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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



STAFF

Executive Director Joel Horwedel
Environmental Educator ... Audra Walters
Naturalist Marissa Jones
Board President Megan Styles
Newsletter Team

Dick and Helen Adorjan, Polly Danforth,

Joan Freitag, Colleen Germeraad,

Melissa Skinner-Liberman, Megan Styles,

Cathy Slater, Audra Walters and

Kathy Andrews Wright



Newsletter of Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center

Welcome the Garden's Newest Resident

by Colleen Ryan Germeraad

Every season brings delightful changes to Lincoln Memorial Garden, and as spring inches toward summer, a new art installation will add to the fun of the Children's Woodland Garden. A talented group of artists from Springfield Art Association will complete a new troll sculpture by the end of May. Joining previous trolls Søv and Aco, the new female troll will be smaller which is fitting for the youthful play area where she will be displayed. However, even as the "little sister," she will still stand a stately 7 feet tall, and be 8 feet wide, and 6 feet deep; and it will take her dedicated construction crew around 500 hours of labor to complete.

Long before the trolls, or trolldfolk in Denmark, joined LMG, they were an important part of Nordic folklore. Their modern popularity grew in 2014, when Danish "recycle art activist" Thomas Dambo started bringing them to life when he first created Hector the Protector in Culebra, Puerto Rico. His innovative art installations are made entirely from recycled and repurposed materials, like discarded wooden pallets. Currently there are over 150 Dambo trolls in 17 countries around the world.

Inspired by Dambo, Erin Svendsen, a former SAA employee, helped Lincoln Memorial Garden add its first troll, Søv (the Danish word for sleep) in 2021. Aco (defender of mankind) was added in 2022.

—continued on next page

Summer Prairie Forbs

by Kathy Andrews Wright

Growing amid the iconic grasses of the prairie are a variety of broad-leaved, herbaceous flowering plants known as forbs. Let's explore a few of these prairie wildflowers that you can observe at Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Compass Plant

Early settlers are responsible for the common name the compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), noting that the leaves often point in a north-south direction. Today, scientists attribute the leaves' position as a means of limiting the amount of solar radiation on the leaves and maximizing their carbon gain and water use efficiency. Atop the 6 to 12-foot-tall plant stalks are yellow composite flowers, blooming from July through September and reaching 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

—continued on page 4



Compass plant at LMG, photo by Bob Naugle



Director's Message

by Joel Horwedel

Happy summer!

I hope everyone's summer is off to great start. It has been a busy spring at LMG, and we are excited to welcome the summer season. Unfortunately, our Star Party in May was cancelled due to rainy weather, but we are hopeful that our next one on August 12 will be a success. Please join us and UIS Professor

Dr. John Martin, that evening for a chance to see the Perseid Meteor shower which will be at its peak. Also, mark your calendar for our next Moonlight Meander on Saturday, September 6. This adult only event will feature music on the patio and a chance to hike the Garden at night. For more details on these and other events, please watch our website and Facebook.

This summer the Nature Center will get a fresh coat of paint. It's been a while since it was last painted, and we anticipate this new update will keep it looking great.

By the time you read this, a third troll will have been installed in the Children's Woodland Garden. A huge thank you to the Springfield Art Association for constructing our new troll. We really appreciate their support.

Also, a huge thanks to Tom Skelly; Tom has organized the LMG 8K Trail Race for several years, and his dedication and commitment to the race is greatly appreciated. Thanks Tom!!!

At our Annual Meeting in April, we welcomed four new members to the board. For more information on our new board members please check out the article on page 6.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to outgoing board members: Diane Dawson, Pam Hart, Greg Lutchka and Vasanta Mushunuri. We truly appreciate their dedication and commitment to LMG. I hope to see you all out in the Garden. ☺



Our new troll is currently under construction at the Springfield Art Association!

NEW TROLL — cont'd from page 1

Both trolls were made during SAA public sculpture art camps by around 20 high school students, 10 staff members and other adult volunteers. It took up to 2,000 hours to complete these well-loved additions to the Garden.

This newest endeavor between the Garden and the art association will be spearheaded by Glass Studio Manager, Mario Clarke, and fellow SAA artist, Maggie Packman, and they will lead a dedicated group of staff during construction. Clarke remarked on the relationship between organizations. "LMG has a great location to realize this type of collaboration to highlight nature-inspired sculptures. Anytime you work with others to create something like this, the project becomes much bigger than the end result and has a greater impact," said Maggie Packman.

As visitors enjoy the peaceful view of the lake, and their children play in the Woodland Garden, they are invited to be part of this venture as well. LMG will be taking suggestions on a name for the troll from children since the local community is what makes the Garden and SAA thrive. Says Ally Sharpe, SAA Director of Operations and Development, "As two Springfield nonprofits, it is important to work together, build each other up, and to showcase the incredible things that both organizations do for our community. This troll project is just one of the many ways that we hope to continue partnering with LMG to inspire Springfield residents and visitors."

Watch the LMG website this summer for more information on name submissions! ☺



The ninth edition of the **Lincoln Memorial Garden 8K Trail Race and Fun Runs** is right around the corner on **June 7**. The race follows a truly unique and beautiful course along well-kept woodland trails, beside Lake Springfield, and throughout the grounds of the Ostermeier Prairie Center. Come and experience the Garden with other runners and nature-lovers on a summer morning.

Following the race, include the whole family in the fun. At 9 a.m., children can participate in a Fun Run by the pond at the Cawley Meadow. Please see the website for more details:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Springfield/LincolnMemorialGarden>

Registration: \$37

Kids' Fun Run: \$7.50 per child

We are still looking for Gold, Silver and Bronze Level sponsorships if your business would like to support LMG! ☺

Lincoln Memorial Garden PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline to submit pictures
is August 29, 2025



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



LINCOLN MEMORIAL
GARDEN

- ◆ Four categories in two age groups
- ◆ Electronic submissions of original works only
- ◆ Cash prizes
- ◆ Rules and entry requirements* at lincolnmemorialgarden.org

*photos not compliant with the rules will be disqualified

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.

DO YOUR PART: Plant more milkweed!

As many as **1.8 billion** additional stems of milkweed plants may be needed in North America to return imperiled monarch butterflies to a sustainable population size.



(Source: U.S. Geological Survey, April 2017)

Nature Book Group

The Tuesday, August 5, 2025 choice is *Around the World in 80 Plants* by Jonathan Drori. The group will meet at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

The Tuesday, November 4, 2025 choice is *The Light Eaters* by Zoe Schlanger. The group will meet at LMG at 10 a.m. ∞



North American box turtle (Terrapene)

Pause a moment to examine the flowers and you'll see an assortment of bees busy with their task of pollination. Each plant may produce up to 12 stems and scientists estimate an average of 80 insects on, or in, each stem. The large, flat seeds are dispersed by the wind or eaten by songbirds.

Great Blue Lobelia

Crowded along the top stems of great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) between August and October are unique flowers, violet-blue in color and possessing a tube surrounded by two lips. Bumble bees and other long-tongued bees will feast on both the nectar and pollen of this prairie forb, with ruby-throated hummingbirds and several species of butterflies commanding a share of the nectar. Reaching up to 4 feet in height, great blue lobelia grows best in areas with partial sun and wet to moist soils.



Great blue lobelia at LMG, photo by Bob Naugle

Rattlesnake Master

Blooming in July and August, rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) is a stout-stemmed plant reaching 5 feet in height with blue-green yucca-like leaves and prickly flower balls. Within each of the 10 to 40 flower heads are an average of 106 small, 5-petaled white flowers. Take a whiff of the flower on a sunny day and you'll discover it produces a honey-like scent that attracts a variety of insects, such as bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles. What's with the name? Early settlers thought—incorrectly—that Native Americans used this plant as an antidote for rattlesnake bites.



Rattlesnake master at LMG, photo by Bob Naugle

Wild White Indigo

A shrubby plant typically 3 to 6 feet tall, wild white indigo (*Baptisia alba macrophylla*) can be identified by its gray-green leaflets of three and the white, pea-like blossoms that appear between May and August. As a member of the legume family, wild white indigo improves the soil by fixing nitrogen. Its primary pollinators are bumble bees. Ruby-throat hummingbirds nectar on the flowers. By fall, the plant develops large brown oval seed pods that remain for much of the winter.



Wild white indigo, photo from Getty Images

Common Milkweed

The monarch butterfly—the Illinois state insect—is well known for its crucial relationship with milkweeds—the Illinois state wildflower. Several native milkweeds occur in Illinois, with blooms ranging in color from pink to green, white, orange and purple. Scientists attribute the serious reduction in monarchs to a decline in the number of milkweed plants due to climate change, herbicide and insecticide use, and land use changes.

The goal of the Illinois Monarch Project (illinoismonarchproject.org) is to add 150 million new milkweed stems and other nectar resources to the Illinois landscape by 2038. You can help by adding milkweeds to your landscape. Visit the website for resources on how you can support monarchs.



Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Getty Images

Take a moment this summer to explore the diversity of prairie forbs—and the visiting pollinators—within the prairies of Lincoln Memorial Garden. Go early as by the end of August, Garden staff and volunteers will begin the annual effort to eradicate the vicious invasive plant *sericea lespedeza*. Continued mowing and burning is a necessary management prescription to preserve our quality tallgrass prairies. 🌿



Above: Volunteers, along with the staff at LMG, perform numerous tasks around the Garden to help forward the mission of LMG. Photo by Cindy Harris .

Who You Gonna Call? The Grounds Crew!

Found among this group of hardy and handy volunteers are folks who mow, chip, set up, take down, chop, saw, cart, grill, collect, burn, plant, shovel, haul, create, solve and work together under the leadership and direction of Marissa Jones, LMG’s Naturalist.

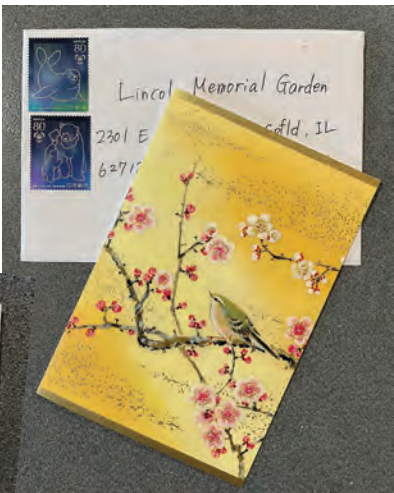
Barring extreme weather, and sometimes despite it, the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday crews share their brand of TLC throughout LMG’s acres, events and facilities, with occasional weekend and evening duty sprinkled in.

Fall Festival set up in sleet? Over 50 mph gusts approaching FHF tents? Porta potty overturned in the Ostermeier Prairie? Parking for 200 cars that show up for UIS Star Party? Trail Race Day Eve battered by torrential rains? Drought threatening cherished plantings? Beloved tree grove in need of chain saw clean up?

Who we gonna call? Who are we going to thank? The Grounds Crew! ☺

Cicada Enthusiasts from Around the World Gathered at LMG in 2024

Area residents no doubt remember the excitement in spring 2024 when we experienced the simultaneous emergence of two broods of periodical cicadas in central Illinois. On “Cicada Saturday” at Lincoln Memorial Garden (June 8, 2024) visitors came from around the globe to experience the fascinating phenomenon in person, including a family from Japan. After returning to their home country, they sent a card and photo expressing their appreciation. ☺





New Members

Carl M. Affrunti
 Jo E. Barnard
 Kevin Becker
 Wendy S. Boehme
 Douglas R. Bower
 Deborah Brothers
 Ann Burton
 Cindy Cannamela
 Joanna Coll
 Kristie L. DeBrun
 Jessilyn Ferguson
 Jaime Ferrill
 Heidi I. Flaherty
 Leann M. Flesch
 Mary Gail Galle
 Sommer Glauberman
 Aaron Graves
 Josh and Lisa Grilly
 Laura S. Harter
 Kathi Karr
 Ann Knoedler
 Sara Lieber-Eastep
 Vladimir Lytchakov
 Victoria Mares
 Brandy L. Marsh
 Bridget McIlwee
 Kathy and Andy Mihelich
 Cynthia L. Moreno
 Mark Morten and Ethelene Ferdinand
 Karen M. Olson
 Amber C. Owen
 Andrea Petroburgo
 Stacy Ratz
 Erik Reeter
 Adam Reiss
 Ella Roberts
 Sarah Robertson
 Allie Ruggless
 Kaylee N. Sables
 Cathryn Seifert
 Emily Serafin
 Whitney Spearie
 Eileen G. Tepatti
 Charles Thaxton
 Katherine Thompson
 Terri Treacy
 Adriana Waldrop
 Brooke L. Wallner
 Audra Walters
 Ashley R. Wankel
 Christopher L. Winters
 Gabrielle Woods

Welcoming Our New LMG Board Members

by Megan Styles, Board President

At our Annual Meeting on April 9, 2025, we welcomed four new members to the LMG Board of Directors.

Kenton (Kent) Childs brings a wealth of experience as a successful local business owner and member of many nonprofit boards. Kent owns the Childs Midas Group, which includes numerous Midas automotive repair facilities in the Midwest and the Northeastern United States. Among his many service roles, he was the chair of the YMCA Camp Wakonda Board for 14 years, and he currently serves on the board of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation here in Springfield. He and his wife, Gwen, have also established their own charitable fund. Kent loves LMG and wants to help it continue to thrive. The garden provided “life-altering experiences” to his grandchildren, and he loves watching new generations of children discover the wonders of nature in this space. An avid hiker, Kent estimates that he has walked several thousand miles in LMG and around the world, and protecting the environment is a top priority in his life.

Paulette Dove has also served on numerous local boards and committees, including the Junior League of Springfield and the Springfield Children’s Museum. Professionally, Paulette is a licensed attorney who has spent many years working with healthcare professionals and doing estate planning. She describes LMG as “a treasure for our community.” Her husband grew up a few doors down from the Garden, and her children attended ecology camp. LMG has been a significant factor in her son’s growth, personality and desire to help others. She wants to continue to see the Garden thrive and help other families experience the incredible benefits of time spent at LMG.

Joan (Jo) Freitag worked for Hanson Professional Services for 35 years and recently retired as a senior vice president, leading the Federal Business Unit. Jo has held leadership positions on several executive boards, including America’s Watershed Initiative (a national

collaboration focused on improvement of the Mississippi River Watershed), the Society of American Military Engineers, and American Council of Engineering Companies. She was recognized as a Springfield Woman of Influence in 2016 for her work in leading the communications and media relations for the community recovery efforts in Louisiana post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. An avid gardener, she helps lead the Springfield Lake Area Garden Club. Jo believes that LMG is one of the best parts of Springfield, and she is ready to help foster the goals and growth of the garden.

Keith Johnson is a professional financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. This is his first time serving on a board, but he is very active with his church community and coaches youth sports (YMCA soccer and basketball). He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge on financial acumen, budgeting and strategic planning. He and his wife have three children aged five and under, and LMG is the family’s favorite weekend spot to get outside. He looks forward to giving back to the garden and helping the garden continue to grow.

We look forward to working with all of you. We are also deeply grateful to our outgoing BOD members, Pam Hart, Greg Lutchka, Vasanta Mushunuri and Diane Dawson, whose terms concluded in April. Thank you for your dedication and service. We know your commitment to the Garden will be ongoing. 🦋



Red Admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Thank You to Our Many Supporters! *

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 a Memorial Tree in memory of **Alma Buhnerkempe**:

- ♦ Sarah Marjanovic
- ♦ Samantha Smith
- ♦ Rick and Kathy Wright

The following donor gave in memory of **Alma Buhnerkempe**:

- ♦ Karin Bell

The following donor gave in memory of **Elsie Black**:

- ♦ Vidhya Prakash

The following donors gave in memory of **Gary Vitale**:

- ♦ Jeff Mueller
- ♦ Steve and Kate Ahlersmeyer
- ♦ Curtis and Jennifer Cooper
- ♦ Susan Cull
- ♦ Diane Long
- ♦ Martin and Barbara Nagel
- ♦ Mark and Cheryl Pence
- ♦ Virginia Scott
- ♦ Lynn Steen

The following donor gave in memory of **Jan Santarelli**:

- ♦ Meredith Shaner

The following donors gave in memory of **Katie Huther**:

- ♦ Dick and Helen Adorjan
- ♦ Judith Everson
- ♦ Barbara and Bill Rogers
- ♦ Richard and Judith Wagner

The following donors gave in memory of **Thomas Londrigan**:

- ♦ Barbara K. Boyd
- ♦ John and Sharen Bucari
- ♦ Carolyn Graham
- ♦ Jill Leka
- ♦ Patricia Lloyd
- ♦ Lara and Doug Quivey

The following donors gave in memory of **Kenyon M. Bradley**:

- ♦ Bennett and Stephanie Bess
- ♦ Sharolyn Bradley
- ♦ Perry and Rachel Broughton
- ♦ Charles and Carol Hayes
- ♦ Myra Hoffman
- ♦ Sharon and John Kwedar
- ♦ Ramona Mabie
- ♦ Gary and Helen Mings
- ♦ Gregory and Andrea Reinwald
- ♦ David and Gail Richardson
- ♦ Sue and Roger Schneider
- ♦ Don and Mary Smargiassi
- ♦ Pam Spengler
- ♦ Tanya and Steve Walker
- ♦ Theresa Webber
- ♦ Linda Jo Winans

The following donors gave in memory of **Larry Carlson**:

- ♦ David and Betty Lou Bergschneider
- ♦ Lynette Carlson
- ♦ Tom and Frances King

The following donor gave in memory of **Sam Funderburg**:

- ♦ Melanie Ostermeier

Annual Fund Donors

Jo Alessandrini
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2025 Ecology Camp Donation

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2025 Lunch in Bloom Sponsors

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Robin and Steven Read

2026 Pancake Breakfast Sponsors

Robin and Steven Read

A Gift in Honor of Virginia Scott's Birthday

The Birthday Bunch

* As of May 8, 2025

FOUNDED 1936



Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

A Project of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

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Springfield, Illinois 62712-8908

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Summer Calendar

JUNE

- 1..... Springfield Choral Society Concert on the Patio | 2 p.m.
- 2..... Ecology Camp Starts
- 7..... 8K Trail Run and Kids' Fun Runs | 7:30 a.m.
- Soap Carving with Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers | 1 – 3 p.m.
- 14..... Forest Therapy | 9:30 – 11 a.m.
- 19..... Nature Center closed for Juneteenth | All Day
- 21..... Basics of Drawing Birds for Nature Journaling | 9 – 11:30 a.m.

JULY

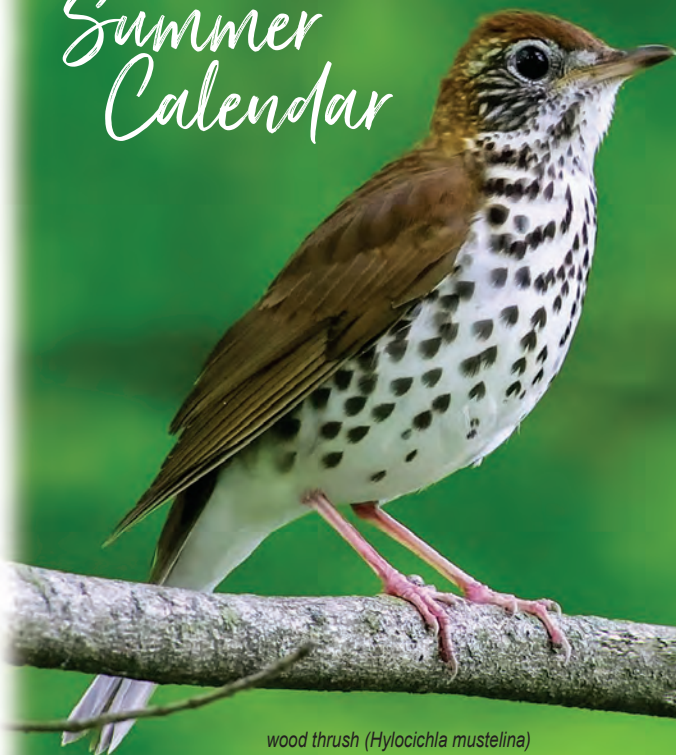
- 4..... Nature Center closed for Fourth of July | All Day
- 19..... Forest Therapy | 9:30 – 11 a.m.

AUGUST

- 12..... UIS Star Party at Cawley Meadow | 8:30 – 10 p.m.
- 22..... Family Fun Night | Nature Journaling | 6:30 – 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 6..... Moonlight Meander | 7 – 9 p.m.



wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)