity to confirm if the frogs are present in the area and, with continuous research, approximate the population size. One current Illinois study is also assessing the use of refugia to assess population changes resulting from the removal of the exotic,

invasive bush honeysuckle. Some researchers are using a photo identification software program to identify individual frogs and assess their home range and life span.

The Garden research project will consist of 15 refugia placed 50 meters apart along three transect routes. Refugia will be checked three times a week until mid-October. Along with the refugia, a cover board project will be initiated to further knowledge of the species of reptiles and amphibians present at the Garden. Similar to refugia in purpose, cover boards placed on the ground provide cool, moist locations where frogs, salamanders and snakes may hide.

—continued on page 3



Right: Gray tree frog clinging to vinyl house siding. Note the yellow on its inner thighs. Photo by Polly Danforth



## Director's message

by Joel Horwedel

As spring fades and we head into summer, it feels like normalcy has returned to the Garden!

We hosted two outstanding plant sales, and I would like to thank Cathy Slater and Brenda Allan for all their hours spent volunteering in the greenhouse. In April, we bid goodbye to long-time gardener Larry Miller. We held a going-away party at the Nature Center; many thanks to Tom and Cyndee Wilkin, Cathy Slater and Melissa Skinner-Liberman for helping make Larry's special day a huge success!

In May, we hosted our first Lunch in Bloom since 2019 at Island Bay Yacht Club. More than 90 Garden friends enjoyed a wonderful meal and presentation by Neil Brumleve of Massie Massie & Associates. A big thank-you to Chris Davis, Joyce Munie, Tom and Cyndee Wilkin, Cathy Slater and Melissa Skinner-Liberman for all of their help at Lunch in Bloom!

On June 4, the 8K Trail Race returned for the first time since 2018. The new Race Director, Tom Skelly, did a marvelous job, and the race went off perfectly. Congratulations to overall male winner, Aidan Peterson, and overall female winner, Patricia Schaefer. We are so excited to have the Trail Race back as an annual event.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that May was LMG membership renewal time, and if you haven't renewed yet, please consider doing so. Membership helps keep the Garden growing! I hope to see you this summer out in the Garden. ∞

classroom for our youngest while he awaited his return to school from a COVID exposure. We've learned that the benches in the garden not only make great resting spots, but can also serve double duty as makeshift desks for reading or math calculations.

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One of my earliest memories at Lincoln Memorial Garden comes from the third grade when our Brownie Girl Scout troop bridged to Junior Girl Scouts. It was such a pleasure to eventually bring my own daughter's troop to the Garden to earn some of their nature badges as well.

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We hope that you, too, are making memories with your family and friends as you visit LMG. As members, we need your help in making sure that all within our community are invited and know what wonderful opportunities await them when they visit. The LMG Board of Directors and staff have made huge strides in the past decade to forge partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and create an atmosphere of inclusion at the Garden so that everyone in our community feels welcome. Our new Accessible Trail is fully navigable for those who rely on wheelchairs, walkers and strollers for mobility. The most recent partnership with the Education Center for the Visually Impaired allows visitors to utilize the Aware App (available for free download to your smartphone) to hear narration about various points of interest in the garden. We've also diversified our offerings to include "Babes in the Woods" and "Tiny Adventurers" hikes for families with infants and toddlers, thus expanding the reach of our education programming to begin at birth.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of LMG. If you're new here, WELCOME! We're thrilled to have you. We look forward to seeing you out on the trails, at an upcoming program or sharing our good news on social media. With your help, we can continue to connect people to nature. ∞



## President's message

by Melissa Skinner-Liberman

It is truly an honor to serve as the next president of the Board of Directors for Lincoln Memorial Garden. I am humbled and grateful to follow in the footsteps of the individuals who have forged the path before me. Our immediate past president, Cathy Slater, has led our organization through one of the most challenging times in our history, and, thanks to her leadership, we have emerged from the unknowns of

the past two years ready to continue connecting people to nature and serving our mission.

One of my favorite things about LMG is hearing the stories and connections that our members have with the Garden. Family hikes, Ecology Camp, education programs, the Fall Harvest Festival and weddings all surface in the stories that are told across generations. One of my earliest memories at Lincoln Memorial Garden comes from the third grade when our Brownie Girl Scout troop bridged to Junior Girl Scouts. Our leaders picked a beautiful setting for a special time in our scouting careers. It was such a pleasure to eventually bring my own daughter's troop to the Garden to earn some of their nature badges as well. As an adult, I've enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the history of LMG, including the fact that Girl and Boy Scouts from across the region planted thousands of acorns on our 60-acre site in 1936 to begin the extensive canopy we enjoy today.

For my husband and me, the Garden remains a special place. Our children (aged 13, 11, 9 and 7) especially enjoy visiting the garden to hike, splash at the "beach," read the latest addition to the story walk, visit Grandma Joyce's Memorial Bench and of course purchase the infamous candy sticks from the Split Rail Shop. This past year, the Garden also served as a temporary outdoor



Results of the refugia research will be available later in the year and published in *Seasons* and on Facebook. Jones asks that curious visitors avoid disturbing any refugia seen in the Garden to prevent skewing research findings.

"Tree frog refugia are an easy project for the family to undertake, and monitoring use is a fun and educational project for youngsters," Jones noted. (Directions for constructing and placing a tree frog refuge follow this article.)

"Another teachable moment for youngsters is to encourage minimal handling of the frogs," Jones explained. "In addition to breathing through their lungs, tree frogs can oxygenate their blood through their moist, sensitive skin. Handling frogs could transfer chemicals from lotions, fragrances and oils, jeopardizing their ability to respire, something I'm sure no one would knowingly want to do." ∞



Photo by Marissa Jones

## Do-It-Yourself tree frog refugia

### Supplies

- Two-foot section of two-inch PVC pipe (white, gray or black)
- One cap for bottom of the two-inch PVC pipe
- One two-foot section of 6.4-mm nylon rope
- Additional section of nylon rope or two bungee cords

### Directions

1. Place the cap on one end of the pipe. Drill a hole eight centimeters above the cap that will serve to drain excess water from the pipe.
2. Drill a hole an inch below the top of the pipe. Thread the nylon rope through the pipe and tie an overhand knot on the outside of the pipe. Place the length of the rope inside the pipe to help small mammals, such as flying squirrels and mice, escape.
3. Affix the refugia on the side of a tree using additional nylon rope or bungee cords. The top of the refugia should be roughly two meters off the ground. Any tree will work, but the tree frogs seem to prefer oaks.
4. You may check the traps by first using your hand to cover the top of the pipe, to ensure a frog doesn't make a quick escape, then gently tipping the pipe to allow the water to drain out of the excess drainage hole located above the cap. Avoid transferring oils, lotions and fragrances from your hands to the permeable skin of a tree frog. Gently shake a frog from inside the trap into a zip-top plastic bag. Be sure not to zip the bag all the way closed. Briefly examine the frog and return it to the side of the tree your refugia was placed on.
5. The pipes may remain in place year-round, but be sure to remove the cap during the winter months, between November and March, so that collected water doesn't freeze and potentially damage your refugia.



# Happy retirement, Larry Miller!

Larry Miller and Marissa Jones shared mustachioed laughs at the Volunteer Appreciation/Larry's Retirement Party on a beautiful spring evening where most every attendee had been a Larry-volunteer at some point in his 30 years with LMG. Only Harriet Knudsen and Jim Mathias worked longer at the garden than Larry! Best wishes on a well-deserved retirement. ☺



Above: Larry (center) is holding the commemorative plaque which will be installed along the walkway in the completed Children's Woodland Garden. Cathy Slater, Board President, is at his left, and Director Joel Horwedel is on the right.

"Larry's nearly 30 years with the Garden have not been a job. The Garden is Larry's passion."  
—Tom Wilkin

Photos by Kathy Andrews Wright





# Thank You to our many supporters!

## ***Annual Fund Donors***

Michelle and James Bertolino  
Susie Barton  
Melanie and Don Caspary  
Eli Cook  
Michael and Carol Diedrichsen  
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## ***Fall Harvest Festival Sponsors***

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## ***Lunch in Bloom Donors***

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Joan Gardner  
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Lois Jazo  
Jim and Sherry Park  
Charlene Powell  
Keith and Kara Sias

## **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 **Phyllis Gerberding**:

- ❖ Margaret Ackerman
- ❖ Mark Gerberding
- ❖ Karen and Randy Witter

Thank you to Mary and Callie Reichert for their donation in memory of **Judy Kramer**.

Thank you to Karen and Randy Witter for their donation in memory of **Konrad Kolz Sommer**.

The following donors gave in memory of **Patricia Ruskey**:

- ❖ Carol Bertoux
- ❖ William and Cydney Walter



## **New Members**

***Brenda Allen  
Cynthia L. Beck  
Jared Cullen  
Marthe K. Dela Cruz  
Tom and Sue Doubet  
Ellen Fischer  
Breanne Frieze  
Jennifer Grady Paswater  
Charles and Cara Gray  
Cindy Harris  
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*Photo by Virginia Scott*

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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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## Calendar

### September

- 5 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 10 Forest Therapy | 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Monarchs class for kids | 10 a.m.
- 11 Life ID Hike | 1:30 p.m.
- 17 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 18 Life ID Hike | 1:30 p.m.
- 24 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 24 Forest Therapy | 9:30 a.m.
- 25 Life ID Hike | 1:30 p.m.

### October

- 1 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 1 Junior Naturalists (5 – 8) | 10:00 a.m.
- 1 Senior Naturalists (8 – 12) | 1:00 p.m.
- 5 Tiny Adventurers | 10:00 a.m.
- 5 Tiny Adventurers | 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 8 – 9 Fall Harvest Festival | 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 15 Bird Hike | 8:00 a.m.
- 29 Forest Therapy | 9:30 a.m.