

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Next
Meeting
Thursday
June 27 - 7 PM
Lincoln Center
Room 307**

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Thank You!

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www.PDHA.org

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

Village Undertakes Historic Preservation Survey

Downers Grove has embarked on a historical survey to document historic homes, buildings and neighborhoods in the village. As a certified local government, Downers Grove is eligible to apply for grant funding, and has received funding from the State of Illinois to help pay for the survey. In late 2012, the Village contracted the Lakota Group of Chicago to perform a thorough assessment of properties in the village that may have historic value.

From 1971-1975 an initial effort was undertaken under the State of Illinois' Historic Architectural and Archaeology Resources Geographic Information System (HAARGIS) as part of an extensive statewide survey of potentially historic architecture. The survey identified and provided a picture and brief descriptions of 161 properties in Downers Grove, the majority of which were single-family residences.

In 2007, Village staff reviewed the HAARGIS survey and was able to identify and photograph 160 of the original 161 properties. Two examples of these are shown here.



Sterling North House



Drew House

The analysis efforts of the current survey are concentrated in the following Village areas (in approximate priority order):

1. Denburn Woods (more modern construction, but architecturally significant)
2. Shady Lane Estates (nearly untouched early post-World War II suburban development.)
3. Honorary Maple Avenue Historic District (first residential neighborhood of Downers Grove)
4. Honorary E. H. Prince Subdivision District (with Prince Pond and the "brick streets" area)
5. Honorary Main Street Historic District (generally, the downtown area)
6. Previously identified homes that may be Sears Homes.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance has been asked to assist with researching properties for this project and have dedicated themselves to the task. PDHA members have already spent considerable time researching microfiche and entering data for Denburn Woods and Shady Lane Estates and look forward to dedicating more time to this worthy cause.

If you have a home that you feel has historic value to the village and would like to contribute data to include in the survey, please contact the Community Development Department or SPopovich@Downers.US

– By Marge Earl & Chris Saricks



*PDHA Director Marge Earl &
Village Planner Stan Popovich
researching historic properties*

Protect Your Heritage

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 18-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 Jim Cavallo,
Treasurer Gordon Goodman,

Jane Amorosi,
Wally Brown,
Marge Earl,
Greg Hosé,
John Schofield,
Dave Schulz,
& Mark Thoman.

Welcome to new Director Marge Earl, and our grateful thanks to retired Directors Tim Meaney and Sonja Tieg.

Newsletter
Editing by G. Goodman
Photos by M. Earl,
G. Goodman,
K. Lerner
& S. Forsythe

PDHA Supports Bee Yard at Lyman Woods

“On the afternoon of Saturday, July 28th, we visited the home and apiary of Bro. Walter C. Lyman of Downer's Grove, Ills. 20 miles southwest of the city on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad . . . our object was to see Mr. Lyman's bees, and to study the methods he uses.”

So reads, in part, an article in the August 6, 1894 edition of American Bee Journal.

Walter C. Lyman was a champion beekeeper, who kept bees on his property, a portion of which is now Lyman Woods. He published articles in the American Bee Journal, and exhibited beekeeping techniques at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892. Now beekeeping is returning to Lyman Woods as an environmental education program.

After studying alternatives to expand our support of programs at Lyman Woods, PDHA settled on the beekeeping program as offering a combination of historical relevance, environmental lessons, and an opportunity for involvement of different age groups. A one-time donation from PDHA leveraged additional funding from the Downers Grove Park District to buy five beehives, bees, tools, and protective gear for program participants. Lyman Woods staff and volunteers are doing the rest. Marge Trocki, Interpretive Naturalist at Lyman Woods, lends her expertise as an experienced beekeeper and a Director of the Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association and Secretary of the Will County Beekeepers Association.



Photo features, left to right, volunteer Usman Ahmed and Natural Resources Manager Shannon Forsythe with volunteers Sharon Roeseler and Scott D. Howard



A colony of bees was added to each new hive.

In April, volunteers installed the hives and the bees were introduced (see photos). If all goes well, the bees will be established and honey will be available for harvest in the fall.

Interest by visitors has been strong. The Interpretive Center already has an observation hive sandwiched between layers of glass, allowing viewers to see the honeycombs and the bees at work. According to Shannon Forsythe, Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services, the observation hive has been one of the more popular exhibits at the Center. And she began getting inquiries about the new beekeeping project even before any hives were set up or programs scheduled.

At PDHA's request, Ms. Forsythe consulted local expert Dr. Lawrence DuBose about the potential impact of the hives on native bees. He reassured her (and us) that five hives would not significantly interfere with our local native pollinators.

By Ken Lerner

Arbor Day 2013

Two classes of first graders from Whittier School participated in this year's Arbor Day celebration, helping plant two Bald Cypress Trees in Hummer Park. (One donated by PDHA.) Also there were Mark Roman and Bob Gelwicks of the Park District board, Executive Director Bill McAdam, and PDHA representatives Gordon Goodman, Marge Earl and Mark Thoman.



These first graders are graduates of the last fall's Little Sprouts Program at Lyman Woods, which PDHA supports with an annual contribution. On April 26th those kids came full circle in the program by planting a tree and taking home a sapling of their own to plant. The kids voted to name one of the trees, "Dominator." Here's hoping it lives up to its name! – *By Marge Earl.*

Students voted to name a Bald Cypress Tree "Dominator."

Lyman Woods Holds Back Stormwater



The amount of water retained by Lyman Woods in this spring's mid-April flood is conservatively estimated to be approximately 137 acre-feet of water, which is equivalent to over 44 million gallons of stormwater. The flooding of Highland Avenue and downstream areas would have been noticeably worse without the natural ability of the Lyman Woods Preserve to retain and absorb stormwater.

– *By Mark Thoman*

Little Sprouts graduates learned on Arbor Day how to plant and care for their own saplings.

efforts of our tireless volunteers, PDHA is able to support environmental education programs like the Little Sprouts program for first graders, and provide seed money for exciting new programs like the Lyman Woods Bee Yard Project. Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue our efforts to preserve Downers Grove's unique cultural and natural resources, and will be most sincerely appreciated. Thank you, *Ken Lerner, Chair.*

Thank you!

Thanks to your generous donations, along with the

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

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!

Newsletter Design by MARDAIR DESIGN STUDIO

www.mardair.com (630) 852-2339

Check us out at www.PDHA.org

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Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2013 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next 2013 Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 7:00 pm
Room 307, 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.