



Ancient Oaks Seedlings

Summer 2018

President's Message:

*The summer is in full swing and the Ancient Oaks Foundation has been busy with the many tasks of habitat restoration. We continue with removing weeds from local oak woodlands at Kuechmann park (626 N. Old Rand Rd) and the oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park (500 Lions Drive). We hosted the St. Matthew Ladies Bible Study group for a spring wildflower walk and will also host the Lincolnshire Garden Club on July 19 for a summer wildflower walk. We have well over 60 species of native wildflowers gracing our local natural areas. In April our Beginning Birding Basics was a welcome introduction to the many migrating species of birds. And perhaps you've seen us at the LZ Farmers Market- **A special thanks to our members for your financial contributions.** We couldn't do it without your continued support. Thanks too to our 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 Summer!*

Judi Thode

President, The Ancient Oaks Foundation

Eagle Scout Project Completed

Thank you to Boy Scout Eric Antonoff of Troop 964 for building and installing this announcement Board at Kuechmann Park. This was part of Eric's promotion to an Eagle Scout. This announcement board is easily seen from Old Rand Road and welcomes the frequent walker to come and explore this hidden gem of a park. Thanks again, Eric!



Bird Nesting Boxes Update

AOF's Bird Box Monitor program is nearing the end of the nesting season. Our first year has been much more successful than we anticipated. Three volunteers have checked these boxes weekly for nest activity and progress. They have watched for any problems such as pest infestation or predation by raccoons and have kept records of each box. Approximately 75% of the boxes have been used by a variety of cavity nesting birds: chickadees, house wrens, tree swallows, nuthatches and bluebirds. These results will be sent into NestWatch, a Cornell University ornithological clearing house. Thanks to AOF's Citizen Scientists!



(A nuthatch nest in one of AOF's boxes)

Another Eagle Scout Project Completed

Luke Thurston of Troop 309, has built and installed three benches at Kuechmann Park, for the use and enjoyment of those who walk through this beautiful rare oak woodland. This is part of Luke's Eagle Scout Project. Thanks, Luke, for your hard work!



Upcoming Events & Activities

Fabulous Fireflies

Friday, July 20, 7:30 to 9 pm

Ages 6+ and families

Location: Old Mill Grove Park, 285 Old Mill Grove Rd. LZ
We'll learn about the life cycle of this fascinating beetle through games and stories. Then we'll catch and release some. Bring a flashlight and a blanket. A seasonal snack will be served. **Register for class# 258975-A through the LZ Parks and Rec. Dept. 847.438.5146**



Dandy Dragonflies

Friday, August 17, 6:30 to 8 pm

Ages 6+ and families

Location: Manor Park, 5 Miller Rd. LZ

Learn about these interesting creatures who inhabit out local ponds, including dragonflies, the “tigers of water and air”. Wear clothes that can get wet as we will be examining water samples. A seasonal snack will be served. **Register for Class # 258975-B through the LZ Parks and Rec. Dept. 847.438.5146**



Mighty Oak Heritage Celebration

Saturday September 22, 1:00 - 4:00pm

Breezewald Park

Join the Ancient Oaks Foundation's Anniversary Celebration as we begin our tenth year of preserving the area's oak woodlands and open spaces. This family fun afternoon will include a scavenger hunt, Storytime under the oak tree, nature art displays from local artists, a monarch butterfly educational display, a bat box display and introduction by a local Eagle Scout, canopy exploration, in addition to an oak tree planting ceremony. Kid-friendly food and beverages available for purchase. All ages. Free and open to the public but please register online at www.ancientoaksfoundation.org by September 14. Raffle baskets will be available and donations will be accepted.

Habitat Restoration in Hawthorn Woods

Saturday, September 15, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Brierwoods Preserve

The Ancient Oaks Foundation will be hosting a buckthorn removal day at Hawthorn Wood's Brierwoods Preserve on Saturday, September 15. Volunteers are needed to cut buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasives under the leadership of experienced AOF volunteers. Let us know you'll be coming. Email your name and the number of participants to: info@ancientoaksfoundation.org
You will be kept informed about this event.



To Live Beautifully

*Oh, to live beautifully for my brief hour as does
the wayside flower.*

*Unperturbed by the strange brevity of time
allotted me,*

Undisturbed by the the o'ershadowing vine.

Bravely stemming wind and beating rain

Bowing and lifting up again....

Within me some strong inner voice

As bright as a poppy filled with light;

My feet firm rooted in the earth's good sod,

My face turned toward God.

Leaving some fragrance down the path I know,

A little while...

*Then go, as the flower goes, its petals seeking
the ground*

Without a cry or sound.

*But leaving behind some gold seed lightly
thinned,*

To blow upon the wind.

Author Unknown



Upcoming Workdays

Workdays are most Saturdays at our various restoration sites. 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.

Sign up to volunteer at:

info@ancientoaksfoundation.org. Leave your name and the number of participants and we will keep you updated on workday information.



Not able to join us for workdays?

You can donate to this worthy local conservation effort by visiting our website at 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!

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 for more information and an application packet.

Turkey Vultures are Our Friends!

Our first instinct when we hear the word “vulture” is to say “Ick!” but hold on a minute! Vultures are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and you should be grateful when you spot them soaring high in the sky.

Turkey vultures, (*Cathartes aura*) are the most likely species that you will see in Lake County and are nature’s cleanup crew. Unlike most birds, they have a strong sense of smell and can detect fresh carcasses from miles away. They circle the area with wings in a wobbly V formation until they spot their prey. They don’t mind being around human’s habitations and you’ll often see them on the side of the road, enjoying their next meal.

When it’s time to reproduce, vultures chose a mate by gathering in a circle with wings slightly spread and doing a little hopping dance. When a mate is chosen the pair then soar together in the air as if playing tag.

Their nest is a sad affair. Vulture parents choose to nest in the inside of a hollow tree, in dense bushes or secluded spots in old buildings. Very little padding is provided for the eggs; they are often laid directly on debris. 1-3 eggs are laid and are incubated for 34-41 days. The vulture parents make up for the lousy nursery conditions by being excellent parents. One parent remains with the chicks most of the time. Both parents feed the young a nutritious liquid by regurgitation. The young fledge (leave the nest) at about 9 weeks of age

Vultures benefit humans by improving our human esthetics. They remove dead carcasses from our roadways thereby eliminating the stench and unsightliness of a dead animal. They eat carcasses that would otherwise spread diseases to human beings via insects or groundwater contamination. So now when you see a graceful group of vultures soaring overhead instead of saying “Ick”, say “Thank You”.



For more information about the turkey vulture go to:

<https://turkeyvulturesociety.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/turkey-vulture>

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Craig Taylor, Lake County Board, District 19

