

A photograph of a field of wildflowers, including yellow and pink coneflowers, in a wooded area. The text is overlaid on the image.

Village of Lincolnshire

Preserves in Print

Summer 2009

Welcome to “Preserves in Print”!

This is our first newsletter dedicated to the beautiful natural areas and Nature Preserves here in the Village of Lincolnshire.

It is hoped that this, and subsequent “*Preserves in Print*” newsletters will provide you with information to entice you to visit these beautiful areas and experience them for yourself.

If you have ideas or questions you would like covered in this newsletter feel free to provide your comments anytime – we look forward to your input.



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Florsheim Shoe Company Leaves its “footprint” in the Village of Lincolnshire

Florsheim Shoe Company was founded in 1892 by Sigmund Florsheim. At that time, Florsheim Shoe Company produced 150 pairs of shoes a day. The company grew to meet a growing economy, an educated consumer and was known to make one of the highest quality shoes available. Harold Florsheim, grandson to Sigmund, eventually became chairman of the company after a lifetime of experience ranging from working in the factory, selling shoes, advertising and the board room.



Florsheim weathered World War I, World War II and the depression. All the while focusing on creating a quality product and connecting with the consumer. Harold, in addition to keeping the company afloat during the difficult mid 1900s found time to volunteer as a “dollar a year man” providing executive experience to the country, serving in Europe to facilitate shipping logjams and helping to care for the millions of displaced persons in Europe after WWII.

In 1985, Harold and Sarabel Florsheim presented the Village with a land donation of 40 acres. The land donation required that the land be used solely for public use in perpetuity; to recognize the environment of the parcel; to name the parcel after the Florsheims; and to use whatever power necessary to acquire land which would allow for public access to the site.

For several years, the Village discussed different uses for the property and in 1994, conducted an environmental assessment of the site. The property contained many mature oaks, shagbark hickories, ironwoods, a rare sedge meadow and multiple plants that were federally and/or state threatened species.

In 1996, the Village provided public access to “Florsheim Park” and had the property dedicated an Illinois Nature Preserve. Florsheim Nature Preserve is widely known for its unique rare native quality. Botanists and biologists from around the world come to study plants and wildlife including to collect seed for the international Seed Bank at Kew Garden in England.

If you have not ventured out to Florsheim Nature Preserve for a visit, spring is one of the best times experience this rare unique natural site. Ephemeral plants will be in bloom along with a wide variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Native Americans came *this way*?

“The township was crisscrossed with Indian trails and because forests, brush, tall prairie grass and sloughs made travel difficult, they [trail-marker trees] were invaluable to the early settlers. Indian tree trail markers led more than one worried traveler to the safety of his home. Where a trail might be hard to follow, a sapling was bent and its upper end fastened to the ground. As the sapling grew, it formed a horizontal “Z” that pointed to the next village or point of interest.”



Typically, the tree was bent to the ground and fastened in place by a piece of hide. The leader or end of the tree would be cut off to more clearly demarcate the direction that trail user should follow.

Most trail-marker trees are found in the Chicago region and most are made of oaks because of their strength and the fact that they can be bent easily when they are

saplings. Oaks also live a long time, are less susceptible to fire and other problems. Native Americans knew their trail-marker would last.

Because much of the Chicago area has been developed, there are very few of these trees still in existence. However, there is one located in Lincolnshire at Florsheim Nature.

You can view this Native American trail-marker tree along the path system in Florsheim Nature Preserve. This trail-marker tree was manipulated to provide direction to those using the trail hundreds of years ago. This is a living piece of our history that not many people get to experience.

Source: Illinois Steward, Summer 2006 Issue

Leave No Child Inside

Chicago Wilderness has developed an initiative entitled "Leave No Child Inside". This initiative is focused on getting kids back into nature and out from in front of the television or computer and let them experience life first hand.



One aspect of this initiative is the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, which states every child should have the opportunity to:

1. **Camp under the stars**
2. **Catch and release fish, frogs and insects**
3. **Celebrate heritage**
4. **Climb a tree**
5. **Discover wilderness—prairies, dunes, forest, savannas, and wetlands**
6. **Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities**
7. **Follow a trail**
8. **Learn to swim**
9. **Plant a flower**
10. **Play in the mud**

Here in the Village of Lincolnshire we can make this happen! Did you know that the Village is offering a summer camp out at Spring Lake Park on August 14th? Visit www.village.lincolnshire.il.us for more information.

Fishing is allowed at Spring Lake Park and there are a ton of frogs at the lake (some as large as a softball)! There are forest, river and wetlands at Rivershire Park with trails to all of those areas. There are forest, woodlands, sedge meadows, savanna and prairie at the North Park/ Florsheim/Old Mill Nature Preserve!

Come into the Village Hall and pick up a copy of a wonderful outdoor activity guide for the entire family. It is packed with ideas for outside adventure.

Enjoying Chicago Wilderness With Your Family

This guide is free of charge to residents of the Village of Lincolnshire.

Experience Nature!

Following is a list of dates and times for to get out onto our rivers. We have the Des Plaines and the Chicago Rivers located right here in Lincolnshire. There are opportunities to help our rivers as well as recreational opportunities.

Saturday, May 9

Chicago River Day

9:00 a.m. - Noon

North Park

1025 Riverwoods Road

In the morning volunteers work to collect trash, remove invasive plants and clean up along the Chicago River. In the afternoon, everyone is invited to a festival at River Park, 5100 N. Francisco in Chicago.

For more information visit the Friends website at: http://www.chicagoriver.org/events/chicago_river_day

Saturday, May 16

2009 USCA National Stock Aluminum Canoe Championships

This is an opportunity to participate in or watch a national canoe championship. The race will take place on the Des Plaines River and will run from Route 60 in Vernon Hills to Wheeling. The race will begin at 10:30 a.m. (Note: Spring Lake Park overlook is a terrific place to sit and watch the race go by or you can watch from the pedestrian bridge over Route 22.)

For more information visit: www.canoemarathon.com.

Sunday, May 17

52nd Annual Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon

This is the largest, one day, single course, canoe and kayak race in America. The race begins in Libertyville and stretches 18.5 miles down the Des Plaines River to Mt. Prospect. There are a wide range of class categories from beginners to experts. It is a fun day on the river for individuals as well as families.

For more information visit: www.canoemarathon.com

Welcome to Woodland "Rehab"!

Come to one of our "Interventions"

A number of opportunities are provided for residents to rehabilitate our natural areas.

Following are dates, times, and locations for summer intervention days.

Saturday, June 20th

Rivershire Park

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, July 25th

Florsheim Park

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, August 22nd

North Park

9:00 a.m. to Noon



Stay for as little or as long as you wish. Rain or shine.

In addition to rehabilitating our natural areas, a brief site visit and tour of each specific natural area will be provided at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to come and stay for as little or as long as you wish.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should bring a pair of work gloves (if you don't have any, we will provide them for you). Be sure to dress for the weather and wear a long sleeved shirt, wear long pants and shoes that you don't mind getting dirty or wet. Layers are always a good idea.

For more information on "intervention days", call (847) 913-2361 or email lscott@village.lincolnshire.il.us.

A Summer Calendar All A Bloom

See if you can find these plants in our Nature Preserves and Natural Areas:

Trillium
May and June
North Park/ Floresheim/
Old Mill Woodland



Rattlesnake Master
July thru September
North Park Parking Lot

Cardinal Flower
July thru September
Rivershire Park



Gray Coneflower and
Purple Coneflower
July thru October
North Park