

### Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA  
Next Meeting  
Tuesday,  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM  
Ballydoyle Irish  
Pub and  
Restaurant,  
5157 Main  
Street**

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

##### Page 1:

Landscaping for  
Wildlife

Spring 2019  
Native Plant Sales

##### Page 2:

PDHA Directors

Lyman Woods  
Wildflower Walk

Advancing Nature  
Education

Historic Preservation  
Property Tax  
Assessment Freeze

##### Page 3:

Spring Is Here ...  
Are You Rain Ready?

Village Parkway Trees

Highland Avenue  
Adopt-A-Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS

## Landscaping for Wildlife



*Ryan Maywin with  
his daughter, Piper*

Downers Grove Park District has a new naturalist, Ryan Maywin, based at Lyman Woods. He is happy to be working closer to home in Downers Grove, after working as Horticulture Coordinator for Lincoln Park Zoo. He has exciting ideas for Lyman Woods and wishes to educate homeowners about the benefits of native plants.

Join us Tuesday evening, March 26, to hear

Ryan talk about which native plants will attract butterflies, songbirds and other wildlife to our backyards. He will focus on trees and shrubs of our regional oak ecosystems that will be

available at local plant sales this spring, as well as parkway trees recommended by our Village Forester. Ryan's presentation will begin at 7:00 PM at Ballydoyle Irish Pub & Restaurant at 5157 Main Street in downtown Downers Grove. Please feel free to arrive early to order dinner and a beverage (on your own). The presentation is free. To register beforehand you can use the "[Please click here for more information and to register for this free program.](#)" button on our website, [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org) - *By Irene Hogstrom*



*Goldfinch enjoying  
seeds of cup plant*

## Spring 2019 Native Plant Sales

### Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District

Order deadlines begin March 18 for trees and shrubs; later dates for prairie, pond, and woodland plants, as well as fish for stocking ponds. Pick up dates begin April 26 for trees and shrubs at Kane DuPage SWCD office in St. Charles.

<http://www.kanedupageswcd.org/sales.htm>

### Downers Grove Organic Gardeners

May 4, Hummer Park, for Organic Vegetable Plants, Herbs, and Native Perennials.

<http://dgorganicgardeners.blogspot.com>

### Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

May 10 and 11, Mayslake, for Native Trees, Shrubs and Perennials. Pre-orders begin March 11.

<https://www.dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale>

### Village of Downers Grove

TBD in June, Public Works, for Native Trees and Shrubs. Check Village website for updates:

<http://www.downers.us>

**Wild Ones of Greater DuPage** lists additional plant sales in the region:

<https://dupage.wildones.org>

For further inspiration, Friends of the Edwards House is hosting "[Landscape Design to Match your House Style and your Lifestyle](#)" with landscape architect, Jerry Milewski, on April 11, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Ballydoyle Irish Pub. Reservations at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com), or email [EdwardsHouse1898@gmail.com](mailto:EdwardsHouse1898@gmail.com) - *By Irene Hogstrom*



*Butterfly Milkweed & Bee*

## Protect Your Heritage

### PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 22-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,  
Irene Hogstrom,  
Rich Kulovany,  
John Schofield,  
& Mark Thoman.

**We warmly thank  
retiring PDHA Director  
Jim Cavallo  
for his many years  
of service .**

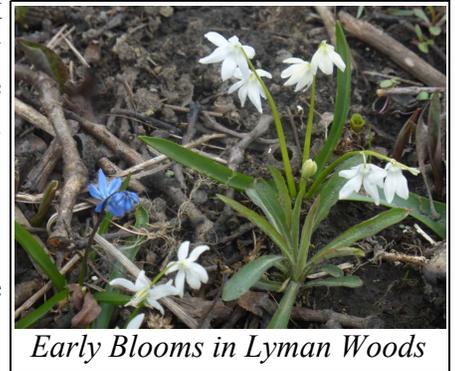
Newsletter Editing by  
G. Goodman

Photos courtesy of  
S. Forsythe, A. Gassen,  
G. Goodman  
& I. Hogstrom

Logo designed by  
Kate Earl

## Lyman Woods Wildflower Walk

Join naturalist Lance Herning for a wildflower walk in the Lyman Woods Nature Preserve on Saturday afternoon, April 27. Please visit our website [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org) for details and to register for this popular outing. - *By Gordon Goodman*



*Early Blooms in Lyman Woods*

## Advancing Nature Education

For many years Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance has supported educational programs at Lyman Woods. When the interpretive center first opened PDHA



*Little Sprouts Activity*

sponsored providing backpacks filled with educational materials to help visitors with their explorations of the preserve. Currently, PDHA makes annual donations to offset a portion of the cost for the nature education program known as Little Sprouts.

Downers Grove Park District naturalist Anna Fontanetta has reported that in 2018 the first graders in the Little Sprouts program rotated through four stations: Sprouts Cycles, Flower Fashions, Chef Soil-ar-Dee, and Coats and Cotyledons, each led by a knowledgeable Natural Areas Instructor. The students are able to role play a plant's journey through the seasons, dissect seeds, follow a recipe for soil, and dress up an adult as a flower, much to their delight! - *By Anna Fontanetta and Gordon Goodman*

## Historic Preservation Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Larry and Gloria Gassen, owners of the landmarked home located at 5325 Fairmount Avenue, recently received official notification from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office that their home was approved for the Property Tax Assessment



*Gassen House*

Freeze Program. This program is for certified historic structures that undergo "substantial, approved" rehabilitation. The approval translates into a 12-year reduction in property taxes (8-year freeze followed by a 4-year gradual increase to market level). The Gassens are the first property owners in Downers Grove to apply for this program (and now the first to receive approval for it). The application was completed by their son and daughter in law, Dave and Amy Gassen who also live in a landmarked home in

Downers Grove. Amy is Vice President of the Downers Grove Historical Society and has assisted with many landmark applications in the Village.

Use the link below to learn more about the Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program:

[www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Documents/summary-taxfreeze.pdf](http://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Documents/summary-taxfreeze.pdf)

- *By Rich Kulovany*

## Spring Is Here ... Are You Rain Ready?



Photo credit:  
CNT

April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring seepage and wet basements. The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has a program to address this problem, called "Rain Ready." Assistance is available to address water or sewage back ups and basement seepage and flooding. Homeowner assistance includes a property assessment, focusing on the source of the problems such as gutter and downspout issues, poor grading, and drainage. A list of recommended improvements may include relocating downspouts, re-grading, or installing bioswales to help address flooding problems. Staff at CNT

will also meet with groups of neighbors that are facing similar flooding issues, to provide guidance and recommendations. For more information, including fact sheets and videos, please visit [www.cnt.org/rainready](http://www.cnt.org/rainready) – By Irene Hogstrom

## Village Parkway Trees

The Village of Downers Grove regularly plants trees in the parkways at its own expense. You can contact the Village Forester if you want a parkway tree planted in an open area in front of your property. Featured below are two of the types of trees available for planting.

### Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba*

Ginkgo trees feature simple, fan-shaped bright green leaves that are 2–3" long and turn yellow in the fall. They are considered a good street tree since they transplant easily, grow well in confined spaces, adapt to many types of soil, and tolerate air pollution and road salt. They can live up to 3,000 years!

Ginkgo trees are a living fossil, dating from 270 million years ago. They were discovered growing in China in 1691 and were brought to this country in the late 1700s. The seeds and leaves have been (and are still today) used in medicine throughout the world.

One cautionary note on Ginkgos is the fruit. Ginkgos come in male and female trees. The female trees bear small fruit that many find objectionable – they emit a foul odor when smashed. Some researchers hypothesize the fruit evolved to be attractive to animals that are now extinct. For more information:

[www.arboday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?ItemID=1092](http://www.arboday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?ItemID=1092)

[www.e360.yale.edu/features/peter\\_crane\\_history\\_of\\_ginkgo\\_earths\\_oldest\\_tree](http://www.e360.yale.edu/features/peter_crane_history_of_ginkgo_earths_oldest_tree)



Photo credit:  
Yale University

### Sweetgum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Sweetgum trees have star-shaped leaves with 5 lobes (occasionally 7) about four to seven inches in length. In fall they put on a color display turning yellow, orange, red and purple. The trees grow fairly quickly and can get large with a mature height up to 75 feet. They are native to the American Southeast.

Sweetgums produce seeds in characteristic spiky balls about 1.5" in diameter. The seeds are eaten by a variety of birds and small animals including chipmunks and squirrels, goldfinches, purple finches, sparrows, mourning doves, and bobwhites. For more information:

[www.arboday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?itemID=928](http://www.arboday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?itemID=928) – By Ken Lerner



Photo credit:  
Hirt's Gardens,  
[hirts.com](http://hirts.com)

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

April 13  
June 8  
August 17  
September 28

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](mailto:info@PDHA.org) to  
learn more about  
volunteering.

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)

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:

Lanscaping for Wildlife

Spring 2019 Native Plant Sales

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

Lyman Woods Wildflower Walk

Advancing Nature Education

Historic Preservation Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Page 3:

Spring Is Here ... Are You Rain Ready?

Village Parkway Trees

Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway CLEAN-UP DAYS

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

P.O. Box 422 Downers Grove, Illinois 60515



Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2019 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next 2019 Meeting

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Ballydoyle Irish Pub and Restaurant, 5157 Main Street, Downers Grove.

Check our website [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org) for more details.



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.

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.

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](mailto:Info@PDHA.org)!