

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:

Lyman Woods
Wildflower Walk
April 27

Cicadas Creating
A Buzz

Page 2:

PDHA Directors
Upcoming Nature
And History Events

Page 3:

Upcoming Nature
And History Events
(continued)

1846 Blodgett House
Film and Historian
of the Year Award

2024 Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS

Village Planning
Process

Save A Tree —Subscribe
Electronically!

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.



Lance Herning

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!



Periodical cicada

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

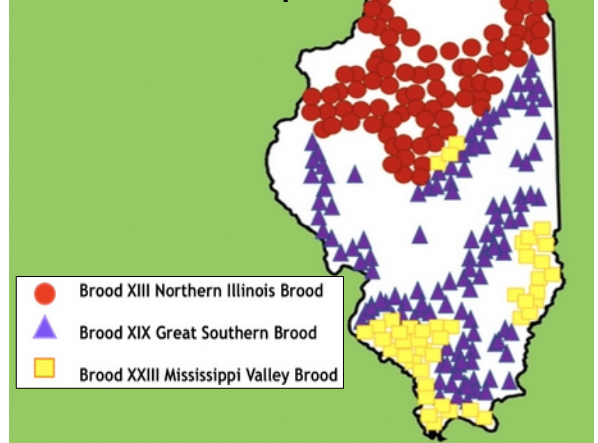


Bloodroot



Toothwort &
Rue Anemone

Cicadas Brood Map



Steve Ruffolo

Protect Your Heritage

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 27-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.

Newsletter Editing by
G. Goodman

Articles by K. Lerner

Photos by
K. Lerner &
G. Goodman

Logo designed by
Kate Earl

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:

- **Friday April 19, Sustainable Wine Presentation and Tasting** at the DG Library / The Cellar Door, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Get tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-wine-presentation-informal-wine-tasting-tickets-856630614227>.
- **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>.
- **Saturday April 20, Organic Garden Walk**, 2:00 PM, Gilbert Park. Greener Grove and the Organic Gardener's Club are sponsoring a garden walk. Tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/downers-grove-garden-walk-tickets-856647404447>.
- **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>.
- **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.
- **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>.

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.
- **Thursday – Saturday, May 16-18, Native Plant Sale** at Mayslake Peabody Estate, by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. See <https://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/calendar-of-events/native-plant-sale> for hours and details. For a listing of local native plant sales, see the Wild Ones listing at <https://dupage.wildones.org/native-plant-sales/>.



1846 Blodgett House

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>, 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/>. – *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 Downers Grove, 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>. – *by Ken Lerner*

*Please Join Us
on Our 2024
Highland Ave.
Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 13
June 8
August 10
October 5*

*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:

**Lyman Woods
Wildflower Walk
April 27**

**Cicadas Creating
A Buzz**

Page 2:

PDHA Directors

**Upcoming Nature
And History Events**

Page 3:

**Upcoming Nature
And History Events
(continued)**

**1846 Blodgett House
Film and Historian
of the Year Award**

**2024 Adopt-A-Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS**

**Village Planning
Process**

**Save A Tree —Subscribe
Electronically!**

**Pierce Downer's
Heritage Alliance**

P.O. Box 422
Downers Grove,
Illinois 60515



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.



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!