

# Ancient Oaks Seedlings



Summer 2016

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Fabulous Fireflies!

*Oak Mill Grove Park, 285 Old Mill Grove Rd.  
Friday, July 15, 7:30 to 9:00 PM*



Its nature's own light show and everyone'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 AOF-sponsored event is open to ages 6+. Donations to AOF gladly accepted.

### Dragonflies for All

*Manor Park, 5 Miller Road, LZ  
Tuesday, August 10, 6:30 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 that can get dirty.

\*This free AOF-sponsored event is open to ages 5+. Donations to AOF gladly accepted.



### Fall Wildflower Walk

*Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park, 500 Lions Dr.  
Sunday, Sept. 8 2:00 to 4:00 PM*

Nature's bounty is on display in the oak woodland as we enjoy the fall colors and learn how the fruits and flowers of autumn are important to the cycle of life in the park. Dress for the weather and walking.

\*This free AOF-sponsored event is open to ages 5+. Donations to AOF gladly accepted

### Save the Monarchs

*Paulus Park, 200 S Rand Road, LZ  
Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:00 AM to noon*



Gather at the Paulus Park Raingarden during the Alpine Races to learn what you can do to help the endangered Monarch butterfly. We will provide information about their life cycle and amazing migration as well as free milkweed seeds and instructions for planting. This free AOF-sponsored event is open to all ages. Donations to AOF gladly accepted.

## Recent Events & Activities

### Creating Native Gardens for Your Yard

Novice and experienced gardeners alike sat enthralled as Carol Rice presented the processes and payoffs of creating natural garden spaces. Planners have lots of options. Gardens can be large or small, wild or formal. They can screen unsightliness, stabilize slopes, and enhance areas that are too wet or too dry. Regardless of the size or purpose, Carol's emphasis is on planting native species to create



habits that attract birds, bees, and butterflies to your own yard.

## 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](http://ancientoaksfoundation.org) for information about our

501(c) 3 tax deductible sponsorship levels

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## Ongoing Projects

### Kuechmann Park

626 N. Old Rand Road



**Before and After** A little rain didn't stop volunteer workers who removed invasive brush to reveal this oak tree — one of many in the park. More nutrients will be available to this oak, and other native plants surrounding the tree will be able to grow and thrive.

**Chips Ahoy** Men from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church contributed muscle and energy to the task of chipping and extending the park's trails just in time for spring to arrive. Thanks, guys!

**Seeds for Tomorrow** As various areas of the park are cleared, work crews scatter seeds appropriate to that habitat. A space near the west trailhead has been selected to showcase native plants attractive to insects, butterflies, birds and humans alike.

### Breezewald Park

125 N, Old Rand Rd

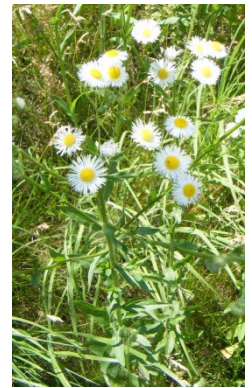
Change in nature is slow and deliberate. Just as the progress from toddler to marathoner takes some years, the transformation from weed patch to a blooming meadow is gradual. After invasives were removed last fall, the area was seeded with attractive native plants that would thrive in that location. Many have sprouted and some have not yet put in an appearance. Some of what has grown is good, some is not. Some are flowers and some are grasses. As summer progresses, we will monitor and control what's happening there. By fall, much should be filled in. By next summer, a more mature palette of natives should delight all species of park visitors.



## Community Services Building

505 Telser Road

The ugly duckling has become a swan! The area north of the building used to be home to weeds and trash. Now it is bursting with color and life. The Village, McGinty, and Ancinet Oaks Foundation partnered to clear the wetland, and reintroduced native seeds and plantings. The result, only in its first year, is an ever-changing display of Mother Nature's best.



## Grant awarded for Habitat Restoration Project

We are pleased to announce that the ComEd Green Region Program in conjunction with Open Space, has awarded the Village of Lake Zurich a \$10,000 grant to commence work on the habitat restoration program on an oak woodland across from the Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park, 500 Lions Drive. The Ancient Oaks Foundation assisted with the grant application process and its partnership with the Village was crucial to the awarding of this grant.

This project has been high on the AOF priorities list. This nearly three acre rare oak woodland has been inundated with invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. This grant will allow the area to be professionally cleared as part of a three phase project. When completed, it will be a healthy, biodiverse oak woodland, capable of regenerating- a wonderful gift to future generations. We are very excited about this project and will keep you updated...

## The Blooming Banquet:

## Pollinators in Your Garden



More than just pretty, pollinator-friendly gardens are lifelines. They provide sustenance for the pollinators (birds, bees, butterflies) that visit and, in turn, the pollinators ensure that the plants on which they feed complete their reproductive cycle. Any size garden can attract pollinators, but a large group of flowers is a

better draw than a single plant. A constantly blooming array of annuals, perennials and shrubs means that your garden will attract pollinators throughout the growing season. Add a bird bath or other source and prepare to enjoy your blooming banquet.

### Bees

Plant white, yellow or blue flowers with a pleasant odor: allium, aster, alyssum, bee balm, blanket flower, cosmos, wild geranium, goldenrod, hyssop, lavender, lily, lupine, poppy, verbena, zinnia



### Butterflies

Plant red and purple flowers with a light fresh scent: bee balm, butterfly bush, cosmos, daylily, dianthus, goldenrod, liatris, marigold, nasturtium, phlox, purple cone flower, Shasta daisy, verbena, yarrow, zinnia. For monarchs, plant some common milkweed, the primary food source for monarch larva.

### Hummingbird's

Plant scarlet, orange, red or white tubular-shaped flowers with very little to no odor: bee balm, bleeding heart, butterfly weed, canna, cardinal flower, cleome, fuchsia, wild geranium, gladiolas, impatiens, iris, lantana, liatris, penstemon, petunia, phlox, salvia, verbena, zinnia



## Other Pollinators

Globally, beetles are responsible for pollinating 88% of 240,000 flowering plants. Beetles were among the earliest



insects to visit flowers and are especially important pollinators for ancient species such as magnolias and spicebush. Like bees, ants and wasps are social insects and pollinators. Wingless ants crawl up the stems of low-growing plants to collect energy-rich nectar from the flowers. Wasps may resemble bees, but generally are not covered with fuzzy hairs. As a result, they are much less efficient in pollination.

Moths work the pollinator night shift, but some moths are active by day... Because of their large size and darting flight, hawkmoths can be mistaken for hummingbirds. Hawkmoths are mighty flyers, tracking the airborne fragrance trail upwind to a flower feast. They hover as they feed, uncoiling their impressive tongues (some longer than their bodies) to gather nectar.



## Poems of Summer



### Fireflies in the Garden

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,  
And here on earth come emulating flies,  
That though they never equal stars in size,  
(And they were never really stars at heart)  
Achieve at times a very star-like start.  
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

*Robert Frost*

### Moths

Adrift in the liberating, late light  
Of August, delicate, frivolous,  
They make their way to my front porch  
And flutter near the glassed-in bulb,  
Translucent as a thought suddenly  
Wondered aloud, illumining the air  
That's thick with honeysuckle and dusk.  
You and I are doing our best  
At conversation, keeping it light, steering clear  
Of what we'd like to say.  
You leave, and the night becomes  
Cluttered with moths, some tattered,  
Their dumbly curious filaments  
Startling against my cheek. How quickly,  
Instinctively, I brush them away.  
Dazed, they cling to the outer darkness  
Like pale reminders of ourselves.  
Others seem to want so desperately  
To get inside. Months later, I'll find  
The woollens, snug in their resting places,  
Full of missing pieces.

*Jennifer O'Grady*

## The American Goldfinch

A welcome summer sight is a male American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) flying over a meadow, flashing golden in the sun as it darts up and down in flight. In every season, this bird is a delightful visitor to your yard and garden. Goldfinches are late nesters, nesting from June through August. The female builds a compact cup of plant fibers, spider webs, and plant down (especially thistle down) that is so tightly woven that it may hold water. Both parents feed the young and the fledglings are ready to leave nest about 11-17 days after hatching.



Always on the move, goldfinches like to feed in groups. Watch for these feathered acrobats hanging upside down or sideways to pluck the seeds from thistles, coneflowers, and other seeding plants. All finches molt twice a year. Spring males are brilliant yellow and shiny black with a bit of white. Females and winter males are colored a less eye-catching brownish gold.

***We love of volunteers!*** Visit

[www.ancientoaksfoundation.org](http://www.ancientoaksfoundation.org)

Learn how you too, can help preserve the Lake Zurich areas natural beauty. Service groups for churches, synagogues or scout groups are welcome!