



# ***Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society***

*Protecting the Nation's First State Dedicated Nature Preserve*

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Dear Friends and Members,

People say that they are "for the environment," but in our busy lives, we know that time is not always available to physically participate in activities we want to support. Now is your opportunity to offer support to fund Dunesland's volunteers who are dedicating their lives to improving our environment. Since the 1910's, the nature lovers who eventually founded Dunesland and co-founded the park have been the custodians of Illinois Beach State Park with a unique and special interest in this valuable ecological setting.

Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society is a registered Illinois not-for-profit corporation and registered under Internal Revenue Code SEC 501(c)(3). There are various ways to support our work. You will find more information on our web site Gifting page or please call the number on our letterhead. Donations may be made online at our secure payment site or mailed to the address above. You may consult your tax adviser for further information.

- Donations may also be made in honor of a special occasion or as a memorial; a card of acknowledgement will be sent to the recipient or family to announce your gift.
- If you have access to corporate funding, matching funds, or grants, please consider helping Dunesland in this manner. Dunesland representatives are always available to meet with donors or make a corporate presentation.
- You may make a donation of an appreciated investment (stock, bond, mutual funds) or property and not have to pay capital gains tax if you transfer it to Dunesland instead of selling it.
  - You will receive the full value of the stock or property at the time of the donation as a tax deduction; Dunesland will receive the benefit of the full appreciated value rather than the amount that you would have received if you had sold it and donated the proceeds to us.
  - That tax benefit will give us a larger amount of money to help the environment and fund our programs.

Some of you may not be aware that Dunesland's new web site went online this summer thanks to a generous donation. Although all the content was developed by a volunteer, the costs of a webmaster and other startup costs were expensive. Our web site contains current/archived news; important reports and official complaints; park history; flora and fauna information and photographs; trail maps; donation/membership options; and meeting updates at [www.IllinoisDunesland.org](http://www.IllinoisDunesland.org). Dr. Elizabeth Lunn's book, Plants of the Illinois Dunesland is available for purchase in our online store. You may also sign up for our email list to receive timely news on current issues.

Our precious Illinois Beach State Park, the nation's first state dedicated nature preserve, is under assault from industrial pollution and extreme abuse/negligence by the governor and state agencies. The environment and the health and safety of the public are suffering from lack of enforcement by government agencies and officials. Contaminated areas of the park should not be open for public access as they are now. The asbestos fiber contamination that affects the park also moves southward toward Chicago in the Lake Michigan currents and washes up on the beautiful Illinois beaches. It is an inexcusable desecration of nature and a risk to public health and safety!

All of our work is done by volunteers. However, we have many normal business expenses such as office supplies, printing, and mailing expenses. There are also many legal expenses in our First Amendment lawsuit to protect the public from exposure to invisible asbestos fibers. Although the legal work is being done *pro bono*, there are still filing fees, discovery fees, deposition costs, etc. A few of us absorb many expenses on our own. We know that most people don't realize the need for contributions, so we are asking you to help support our work. Please aid our efforts to protect the ecology of the park and Lake Michigan (the drinking water source for millions of people), the Illinois shoreline, and to pressure our government agencies to do their jobs of proper enforcement of environmental regulations to protect the environment and the public's health and safety.

This is an opportunity for you to offer financial assistance to help protect the park and Lake Michigan and its shoreline on behalf of future generations. We need to fight the ecological degradation caused by man and the state budget cuts that have irresponsibly crippled the park.

Remember, even if you don't have time to help as a volunteer, you can be of service to the environment our volunteers protect by making a donation to support our work. Your Time, Talent, and Treasure are welcome and greatly appreciated! Please feel free to share this message with like-minded friends.

*Thank you for your support of our efforts!*  
*The Board of Directors*