

Protect
Your
Heritage

PDHA Annual
Meeting
Wednesday
December 6
7 PM
Lincoln Center
Room 503

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

2006 Annual Meeting

Lyman Woods Streambank Stabilization: A Step toward Long-Term Restoration

Long-term restoration of Lyman Woods is the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. We are holding our 11th Annual Meeting in Room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. Our featured speaker is Ted Gray, Eco-Hydrologist & Director of Living Waters Consultants.

Living Waters Consultants under Ted Gray's leadership is completing restoration work on the second of three project sites in Lyman Woods. His work focuses on restoring stream processes and ecological functions for Lyman Woods by improving streambank stabilization.

Ted received an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Michigan in 1991 and a B.A. in Biology from Ripon College in 1987. His Masters Degree emphasized water quality and fish ecology. His skills in Ecology, Hydrology, and Fluvial Geomorphology offer unique opportunities for achieving environmentally sound project goals for natural design.

For twenty years now Lyman Woods has been publicly owned and managed as an island of high quality natural resources in increasingly urbanized Eastern DuPage County. The original 88 acres purchased from George Williams College in 1987 have grown into the current 155-acre preserve that includes an oak savanna, prairie and marsh habitats and supports over 300 species of native plants. Six plant species have been classified as rare in the Chicago region. Deer, fox, Cooper's Hawks, Great Horned Owls, a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians and insects and numerous songbirds may be observed in the area.

The Lyman Woods Preserve is owned jointly by Downers Grove Park District together with the Village of Downers Grove and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and is managed by the Park District. Substantial local funding along with State and Federal grants has permitted preservation and enhancement of Lyman Woods over the last twenty years. At this year's annual meeting, Gordon Goodman, founding past Chair of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, will give some historical background and comment about this unusual and highly successful arrangement.

The public is invited to attend a brief business meeting and then to enjoy the program and refreshments. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is an 11-year old non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove.

Jim Cavallo, Chair of the Heritage Alliance, said "This annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity for those who really care about the natural and cultural heritage of our village and the character of our community to meet and celebrate another year of accomplishments."



Ted Gray

Protect Your Heritage

"Trees enhance and preserve the air quality... reduce noise... reduce topsoil erosion... reduce energy consumption... provide nesting areas for birds... which in turn assist in the control of insects... reduce storm water runoff... replenish ground water supplies... and... protect property values," according to Downers Grove Ordinance # 4673, adopted 5/17/2005.

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The 1849 Blodgett Home Now at 812 Randall Street

Israel and Avis Dodge Blodgett were among the earliest settlers in Downers Grove. According to the account in *Downers Grove 1832 to 1982* by Montrew Dunham and Pauline Wandschneider, in 1835 Israel Blodgett built a log cabin at the site of the Downers Grove Historical Museum on Maple Avenue. Then in 1849 he built a frame house on the same site. The 1849 frame building was later moved to its present location at 812 Randall Street making room for construction in 1892 of the Queen Anne style house that is now home to the Downers Grove Historical Museum.

In June 2006, Christopher Salman, President of Stature Custom Homes, purchased the 1849 Blodgett home at 812 Randall Street. The previous owners, Ralph and Peggy Smith, had expressed a strong desire that the 1849 Blodgett home be preserved in some way.

At the September 20th meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, Mr. Salman explained his efforts to find a way to move the central, original portion of the 1849 Blodgett House to an appropriate site so that he can redevelop the property at 812 Randall Street. He stated that he would like to donate title to this historic building at its new location to a public agency, such as the Downers Grove Park District.



1849 Blodgett House, 812 Randall Street

Currently, the home at 812 Randall Street is occupied as a rental property and Mr. Salman is researching the costs of moving and providing a new foundation for the 1849 Blodgett House at another, more permanent location. Substantial funding and public support will now be required if our community is to preserve this important part of Downers Grove's history. The 1849 Blodgett House is believed to be the third oldest existing house in Downers Grove, following the 1839 Orange Lyman House on Maple Avenue and the 1842 Pierce Downer House on Seeley Avenue.

Annual Election of Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is an 11-year old, 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. At present there are fourteen directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen Directors to be elected.

This year the nominating committee is considering proposing re-election of the following fourteen incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, Laurel Q. Bowen, Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Gordon L. Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Matt LeCren, Ken Lerner, William M. Runyon, Chris Saricks, David Schulz, Charley Smart and Jerry Yoksouljan, all of whom live in Downers Grove.

Current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance are James Cavallo, Chair, Jerry Yoksouljan, Chair Pro-tem, Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary, and Gordon L. Goodman, Treasurer. For 2006, the nominating committee is also considering proposing that these officers be re-elected.

Architectural Design Review Board Recommendations

The Architectural Design Review Board (ADRB) was appointed in December 2005 and has recently sent its recommendations about historic preservation and neighborhood conservation districts to the Downers Grove Village Council. In June 2006, the ADRB unanimously adopted its recommendation that the Village "[move] forward with adopting Historic Preservation regulations." It now seems that the Village Council may consider this ADRB recommendation along with the Board's more detailed findings and recommendations at Council's workshop meeting on November 28, 2006.

Members of the ADRB are drawn from Downers Grove's historic preservation, as well as real estate and development communities. Architect Michael Davenport is ADRB Chairman, while the ADRB members are Downers Grove Museum Member Carine Acks, Downers Grove Historical Society Board Member Montrew Dunham, Realtor Elena Falco, Homebuilder David Matthies, Architect Joseph Pappalardo, and Attorney James Russ, Jr.

The ADRB was also directed to study and make recommendations about the Village's Appearance Code and Design Review Committee. In September 2006, the ADRB unanimously adopted a recommendation that "the Village move forward with preparation and adoption of a new Appearance Code and Design Guidelines." The Village Council is also expected to consider this second recommendation along with the ADRB's more detailed findings on this subject at an upcoming workshop meeting, perhaps also on November 28, 2006.

Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie Happenings

Reported by Shannon Forsythe for the Downers Grove Park District

The Streambank Stabilization Project is moving along well. Bank reconstruction is now complete in the second project site area, and a new boardwalk, prescribed burn, and seeding is planned for this fall. In the spring, over 10,000 native plants will be planted along the streams. Improvements in the clarity and velocity of the water moving through the restored streams are noticeable. Take a few moments this fall or winter to walk along the streambanks and see the improvements first hand.

The Natural Areas have been very busy with interpretive programming as well as land management. District 58 first-graders visited Lyman Woods for the Little Sprouts program throughout the month of October. The 540 students and 100 teachers and parents participated in four stations to learn about seeds, soil, and plant life cycles. In addition to Little Sprouts, nearly 600 children and adults have participated in interpretive programs and scout workshops at Belmont Prairie and Lyman Woods this fall, including F is for Fall, Walk Through the Tall Grass, Big Bug Little Bug, Fall Colors, and Howl at the Moon night hikes.



Lyman Woods streambank stabilization, second project site area

*Please Join Us
on our
Highland Ave
Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*Again Next
Spring*

*Check our
website for
updates!*

*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!*

*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
P.O. Box 422
Downers Grove Illinois 60515



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2006 Newsletter

**You are invited to join us at our 2006 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 7:00PM**

**Room 503, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.
Check our website www.PDHA.org for more details.**

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts to petition local government officials to preserve our heritage resources. Your participation in our programs demonstrates to our community the strength of our alliance to protect Downers Grove's natural and cultural heritage.

Please join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance or renew your membership now as we work for protection of the natural and cultural 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: \$ _____ (Employer matching 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.