

Protect Your Heritage

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

— Chief Seattle

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:

*Village Resumes Planting
Parkway Trees*

*Mulching A New
(Or Old) Tree*

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

*What Are All These
Burs on My Pants?*

Page 3:

Native Plant Sale

*2021
Highland Avenue
Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*Apps for Easy
Plant Identification*

Village Resumes Planting Parkway Trees

The Village is now proceeding with its fall parkway tree planting. As explained by Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Downers Grove did not plant parkway trees in spring 2020 due to economic impacts of the pandemic.

Village Forester Kerstin von der Heide scheduled fall parkway tree planting to begin Wednesday, October 7. Because several nursery suppliers are being used, planting is to take place in 2 phases, with the second phase occurring in early November. All plantings should be completed by November 16, weather permitting. A total of 302 trees are to be planted representing 29 different species, including 7 different oak species. Of the 302 trees, 31 are new tree plantings where there was no tree before, and the remaining 271 trees are replacements for parkway trees removed due to emerald ash borer infestations, disease, decline, or storm damage. Also, the Village will be honoring 166 specific tree species requests from adjacent homeowners, thereby improving resident satisfaction and the likelihood of long-term parkway tree survival.

Staff is currently working on the FY21 budget, including the budget for parkway trees. The proposed budget is to be published on Friday, October 23. The hope is to plant extra parkway trees in 2021 to make up for the spring tree planting that was missed in 2020. - Ken Lerner

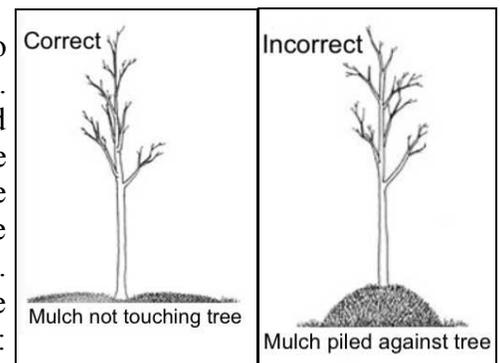
Mulching A New (Or Old) Tree

Applying mulch around the base of a tree offers many advantages – a layer of mulch helps to conserve soil moisture (i.e., less watering needed) and helps even out soil temperatures to create less freezing and thawing. As it breaks down, mulch adds organic matter to the soil and slowly releases nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous. By replacing grass, it also helps reduce competition for water and nutrients, allowing more of those to reach the tree's roots. In addition, it makes it easier to mow around the tree trunk.

Bagged mulch consisting of shredded wood and bark makes a good organic mulch. Free mulch is available in bulk from the Village Public Works Department. The pickup area for wood chips (as well as composted sludge from sewage treatment, for fertilizer) is on the north side of Curtiss Street at the intersection with Katrine Avenue. Hours are dawn to dusk Mon-Fri, and 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Bring a bag, bin, trash can or other container and grab as much as you need. Shredded leaves and grass clippings can be mixed into your mulch to increase organic matter and nutrient content.

Placement of the mulch is an important process to maximize benefits and avoid possible harm to the tree. Mulch should usually be about 3 to 4 inches deep and extend out a couple feet from the base of the tree. The rule is “donut not volcano” – in other words, don't pile up the mulch against the tree, which could encourage decay and pests at the tree's base (see illustration). More information about mulching can be found on the the following Morton Arboretum webpage: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/mulching-trees-and-shrubs>.

The Village tree maintenance program is described at <http://www.downers.us/res/forestry/tree-maintenance> along with information about the availability of wood chips.- Ken Lerner



**Protect
Your
Heritage**

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 24-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,
- and

PDHA Directors:

- Marge Earl,
- Irene Hogstrom,
- Rich Kulovany,
- John Schofield,
- & Mark Thoman

Newsletter

Editing by G. Goodman

Logo designed by Kate Earl

Photos by Irene Hogstrom, Ken Lerner & Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

What Are All These Burs on My Pants?



The two-prong achene (fruit) of Common Beggar Ticks (Bidens frondosa)

It is that time of year, when an easy stroll in the woods ends up with irritating burs clinging to your pants, socks, or furry best friend. How did this happen? Where did I get these?

Many plants have dispersal mechanisms so that their seeds can be spread by animals. Their fruits containing the seeds have special hooks or



Mattie got into some Stickseed, a biennial plant that can be cut down or pulled out in its second year when it starts to flower.

bristles that cling to fur, or for humans, their clothing. There are many culprits, but the four main plants in this area are *Bidens frondosa* (Common Beggar Ticks), *Hackelia virginiana* (Stickseed), *Circaea lutetiana canadensis* (Enchanter's Nightshade), and *Arctium minus* (Common Burdock). With the exception of Common Burdock, these plants are relatively inconspicuous and native to our woodlands, with *Bidens* species preferring moist locations.



Tommy, a new family addition from West Suburban Humane Society, was able to shake off his Enchanter's Nightshade burs.

Stickseed has a small round nutlet with bristles. Nightshade also

develops a small fruit with hooked hairs. Stickseed in particular lives up to its common name and, for me personally, has ruined many pairs of gardening gloves. *Bidens*, Latin for "two rows of teeth," contains flat fruits with two prongs that easily cling to passersby. Burdock, a large-leaved, biennial plant from Eurasia resembling rhubarb, contains fruits (commonly known as burs) with hooked hairs. Since Burdock is a biennial, it can be controlled by cutting it down to the base in the second year, after it develops the spike with purple, bur-like flowers.



Common Burdock (Arctium minus)

A Swiss engineer, noticing how the burs stuck to his clothes and

dog, used this as inspiration to develop Velcro in the 1950s.

For autumn hikes, it is best to stick with wearing denim, and avoid fleece or knits, unless it is a garment you don't mind discarding in frustration! - Irene Hogstrom

Sources: Wikipedia, www.illinoiswildflowers.info, and [Flora of the Chicago Region](#), by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha.

Native Plant Sale

The Downers Grove Park District is partnering this year with Possibility Place for their first native plant sale. To order from the selection of trees, shrubs and vines on offer please visit <https://www.possibilityplace.com/order-online/gallons>. Orders are being accepted until the end of business on Tuesday, October 27 for delivery at Hummer Park on Saturday, October 31. Possibility Place is generously donating 10% of every purchase to help the Park District buy native plants for its landscape projects.

Apps for Easy Plant Identification

There are a number of phone apps to help with identifying plants in the field. Two that I have used are *Pl@ntNet.app* and *PictureThis.app*. For either of them, you open the app and snap a photo of the plant, which the app then compares to its database of photos to suggest an identification. Potential IDs are presented with the formal name, common name, and photos that you can compare to the plant in front of you to check if it looks the same.



White Snakeroot (Ageratina altissima)

particular feature you would like to focus on for the identification – flower, leaf, bark, fruit, etc. and then presents potential IDs for your confirmation. You can also follow links to further information and descriptions of the plant.

PictureThis.app requires a \$30/year subscription. It gives you a short free trial (few days) and then kicks in automatically unless/until you cancel. Its function is similar in the sense that you snap a photo and the program provides you an identification, with the name and photos of the plant, and further descriptions and information that is easily accessed by scrolling down.

In my experience both apps work fine and they have been in agreement on their IDs when I tested that. I find *PictureThis's* convenience and simple presentation preferable, but it's a matter of taste. Both apps worked fine on my ancient (model 5) iPhone. Quick descriptions of these and several other plant-identification apps may be found at <https://youhadmeatgardening.com/best-plant-identification-app/>. - Ken Lerner

Pl@ntNet.app is free and is a kind of citizen-science project, developed and supported by the Agropolis Foundation. They ask you to help by contributing your photos and confirming the app's suggested identifications to add to their database. After taking your photo, the app asks what



Joe-Pye Weed (Eutrochium purpureum)

**Please Join Us
On Our 2021
Highland Ave.
Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS**

**April 17
June 12
August 14
October 2**

**Saturday
8:30-10:30 AM**

**Visit our
website 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!*

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

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Page 1:

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Page 2:

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Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2020 Newsletter

**“We do not inherit the earth
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— Chief Seattle

Check our website www.PDHA.org for more information.

**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.

[Email us at info@pdha.org](mailto:info@pdha.org) to receive your PDHA Newsletter in its full color digital version with live action links to additional online information!