

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA
Annual
Meeting
Wednesday
December 1
7 PM
Lincoln
Center
Room 503**

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Pierce Downer's
Heritage
Alliance
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Illinois 60515

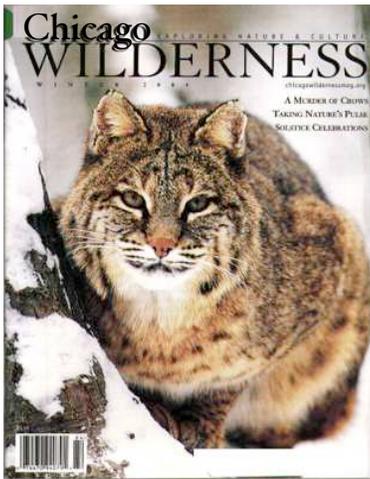
2004 Annual Meeting Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness is an unprecedented alliance of more than 170 public and private organizations working together to study and restore, protect and manage the precious natural ecosystems of the Chicago region for the benefit of the public.

Appreciation and preservation of natural ecosystems in the Chicago region is the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. We are holding our 9th Annual Meeting in Room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 1st. Our featured speaker is Debra Shore, editor of Chicago WILDERNESS magazine.

Chicago WILDERNESS is the first-ever magazine dedicated to providing news and information about the native animals, plants, and ecosystems of the Chicago region -- and about the remarkable people who cherish and protect them.

Debra has served as editor of Chicago WILDERNESS magazine since its debut



seven years ago. Her editorials in Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine won a Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism from the Chicago Headline Club in 2003. Chicago Women in Publishing named Chicago WILDERNESS in 2002 as the Best Consumer Periodical.

Debra is an active volunteer in the efforts to restore habitat in the Cook County forest preserves and serves on the Community Advisory Council on Land Management in Cook County. She participates in the Interreligious Sustainability Project and serves on the board of Friends of the Forest Preserves in Cook County.

She is also a member of the Women's Board at the University of Chicago and the Council for US Landcare Initiatives.

The public is invited to attend a brief business meeting and then to enjoy the program and refreshments. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove.

Gordon Goodman, Chair of the Heritage Alliance, said "This annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity for those who really care about the natural heritage of our village and the character of our community to meet and celebrate another year of accomplishments."



Debra Shore

Preserving Neighborhood Character

2004 has been an eventful year for historic preservation efforts in our village. On April 1st the Orange Lyman House, Downers Grove's oldest home dating from 1839, was purchased for redevelopment. Initial plans were for a lot split with demolition of the existing home. PDHA helped call attention to the historic significance of the Lyman House at 806 Maple Avenue and the importance of this stretch of Maple Avenue in defining the character of our community.

At the June meeting of PDHA, Jean Follett, Chair of the Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission, spoke about "Preservation Possibilities and Strategies." Many residents attending that meeting signed up to work on several tasks related to historic preservation. One result of these efforts was the "Downers Grove Neighborhood Character" petition, signed by over 1,800



Rev. Orange Lyman's House, Built in 1839, 806 Maple Avenue, May 2004

Downers Grove residents, that was presented to the Village Council and Park Board in September.

Ultimately, the new owner of the Lyman House decided to live in it rather than to demolish it. The west garden of the Lyman House has however now been cleared for construction of a new house on Maple Avenue.

In September village officials hosted a community dialogue about residential redevelopment. Participants identified as our most



Lyman House & Construction, October 2004

desirable neighborhood aspects: 1. Green Space/Trees, 2. Housing/ Architectural Diversity, 3. Schools, 4. Convenience and 5. Sense of Community. They identified as our most undesirable neighborhood aspects: 1. Lack of Enforcement/Regulations, 2. Incompatible Redevelopment, 3. Traffic/Pedestrian Safety, 4. Loss of Affordable Housing and 5. Diminishing Green Space.

In November the Downers Grove Historical Society announced results of their survey of opinions concerning historic preservation among residents in the village's three honorary historic districts. Survey statements that received the most overwhelming support were:

1. New construction can be done in a way to complement and fit in with the character of the village's historic neighborhoods,
2. Preserving the historical character of their neighborhood is important,
3. There are unique historic homes and buildings throughout Downers Grove that should be identified for special protections and
4. There should be reasonable constraints on the size and appearance of new homes and buildings relative to lot size and the style of older homes/buildings in the area.

Finally, village officials are currently developing a tree preservation ordinance for consideration later this year. They have also invited Lisa DiChiera from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois to speak to the Village Council in November about various actions that could encourage historic preservation in our community.



Typical Over-Sized, Garage-Front Redevelopment

Protect Your Heritage

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!

Newsletter Editing & Photos by G. Goodman

Newsletter and Website Design by

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Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie Happenings

Reported by Alice Eastman for the Downers Grove Park District

Interpretive Center

- The Board of Trustees from the College of DuPage came out to see the center and talk about the "green" technology used in the design.
- Programming:
 - The first grade curricular field trip "Little Sprouts" was a great success. 510 students participated in the month of October.
 - Interpretive programs are going very well. This fall, we have added many sessions to accommodate wait lists.
 - Approximately 150 4-5 year olds from the DGPD Park District and St. John's Lutheran Preschools participated in the "F is for Fall" program in September.

Land Management

- Controlled burns:
 - Planning to burn around the Interpretive Center as well as part of the south 17 acres and part of Belmont Prairie with in-house staff as weather permits
 - Planning to burn the sedge meadow and the oak kame per contract as weather permits
- Streambank Stabilization & Restoration:
 - Area 1, Phase 2 is progressing well, considering the weather
 - Area 2, Phase 1 is out to bid, staff is evaluating design firms



Wetland Reconstruction Project
Area 1, Phase 2

Volunteers / Workdays

- Spring 2005 Workdays are set:
 - March 19, April 9, and 16 at Lyman Woods
 - May 14 at Belmont Prairie
 - River Sweep on June 4 at Lyman Woods and various parks around the District

Annual Election of Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes as suitable for charitable contributions. Its Board of Directors manages activities of the Heritage Alliance. Bylaws of the corporation provide that the Directors are to be elected each year at Heritage Alliance's Annual Meeting. At present there are thirteen directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen Directors to be elected.

This year the nominating committee is proposing election of two new directors, Ken Lerner and Charley Smart, along with re-election of the following incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, Laurel Q. Bowen, Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Gordon L. Goodman, Matt LeCren, Kathleen Panek, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Mark D. Sklair, William (Buzz) Whowell and Jerry Yoksoulian. Mark Sklair lives in Westmont and all other Directors live in Downers Grove.

Current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance are Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, William (Buzz) Whowell, Chair Pro-tem, Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary, and James Cavallo, Treasurer.

*Please Join Us
at our
Highland Ave
Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

Again Next Spring

*Check our
website for
updates!*

**Our Next
PDHA Meeting**

Wednesday

**December 1
7:00pm**

**Lincoln Center
Room 503
935 Maple Ave
Downers Grove**

*For info call:
Laurel Bowen
at
(630) 852-5490*

*Did You Know
that our website
features links to
other
environmental
websites that
you may find of
interest?*

**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 2004 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next meeting
Wednesday, December 1, 2004, 7:00PM

Room 503, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.
Check our website 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 coalition 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.