

### Protect Your Heritage

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:  
Historic Preservation  
Update

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

Snake sighting in  
Belmont Prairie

Brown Marmorated  
Stink Bug

Page 3:

Belmont Prairie  
wildflower walk 2018

Park District  
receives grant for  
urban forest  
management

Highland Avenue  
Adopt-A-Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS

## Historic Preservation Update

Four more houses have been landmarked in 2018, bringing the current total to 24 buildings with historic landmark designation in the Village of Downers Grove. These houses include the Gorman-Dum House, the Charles and Alice Engstrom House,



1323 Maple Avenue, Engstrom House



1514 Thornwood Drive, Bunge House

the Ernest E. Bunge House, and the Clifford House. These four buildings comprise a Queen Anne, two bungalows, and a vernacular Upright and Wing home constructed in 1876.



1205 Franklin Street, Gorman-Dum House



844 Maple Avenue, Clifford House

Friends of the Edwards House (FOEH) continue to promote the landmarking of historic homes with the Village through various activities. They provide assistance with those seeking landmark designation and continue to publicize landmarked homes and the ease of the landmarking process. FOEH hosts a booth at the Farmers Market where they provide materials and information on landmarking. Articles are regularly submitted to Suburban Life on "Landmarked House of the Month." In October, FOEH hosted a social for landmarked home owners at the home of Mayor Tully and his wife Shanon. Potential landmarked homeowners were also in attendance. Additional activities include a



Friends of the Edwards House  
promoting historic preservation

presentation on November 8<sup>th</sup> by FOEH board member, Bill Kundert, together with Amie DeLuca, titled "Frank Lloyd Wright: Five Women that Influenced his Life and Career." For more information about activities of Friends of the Edwards House please visit them at <https://www.facebook.com/942mapledownergrove/> or <http://friendsoftheedwardshouse.com>.

The [Downers Grove Historical Society](#) is hosting a program entitled "Sears Homes of Chicagoland" on Saturday afternoon, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Recreation Center, 4500 Belmont Road. This event is a great opportunity to learn about Sears and other "Kit Homes" built in Downers Grove and how to identify them. Please visit <https://sears-homes.eventbrite.com> for more information and to get your ticket.  
- Irene Hogstrom and Rich Kulovany



## Protect Your Heritage

### PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 23-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:

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

Director Emeritus:  
Wally Brown.

Newsletter

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K. Lerner &  
R. Nowicki

## Snake sighting in Belmont Prairie

Back in September, a posting on NextDoor stated that the rare Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake was spotted on a driveway adjacent to Belmont Prairie. Since this particular species is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, curiosity was piqued. This rare snake is very timid and secretive, but Ron Nowicki was able to snap a photograph.

Based only on this photograph, herpetologists in the Environmental Science Division of Argonne National Laboratory identified the snake as an immature fox snake. Other experts say it is an eastern hognose snake. A positive



*Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake(?) photo by Ron Nowicki*

identification by photograph is difficult, as it is necessary to clearly see details such as the pupils of the eyes, blotch pattern, and tail to make a positive identification. PDHA has forwarded the photograph to staff at the Chicago Field Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois Natural History Survey. We are still waiting for their analysis. Regardless of the absolute identification, any of these species of snakes are proof of the biological diversity and health of Belmont Prairie.

If you are concerned about a wildlife sighting, the best contact is the Willowbrook Wildlife Center, <http://www.dupageforest.org/willowbrook-wildlife-center> or 630-942-6200. - Irene Hogstrom

## Brown marmorated stink bug

You've probably seen a few of these stink bugs in or around your house. Though there are native stink bugs, we primarily encounter the brown marmorated stink bug which is native to Asia. Similar in shape to native stink bugs, the alternating light and dark bands on the antennae serve as the identifying characteristic. These non-native stink bugs were first captured and identified 20 years ago in Pennsylvania. They currently can be found across the United States in 80% of the states.

Here in Illinois, the stink bugs are primarily a nuisance. They are currently looking for a warm place like your house to spend the winter months. Don't worry, they don't cause damage to your house, bite, or carry diseases. But they can release their natural defense odor through holes in their abdomens if killed, injured, or moved. They can cause damage to fruit and vegetable gardens as well as to ornamental trees and shrubs. In Mid-Atlantic States, stink bugs have caused severe agriculture problems for commercial growers.

To prevent stink bugs from entering your house, you'll need to make sure that all cracks and openings around doors, windows, siding, etc. be sealed with silicone or silicone-latex caulk. If they make it inside, the use of insecticides is not recommended. Rather simply collect them by hand or with a vacuum cleaner and dispose of them outside or in a bucket of soapy water. If you do use a vacuum cleaner, be forewarned that it may smell like stink bugs for a while.

You can visit [www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/help-pests/brown-marmorated-stink-bug](http://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/help-pests/brown-marmorated-stink-bug), [Wikipedia.com](http://Wikipedia.com), or <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/stink-bug/faq.php> for additional information. - Mark Bragen



*Brown marmorated  
stink bug*

## July wildflower walk in Belmont Prairie

Intrepid naturalist Lance Herning led a full group of walkers on an informative PDHA wildflower walk at Belmont Prairie Nature Preserve in mid-July. It was touch and go if the weather would clear in time but as it happened, nature was on our side. The Prairie was vibrant with orange blooms of butterfly-weed, pale purple and yellow coneflowers, pink Showy



*Wild Quinine & Pale Purple Coneflowers*

Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*), and white wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*).

Many thanks to Lance for his informative tour and to Judi Davenport and Bill Kundert, who hosted the group for refreshments and conversation at their nearby (and beautifully landscaped) home after the walk.



*July 2018 Belmont Prairie walkers*



*Showy Tick Trefoil seed pods*

Perhaps you're wondering why someone would name a plant Showy Tick Trefoil. According to Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., "Ticktrefoil" comes from the 3-parted leaf on a plant that has barbed hairs (ticks) on the seed pods. The "showy" part refers to the bright showy blossoms. The genus name, *Desmodium*, is derived from the Greek meaning "a long branch or chain" and thought to refer to the shape of the seed pods. (For this and other interesting information about the plant, see

<https://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/plants/canadaticktrifol.html>.)

Next year we will likely have wildflower walks on a similar schedule, with a Lyman Woods walk in early May and a Belmont Prairie tour in July. Please check our website for details as those dates approach. - *Ken Lerner and Irene Hogstrom*

## Park District receives grant for urban forest management

Working with Mike Stelter, Assistant Superintendent of Parks, PDHA threw its support to the DG Park District in applying for a U.S. Forest Service grant. The grant has been approved and will support creation of an Urban Forest Management Plan for the Park District. The District's initial tree inventory identified and evaluated 5500 trees along with their GPS locations. The intent of the management plan is to grow and improve the tree canopy, guide future tree planting efforts, deliver a framework for species diversification, and reduce or manage invasive species in the parks. Systematic planning will help the District accomplish these goals in a cost effective manner and lead to a healthy, diverse population of trees in our parks. - *Ken Lerner*

*Please Join Us  
On Our 2019  
Highland Ave.  
Adopt-A-Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 13  
June 8  
August 17  
September 28*

*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!*

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Pierce Downer  
1782-1863

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Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Winter 2018 Newsletter

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