

### Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA  
Next Meeting  
Thursday,  
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM  
Lincoln Center  
Room 102**

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**Pierce Downer's  
Heritage Alliance**

**P.O. Box 422  
Downers Grove,  
Illinois 60515**

## Wilderness & Wildflower Walks, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Volunteer Naturalist Lance Hering will guide two Wilderness & Wildflower Walks in Lyman Woods. The walks will begin and end at the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, 901 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Downers Grove, IL (just east of Highland Avenue).

There will be two walking groups, one starting at 9:30 AM, and the second group at 1:00 PM. Each walk will last about 1¾ hours.

The date was moved up a week this year in view of our mild winter and warm spring, a reminder that each year there is something different in the woods. Walkers are asked to be prepared for the weather of the day, and for wet ground along the paths.



*Lance explaining wilderness lore in May 2015.*



*Sharp-Lobed Hepatica  
Hepatica acutiloba*

Each group will be limited to about 12 participants. In order to take part in this special exploration of Lyman Woods, participants need to register in advance and are asked to make a \$25 donation to support the educational activities of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance (children under 13 free).

To reserve a spot, visit the PDHA website, [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org), and click on the link to the [registration page](#). The registration page will ask for the number of walkers in your party and an email address. A few days before the walk, you'll receive an email reminder. You can pay with a credit card using Paypal, or mail a check to: Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, PO Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515

– By Ken Lerner

## Urban Forestry

Again in 2016, PDHA will be assisting the Downers Grove Public Works Department to identify locations suitable for new and replacement parkway trees. The Village has fully funded the 2016 tree-planting program, enabling up to 650 trees to be planted. Although full replacement of green ash trees lost to the emerald ash borer will not be possible for several years, the net loss of trees is much more modest thanks to the village's vigorous planting program.

PDHA will also be assisting in the community tree sale scheduled as part of the Public Works Department open house in May. Our participation will be in the form of publicizing the event and, as needed, contributing distribution workers. – By Chris Saricks



*Two parkway trees  
planted in 2014*

**Protect  
Your  
Heritage**

**PDHA Directors**

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 21-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation with charitable group status from 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  
Mark Bragen,

Treasurer  
Gordon Goodman,

& PDHA Directors:

Wally Brown,  
Sue Carroll,  
Jim Cavallo,  
Marge Earl,

Irene Hogstrom,  
Rich Kulovany,  
John Schofield,  
& Mark Thoman.

Welcome to  
new Director  
Rich Kulovany.

Newsletter

Editing by  
G. Goodman

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Kate Earl

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A. Gassen, G. Goodman,  
R. Kulovany, C. Saricks  
& M. Thoman

**Historic Preservation in Downers Grove**

The updated historic preservation ordinance that the Downers Grove Village Council unanimously adopted on December 15, 2015 is off to a good start. The first application under this greatly simplified ordinance was submitted by Amy and David Gassen for their 92-year old American Foursquare, Prairie Style home, located at 5320 Benton. Their landmark application first won approval by the Architectural Design Review Board (ADRB) at its meeting in February. The Gassens were then very pleased when the Downers Grove Village Council formally approved their landmark status by unanimous vote on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*5320 Benton Avenue,  
American Foursquare, Prairie Style Home*

Amy Gassen, who is also a member of the Friends of the Edwards House historic preservation group, explained that the process was very simple and straightforward. She said they really enjoyed it. When asked why they landmarked their home Amy stated, "It's true that we wanted to protect our home, but a larger reason is to do our part to protect the history and character of our neighborhood and of Downers Grove."



*David & Amy Gassen with Mayor Martin Tully*

Downers Grove Mayor Martin Tully presented the Gassens with their certificate of landmark status and expressed his sincere gratitude for their bringing this before the Council. Mayor Tully went on to say, "We have had for some time a strategic goal of being good stewards of economic, environmental and neighborhood sustainability within Downers Grove and a big part of that, as

discussed in last week's Annual Report and State of the Village Address, is preserving the rich history and heritage of our community in a way that protects private property rights."

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Historic Preservation (continued)

Following closely behind the Gassens are two other Downers Grove families who have submitted historic landmark applications to the Village, PDHA's Mark Bragen and Irene Hogstrom as well as Bo and Christine Martin. Mark and Irene's home is an 1891 era Folk Victorian house located at 1231 Gilbert Ave, while the Martin's home is a Queen Anne Style residence built in 1895 and is located at 701 Maple Avenue. Due to their interest in preserving historic homes, both families looked into landmarking under the old ordinance, but found the process cumbersome and confusing. Like the Gassens, both couples commented that applying for landmark status is now really easy. Their applications are to be reviewed on April 20<sup>th</sup> by the ADRB, meeting at 7:00 PM in Village Hall.



1231 Gilbert Avenue,  
Folk Victorian Style

In addition to a greatly simplified application process, under the new streamlined historic preservation ordinance only exterior changes or modifications that require a building permit *and* are visible from the front facing street are required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness from the ADRB. Owners of landmarked homes are generally free to add on to the rear of their homes and make any changes they like to the interior without obtaining Village approval. Painting, pressure-washing, landscaping, and other projects that do not require a village permit may be carried out without ADRB review.



701 Maple Avenue,  
Queen Ann Style

The new ordinance offers an innovative opportunity to create voluntary, non-contiguous thematic districts. This feature permits property owners of like style homes such as Foursquares, Victorians or kit homes like Sears to form a historic district even though their homes may be located throughout Downers Grove. Amy & David have expressed their intention to contact other Foursquare owners about forming a thematic historic district made up of Foursquare Style homes.

We congratulate Amy & David on approval of historic landmark status for their home and look

forward to quick approval of landmark status for the Bragen/Hogstrom home, the Martin home and many other fine historic homes to follow. – *By Rich Kulovany*

Please Join Us on  
Our 2016  
Highland Ave.  
Adopt-A-Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS

April 16  
June 11  
August 20  
October 1

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](http://www.PDHA.org)

**Protect  
Your  
Heritage**

Visit us  
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world wide web  
at  
[www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org)

To receive your  
**Newsletter**  
in full color!  
Send your  
e-mail address  
to us at  
[info@pdha.org](mailto:info@pdha.org)

National Arbor Day  
is April 29, 2016.  
Let's get together  
to celebrate the  
importance of trees!  
You will find a  
wealth of information  
at  
[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)  
and at  
[www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org)

## Founders Day Activities

This year a full program of Founders Day events celebrating the history and heritage of Downers Grove spans two weekends.

Activities on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, include PDHA's [Wilderness and Wildflower Walks](#) in Lyman Woods, described in detail on the first page of this newsletter. In addition, at 11:00 AM, the 40th Annual Pine Hollow Open Golf Tournament, tees off at the Downers Grove Golf Club, 2420 Haddow Avenue.

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> [Windy City Walkers](#) lead 5K and 10K walks through historic sites, including one of the largest concentrations of Sears Catalog Homes, the Historical Museum, a stop on the Underground Railroad and more. Walkers start out at 9:00 AM from Fischel Park, 1036 Grove Street. At 10:00 AM that morning, a [Family Bike Ride](#) sponsored by Downers Grove Bicycle Club also starts from Fishel Park.

Activities on May 7<sup>th</sup> continue with "[Country In The Park](#)," sponsored by The Grove Foundation and the Downers Grove Museum, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Wandschneider Park, 831 Maple Avenue. "Country in the Park" gives families a chance to visit with farm animals, view historic crafts like blacksmithing, candle and butter making, and wool-spinning demonstrations. They also learn how to play 1850-era games and enjoy a cool glass of lemonade.



*Visit with farm animals and celebrate the rural heritage of Downers Grove!*

At 2:00 PM the Downers Grove Public Library, in cooperation with the Historical Society, hosts presentations about . Historical Society Director Liz Chalberg is to announce the Society's [Historic Home Recognition and Landmarking Your Home](#) partnership with the Museum on the Historic Home Plaque Program and introduce Museum Curator Sarah Konzen and Community Development Director Stan Popovich. Sarah demonstrates how you can research the history of your home, while Stan explains recent revisions to the Village's historic preservation ordinance.



*Centennial Home Plaque presented by the Downers Grove Historical Society on Founders Day 2014*

More information about Founders Day 2016 can be found on the Downers Grove Historical Society's [Founders Day Poster](#) & [Facebook page](#).

– By Sue Carroll and Gordon Goodman

## Why Beekeeping?

*By Marge Trocki, Interpretive Naturalist and Beekeeper at Lyman Woods*

I am often asked why I would take up a hobby that entails working in the midst of thousands of buzzing bees, with the bulk of the work being done in the heat of the



*Marge inspecting hives in the Lyman Woods bee-yard*

summer. If I had to sum it up in one word it would be that it is fascinating! A few years back I took a beginning beekeeping class to see what it was all about. Before I knew it I was ordering bees and building my own hive, thinking it would be great to have one in my backyard and to harvest honey for myself, family and friends. Unless you are a beekeeper you may not understand the beekeeping fever many of us are prone to, but, by the end of my third season I had three dozen active hives!

There are many reasons that beekeeping can be such a fascinating hobby. It seems the more I learn about honeybees and how they function as social insects, the more intrigued I am with these small but very

important insects. It is amazing that they are responsible for pollinating about one-third of our food that sustains us. For that reason alone, I promote beekeeping, especially with the recent decline of honeybees and the challenges they face in this day and age. Of course, they also provide us with a most delicious product – honey!

Beekeeping is not a cut and dried hobby. There are many variables to contend with and many different methods of management to choose from. It is these challenges that drive me to put all the time and energy that I do into keeping bees. Then, of course, there's that zone you enter in the bee yard – that feeling of peace and contentment in the midst of busy bees flying around and crawling all over you!

With all this said, I feel very fortunate that beekeeping is now part of my regular duties as Naturalist here at Lyman Woods. Since we started the apiary with support from Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance in Spring 2013, I have had the pleasure of teaching the **Junior Beekeepers Camp** and other activities. Now I look forward to our **Hands-On Mentoring** program April 23<sup>rd</sup> and then our **Honey Harvest** on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. If this bee talk has sparked your interest, “bee” on the look-out for other fun bee-related programs offered by the Downers Grove Park District at the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center.

*Adapted by Gordon Goodman with the author's permission from*

[Lyman Woods: Discover the wonders of nature!](#) September 18, 2013

### Bee's Winter Survival

Only one hive in the Lyman Woods bee-yard survived the extremely harsh 2014/15 Winter. This mild 2015/16 Winter only one hive failed to survive!

### Honey Sales

Lyman Woods Honey is available only at the Interpretive Center in Lyman Woods. It may be purchased on a first come, first served basis, during regular interpretive center hours after the 2016 honey harvest in late July.

### Beekeeping:

**Hands-On Mentoring**  
– 4.23.16

**Honey Harvest**  
– 7.23.16

Get buzzing and discover the amazing world of honeybees! Take a hike to the Lyman Woods bee hives with the beekeeper to learn all about bees, including their life cycle, their colonies, and how they make honey. See firsthand how honey is extracted and taste some wild Lyman Woods honey!

[Register Online](#)  
at [www.DGParks.org](http://www.DGParks.org)  
or call 630-963-9388

*Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance*

**P.O. Box 422**

**Downers Grove, Illinois 60515**



Pierce Downer  
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2016 Newsletter

**You are invited to join us at our next 2016 Meeting**

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

**Room 102, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.**

**Check our website [www.PDHA.org](http://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.

Send your e-mail address to [Info@PDHA.org](mailto:Info@PDHA.org)

To receive the **full color digital version of this Newsletter** by e-mail!