



# Ancient Oaks Seedlings

Fall 2017



## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Calling All Coyotes

**Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 pm**

Coyotes are here to stay so let's learn how to live with them. After stories and demonstrations, we will go calling for coyotes in the **Kuechmann Park woodland**. Register for class #337975/A at 847 438 5146 or through the LZ Park and Rec. Dept. website.

### Buckthorn Busters

**Tuesday, December 5. 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Paulus Park Barn, 200 S. Rand Rd.**

European native buckthorn is an invasive shrub that is slowly destroying our native oak woodlands and natural areas. More than likely you have some in your yard and early winter is the best time to eliminate it. Learn how to identify it and rid it from your property. A representative from Lake County Forest Preserves and the LZ Tree Commission will be on hand to discuss your questions. Register recommended by emailing [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org).

### AOF Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Please email us at "Contact" or [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org) with comments or questions.

### February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018-Third Annual Trivia Night

Come join us at **Kemper Lakes Golf Club** to show how "Wild about Trivia" you are! All proceeds go to support ongoing and new projects for the Ancient Oaks Foundation. **Mark Your Calendars!**

**NOW AVAILABLE! Milkweed seed.** This native flower is the only plant used by monarch butterflies for reproduction. Help us save this imperiled butterfly! Contact us at [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org) and give us your address and we will send you a packet of seeds!

## Autumn Color Splendor

**By: Shannon Westphal**

Many of us appreciate the outdoors for all it offers-trees, flowers, animals and birds. Some of us really appreciate the outdoors during the Fall season for the color display that occurs. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, why do leaves change color?

Throughout the Spring and Summer leaves produce chlorophyll which causes them to be green in color. Chlorophyll, which supports critical functions in the plant such as photosynthesis is present throughout much of the growing season. As temperature's cool and the amount of daylight dwindles, the chlorophyll production in the leaves is reduced and the green pigment begins to break down. As the green fades, the carotenes, xanthophyll and anthocyanin pigments begin to dominate. These pigments are responsible for the awesome display of orange, red, yellow and purple Fall colors we love!

As the leaves are changing color, other changes are occurring. Where the leaf attaches to the twig there are specialized cells being made. As these cells increase in development they will eventually allow the leaf to be blown from the tree. Most broadleaf trees will experience leaf loss in Fall, while most conifer trees will not. Oaks often tend to hold their leaves throughout the winter until the new leaves begin to flush in the Spring causing the old foliage to be shed.

The intensity of color we see each Fall can vary depending on the amount of moisture present, the temperatures and the amount of light. Cool temperatures above freezing produce the most brilliant colors and tend to accentuate the red or anthocyanin pigments. So, if you want to enjoy the splendor of Fall color in our area; choose a sunny, cool day with temperatures above freezing!

## Village of Lake Zurich & Ancient Oaks Foundation Kick Off New Programs

### Join AOF as we "Save the Monarch"

THANK YOU to Mayor Tom Poynton who has taken the Mayors Monarch Pledge. Lake Zurich is now in the Mayors Monarch Leadership Circle.

The monarch butterfly population has declined by 90% in the past 10 years. This is mainly due to a decrease in milkweed habitat which is needed for reproduction and as a food source for caterpillars. Overuse of pesticides is also a contributing factor.

But the **Save the Monarch** program seeks to reverse this trend through awareness and, more importantly, giving humans the tools needed to help save the monarch in their own back yards.

The Ancient Oaks Foundation is heading this effort here in the Lake Zurich area. We have already established several butterfly friendly gardens in Lake Zurich.

### Heritage Oak Registry

The Ancient Oaks Foundation would like to celebrate the beautiful oaks of our area (Lake Zurich, Hawthorn Woods, Deer Park and Kildeer) with a voluntary Heritage Oak Registry.

An oak can be nominated based on its size, beauty, historical or family significance or any other quality that makes it special. Oaks on private or public property are eligible. Nominated trees will be assessed for size, canopy and general health by a certified arborist and you will be given the results of this assessment. When your oak is inducted into the Ancient Oaks Foundation Heritage Oak Registry, you will receive an award certificate and an opportunity to purchase a commemorative plaque suitable for indoor or outdoor display.

There is no cost for the nomination process. To nominate a tree, complete the application found on our website and follow the submittal instructions. Paper applications can also be sent to you via mail. Call 224 286 1312.

## Pine Cone Bird Feeders

**Materials needed:** string for hanging, pine cone, peanut butter and bird seed

**How to make:** tie string to end of pine cone, spread peanut butter over pine cone, roll in bird seed, hang in yard and enjoy the birds!



## My November Guest

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,  
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain  
Are beautiful as days can be;  
She loves the bare, the withered tree;  
She walked the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.  
She talks and I am fain to list:  
She's glad the birds are gone away,  
She's glad her simple worsted gray  
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,  
The faded earth, the heavy sky,  
The beauties she so truly sees,  
She thinks I have no eye for these,  
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know  
The love of bare November days  
Before the coming of the snow,  
But it were vain to tell her so,  
And they are better for her praise.

**Robert Frost**

## Meet the White Oak

The white oak (*Quercus alba*) is the state tree of Illinois. One of Northern Illinois' native oaks, the white oak is found in every county in the state. The state champion white oak is found in Putnam County and measures 65' tall, has a crown spread that measures 105' and a trunk diameter of 7' at breast height. This tree is often used in furniture making, veneer, flooring and even caskets. Its acorns are a valuable food source for squirrels, chipmunks and wild turkey. White tail deer often browse the foliage and porcupine have been known to eat the twigs.

### How to identify a white oak:

**Leaves:** yellowish green on top, lighter on the underside; simple; alternate; 4-6 inches long and lobed.



**Bark:** light ash gray in color; separating into small scaly plates



**Twigs:** red-brown to somewhat gray, hairless almost shiny, red-brown multiple terminal buds



**Fruit:** acorn; warty and bowl shaped, covers ¼ of the nut; matures in one season



***“The creation of a thousand forests is  
in one acorn.”  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson***

### Seeking New Board Members

We have openings for additional Ancient Oaks Foundation Board of Director Members. Experience in natural resources is not necessary, just an interest in impacting your community while contributing to this dynamic conservation organization. Contact Judi Thode at [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org) for more information and an application packet.



## 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.

### Contact Us

Mail: 52 Robertson Ave, Lake Zurich IL 60047

Email: [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org)

Phone: 224-286-1312

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

*"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

— Aldo Leopold

## Volunteer & Sponsorship Opportunities

**Volunteers** are always needed for the fun and rewarding work of habitat restoration. You'll get great exercise, fresh air, make some new friends and enjoy the camaraderie that working for a good cause can bring...

**When:** Workdays are year-round, even in winter. Most are on Saturday mornings. Sign up for our email list at [info@ancientoaksfoundation.org](mailto:info@ancientoaksfoundation.org) to be notified of dates, times and locations for workdays.

### Who:

- Adults and teens age 13 and up. Children ages 12 and under with an adult;
- Girl and Boy Scouts- Earn badges, Try-its, Eagle Scout and Gold Badge Award work.
- School service organizations such as Interact and National Honor Society.
- Church/Synagogue youth groups can be good stewards of God's creation.

### Not able to join us for workdays?

**You can donate** to this worthy local conservation effort by clicking 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!



## Seed Collecting 2017

We have collected well over 60 varieties of native grass and flower seeds from various natural areas around Lake Zurich. From wetland seeds such as water plantain and blue flag iris to dry woodland species such as tall white lettuce and Solomon's seal, we have had a blast! These seeds will now be cleaned, sorted, mixed with a filler then spread in newly cleared areas at Kuechmann Park and the Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park.

At a price of \$1500 an acre (retail) for the high-quality seed that we collect, this is a very economical way to improve our natural environment. Here is a photo of volunteer Pat and our pickings from one of our Saturday workdays.

