

Protect Your Heritage

PDHA next
Meeting
Thursday,
May 26, 2011
7 P.M.
Lincoln Center
Room 202

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Visit Us
on the world
wide web
at
www.PDHA.org

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

Rain Barrels for Sale

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance and four other local not-for-profit organizations are working with the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation, the Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Downtown Downers Grove Management Corporation to make rain barrels available again this year. Reservations are being accepted through April 20, 2011 with pick up of the barrels on Saturday, May 21st.

We can sell brand-new, top rated 60-gallon *EarthMinded* plastic rain barrels for only \$80 by ordering in bulk to cut more than \$50 off the regular price. Barrels come equipped with all materials for quick and easy installation. You can paint the initially granite-colored barrels to harmonize with your planned location.

When Downers Grove restricts the use of water from other sources in summer, the use of rain barrel water is not restricted. The Rain Barrel Sale brochure gives more information about the benefits of using water barrels and contains an order form. The order form and more information are also available at our website www.PDHA.org. Please mail your completed order form with your check made payable to Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance to P.O. Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Rain barrel purchasers will be responsible for picking up their rain barrels at the designated pick-up location on Saturday, May 21st between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. **NO DELIVERY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.** Purchasers will receive either an email or a phone call by Friday, May 13th telling them their pick-up location. It will be either at the Kin-ko Ace Hardware Store, 6216 Main Street, or at Wannemaker's Home and Garden Center, 1940 Ogden Avenue. If you cannot pick up your rain barrel in person on Saturday May 21st, please arrange for someone else to pick up your barrel then.

Checks must be received with your order form and should be made payable to the not-for-profit organization that you designate on the order form. One quarter of the funds collected in the sale of these *EarthMinded* rain barrels will be donated to help pay for programs of the not-for-profit organizations that are managing these sales. Thank you for your support! – *By Gordon Goodman*



Painted Display Rain Barrel

Volunteering at Lyman Woods

Volunteering has a positive impact on your community, the environment and you! You'll learn new skills, meet like-minded people and take home the satisfaction that you did something positive. The Downers Grove Park District has many opportunities for you to give back, including the REAP workdays. Workday projects include cutting brush, pulling non-native vegetation, collecting and sowing seed and more. Land management not your thing? Volunteer in the Interpretive Center, help out with camps, or sign up for one of the new volunteer programs. Green Thumbs gardening volunteers will help keep the native plant demonstration gardens looking their best, and Hiking Patrol volunteers inspect the trails while enjoying a hike through the woods or prairie. To volunteer for any of these programs contact Pat Semple, Volunteer Coordinator at PSemple@DGParks.org or 630-963-1300.

SPRING VOLUNTEER REAP WORKDAYS AT LYMAN WOODS: APRIL 16TH & MAY 21ST
VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS TAKE PLACE ON SELECTED SATURDAYS FROM 8:00 TO 10:30 A.M.
– *By Shannon Forsythe*

The Biggest Carbon Loser Challenge of Downers Grove First United Methodist Church

Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions are recognized as a major cause of climate change. Adverse impacts of climate change include increased forest fires, drought conditions, severe weather occurrences, extended heat waves and spread of destructive pests and disease. These adverse effects signal us about the need to protect our environment through actions to reduce our energy consumption, thereby reducing our carbon footprint. Downers Grove First United Methodist Church (DGFUMC) has, over the past 3 years, had multiple educational events on different aspects of climate change and is now challenging its members to take action to mitigate GHG emissions. During the month of April, 48 action items are being suggested. The first 12 items are listed below. A "Biggest Carbon Loser" point value is given for each action item. See the DGFUMC website, www.DGFUMC.org, for additional action items throughout the month. You too can join this program to reduce your energy consumption and to save money as well as protect the health and well being of people and our planet – all at the same time. Let's all work together to see who can be the Biggest Carbon Loser and the best protector of our planet. – *By Dave Schulz*



12 First Week Action Items

- ❖ Turn off lights, TV and other electronics whenever you leave the room for more than a minute - 2 pts.
- ❖ Clean or replace furnace air filter regularly - 2 pts.
- ❖ Reduce waste generation and recycle all aluminum, glass, plastic, paper, etc. (reducing half of a standard size garbage can per week can reduce about 2,000 lb/ yr. CO₂) - 2 pts.
- ❖ Plant new trees to commemorate births of children/ grandchildren - they not only sequester carbon but also provide shade, retain water and purify the air - 5 pts.
- ❖ Tune-up furnace/ A/C at least every other year (saves 300 lb/ yr. CO₂) - 3 pts.
- ❖ Replace attic fan with solar powered fan (free energy for life - easier installation) - 10 pts.
- ❖ Consider organic cleaning products such as vinegar, borax, and baking soda - 1 pt.
- ❖ Eat less meat (for each day of the week switching to vegetarian can save 700 lb/ yr. CO₂) - 5 pts.
- ❖ Buy foods locally - 2 pts.
- ❖ Remove unneeded heavy objects from trunk to improve mileage - 1 pt.
- ❖ Combine car trips while you're out to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); with planning most people can reduce VMT 20% saving 1,500 lb/ yr. CO₂ - 3 pts.
- ❖ Use mass transit whenever feasible, especially commuting to work - 5 pts.

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.

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

PDHA Begins Another Year of Highway Clean Ups

Saturday, April 23rd, another year of service to the community begins as we collect refuse along Highland Avenue between 31st and 39th Streets. PDHA picks up litter along this stretch of Highland Avenue, which is adjacent to our beloved Lyman Woods, four times each year. The other dates this year are: June 18th, August 20th, and October 8th. Please join us; we would welcome your help and companionship. You must first fill out and send in a Village liability waiver form that can be found on the PDHA web site www.pdha.org. Then meet us at the 33rd Street Lyman Woods parking area at 8:30 a.m. The clean up usually takes less than 2 hours. It is a great way to begin the weekend. – *By Jim Cavallo*

ARBOR DAY Is Friday April 29th

Park District Activities: The Downers Grove Park District Forester will host a tree planting demonstration at Randall Park on Friday, April 29 at 3 p.m. A limited number of oak seedlings will be available for attendees to take home. The Forester will be available for questions on planting and tree care.

As an extension of the Little Sprouts program, the Park District will be giving away free oak seedlings to families of the program participants, while supplies last, in honor of Arbor Day on Saturday, April 30th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 1st from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., at the William F. Sherman, Jr. Interpretive Center at 901 31st Street. – *By Brandi Beckley*

Morton Arboretum Activities: The Arboretum is planning events for Arbor Weekend, April 29 through May 1, carrying out the Arbor Day tradition established by the Morton family.

There will be tree planting on April 29 in the Children's Garden 11-11:45 a.m. The beloved children's character, Curious George, kicks off festivities by leading a parade from the Children's Garden to the tree-planting site. There, families hear the story "Curious George Plants A Tree". Afterwards, kids are invited to help George plant a tree.

Throughout the weekend, Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., visitors to the Children's Garden can plant tree seeds and embark on a tree scavenger hunt.

That weekend will also feature the Arboretum's Arbor Day Plant Sale. Choose from old favorites and recently introduced hybrids — specifically selected to thrive in our climate and difficult to find at garden shops. Members have first access to this outstanding sale with great values.

Members Only – Friday, April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. & Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.-noon

Open to the Public – Saturday, April 30, noon- 4 p.m. & Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit the Arboretum's website, www.mortonarb.org, for details. – *By Gordon Goodman*

Putting the Environment on the Campaign Agenda

This spring featured a lively race for Downers Grove Village Council, with nine candidates vying for only three positions. We thought voters would like to know the candidates' positions on local conservation issues. To that end, PDHA asked for each candidate's views - specifically we asked four questions:

1. What actions have you taken in support of conservation or environmental groups in the past few years?
2. What is the role of local government bodies in publicizing and advancing conservation efforts?
3. What are the three most significant challenges that local governmental bodies face in the area of conservation?
4. If elected, how would you use your position to aid the preservation of our community's cultural traditions, including our rich architectural heritage?

Answers that we received from Martin Tully, running unopposed for Mayor, and from six of the nine Council candidates have been posted on our website, www.PDHA.org. – *By Ken Lerner*

*Please Join Us
on Our
Highland Ave
2011 Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 23
June 18
August 20
October 8
Saturdays*

*8:30-10:30 AM
Rain Dates One
Week Later*

*Check our
website for
updates and to
sign up 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!*



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



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2011 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next 2011 Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm
Room 202, 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 working with 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.