

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Annual
Meeting Thursday
October 23 - 7 PM
Recreation Center
Room L 10
4500 Belmont RD.**

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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**

email us at

Info@PDHA.org

2014 Annual Meeting

Researching The History Of Your Home & Project Quercus



*Sarah
Stasukewicz*

Our 2014 Annual Meeting features two speakers: Sarah Stasukewicz, Downers Grove Museum Curator, and Lisa Haderlein, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County. The public is invited to hear their presentations Thursday, October 23, 7:00 PM in the **Multipurpose Room L 10, Recreation Center, 4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove**. Refreshments will be served.



Lisa Haderlein

Sarah Stasukewicz will tell us about the Downers Grove Museum and how to research the history of your home. She graduated from North Central College and earned her Masters in History from DePaul. Sarah worked for 3 years at the Naper Settlement.

Lisa Haderlein will tell us about Project Quercus, a diverse coalition that brings together public and private, government, corporate and non-profit interests, working collaboratively to create solutions to the problem of oak woodland loss. Lisa has been the Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County since 2002. Prior to working at the Land Conservancy, she was the Northern Illinois Area Director for the Nature Conservancy. She has a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont.

Update About Lyman Woods Bee Yard Project

Park District Interpretive Naturalist Marge Trocki recently provided us the following update about beekeeping in Lyman this year:



*Build-a-hive
workshop*

“We just finished our fall harvest, bringing the total of honey harvested this year to about 460 pounds. Our honey seems quite popular with the local residents, as it is selling fast. We had a full house with nine families attending the Honey Harvest class on the last weekend in September.

“Having an apiary here has proved to be very worthwhile. Our first 6 week Beginner Beekeeping Course that we ran this past winter was full and most participants went on to successfully begin colonies of their own. The Junior Beekeeping Camp that took place in July was a big hit. We have also been able to take a few of our bees on the road with our portable observation hive. We did a beekeeping outreach for all the Downers Grove preschool classes last spring.



*Junior beekeeping
campers*

“We are looking forward to offering these popular beekeeping programs again next year, along with another honey harvest next July. Thanks again for your support in our beekeeping endeavors here at Lyman Woods!”

**Protect
Your
Heritage**

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 19-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation with charitable group status with the Internal Revenue Service. PDHA's Board of Directors manages its activities.

The following people are PDHA Officers:

- Chair Ken Lerner,
- Chair Pro-Tem Chris Saricks,
- Secretary Jim Cavallo,
- Treasurer Gordon Goodman,

& PDHA Directors:

- Wally Brown,
- Sue Carroll,
- Marge Earl,
- Irene Hogstrom,
- Greg Hosé,
- John Schofield,
- & Mark Thoman.

**Newsletter
Editing by
G. Goodman**

Success in Removing Japanese Knotweed

One of the most invasive plant species in the world is on the run in Downers Grove! Efforts made by the Downers Grove Park District, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and the Village of Downers Grove to eradicate Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) this summer have been successful. Sixteen privately owned properties on Gilbert Avenue, Jacqueline Drive, Lee Avenue, Curtiss Street, and Turvey Road participated in a program to eradicate Japanese knotweed. The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership, based out of the Chicago Botanic Garden, provided grant money for Integrated Lakes Management (ILM) to apply herbicide on private properties, resulting in no cost to homeowners for removal. Two applications of aquatic approved glyphosate were completed in June and July by ILM crews.

Japanese knotweed is growing along St. Joseph Creek and its tributaries along Gilbert Avenue, in Denburn Woods, and in Maple Grove. If you have

Japanese knotweed in your backyard, waiver forms are provided on our website, www.PDHA.org, to help in this endeavor, along with Fact Sheets describing Japanese knotweed, and another invasive plant, Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Funding is limited and was exhausted this year. Any new waivers will be added to a waiting list for next year.



Japanese knotweed prior to application



Japanese knotweed after two applications of herbicide



Goat's beard (Aruncus dioicus) as a native alternative

Thank you to those homeowners who participated in the program. Initial efforts were a success, both in participation and in starting to eradicate Japanese knotweed!



Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) as a native alternative

Suggested native plants to replace Japanese knotweed's rapid, tall growth with plumes of white flowers include Goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Red Stemmed Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), and Giant Fleecflower (*Persicaria polymorpha*). Other native plant suggestions are Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*), Wild Golden Glow (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*). – By Irene Hogstrom

Edwards House & Proposed Maple Avenue Historic District

An icon along Maple Avenue is in danger of falling to redevelopment. The Edwards House at 942 Maple has graced the street since the 1890's. It was built by Downers Grove banker W.H. Edwards and reportedly was the first home in town to have running water. More recently it was converted to office space and housed the offices of Illinois



*The W. H. Edwards House,
942 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL*

Senator Kirk Dillard and local attorney Theresa Kulat, among others. Well kept, with elaborate woodwork and stained-glass windows inside, few houses in town are such recognizable examples of the Victorian era.



Edwards House window detail

After falling into foreclosure, the Edwards House was listed along with the adjacent house at 936 Maple as a “prime development parcel,” and has tentatively been sold to a developer who plans to build a 56-unit condominium development there. Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance has been working with the Downers Grove Historical Society, Landmarks Illinois, and a dedicated group of local residents led by Tom Nybo to explore ways to preserve the Edwards House and the historic character of Maple Avenue. The community has expressed strong support, including comments from numerous residents at Village Council meetings and extensive discussion (and hundreds of likes) on a Facebook page created for the purpose, “Help Save 942 Maple in Downers Grove.”

Currently it appears that the best chance for preserving the Edwards House, and certainly the best way to preserve the historic character of Maple Avenue generally, is to form a historic district. The Downers Grove historic preservation ordinance has provided a mechanism for forming historic districts in areas of concentrated historical interest since 2007 – but so far no one has taken advantage of it. A group of volunteers has been working to put together an application for Maple Ave., going door to door to distribute information and talk with homeowners about what a historic district would mean. Well attended community meetings were held at Lincoln Center on September 30th and October 8th to provide information and answer questions for residents of the potential district.

To form a district, a majority of owners in the proposed area must consent. Once formed, a district would provide protections against teardowns. But it does not freeze improvements: projects such as additions that affect the exterior appearance of a house must be compatible with its existing character, and may even be eligible for a tax break.

Information about the proposed historic district and efforts to save the Edwards house can be found at the PDHA website, www.PDHA.org including links to the Facebook page and news articles in the Suburban Life and Chicago Tribune. – By *Ken Lerner*

*Please Join Us on
Our 2015
Highland Ave.
Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 18
June 13
August 15
October 3*

*Saturdays
8:30-10:30 AM*

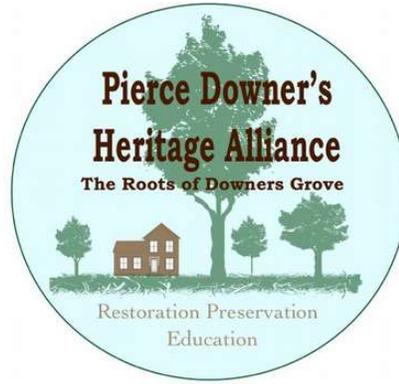
*Check our
website for
updates
and to sign up
to participate!*

*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*

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



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2014 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our 2014 Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 7:00 pm
Room L 10, Recreation Center, 4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove.
Check our website www.PDHA.org for more details
or send questions to Info@PDHA.org.

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 ____?)

_____/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.

We can now accept donations via Paypal. Please visit our website for details.