Lyman Woods Wildflower Walk April 27

Celebrate the season with PDHA’s Spring 2024 guided Wilderness & Wildflower Walk in Lyman Woods on Saturday, April 27th. Volunteer Naturalist Lance Herning will lead a group of walkers, departing at 9:00 AM from the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, 901 31st Street in Downers Grove. We will spend about 1.5 hours exploring the woods and fields of this high-quality nature preserve. Please arrive by 8:50 for introductions.

Space is limited – please, register online at www.PDHA.org. The event is free, but donations are always welcome to support educational activities of Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance. Refreshments will be served at the Interpretive Center after the walk. – by Ken Lerner

Cicadas Creating A Buzz

This year will see the emergence of our local periodical cicadas. While we have annual cicadas every year, generally in August, the local periodical cicadas only come out every 17 years and will emerge in May or June.

This year will see the emergence of our local group, Brood XIII, and also an adjacent group in central and southern Illinois (Brood XIX) that comes out every 13 years. The map shows their respective territories. Since they’re on different schedules, they emerge simultaneously only every 221 years – so the last time this happened was in 1803!

The periodical cicadas’ survival strategy is to overwhelm their predators with sheer numbers – so many come out that even though they are a popular food for wildlife (and some household pets), they can’t eat them all – and enough will survive to reproduce and lay the groundwork for the next emergence in 2041.

In honor of this year’s emergence, PDHA in conjunction with Greener Grove is sponsoring a talk – urban forester Steve Ruffolo will present Cicadas 2024, Embrace the Wonder and the Noise at the DG Library on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 PM. Steve served as DG Village Forester and then Assistant Director of Public Works from 1986 until 2001, then taught science at Downers Grove North High School until retiring in 2021. He is currently board chairman of the Greener Grove organization. – by Ken Lerner
Upcoming Nature And History Events

This spring will feature a number of local events focused on the environment and history of Downers Grove.

Earth Week Events in April

Greener Grove, PDHA, and other organizations are sponsoring a number of events as part of Earth Week, April 19 – 27:

- **Saturday April 20**, Treeplenish Tree Planting, 12:00 PM Concord Square Park (Concord Drive and Springside Avenue), Greener Grove in conjunction with the DGN Outdoor Environmental Club. To donate and/or volunteer, see [https://sites.google.com/csd99.org/dgtreeplenish](https://sites.google.com/csd99.org/dgtreeplenish).
- **Monday April 22**, Common Ground Film Screening, 7:30 PM at the Tivoli Theater. Film presentation by Greener Grove and the After Hours Film Society. Information and tickets available at [https://www.afterhoursfilmsociety.com/common-ground.html](https://www.afterhoursfilmsociety.com/common-ground.html).
- **Tuesday April 23**, Cicadas 2024 – Embrace the Wonder and the Noise, 7:00 PM, DG Library – Steve Ruffolo’s talk sponsored by Greener Grove and PDHA, details on page 1.
- **Saturday April 27**, Lyman Woods Wildflower Walk, 9:00 AM at the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center (meet at 8:45 AM for 9:00 AM walk), sponsored by PDHA. Naturalist Lance Herning will lead a tour of spring ephemerals and other flora of Lyman Woods. Information and signup at [http://www.pdha.org/2024_LW_Walk.html](http://www.pdha.org/2024_LW_Walk.html).
- **Saturday, April 27**, Downers Grove Parks Clean Up, 10:00 AM at Fishel Park and Hummer Park, DG Park District. Information and signup at [https://www.dgparks.org/calendar/events/earth-week-volunteer-day](https://www.dgparks.org/calendar/events/earth-week-volunteer-day).

Arbor Day Activities

- **Wednesday, April 24**, Tree Seedling Giveaway by Downers Grove Park District, 8:00 -11:00 AM at Hummer Park and 12:00 -3:00 PM at O’brien Park.
- **Thursday, April 25**, Tree Planting at Patriots Park, 1:00 – 2:00 PM. Students from Whittier School will assist the Park District with planting 2 trees (1 sponsored by PDHA).
- **Friday, April 26**, Tree Seedling Giveaway by the Downers Grove Park District, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the DG Recreation Center on Belmont Ave. Pecan, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, and Red Oak will be available.

Other Upcoming Events in April and May

- **Wednesday, April 24**, Blodgett House Architectural Tour, 4:00 – 5:00 PM
- **Saturday, May 4**, Plant Sale by DG Organic Gardeners, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Hummer Park. Native plants, vegetables, herbs and annuals from Possibility Place and other sources.
Upcoming Nature and History Events (continued)

➢ **Saturday, May 25, Sears Home Walking Tour** by DG Park District, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, starting at Fishel Park. Information and registration at [https://www.dgparks.org/downers-grove-museum-programs-tours](https://www.dgparks.org/downers-grove-museum-programs-tours), click on “view current museum programs.”

➢ **Tuesday, May 28, Sustainability in Downers Grove** presentation by Jason Michnick, DG Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, DG Library, 7:00 PM. Joint meeting of PDHA and Greener Grove. – by Ken Lerner

1846 Blodgett House Film and Historian of the Year Award

As part of the upcoming Founders Fest, on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00 pm, the DG Historical Society will present the premiere viewing of Jim Toth’s Node Films “The 1846 Blodgett House,” a documentary about the Blodgett family and their home and the underground railroad and abolitionists in Downers Grove. Through the efforts of volunteers from PDHA and other organizations, the 1846 Blodgett House was saved from being torn down, and was moved to its current location on the DG Museum campus and restored. It now serves as a living piece of Downers Grove history and an educational venue for the life of early pioneers and abolitionists in Downers Grove.

Prior to the presentation of the film Jim Toth will be recognized by the Downers Grove Historical Society as the Historian of the Year 2024, an honor the society uses to recognize individuals who have significantly promoted and preserved Downers Grove history.

Information and tickets for the event may be found at [https://dghistory.org/event/underground-railroad/](https://dghistory.org/event/underground-railroad/). – by Ken Lerner

Village Planning Process

– we’re speaking up and hope you will too!

As you have likely heard, especially if you live in Downer Groves, the village is seeking input on the extensive planning process that is underway. The village is updating its Comprehensive Plan and developing three new plans, an Environmental Sustainability Plan, a Bike & Pedestrian Plan and a Downtown / Fairview Streetscape Plan.

PDHA will be using various opportunities to express our priorities to the village, in keeping with our mission to promote appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove. We’ll be participating in focus groups and submitting written comments to the Village as to priorities that these plans should address.

We encourage everyone to get involved in this process. First, PDHA would like to hear from you – what points do YOU think we should emphasize? Please let us know at info@pdha.org or in a letter to PO Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Secondly, we encourage you to participate directly in the village outreach program – take a survey, go to a meeting, or otherwise express your comments – for starters see the GUIDING DG website at [https://www.guidingdg.com](https://www.guidingdg.com). – Ken Lerner
Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2024 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.

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?) _____/We can also volunteer some time.

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!