

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Annual
Meeting
Wednesday
December 3
7 PM
Lincoln Center
Room 503**

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www.PDHA.org

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

2008 Annual Meeting

Bikeway Plans in Downers Grove

After a short business meeting, the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is "**Bikeway Plans in Downers Grove.**" We are holding our 13th Annual Meeting in Room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Our featured speaker is Dorin Fera, Downers Grove Village Transportation Division Manager.

Dorin earned his Masters Degree in Urban Policy and Planning at the University of Illinois in 1990. He is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the American Planning Association (APA). He participates in both planning and engineering continuing education opportunities through ITE, APA, Northwestern University and Center for Microcomputers in Transportation (McTrans) established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Mr. Fera served on the Parking & Traffic Commission for 3 years and was involved in the Village's Bikeway Plan, adopted in 2000. He is a biking fan, and rides daily to work (including the winter season), and also enjoys recreational rides with his family. Dorin will present an overview of Downers Grove's bikeway plans and report about the progress in implementing them.



Dorin Fera

W. H. Brown Champions Protection of Lyman Woods

Downers Grove resident Wallace H. Brown has championed protection of the Lyman Woods Preserve ever since he first became a commissioner of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on Dec. 1, 1986. During the 1990's when Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance was working for the acquisition of an additional 40 acres of heavily wooded land along 31st Street just east of Highland Avenue, Commissioner Brown was one of our strongest advocates for Forest Preserve District cooperation with the Downers Grove Park District in funding this controversial purchase of land from Town and Country Homes. This North Addition to Lyman Woods now provides the home for the William F. Sherman, Jr. Interpretive Center.

Commissioner Brown worked tirelessly to obtain the one million dollar grant from the State of Illinois that made possible construction of an interpretive center at Lyman Woods.

Our Annual Meeting this year will include a tribute to Wally Brown's years of public service; including his tenure on the Downers Grove Village Council from April 1973 until May 1977 and his service on innumerable Village volunteer boards and commissions.

We are very pleased that now as Wally Brown leaves his service as a Forest Preserve Commissioner he has agreed to accept our nomination as a Director of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance.



Wallace H. Brown

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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Historic Home Preservation Update

A green Gothic Revival home on Carpenter Street, with its steeply pitched roof and duo front doors, became the first Downers Grove structure to achieve landmark status under the Village's 2007 Historic Preservation Ordinance. Built in 1888, it was home to a prominent local musician, Donald Drew, for most of his life.

The property is also home to a pair of 200-year-old oak trees. Although the trees are not specifically protected as part of the landmark designation, the trees may be protected by virtue of the fact that major work on the site cannot occur.



Drew Family Home

The **1846 Blodgett House Restoration Project** made great progress during 2008.



Blodgett House volunteer renovation work

In February a group of private citizens acquired ownership of this early Downers Grove pioneer home of Israel and Avis Blodgett. In May, under a license granted by the Downers Grove Park District, the citizens group moved the house through adjoining backyards onto the Park District's Museum Campus. The house is now located on its new foundation and is currently being restored and renovated to safeguard its history and our heritage.

Budgeted items for the remaining exterior restoration work, including windows, doors, siding and roofing, total nearly \$100,000. The required funding for historically appropriate materials and skilled craftsmanship depends on donations from private citizens, corporations and local businesses.

Continued strong community support is absolutely essential to successful completion of the 1846 Blodgett House Restoration Project. Failure of the Restoration Project can still result in destruction of the house. Please visit www.1846BlodgettHouse.org for more information and to learn how you can help.

Annual Election of PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 13-year old, Illinois 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 twelve directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen directors to be elected.

This year the Nominating Committee is proposing re-election of incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, James Cavallo, Gordon L. Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, William M. Runyon, Chris Saricks, John Schofield, David Schulz, Charley Smart, Mark Thoman and Jerry Yoksouljan, all of whom live in Downers Grove. The Committee is very pleased to be also proposing election of two new directors: Sonja Tiegs, who is a professional natural resource restoration specialist, and Wally Brown, who has strongly supported natural area programs at Lyman Woods during his long and distinguished tenure as commissioner of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. If you would like to become more active and are interested in serving as a director of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Gordon Goodman (630-964-0245), Ihor Hlohowskyj (630-241-3447) or Mark Thoman (630-515-1186).

Current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance are James Cavallo, Chair, Jerry Yoksouljan, Chair Pro-tem, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Secretary, and Gordon L. Goodman, Treasurer. The Nominating Committee is proposing that these officers be re-elected for 2008-09.

Lyman Woods Restoration & Streambank Stabilization Project

Shannon Forsythe, Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services,
Downers Grove Park District

The streambank stabilization and woodland restoration project is coming to a close after six years of work at Lyman Woods. Completion of the third and final project site area is anticipated by the end of this year.



Stream banks are now stabilized with rocks and plants.

The streambank stabilization project used best management practices to better manage storm water, reduce erosion, and restore stream and woodland habitat. Streams were restored with bioengineering techniques, including rock riffles, meandering courses, and pools to slow the water and create aquatic habitat. The banks of the streams were armored with natural materials such as rocks, bundled brush, and native plants to reduce erosion. Invasive plants were removed from the surrounding woodlands to allow native plants to become re-established.

Although the stabilization work may be complete, there are many years of land management and maintenance planned for all three project sites. Maintenance includes herbicide treatments, burning, and mowing. These treatments target invasive and non-native species, including buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard, and are necessary to prevent non-native plants from becoming dominant.



New ponds detain and may also retain storm water.

The benefits of the project are readily apparent. Storm water now travels through the streams slowly and the streams retain water, creating habitat for wildlife and improving water quality. In fact, visitors at Lyman Woods have recently sighted several species of animals that are dependent on wetlands and open woodlands, including mink and beaver. Native plants are now becoming established in areas previously dominated by non-native brush, producing a spectacular spring wildflower show.



Native plants re-establish themselves from their seed banks.

*Please Join Us
on our
Highland Ave
2009 Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*Dates will be
announced later*

*Saturdays
8:30-10:00 am*

*Check our
website for
updates and to
signup to
participate!*

*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 2008 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our 13th Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7:00 pm
Room 503, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.
Check our website www.PDHA.org for more details.

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.

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.