

Ancient Oaks Seedlings

Spring 2016



Volume 1 Issue 4



Upcoming Events & Activities

Birds & Breakfast

Oak Ridge Park, 351 Lions Drive,
Lake Zurich

Saturday, May 7, 8 AM to 10 AM



Back by popular demand! After a continental breakfast, a short walk led by a local birding expert will explore the wide variety of birds that visit Lake Zurich's woodlands, lake and wetlands during spring migration. Be sure to bring your binoculars, dress for the weather and wear walking shoes. The event is open to ages 14 through adults. Register through the Parks and Rec. Dept. at lakezurich.org/parkandrec

Family Birding



Oak Ridge Park,
351 Lions Drive, LZ
Sunday, May 15,
4pm to 5:30pm

Whether they're flying,
feeding or fighting,
spring is the best time

to catch birds in action. Join us and sharpen your observation skills to spot our feathered neighbors. A limited supply of binoculars will be available for all to share or bring your own. This free event is open to ages 5 and up. Register through LZ Parks and Rec. Donations to AOF gladly accepted.

Wildflower Walk

Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park
500 Lions Drive, Lake Zurich
Friday, May 13, 6:00 to 7:30 PM



Mother Nature helped us arrange this special event for friends of **Ancient Oaks Foundation**. Join us on our guided ramble through the spring woodlands. We'll stop to admire each spring bloomer and learn the names and ways of these native beauties. No need to register- Just come on by!

Creating Native Gardens for Your Yard

Ela Area Library,
275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich
Monday, May 16, 7 PM



Learn how you can bring the benefits of native plantings into your own habitat as we welcome Carol Rice from the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee. A winner of the Conservation Leadership Award given by Audubon Chicago Region, Carol became convinced that many small yards planted with native species could impact the larger natural community. So in 2005 she began a mentoring program through WPPC, called *A Natural Garden in Your Yard* and will share her knowledge with us. Register for this free program through the Ela Library.

Fabulous Fireflies!

Old Mill Grove Park, 285 Old Mill Grove Road
Friday, July 15, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Its nature's own light show and everybody's good time! Join us at the Old Mill Grove Park shelter to learn about the life cycle of these fabulous insects through games and stories. Bring a blanket and a flashlight. We will provide seasonal munchies as we wait for the fireflies to flash. Insect repellent also repels fireflies, so please wear long sleeves and pants instead. This free event is open to ages 6 and up. Register through the Parks and Rec Dept.



Dragonflies for All

Manor Park, 5 Miller Road, Lake Zurich
Tuesday, August 16, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

The lifespan of these spectacular fliers is more than a year, but they spend most of it not in the air but underwater. Come explore the life cycle of this ferocious insect predator! Dress in long sleeves, long pants **and wear clothes than can get dirty.** This free event is open to ages 5 and up but must register through the Parks and Rec Dept.



Recent Events & Activities

Chamber of Commerce Expo



Friends old and new visited our booth at the annual LZACC showcase in March. A special THANK YOU to **Scott Garrison**: Honored in December by Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

for his volunteer service, Garrison stopped by the booth to donate his award check to the **Ancient Oaks Foundation.**

Monarch Initiative

Mayor Poynton has taken the pledge! He joins other mayors and local government officials in taking action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose populations have declined by 90% in the last 20 years.

Municipalities like Lake Zurich are committing to create butterfly habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home. Watch for more information, event and activities.



Ongoing Projects

Kuechmann Park

626 N. Old Rand Road



Over the past few months, **Ancient Oaks Foundation** volunteers have been busy clearing buckthorn and other

invasive from the old oak woodland at Kuechmann Park. Invasive plants have overtaken walking paths and blocked out sunlight to native plants and grasses that used to grow under the oaks. This little effort has started to make a large impact, freeing up views of the large oaks that grow here. One oak we measured at almost 12 feet in diameter, likely just a sapling when our country was founded in 1776.

Once used had as a childcare and summer camp facility, the 2 old buildings on the site have been empty and unused for several years. Beyond repair, both were removed at the end of March. Prior to demolition, many unique pieces from doors, floors and staircase were salvaged from the old farmhouse.

Earlier discussions had considered Kuechmann Park as being sold for development. From athletic fields to housing, these plans have not come to fruition. While the future of the park is still uncertain, the Village has said it has no current plans of selling. We hope to collaborate with the Village on long terms plans for this unique property. Meanwhile, we continue restoration efforts to showcase the natural beauty, rarity, and potential of what we have here.



Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park

500 Lions Drive



As part of the Village's plan to remove dead and dying ash trees, efforts have begun to focus on the parks. Visitors to the Nature Park will notice large logs in the woods near the parking area and, in other places, trees marked with a white X. When the ground freezes again, cutting and removal of downed trees will resume.

Illinois Big Tree Registry

The Illinois Big Tree Registry offers a way to appreciate, discover, and record the largest native tree species in the state.

Ancient Oaks Foundation has entered 4 oaks trees into the registry, one each from Paulus, Manor, Oak Ridge Marsh and Kuechmann Parks. These 4 trees range from 12 to 15 feet in circumference and more than 150 feet tall. Standing next to one of these giants in our town is humbling, considering they are 200-300 years old.



Stay tuned to see where our big oaks fall on the list. Do you have a large tree in your yard that might make the list? You can find details and register your own giant at web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html

Membership

Do you know somebody like you who cares about Lake Zurich's woodlands and natural areas? Please tell them about Ancient Oaks Foundation!

Different levels and types of membership are available or you can give a one-time donation. We accept checks made out to Ancient Oaks Foundation or you can use the secure PayPal account found on our website. 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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Presidents Note:

As you can see, the Ancient Oaks Foundation Directors and volunteers are committed to Preserving Lake Zurich's Natural Beauty. Take advantage of the many programs we offer and the beautiful natural areas that we are endeavoring to improve. We so appreciate our members and our volunteers. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your support!

Judi Thode President, AOF

Primavera Poems

Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and
plough;
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Meet the Fauna: Frogs & Toads

Frog History

After the glaciers retreated from this region, the landscape was shaped by giant lakes and huge floods. Plants and animals struggled to survive in the rapidly changing environment. When frogs returned is unknown, but they migrated north from the southern and southwestern US and northern Mexico. Frogkind hopped thousands of miles north to become part of our native fauna.

Frogs and Toads

These two interesting residents of water and woodland are often confused and they do have much in common. Both frogs and toads come equipped with brain and backbone, heart and lungs. Their young hatch from eggs, spend their early days in the water breathing through gills before they mature.

Their mating calls (chorusing) are a sure sign that spring is on its way. Different species wait for the right combination of rainfall, sunlight, and air, water and soil temperatures to begin. Here is a list of frogs and toads common to the Chicago region and their typical mating periods. The length of the breeding season varies yearly and by species.

Early Spring: March 15- April 20

Western Chorus Frog, Spring Peeper, Wood Frog
Northern Leopard Frog, Pickerel Frog

Mid-Spring: May 10 to May 30

American Toad, Fowler's Toad, Eastern Gray Treefrog, Cope's Gray Treefrog

Late Spring/Early Summer: June 29 to July 10

Cricket Frog, Green Frog, Bullfrog

Frogs vs Toads

Frogs are jumpers with smooth slimy skin, teeth in the upper jaw, and bulging eyes. They lay their eggs in clusters. Toads have dry warty skin, no teeth, and they walk instead of jumping. Toads often have puffy looking pockets located behind the ear that squirt poison at potential predators. If you've ever heard a dog "scream" after picking up an American Toad, now you know why! Their eggs are laid in a chain formation.

Frog and Toad Gallery

Note: The skin color in most toad and frog species is variable.



American Toad

Body: About 3" long with large cranial crest; underside usually spotted. Call: a prolonged trill

Wood Frog

Body: Dark "Lone Ranger" mask behind eye; earliest breeder in Chicago area.
Call: quiet quacking



Northern Leopard Frog

Body: Scattered dark marks with light borders down the back. Call: low snoring broken by grunts

American Bullfrog

Body: Rear toes are webbed to tips. Call: deep bass croaks.



Cope's Gray Treefrog

Body: Large toepads, yellow/orange under hind legs. Call: fast buzzing trill.

Western Chorus Frog

Body: Dark stripes down the back, white stripe on upper jaw, no toe webbing. Call: Like running your finger over the teeth of a fine comb.



Green Frog

Body: Toes webbed halfway to tips. Call: 1-3 banjo twangs

The Polliwog

Oh, the Polliwog is woggling
In his pleasant native bog
With his beady eyes a-goggling
Through the underwater fog
And his busy tail a-joggling
And his eager head agog-
Just a happy little frogling
Who is bound to be a frog.

Arthur Gutterman

