

Protect
Your
Heritage

PDHA Annual
Meeting
Wednesday,
December 12
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

2012 Annual Meeting

Educational Activities At Lyman Woods

This year's Annual Meeting will focus on educational activities at Lyman Woods. Our featured speaker will be Shannon Forsythe, Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services for the Downers Grove Park District. Shannon will



Ken Lerner

review what educational opportunities exist in Lyman Woods and then describe new directions in which her work is moving based on recent findings in the field.



Shannon Forsythe

Ken Lerner, Chair of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, will begin our meeting with an overview of PDHA's activities including past, current and potential future projects.

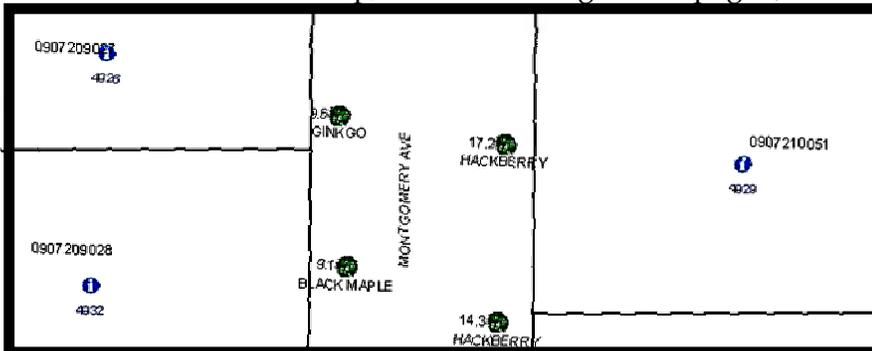
PDHA welcomes the public to hear these presentations at our 17th Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 12th, 7:00 PM in room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL. Refreshments will be served. – *By Gordon Goodman*

What Tree Is That?

Ever look at one of the parkway trees in Downers Grove and wonder what kind it is?

The Village maintains a record of our parkway trees and makes that information available through the geographical information system (GIS) interactive map on the Village website.

To use the interactive map, from the Village homepage (www.Downers.us), click on



the "Maps/GIS" link on the right-hand side. That takes you to the "Mapping and GIS" page. Click the "Interactive Maps" link. You will see a map of Downers Grove with a variety of

options under "Map Contents" on the left-hand side of this "Parcel Navigator" page. Select the "Forestry" content layer. Then you can zoom in on the map to whatever location interests you. The map shows every parcel, by address, and every parkway tree is labeled by species and size. The numbers by each tree are for chest-height diameter. You can either check the "Aerial Photo" layer to see the whole satellite picture with trees and rooftops or uncheck this option to see a simple diagram, as illustrated here. – *By Ken Lerner*

Little Sprouts: Nature Education Blooms In Downers Grove

*Please Join Us
on Our 2013
Highland Ave.
Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP
DAYS*

*April 20
June 15
August 17
October 5*

*Saturdays
8:30-10:30 AM*

*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!*

*Check us out
at*

www.PDHA.org



*"Now add some water,"
says Chef Soil-ar-dee.*

The Little Sprouts initiative was developed in 2003 by the Downers Grove Park District in partnership with Downers Grove School District 58 to provide an outdoor hands-on experience with plants and soil to complement the district's first grade science curriculum. For several years, PDHA has provided direct financial support for this program and its educational mission. Other supporters of the program include The Grove Foundation, The Education Foundation, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

During the fall 2012 field experience, first-graders rotated through four stations: Chef Soil-ar-dee, Coats and Cotyledons, the Flower Fashion Show, and Sprout Cycles. Students followed a recipe for

soil during a cooking show, dissected a seed, comparing the seed and its parts to a hiker preparing for a walk, dressed an adult as a flower for Nature's Fashion Show, and role played the life cycle of a seed. Photographs from this year's program are shown on this page.

In the Chicago region and across the country, formal initiatives have burgeoned in recent years to encourage children to spend more time outdoors (for example, see *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv) and to promote the integration of environmental education into our educational system. The Little Sprouts program supports this important movement's goal to foster a generation of children who care enough for nature to understand and protect it. The program won the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Outstanding Conservation Program Award for 2005 in recognition of achievements in environmental education and the promotion of conservation. Supporting the award-winning Little Sprouts program is one way the Downers Grove community is showing its dedication to developing the next generation of stewards.



Little Sprouts learn about Coats and Cotyledons.



Mom sprouts as a Cone Flower in our Flower Fashion Show.



Finally, the Cone Flower blooms.

During October 2012, 482 first-graders and 72 parents and teachers from Downers Grove visited Lyman Woods as part of the Little Sprouts program. Prior to their field trips, teachers prepared for their experience by attending a Little Sprouts teacher workshop, complete with instructor booklets full of pre- and post-visit lessons to use in the classroom. Then, their students learned about seeds, plants, and soil by heading to Lyman Woods for a chance to get their hands dirty! — By Chris Saricks and Shannon Forsythe

Downers Does It Right, Earning Daniel Burnham Award

The 2012 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan, presented by the American Planning Association – Illinois Chapter (APA-IL), has been won by the *Village of Downers Grove 2030 Comprehensive Plan*. The Illinois Chapter of this national organization of planning professionals annually honors planning efforts that can create communities of lasting value in the Land of Lincoln. The organization's most prestigious honor, named for the legendary planner of the City of Chicago, was presented to representatives of our village at a luncheon on September 20, 2012 during the APA-IL Annual Conference in Urbana-Champaign.

Our award winning Comprehensive Plan is the result of a two-year effort led by the Village Planning Staff in conjunction with Houseal Lavigne Associates, a premier firm of planning consultants. The process started in 2009 with the Total Community Development outreach effort, in which PDHA participated, and was further refined during 2010 by an eleven-member Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee in a series of monthly open meetings. In early 2011 the Plan Commission held a series of four meetings for public review of the completed document. Finally, in October of 2011, the Downers Grove Village Council officially adopted the new Comprehensive Plan. According to Downers Grove Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner, the community's extensive public outreach effort is one of the main attributes that caught the eye of officials of the Missouri Chapter of the APA, who judged the entries from Illinois this year.

The new Comprehensive Plan will guide future development in all areas of the village. You can view it at www.Downers.us. Among key topics addressed by the plan are land use, community facilities, parks, open space and environmental features, and transportation. Key focus areas include Downtown Downers Grove, Fairview Train Station, Butterfield Road, Ogden Avenue and the Belmont Road/Ellsworth Industrial Park. The 2011 Comprehensive Plan replaces the village's previous 1964 Comprehensive Plan. – *By Chris Saricks & Marge Earl*



Planning Manager Jeff O'Brien & Tom Dabareiner accepted the Daniel Burnham Award.

Recycling Extravaganza: Another Win For The Environment

The Village and Park District hosted another successful Recycling Extravaganza on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The event, which was first held in 2008, is designed to divert potentially hazardous or reusable goods from landfills by providing residents with a positive means to dispose of them. The list below reflects the totals for the various categories of items collected as reported by the company or non-for-profit organization that has assumed responsibility for their safe recycling or disposal.

Despite periods of heavy rain, in five hours roughly 1,400 cars dropped off:

65,533 lbs. of electronics, 10,000 lbs. of carpet and padding, 3,751 pounds of textiles and household goods, 2,500 lbs. of lead acid batteries, 50 fire extinguishers, 70 propane tanks, approximately 2,300 lbs. of household batteries, nearly 11,000 lbs. of shredded paper, 75 bicycles, 250 pairs of eyeglasses, 500 ink jet cartridges and toners, and 143 American flags.

There were over 100 community volunteers working throughout the event to ensure that cars were safely unloaded and all material was deposited at the proper location. This event would not be possible without the help of these dedicated, green-minded individuals.

– *From Village of Downers Grove press release*

Protect Your Heritage

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 17-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation recognized as a charitable group by the Internal Revenue Service. The Heritage Alliance's Board of Directors manages its activities.

The following people are current PDHA directors:

Chair Ken Lerner,
Chair Pro-Tem
Chris Saricks,
Secretary
Tim Meaney,
Treasurer
Gordon Goodman,
Jane Amorosi,
Wally Brown,
Jim Cavallo,
Greg Hosé,
John Schofield,
Dave Schulz,
Mark Thoman,
& Sonja Tieg's Ebel.

Sonja is now retiring from the board with our thanks for her service.

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Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2012 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our 2012 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 7:00 pm
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.