

Award #: 24

Award Name: Ruth Benson Memorial Award

Submitted by: Springfield Civic Garden Club

Number of Club Members: 257

Date: October 25, 2021

1. New Project: No **Beginning date:** April 2021. **Completion date:** Ongoing

2. Brief Summary and Objectives of Project:

#24 Award: Service to Lincoln Memorial Garden or other nature center/preserve in Illinois during the year.

The Springfield Civic Garden club was founded on March 1, 1929 by Mrs. T.J. Knudson. Later, in 1929, Mrs. Knudson convinced the city of Springfield to donate land around Lake Springfield for a Nature Garden, which is now known as Lincoln Memorial Garden. Springfield Civic Garden Club members work year-round on projects and events that benefits the Lincoln Memorial Garden.

3. Involvement of club members and other organizations, etc.

This year SCGC was involved in the following activities at LMG:

2021 Fall Festival: 22 SCGC members in various event volunteer positions including Scarecrow factory, volunteer checkin table, nature item donations to Fairy garden and Troll Trail. Other community volunteers staff the various activities of this large event with a attendance of 2,900+. LMG members, area high school students and Girl Scout troops participate as volunteers, as well as master naturalists from the U of I Extension. 86 Total hours.

SCGC “No-Bake Sale” is a fundraiser by donations from SCGC members. 70 members participated.

The annual Holiday Railsplitter Sale was canceled due to Covid this year. 12 design members

SCGC president serves on the LMG Board, 12 volunteer hours

SCGC members lead nature hikes several times in 2021, 15 hours, 2 members.

4. Project expenses and Means of Funding:

Scarecrow Factory: By community individuals and SCGC members, donations of small clothing, hats, bags, stockings and other accessories.

LMG provides the bales of hay for the stuffing and bales circle as well as providing some materials to glue on patches. Plus private donations by LMG members for miscellaneous items.

No expenses for the No Bake Sale fundraiser. Donation by SCGC members of \$850.

Nature Hikes are provided by staff and volunteers, no expenses.

Floral Designs and Holiday Market for Railsplitter Store, materials purchased by LMG with accessories and donations from SCGC members. Expenses varies.

5. Continuing Involvement, follow-up maintenance:

Springfield Civic Garden Club will continue our relationship with Lincoln Memorial Garden and their many projects and events. We have established a permanent community committee for LMG with chairs and 24 volunteer members in our club. Working with them is always a joy and privilege.



6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan:

- LMG and SCGC volunteers putting the Scarecrow kits together.



**2021 LMG Festival-
volunteer Booth and
Scarecrow Factory**



SCGC members leading Nature Hike – April 2021- attended by 22 members and public.



