

Ancient Oaks Seedlings

Winter 2015 -2016  Volume 1 Issue 3



Upcoming Events & Activities

Birds and Breakfast

Saturday May 7, 2016

8 am to 10 am

Join a local bird expert as we enjoy a continental breakfast, then search for migrating birds within the wetland and oak woodland habitats of Oak Ridge Marsh.

Cost: Free

Who: age 8 and up

Register through the Parks and Rec website:

<http://lakezurich.org/98/Park-Recreation>

Bloom Where You're Planted:

A Celebration of Arbor Day & Earth Day

Ela Area Library, 275 Mohawk Trail

Monday May 16, 2016, 7 pm

The best place to start saving the world is in your own backyard and community. This program will introduce you to experts in tree care, wildflowers, habitat restoration, and more. The LZ Tree Commission and Village Arborist Shawn Walkington will explain their work within the Village. You're sure to learn something you didn't know and meet folks who share your interests and concerns. More info is at our website:

ancientoaksfoundation.org

Words from the Wise

Edwin Way Teale

"Our minds, as well as our bodies, have need of the out-of-doors. Our spirits, too, need simple things, elemental things, the sun and the wind and the rain, moonlight and starlight, sunrise and mist and mossy forest trails, the perfumes of dawn and the smell of fresh-turned earth and the ancient music of wind among the trees."

"In nature, there is less death and destruction than death and transmutation."

A Message from the President

Happy New Year from the AOF.

Our first full year as a non-profit conservation organization was filled with activity. Highlights on our calendar included:

May

Birds & Breakfast celebrated the return of spring

July

Fabulous Fireflies lit up the summer night

September

Monarchs & Margaritas marked our first anniversary

November

Spreading prairie seed at Breezewald Park

December

Coyotes by the Campfire... a howling good time

Every month

Hands-on habitat restoration at the Nature Park.

Our first Trivia Night was held on Saturday, January 23. This fun night of games, raffles, live and silent auctions, FREE food, cash bar and, of course, TRIVIA was enjoyed by over 50 supporters of the AOF. Photos of the event on page 3.

What's in our future?!

We have permission to begin habitat restoration on the area of Kuechmann Park designated for recreational use. Work began on January 16. Watch your emails for updates as we restore this special oak woodland at 625 Old Rand Road.

Stop by the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase, Saturday, March 12 from 9:30 am to 3 pm. We'll have games, raffles and a special give-away. We'd love to meet YOU!

Of course, our efforts would not happen without our volunteers. A big THANK YOU to everyone who came to our habitat restoration workdays with energy and elbow grease. We couldn't do it without YOU! Let's keep going and growing in 2016!

Judi Thode, President,

The Ancient Oaks Foundation Board of Directors

Recent Events & Activities

Coyotes by the Campfire



November 15 A crackling fire, crisp night air, toasted marshmallows, and coyotes of course! Participants enjoyed coyote stories and learned coyote facts before taking a starlit walk in the woods. Would the coyote caller get a response from the local pack? Thanks to **Mary Kozub** for sharing her enthusiasm, knowledge, and coyote calls.

Owl Walk

January 9 Winter is an active season for owls and participants learned what keeps these “lions of the sky” so busy. Presenter **Melissa Alderson** shared owl facts and folklore. Best of all, was her special guest... a live owl. A walk in through winter-dark oaks of Paulus Park had everyone on the watch for these fabulous fliers.



Ongoing Projects

Community Services Building

505 Telser Road

The wetland north of the parking lot was earlier cleared of weeds, invasive plants, and garbage. This multi-year project is in its early phases. In partnership with the Village and McGinty Brothers, weed regrowth is being monitored, and native species were reintroduced in the fall. This restored area will improve parking lot runoff management, provide a habitat for birds and butterflies, and offer an ever-changing seasonal display for employees and visitors.



Breezewald Park Conservation Area

125 N. Old Rand Road

The first steps in the revitalization of this highly visible area have been completed: removal of trash, clearing invasive species, spreading appropriate seeds, and protecting the area with straw matting.



In addition, the area near the sidewalk access to Lakeview Place has been cleared, making the approach to the park safer and more inviting. Ancient Oaks Foundation, the Village, and the townhouse developers will work together to restore this neglected area. Thanks to **Jan Papa** of **Blue Stem Ecological Services** www.bluestemeco.com for sharing her expertise about the time, procedures, and materials that the project requires.

Kuechmann Park

626 N. Old Rand Road

Although the future of the park is still undecided, we do have some good news for the new year. Habitat restoration began on January 16 under the guidance of site steward Mike Kleeman. Watch your emails for updates and workday announcements. To be added to our email list shoot us an email at info@ancientoaksfoundation.org

Community Services Building 505 Telser Road

Attention bluebirds and bird watchers! New lodging for bluebirds will be available in the spring courtesy of Scout Phillip Neff. This will be Phillips Eagle Scout Project and will also include an informational sign about the importance of wetlands in collecting and filtering runoff.



Habitat Restoration continues at **the Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park**, 500 Lions Drive. Volunteers meet twice a month to clear invasive brush.

Winter Birds at Your Feeder

Looking for a “cheep” winter hobby? Try winter bird watching. The birdseed banquet at your feeder will entice an interesting variety of birds for hours of enjoyment. Additionally, the plantings in your yard--native trees, shrubs and flowers--provide food, shelter, and safe nesting places. Here are some backyard visitors you are likely to see this winter.



Mourning doves thrive in open habitats where they eat waste grain and weed seeds.

Male **house finches** have a red head and chest. Females, which are brown and streaked, are often mistaken for female English house sparrows.



The beautiful **northern cardinal** sometimes provides the only splash of color during a cold, gray winter. Females are a brownish yellow. They love sunflower and safflower seeds.

Cedar waxwings are a great reason to plant hawthorn, holly or viburnum varieties that produce berries. They get their name from the colored patches on their wings that look like the sealing wax once used to close envelopes.



Watch for **American goldfinches** in their more muted winter plumage and the **dark-eyed junco** at your winter feeding stations. Goldfinches stay all year; they just change summer gold for winter drab feathers. Juncos are here only for the winter.

The **white-throated sparrow** is the one true sparrow you are most likely to see browsing on the ground below your feeders in spring and fall



The **downy woodpecker** is the smallest woodpecker in Illinois.



Membership

Do you know somebody like you who cares about Lake Zurich's woodlands

and natural areas? Please tell them about Ancient Oaks Foundation!

Welcome New Members !

The Gyarmatys - Barry Luneberg - Steve and Pauli Kutschat

Tony and Karen Tom - Rudy and Dorcas Krolopp - The McCurleys

Dennis Gardino - Shirley Garrison - Rick and Jeanette Burger

Ben and Angela Goldberg for Aurico - Ruth Turner - Alan Goldberg

Wm Smith for Termax, Inc.

Thank You for your generous support!

Different levels of individual/family and corporate membership are available including memorial donations. Visit ancientoaksfoundation.org for information about our 501(c) 3 tax deductible sponsorship levels.

Contact Us

We are a 501©3 tax-deductible foundation dedicated to preserving Lake Zurich's natural beauty.

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Photos from Trivia Night



A Special Thanks to Guest MC Chip Brewster

An Oak Ecosystem

Two trends threaten oak ecosystems: destruction and fragmentation of woodlands and a lack of age diversity in oak population. Why do oak ecosystems matter? Oaks provide food and shelter for wildlife, perform valuable economic functions, and are a source of natural beauty.



Habitat

Oak woodland and savannas offer unique combinations of light levels, soil moisture, Ph and organic matter that support a wide range of plants and animals. More than 600 species rely on oaks for food and habitat: butterflies and moths, nesting birds and bats, mushrooms and microorganisms.

Climate

As a species, oaks are drought and heat tolerant; making them well adapted to changing climate impacts. Because of their longevity great size, and spreading canopies, oaks also provide significant carbon storage, mitigate urban heat island effects, and reduce energy use in buildings.

Recreation



Iconic and majestic, oaks and their ecosystems capture the imagination, instill a sense of place and regional identity, and link us with our natural heritage. Oak

woodlands and savannas help clean our air and water and provide rewarding destinations for birding, hiking, and other outdoor recreations.

Natural Economics

A large oak can reduce 5400 gallons of storm water runoff and remove more than 1000 pounds per year of CO₂ from the atmosphere. All told, our regions oak ecosystems contribute over \$2 billion worth of flood control and other water management services.



On Thursday, December 10, **Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund** honored seven members for their volunteer service and each received an IMRF staff donation for their preferred service organization. One of those honored was Scott Garrison, a volunteer with **Ancient Oaks Foundation**.

When did you start volunteering?

I started volunteering with the Oak Ridge Marsh Conservation Group, formed in 1995. The group has evolved into the Ancient Oaks Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit foundation. Its mission is to restore Lake Zurich's oak woodlands, wetlands, and natural areas.

What prompted you to volunteer?

I have been working in the forestry division of the Village of Arlington Heights Public Works for the last 35 years. As a result, I have developed an affinity for the environment. We have natural areas in Lake Zurich that need preservation, especially the oak savanna site. Restoring the site to its natural habitat and clearing out the invasive species has been my priority as a volunteer.

Why did you choose to volunteer with the Ancient Oaks Foundation?

It allows me to apply what I learned working in Forestry in Arlington Heights. I am passionate about the environment and arboriculture. Providing a valuable service preserving and enhancing the urban forest in Lake Zurich for present residents and future generations gives me a sense of satisfaction. Nothing beats the warm fuzzy feeling that I get from helping others and giving back.

How many hours do you volunteer?

I volunteer about eight to ten hours a month. I also volunteer during the weekends.



Scott Garrison: Volunteering Pays!