

Summer 2014 Newsletter

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Next
Meeting Thursday
June 26 - 7 PM
Lincoln Center
Room 307**

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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

Beavers Return to Lyman Woods



Beaver Lodge in Retention Pond

The beavers have raised the water level in the wetlands area, creating habitat for waterfowl such as ducks and herons. According to Manager of Natural Resources and Interpretive Services Shannon Forsythe, the beaver activity is being closely watched and measures have been taken to manage their impact on the area. To reduce flooding on the



More Open Water Due To Beaver Dam

adjacent Midwest University property, the Park District has tried various tactics to reduce water levels, such as notching the beaver dams and putting a drainpipe under the dam to allow water to pass through. However, the beavers quickly repair the notched dams and the drainpipe became plugged, either through natural silting or perhaps due to the beavers' defenses. It is an ongoing management issue to maintain the water levels within a reasonable range.

The beavers' appetite for trees is also being closely monitored. So far, Ms. Forsythe says, the beavers have been concentrating their attention on nearby water-loving trees such as cottonwood and box elder, and the pond has had the beneficial effect of flooding out some of the invasive buckthorn. However, if damage is found to the park's heritage oak trees, measures might be required to protect them, perhaps with wire cages.

Beavers have come and gone over the history of Lyman Woods. For the time being they are adding a natural element and an opportunity to observe their effects on the landscape. – *By Ken Lerner*

Beavers are living in Lyman Woods for the first time in years. They have been busy doing what beavers do, building dams and lodges. There is a lodge and dam in the park's wetlands area, and another lodge located in a retention pond on the adjacent Good Samaritan Wellness Center grounds.



Beaver Dam in Lyman Woods Preserve

Help Us Save Trees!

To receive your newsletter in glorious color, send us your email address for electronic distribution. Please send us your email address to Info@PDHA.org.

**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.

Our grateful thanks to retired Directors Jane Amorosi and Dave Schulz. Welcome to new Directors Sue Carroll and Irene Hogstrom.

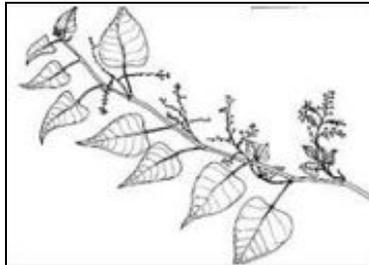
Newsletter

Editing by G. Goodman

Photos by G. Goodman, K. Lerner, & D. Maurer

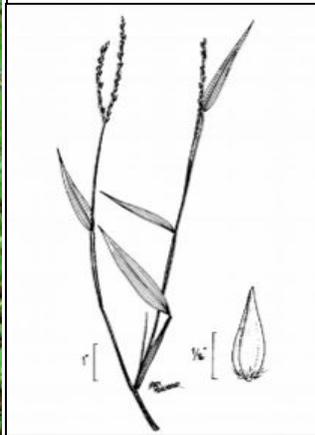
Efforts to Remove Invasive Plant Species in Village

Growing along St. Joseph's Creek, through Denburn Woods, and into Maple Grove is a plant that grows about 10 feet tall that many residents refer to as "bamboo." It is not bamboo, but *Fallopia japonica*, commonly known as Japanese knotweed. It is one of the most invasive plant species in the world. In England, homeowners with Japanese knotweed in their yards are unable to sell their properties. The rumor is that it came to Downers Grove when architect Frank Lloyd Wright brought a cutting from Japan to a friend in Denburn Woods.



Japanese knotweed

The Downers Grove Park District, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and Village of Downers Grove are all working together to eradicate Japanese knotweed and another invasive species, Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*).



Japanese stiltgrass

They will not be successful unless we also eradicate it from our backyards. The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership, based out of the Chicago Botanic Garden, has grant money available to cover the costs to homeowners to remove Japanese knotweed and Japanese stiltgrass on their properties.

Waiver forms are provided on our website, **PDHA.org**, to help in this endeavor, along with Fact Sheets describing these two plants. One waiver is for permission for a contractor to identify the Japanese knotweed and Japanese stiltgrass on your property. The other waiver is for permission for a contractor to control and

remove the plants. For Japanese knotweed, they will use an injection system to apply glyphosate herbicide into the stems. (Similar to Roundup and safe to use in aquatic environments.)

If you have any questions about this project, and to send in your signed waivers, please contact:

Cathy McGlynn, Ph.D., Coordinator, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership
% Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022

E: cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net, O: 847-242-6423, F: 847-835-6975, <http://www.niipp.net>

For them to have success in Maple Grove and prevent the spread of Japanese knotweed and Japanese stiltgrass, we need to address the problem upstream, which is in many of our backyards. Please do pass this information to those who have these plants in their backyards. – *By Irene Hogstrom*

Arbor Day 2014

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance cooperated again this year with the Downers Grove Park District to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 25, 2014. As part of its Arbor Day 2014 celebration the Park District made 300 oak seedlings available to Downers Grove residents on a first come first served basis. In addition, a tree planting demonstration by Park District Forester Mike Stelter was held at Randall Park for first & second grade children from Whittier Elementary School.



Mike Stelter shows how to care for trees.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance made a donation to the Park District to allow two trees to be planted in Randall Park instead of one. The trees planted were a tulip tree and a bitternut hickory. Tulip trees or



Tulip Tree Leaves & Blossom

Liriodendron are native to Eastern North America, feature large flowers in spring, and can grow well over 100 feet tall. Bitternut Hickories (*Carya cordiformis*) are also native to our area. They are closely related to pecans, and although the nuts are not considered edible by humans, they are popular with wildlife. – By Ken Lerner

May 3rd Wildflower Walks

On Saturday, May 3rd PDHA held two wildflower walks at Lyman Woods. Led by local naturalist Lance Hering, the 1½ hour walks focused on spring wildflowers and reproductive strategies of woodland plants. On what turned out to be a beautiful spring day, the trees were only partly leafed out but the forest floor was carpet of green with trillium, trout lilies, Virginia bluebells, bloodroot, hepatica, toothwort, and jack-in-the-pulpit among the plants identified along the way. With



Lance Hering explains about native trees.



Hepatica Blossoms

20 walkers overall, the Wildflower Walks were a great experience for those involved and helped raise funds for future PDHA activities. Our sincerest thanks go out to Lance who demonstrated his usual boundless energy, persevering despite bruised ribs. Thanks also to Gordon Goodman, Marge Earl, Irene Hogstrom, Chris Saricks, Sue Carroll, and Cathy Hlohowskyj, who helped with planning, arrangements and refreshments. Discussions are underway about a future walk highlighting the Belmont Prairie. – By Ken Lerner

Please Join Us on
Our Remaining
2014
Highland Ave.
Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS

August 16
October 4

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?

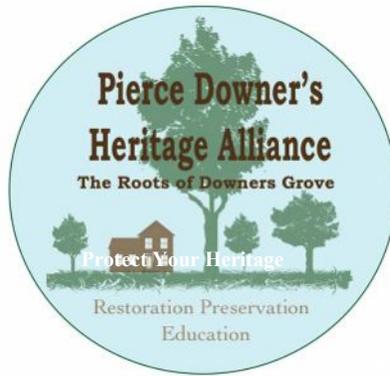
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Check us out at
www.PDHA.org

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Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Summer 2014 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next 2014 Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 7:00 pm
Room 307, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., 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 ____?)

____ I/We can also volunteer some time.

A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION of \$10 or more will help the Heritage 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.