

Protect Your Heritage

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world wide web
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Pierce Downer's
Heritage Alliance
PO Box 422
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515



Saving the Trees

Local businesswoman Kathleen Panek is intent on preserving Downers Grove's natural heritage, even if it means saving one tree at a time.

Panek, who owns the computer consulting firm ConnecTech Solutions, learned in May that the Village was planning to cut down 15 honey locust and flowering crab apple trees located behind her office at 5121 Main Street. The removal of the 15-year-old trees was part of a project that demolished two buildings to make way for temporary parking.

After hiring an arborist, Panek intended to try to save all of the trees, even lining up private citizens, including members of the Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, to pay for the cost of transplanting them. In the end, however, she was able to save just one crab apple tree, which now stands in her mother's front yard.

"It's doing really, really well," Panek said. "We're really enjoying it. But it's very sad that the others weren't saved. It was so beautiful (behind her office) and now there's nothing."

The other trees were cut down when Village officials determined that transplanting them would not be feasible. The presence of underground electrical equipment prevented the uprooting of several trees, while others did not have enough soil around them to survive the move.

"When the tree spade went in, it kept hitting concrete and gravel," Panek said. "There was only two feet of earth around some of them." Still, Panek was happy that something good came out of an effort that saw her expend \$460 of her own money.

"It was definitely a challenge," she said. "Trees are just so wonderful and they enhance the area. Everybody I talked to loved those trees and nobody did anything about it."

Panek hopes to change that. Noting that Glen Ellyn and several other communities in the Chicago area have tree preservation ordinances, she is pushing for similar legislation in Downers Grove.

"I'm interested in getting the Village to transplant any trees before removing them," Panek said. "In the future I want to make it conducive to transplanting a tree if it needs to be moved."

Interpretive Center Opens Its Doors

The Lyman Woods Interpretive Center opened its doors June 21.

The one-story building was funded by a state grant and is run by the Downers Grove Park District, which bills the center as the "Gateway to Lyman Woods." A recent tour of the building showed why that title is accurate.



Multipurpose rooms of the Interpretive Center have panoramic views of Lyman Woods. Photo: G. Goodman.

Set well back from its 24-space parking lot on 31st Street, the Interpretive Center is painted in muted green and brown colors. The structure blends well into its background, combining muted colors with a "green" roof, which is adorned with various native plantings.

(continued on page 2)

LYMAN
WOODS
INTERPRETIVE
CENTER

GRAND
OPENING

Saturday
August 23
2003

Check our
website for
updates

www.pdha.org

Have you
renewed your
membership in
the Heritage
Alliance?

See the back
page of this
newsletter for
more info and
how YOU can
make a
difference!

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Interpretive Center (continued from page 1)



Alice Eastman - Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services, updates an info kiosk at the Interpretive Center. Photo: G. Goodman.

Inside, Park District staff and volunteers and an interactive display showing short videos on the geologic history of the area, along with the habitats of the flora and fauna native to the 135-acre preserve, welcome visitors.

Behind that room is an area where children can make nature-themed crafts and see examples of some of the plants located in the woods. With its floor-to-ceiling windows, the visitor gets an up-close view into the preserve.

The Interpretive Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. A grand opening is planned for August 23.

Various nature programs are offered for children, adults and youth groups. A visit to the Interpretive Center is recommended. It is an excellent way to learn more about Lyman Woods, a unique and valuable example of our natural heritage. 🍃

PDHA Supports the Interpretive Center

Members of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance have followed with great interest the design and construction of an Interpretive Center at the Lyman Woods Preserve. At our recent quarterly board meeting, Directors of the Heritage Alliance voted to work with the Grove Foundation and staff of the Park District on projects in support of the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance approved spending \$750 toward educational materials in cooperation with the Grove Foundation.



Educational Exhibit in the Interpretive Center. Photo: G. Goodman.

Details about the specific items to be purchased are to be worked out by the leadership of the Heritage Alliance in discussions with the leadership of the Grove Foundation and Park District staff. Heritage Alliance Directors expressed particular interest in supporting the proposed interpretive trail backpacks and in supporting a resident library at the Interpretive Center to increase understanding of natural resources and conservation activities.

Directors of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance also approved spending an additional \$750 toward restoration work associated with the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center. Details about the specific items to be purchased are to be worked out by the leadership of the Heritage Alliance in discussions with the Park District staff and may be finalized at the September Board Meeting (Sept. 10 at 7:00pm at Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave). All members of the Alliance are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion at the quarterly meetings of the board of directors. 🍃

Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway Work



Highland Avenue Cleanup Day volunteers: Paul Smith and Jane Amorosi. Photo: G. Goodman.

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 soon 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 11, 2003 is the last scheduled date this year.

We meet at the 33rd Street overflow parking area for Lyman Woods at 8:30 AM. Expect it to take no longer than 2 hours to clean up from 31st - 39th Streets.

We hope to have you along to help us combat the litter along the gateway to Downers Grove. Please mark your calendars now for October 11! Thank you for your continued support. 🍃

Short Takes

The bicycle rack donated by PDHA in 2001 and originally located at the 33rd Street entrance to Lyman Woods, just east of Highland Avenue, has now been relocated to the main entrance of the Preserve near the Interpretive Center on 31st Street. The 33rd Street temporary parking lot is now normally closed to the public. 🍃

A new trail installation along the east side of Lyman Woods is nearing completion. The restrictive covenant granted last year to the Forest Preserve District by Midwestern University makes this new, permanent trail alignment possible. 🍃



New trail and bridge under construction on the west campus of Midwestern University. Photo: G. Goodman.

PDHA directors have been closely monitoring Park District Commissioner's discussions about possible sites for a new swimming pool. We are working to ensure that our community's outstanding natural heritage sites are adequately protected. 🍃

Current Officers and Board Members of the Heritage Alliance

Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, Jane E. Amorosi, 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 Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Matt Le Cren, Rita Martin, David Pfeifer, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Mark D. Sklair and William (Buzz) Whowell. Mark Sklair lives in Westmont and all other Directors live in Downers Grove. 🍃

Please Join Us at our next Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway CLEAN-UP DAY

*October 11
2003
8:30-10:30am*

Check our website for updates

Our Next PDHA Meeting

*Wednesday
September 10
7:00pm
Room 202
Lincoln Center
935 Maple Ave
Downers Grove*

*for info call:
Laurel Bowen at
(630) 852-5490*

Did You Know that our website features links to other environmental websites that you may find of interest? Check us out at www.pdha.org

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
PO Box 422
Downers Grove Illinois 60515

Protect Your Heritage

First Class Mail



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Summer 2003 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next meeting
Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 7:00PM
in Room 202 at Lincoln Center in Downers Grove
Check our website for more details

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts to petition the Village and County to preserve our natural resources. Your participation in our programs demonstrates to our community the strength of our coalition to protect Downers Grove's forests and wildlife.

Please join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance or renew your membership now as we continue to work for protection of the natural heritage of Downers Grove.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
P.O. Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Yes, I want to begin/renew my membership in Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

Name(s) _____

Street Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Contribution: \$ _____ **I/We can also Volunteer some time** _____

A TAX DEDUCTIBLE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION of \$10 or more will help the Alliance defray expenses, but is **not** required for membership. Your email address will allow us to keep you informed of future events.