

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515-0422

www.pdha.org

Gordon Goodman, Chair; Donna Retzlaff, Chair Pro-tem; Laurel Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer
(630) 964-0245 852-7861 852-5490

Annual Meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

“**Illinois and DuPage County Special Places**” is the theme for the Sixth Annual Meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. Please join us on Wednesday evening December 5, 2001 at 7:00 PM in Room 503 of Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue in Downers Grove. Come to hear about some very special natural areas that are near home and well worth visiting and cherishing. Now that all of us are rethinking our travel plans in light of greater safety concerns, easily accessible, very special places near home take on new importance.

After a short business meeting, five people with experience and interests in the acquisition, management and restoration of natural areas will discuss with us a wide range of significant natural area projects. **Steve Byers**, who represents the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in this area, has prepared a beautiful and interesting slide show about some of the special places that are part of the Chicago Wilderness Program. **Clayton Haffter**, Wetland Supervisor with the DuPage County Department of Development and Environmental Concerns, will tell us about the Downers Grove Wetland Restoration Project near 40th Street and Glendenning Avenue. **Pete Baldo**, who is active in several local conservation efforts including the Wolf Road Prairie, is a strong advocate for creation of a new DuPage County Forest Preserve in the unusual flooded forest area along the DesPlaines River. **John Oldenburg** with the DuPage County Forest Preserve District can bring us up to date about plans for restoration and use of the Lyman Woods Forest Preserve, while **Richard O'Hara**, past Chair of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, tells us about a major restoration project underway in the Orchard Creek area of Downers Grove.

Please join us on December 5th to enjoy refreshments and conversation as well as to find out more about some special natural areas near home that you may want to see and enjoy soon.

Annual Election of Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes as suitable for charitable contributions. Its Board of Directors manages activities of the Heritage Alliance. Bylaws of the corporation provide that the Directors are to be elected each year at Heritage Alliance's Annual Meeting in December. At present there are nine directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen Directors to be elected.

A nominating committee is working to find people who have a strong interest in local natural areas and want to become more active in the Heritage Alliance by serving on its Board of Directors. If you or some one you know would like to be considered for nomination, please talk with one of the nominating committee members: Laurel Bowen (630) 852-5490, Gordon Goodman (630) 964-0245, or Rita Martin (630) 969-2939.

Current Officers and Directors Of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, Donna J. Retzlaff, Chair Pro-tem, and Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer are the current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. Other Directors of the Heritage Alliance are Jane E. Amorosi, Lee A. Forsythe, Rita Martin, David Pfeifer, William M. Runyon, and Mark D. Sklair. Donna Retzlaff and Mark Sklair live in Westmont and all other Directors live in Downers Grove.

BICYCLE RACK INSTALLED AT LYMAN WOODS PRESERVE

PHOTO CAPTION: DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT INSTALLS BICYCLE RACK GIVEN BY PIERCE DOWNER'S HERITAGE ALLIANCE FOR USE AT LYMAN WOODS. KEITH KOLAR, PARK DISTRICT MAINTENANCE STAFF MEMBER, SETS BICYCLE RACK IN CONCRETE WHILE PRESERVE VISITORS LOOK ON: FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CYCLIST JOSE BARRON-ROJAS OF AURORA AND LAUREL BOWEN, GORDON GOODMAN AND RITA MARTIN OF DOWNERS GROVE, DIRECTORS OF PIERCE DOWNER'S HERITAGE ALLIANCE. Photo by Nick Gavriluk, DG Park District Staff

“Visitors to the Lyman Woods Preserve need a safe place to leave their bicycles while they walk trails and enjoy the Preserve,” says Gordon Goodman, Chair of Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance. “Trails in the Preserve are not suitable for use by bicycles and Park District rules forbid riding bicycles within the Preserve,” Goodman explains.

In June, Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance asked the Park District if it would accept the gift of a bicycle rack for use at Lyman Woods. The District helped decide what type of rack should be purchased and offered to take care of the installation.

The bicycle rack is now located at the 33rd Street entrance to Lyman Woods, just east of Highland Avenue in Downers Grove. When a new Interpretive Center for Lyman Woods is opened some time in 2002, the main entrance to the Preserve will be on 31st Street and the bicycle rack will be relocated in that area.

Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance was founded in the mid 1990’s to help protect Lyman Woods. PDHA led efforts to purchase some 40 acres of heavily wooded land at 31st and Highland Avenue, Downers Grove, to add to the originally 88 acre preserve. Lyman Woods Preserve now contains 135 acres with a wide variety of landforms and wildlife. It is currently used for quiet walks and nature studies as well as several popular Park District programs and environmental education field trips for elementary school students.

Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway Work

Look for the Adopt-A-Highway signs along Highland Avenue. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance claims this section of highway for all future clean-ups.

We are helping to eliminate litter, but hope that litter fine signs will be posted to help get the message out. You are welcome to join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance clean up efforts along Highland Avenue. We schedule three organized workdays each year. Saturday, October 20, 2001 was the last scheduled date this year.

Highway Clean-Up Days for 2002 are Saturday, May 11, Saturday, August 10, and Saturday, October 12. We meet at 33rd Street entrance to Lyman Woods at 9 AM. Expect it to take no longer than 2 hours to clean up from 31st - 39th Streets.

Hope to have you along to help us combat the litter along the gateway to Downers Grove. Please mark your Year 2002 calendars now!

Thank you for your continued support.

Please view our website at <http://www.pdha.org>

DES PLAINES RIVER FOREST PRESERVE PROPOSAL

At our September 5 meeting, PDHA member and former DuPage County Commissioner Russ Horn presented his proposal for creating a new DuPage Forest Preserve along the north bank of the Des Plaines River. This 125-acre preserve would extend two miles along the north bank of the river, stretching from Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve on the west to the DuPage/Cook County line.

The proposed preserve would link with the trail system at Waterfall Glen and has the potential to link with Cook County Forest Preserve trails. Other benefits would include public access to a beautiful riverfront as well as preservation, restoration and protection of one of the most important terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in DuPage County with the elimination of junkyards and other environmentally and aesthetically unsavory sites in this area.

Since September 5th, the key riverbank landowner, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, has expressed interest in leasing its land to the DuPage Forest Preserve District.