



Ancient Oaks Seedlings

Spring 2018

President's Message:

What a winter it has been! Since our last edition of Seedlings, we have logged well over 200 volunteer hours in the work of habitat restoration. January's Owl Walk was attended by 30 people who learned about the 6 different species of area owls. In February, Shannon Westphal led us in Winter Tree Identification. Our third annual Trivia Night "Wild About Trivia" fundraiser yielded over \$5,000 for use in our efforts to restore our rare oak woodlands and natural areas. Thanks to our many sponsors and donors! They are listed on the back page. Please patronize them when you are able and thank them for supporting the Ancient Oaks Foundation.

Have a wonderful Spring!

Judi Thode

President, The Ancient Oaks Foundation

Bird Nesting Boxes Installed

Boy Scout Connor Groom from Troop 35 in Barrington took a step towards earning his Eagle rank by leading the building and installation of 20 bird nesting boxes. They have been placed on various Village properties.

With their installation we have begun a Volunteer Bird Box Monitor program. Three volunteers will check these boxes weekly for nest activity and progress. They will watch for any problems such as pest infestation or predation by raccoons and will keep records of each box. These volunteers are AOF's first Citizen Scientists!



The Board of Directors of the Ancient Oaks Foundation, is pleased to announce the March 1 appointment of Claire Slattery as their new Executive Director. Ms. Slattery will be assuming responsibility for day to day operations as well as marketing, public relations and fundraising for Lake Zurich's only local conservation organization. As the owner of Mindful Mix, a Lake Zurich based full service marketing company, Ms. Slattery joins us with over 22 years of marketing experience. As Past President of the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce, she has deep knowledge of the local economy and will bring added depth to the Ancient Oaks Foundation's mission of preserving local natural areas through education, volunteerism, supportive funding and long-term planning. She will also leads with experiences she has had serving as a Director on various local non-profits Boards such as the District 95 Educational Foundation, the American Marketing Association – Chicago Chapter, and the May Whitney Parent Teacher Organization.



"We are very excited to have Claire on board" said AOF President, Judi Thode. "We look forward to expanding AOF's reach and impact on our local privately and publicly owned oak woodlands and natural areas and Claire will be an integral part of our growth. We look forward to working with her to achieve our mission."

Seeking New Board Members

We have openings for additional AOF Director Members. Experience is necessary, just an interest in impacting our local area contributing to this dynamic conservation organization. Contact Judi Thode at info@ancientoaksfoundation.org for more information and an application packet.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Moms & Wildflowers-May 11th 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at the Nature Park, 500 Lions Drive

Instead of bringing Mom flowers, why not bring her to the flowers. Join us for a walk in the Nature Park as we stroll the trail learning about spring wildflowers and in importance of moms. We'll provide a special treat for all moms. Register through the LZ Parks and Rec Dept. 847 438 5146 \$3/person \$5/family
**Who Should Attend: Moms with Children ages 8 and up.*

Stroller Walk-May 19th 10:00 am - 11:15 am meet at the Nature Park, 500 Lions Drive

We will stroll from the Nature Park to Breezewald Park with nature stops along the way. Handouts and a snack will be provided. Register through the LZ Parks and Rec. Dept. 847.438.5146
\$3/person \$5/family
**Who Should Attend: Everyone with wheels is invited. Children must be accompanied with an adult.*

**Please register for all classes by visiting
<https://lakezurich.org/98/Park-Recreation>**

Lake Zurich Garden Club-Flower Sale May 19th 8:30 am-12:00 pm at the Ela Public Library, 275 Mohawk St.

Members participate in the sale by contributing plants.....perennials, shrubs, grasses, annuals, house plants... mostly from their own gardens, and also assisting on sale day. Members also work as needed maintaining and planting the library perennial beds on the day of the sale. Plants for sale must be clearly labeled with name, horticulture specifications and requirements for the plant.

**Receive a free pack of Ancient Oaks Foundation seeds with every purchase.*

Lake Zurich Farmers Market-June 22nd 3:00 pm-7:00 pm at Paulus Park, 200 S Rand Road

Stop by and visit the Ancient Oaks Foundation booth while enjoying other local vendors and entertainment.

Upcoming Workdays

Workdays are most Saturdays at our various restoration sites. Stay up to date by joining our volunteer email blast by emailing your name to info@ancientoaksfoundation.org. You will receive a weekly update.

FOR ALL OUTDOOR WORKDAYS, DRESS FOR THE WEATHER IN LAYERS (WINTER) WEAR STURDY GLOVES AND INSECT REPELLENT (SUMMER). DRESS IN CLOTHES THAT YOU DON'T MIND GETTING DIRTY. IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF CHANGES VIA OUR VOLUNTEER EMAIL BLAST.

Not able to join us for workdays?

You can donate to this worthy local conservation effort by visiting our website at www.ancientoaksfoundation.org and click on **DONATE** to access our secure PayPal account. Do you work for a company that has matching gifts? Let them know when you give your donation to The Ancient Oaks Foundation and you can double your gift!

Nature Park Work Day

Thank you to the **Lake Zurich High School Cross Country and Track team** for your hard work! The team was able to drag out all the buckthorn we have been cutting and stacking this winter in a hard to reach part of Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park.



Know Your Invasives

Spring

*When the cold, harsh winter has given its last breath,
When the sky above shows life instead of death,
When the claws reaching to the frozen sky become
decorated with leaves,
When the animals -long in hiding- scurry from trees,
We know winter has ended.*

*When the frost on grass is replaced with sweet dew,
When the fields become dotted with flowers,
reminding me of you,
When the lonely silence becomes filled with melodies,
When you feel warm air, erasing bad memories
We know winter has ended.*

*When the hard, bare ground becomes painted with
green,
When the frost-bitten air becomes fresh and clean,
When the coats and boots are all stored away,
When the playgrounds become occupied again with
child's play,
We know winter has ended.*

*When you hear the pleasant sound of children's
laughter,
When the air is filled with joy- long sought after,
When the world is filled with sunlight, brighter and
longer,
When the song of Mother Nature becomes stronger,
Spring has begun.
~Camille Gotera*

Scout Projects Mentored by the AOF

Kuechmann Park Announcement Board- Eric Antonoff BS Troop 964

Kuechmann Park Benches- Lucas Thurston BS Troop 309

Azpira Place Butterfly Garden- Kirstin Grzonka GS Troop 942

Bird Box build and installation - Connor Groom, BS Troop 35

Congratulations to Judi Thode for passing exams for
Rights of Way and General Standards Pesticide
Licensure through the Illinois Dept of Agriculture.

As the weather breaks and you are out and about, know what invasive plants you might be encountering. Here's more information on how to treat them:

<https://www.ancientoaksfoundation.org/about-invasives/>

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Common honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)



Turtle Time

By: Shannon Westphal

When I think of Spring in Northern Illinois I think of birds returning, flowers beginning to bloom, trees putting out leaves and turtles! Yes, turtles.

There are 260 species of turtles worldwide. Seventeen of these species call Illinois home.

Dwelling in ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, marshes, forests and prairies turtles are found throughout our state. Three are most commonly found throughout the state: the **red-eared slider** (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), **common snapping** turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) and **painted** turtle (*Chrysemys picta*). Regardless of where you call home in Illinois, this trio is likely to be found nearby.

Turtles of Illinois are confronted with many challenges. Habitat loss, predators, human curiosity and cruelty, and automobiles all plague these native Illinois reptiles. If you are out enjoying the natural areas of Northern Illinois and cross paths with a turtle, be respectful. Don't touch it, poke it, kick it or hit it. If you see a nest with eggs, let them be. If you encounter a turtle crossing the road, move it in the direction it is traveling. Wait briefly to be certain it doesn't turn around and move back into the roadway. *Always remember to wash your hands thoroughly if you touch them!*

Some of the benefits of turtles in our ecosystems include that they consume aquatic vegetation preventing it from colonizing and overtaking a specific body of water. They also eat carrion-dead or dying fish, crayfish and aquatic insects; preventing the buildup of organic matter in bodies of water which can be detrimental to desirable fish populations.

So, if you are out and about as the weather warms and you see a turtle...stop and admire it. They are one of our many natural treasures!



painted turtle
(*Chrysemys picta*)



red-eared slider
(*Trachemys scripta elegans*)



common snapping turtle
(*Chelydra serpentina*)

Thank you to our Wild About Trivia Sponsors

Craig Taylor, Lake County Board, District 19

