

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:

Summer Wildflower Walk

Precious Grove Talk

**Bringing Environmental
& Historic Preservation
Issues to the Forefront
in Local Elections**

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

**Downers Grove Adopts
Greenest Region
Compact**

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Page 3:

**Wonder Woods Brings
First Graders A Day of
Outdoor Learning**

**2023 Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS**

**Save A Tree —
Subscribe Electronically!**

Summer Wildflower Walk

PDHA is sponsoring a Wilderness & Wildflower Walk at Belmont Prairie Tuesday June 27 at 9:00 AM with an overflow date of June 28. Intrepid guide Lance Hering will introduce high summer plant communities on a guided tour of this outstanding dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve.

Please sign up for the Summer Wildflower Walk at www.pdha.org. There is no charge for the Walk but [donations are always welcome](#). The group is limited to 10 walkers. All ages are welcome, but please bear in mind the walk is about 1 hour and will cover a mile or so.

The group is to meet at the Nature Preserve parking area 4822 Cross Street in Downers Grove at 8:45 for a 9:00 AM departure. - by *Gordon Goodman*



Belmont Prairie Preserve

Precious Grove Talk

Alter Brewing Company of Downers Grove was the generous host of a presentation on May 4 co-sponsored by PDHA and the Friends of the Edwards House (FOEH). The event gave both organizations the opportunity to describe their mission and activities to the approximately 60 attendees. All were enlightened by a presentation by Dr. Bela Losa Rivera of the Morton Arboretum, who outlined and presented visual media covering the work of the Arboretum's Global Tree Conservation Program around the world, with special focus on the restoration, protection and preservation of varieties of oak, many of which are critical to Downers Grove's arboreal inheritance and reputation. - by *Chris Saricks*

Bringing Environmental & Historic Preservation Issues to the Forefront in Local Elections

This Spring we reached out to candidates for Mayor, Village Council, and the District 99 School Board to seek their views on specific issues of interest. We participated in two forums: one featuring candidate video statements, aired on the Village website, and one featuring written questions to candidates in cooperation with the Greener Grove group, with the responses posted on the PDHA website. We submitted questions pertaining to preserving and expanding the Village tree canopy, implementation of the Greenest Region Compact, and other measures to expand the Village's commitment to environmental sustainability and historic preservation.

Interest in the responses was considerable. The Nextdoor announcement of the written response availability on our website received more than 1500 views, with more than 100 voters visiting the PDHA website to view the candidate statements. The candidate video forums received more than 1,000 views each on YouTube.

The candidates' written responses can still be read on the “yesterday's headlines” portion of our website: see www.pdha.org/Old_News.html#Candidates or www.pdha.org/Documents/2023/Responses.PDF.



The candidate video statements may be found on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0bjzi2hotk (village council candidates), www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqrjOfIButE (mayoral candidates), and www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEyUQtKaVws (District 99 candidates). - by *Ken Lerner*

Protect Your Heritage

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 25-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:

Marge Earl,
Rich Kulovany &
John Schofield.

We are grateful to
retiring PDHA
Directors
Sue Farley &
Mark Thoman

Newsletter Editing by
G. Goodman

Articles by K. Lerner,
C. Saricks &
G. Goodman

Photos by
K. Lerner

Logo designed by
Kate Earl

Downers Grove Adopts Greenest Region Compact

On March 21, the Village of Downers Grove adopted the "Greenest Region Compact" (GRC). By adopting the GRC, the Village is pledging to pursue policies and actions for environmental sustainability. The GRC was developed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and has been endorsed by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and 148 other Chicago-area communities including nearby towns such as Naperville, Glen Ellyn, Lisle, Lombard, Darien, and Westmont. The resolution was proposed by Commissioner Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt, and supported by comments from PDHA, Greener Grove and many other residents.



The GRC addresses many measures in the areas of climate change, economic development, clean energy, land use, water conservation, municipal operations, transportation, recycling, and other topics. The village staff report on the GRC found that the village is already following some but not all of the GRC's recommendations, but there is no formal sustainability plan or other systematic way to monitor sustainability efforts.

It remains to be seen how the Village will implement the GRC and its recommendations. PDHA will continue to advocate for a robust implementation, including specifically the revival of the (currently dormant) village environmental commission, and adoption of a sustainability plan with periodic assessments and reviews to ensure that Downers Grove is a leader not a follower when it comes to environmental sustainability.

The Downers Grove staff report may be found at: tinyurl.com/bddxmcmn. The Greenest Region Compact may be found at: mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/rec/. - by Ken Lerner

Arbor Day Tree Planting

First graders from Whittier School helped plant two oak trees in Patriots Park on Arbor Day 2023, as part of School District 58 and the Downers Grove Park District ongoing Arbor Day activities.

The first grade class, with teachers Ashley Quill and Heather Richards and assistants Karla Reniere and Jennifer Kowalski, got a lesson in tree planting and tree care, and personally helped place, backfill and water the new trees. Mike Stelter, Superintendent of Parks, led the tree planting effort along with Paul Fyle, Director of Planning & Construction, Regina Ozog, Parks and Facilities Administrator, James Less, Landscape Architect, Dawn Hartman, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, and Dan Hopkins, Superintendent of Parks.



*Mike Stelter explained
tree planting to
Whittier first graders*

The students also got a lesson on woodland insects from Jessica Pacholski, an instructor at the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center.

The students enjoyed the field trip, enhanced by the experience of having Downers Grove Police stop traffic on 55th St. while they crossed to the Park on their way from the school.

PDHA made a \$100 donation to the Park District to enable the

planting of two trees rather than one. The participating students will be able to visit "their trees" for many years to come. - by Ken Lerner



Wonder Woods Brings First Graders A Day of Outdoor Learning

Downers Grove first graders enjoyed a full day of outdoor learning in Lyman Woods through cooperation of School District 58 and Downers Grove Park District with support from PDHA.

More than 500 students from all eleven District 58 elementary schools participated in the Wonder Woods program this year at Lyman Woods. The full-day format for the program

allows time for the students to cycle through four learning stations: woodland plants, woodland animals, wetland plants, and wetland animals.



At each station an instructor gives a short talk about

how the local plants or animals have adapted to live and

thrive in their environment. The talks are supplemented by hands-on activities for the students, who get to feel pelts and bones, dig for insects, and wade into wetlands.

The curriculum for the program was developed by Park District staff in collaboration with District 58 to meet state science curriculum guidelines and do it in a fun



Wonder Woods Muddy Waders

way. The resultant Instructor Manual and Teacher Handout provide a step by step explanation of the learning goals and activities for the program.

As an example, at the animal stations the instructors talked about woodland and wetland residents such as robins, cardinals, owls, beavers, turtles, skunks, rabbits and raccoons, all of which live in Lyman Woods. The students got to see and feel exhibits including coyote and fox pelts, a beaver tail and deer antlers. Binoculars were available for the kids to look for



Wonder Woods Wetland Station

distant birds and animals and they donned waders to get into the muddy wetland areas.

A staff of 18 Park District instructors leads student activities under the supervision of Ryan Maywin, Supervisor of Natural Areas & Programs.

To promote this program and fulfill our mission of environmental education, PDHA provided donations of \$1,000 to District 58, to offset field trip costs, and \$900 to the Park District to help with supplies, exhibits and materials. This year PDHA visitors had a chance to see groups from Whittier School



Wonder Woods Woodland Station

and Pierce Downer school go through the program and see instructors Adella Strong, Abigail Uplegger, Jessica Pacholski, Jenna Drolen, Shannon Nibbio, Lucas "Luke" Schedel, Brett Graves, and Laura Perna in action. - by Ken Lerner

*Please Join Us
on Our 2023
Highland Ave. Adopt-
A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 15
June 10
August 12
October 7*

*Saturdays
8:30-10:30 AM*

*Check our
website for updates.
If you would like to
help us keep
Highland Avenue
clean, please contact
us at info@PDHA.org
to learn more about
volunteering.*

*Save A Tree –
Subscribe
Electronically!*

*Every year we send
out spring and fall
newsletters to
more than 400
recipients. Most
folks now get full-
color digital
newsletters by
email. If you are
still getting our
newsletter by snail
mail but do use an
email address you
want to share with
us, please email us
at info@pdha.org.
You'll get a full color
newsletter and we'll
save printing and
postage costs.*

Thank you!

– Ken Lerner

In This Issue:

Page 1:

Summer Wildflower Walk

Precious Grove Talk

Bringing Environmental & Historic Preservation Issues to the Forefront in Local Elections

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

Downers Grove Adopts Greenest Region Compact

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Page 3:

Wonder Woods Brings First Graders A Day of Outdoor Learning

2023 Adopt-A-Highway CLEAN-UP DAYS

**Save A Tree —
Subscribe Electronically!**

**Pierce Downer's
Heritage Alliance**

P.O. Box 422
Downers Grove,
Illinois 60515



Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2023 Newsletter

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

— Chief Seattle

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



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

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.

[Please click here to make a contribution of \\$10 or more](#)

to help with our educational programs, but no contribution is required for membership.

Your email address will allow us to keep you informed of future events.

Help us **save trees & receive a full color digital version of this Newsletter** electronically by sending us your e-mail address at Info@PDHA.org!