



Dunes News

A Publication of
Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society

Protecting the Nation's First Dedicated Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 466

Zion, IL 60099

312 332-3377

Luncheon Reservations

Saturday, February 18

12 PM \$12

Park Resort

Please give your menu choice when you make a reservation:

1. Chicken Caesar Salad
2. Sesame Chicken Salad, fruit
3. Reuben Sandwich, fries
4. Club Sandwich
5. Beach Burger, fries and Choice of Swiss, American, or Cheddar cheese

RSVP by February 15:

Lorri London 773 271-493

Dory Havens 847 945-2243

OR idunesland@aol.com

Check Out New Website

www.asbestosbeach.com

Dunesland has been invited to supply documents which tell the story of our fight against asbestos contamination since 1998. Dunesland's asbestos health and safety expert Jeffery Camplin has also supplied documents and other information he has compiled on behalf of Dunesland.

We appreciate being given a web "voice" by the concerned citizens who have designed this site.

See page 2 for more information.

Paul A. Kakuris, President

February, 2006

"State of Illinois Beach State Park" Superintendent Behm Speaks at Our February Luncheon

Some of the concerns Dunesland has which we hope Greg will be able to address to our satisfaction:

- Why is the Nature Preserve closed?
- Why doesn't the state's "crown jewel" have a naturalist on staff now when there used to be two?
- Why has the staff been cut back so much which jeopardizes the park's security?
- Why is the state ignoring the asbestos contamination at the beaches, allowing millions to be exposed?

Illinois Beach State Park Superintendent Greg Behm will give the February "state of the park" talk, following in the tradition of our long-time Superintendent Bob Grosso. Greg accepted the Superintendent's position at Illinois Beach on May 25, 2005 after Bob's retirement.

Superintendent Behm is a 1975 graduate of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa who majored in Outdoor Recreation Resource Management with a minor in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. He began his career with the Illinois Department of Conservation in 1973. After college graduation, Greg worked as a Park Ranger at Moraine Hills. He

was hired as Site Superintendent at Volo Bog State Natural Area in western Lake County in October, 1986 where he served until early 2005 when he was laid off by I.D.N.R. due to budgetary cutbacks.

Greg has been married for 26 years to Karen who is a nurse. Greg and Karen have four children. He enjoys meeting new people, being with friends and family, hunting and fishing, investing in mutual funds, and working in the field of park management.

We're fortunate to have such an experienced person at the helm of the state's crown jewel!

IAG Madigan Backs Away From Asbestos Task Force Report Responsibility; Leaves UIC Holding the Bag!

In June, 2005, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan released the interim Asbestos Task Force Report which was written in response to Dunesland's 2003 Camplin Report, written by Dunesland's health and safety asbestos expert Jeffery Camplin. This draft

was supposed to go through a peer review process before the release of a final report. The Centers for Disease Control (ATSDR, Chicago office) severely criticized the science in the draft report and has refused to do an authentic peer review, ap-

parently because of the bad science in the draft. Unfortunately, since the draft has been released, the IAG did not do what she said she was going to do. The released draft has not been subject to an open and transparent peer review process. (Continued p.3.)



Children have been seen building sand castles and "burying" friends in the sand. With microscopic asbestos mixed in with the sand, as tests have proven, a child's action might be more literal than figurative!

www.asbestosbeach.com

A new website has been designed for the purpose of informing the citizens of Illinois about the truth of asbestos contamination on the beaches of Illinois from the Wisconsin border to Chicago, fouling our precious shoreline. It will help separate fact from the fiction that public officials have put out to try to cover up their actions, their own direct and indirect involvement in contaminating the Illinois shoreline with microscopic asbestos.

This website contains many links which will allow you to garner more information and education about asbestos and contamination from many sources. The links will also direct you to specific documents and other information as it becomes available. It contains letters, documents, Dunes News, newspaper articles, complaints to government agencies and reports.

The Home Page and links will be continually updated, so make it a habit to visit the website frequently. This is designed to be a powerful learning tool and will continually educate the public on breaking news and issues about asbestos and the corruption of public officials.

Dunes News

Park's Nature Preserve Erodes Into Lake Michigan, Endangered Species Lost

State officials have allowed the North Point Marina to accelerate the erosion to Illinois Beach State Park which is immediately south. Through extreme, perhaps criminal, negligence, IDNR, the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, the IAG, and the Army Corps of Engineers turned the other way and allowed the marina to accelerate the loss of the State Dedicated Nature Preserve top land and threatened or endangered species and their habitats to wash away into Lake Michigan. Meanwhile the USEPA ignores this.

If this weren't trouble enough, public officials have allowed the asbestos-contaminated sandpile just south of the marina to wash friable asbestos chunks and fibers further

south into this area. Now the remaining beach area is contaminated with regulated asbestos waste materials (RACM). Some of it is the deadly tremolite asbestos. The destroyed species were colonies of Sea Rocket and Marram grass.

The Nature Preserve Commission staff has been negligent in properly addressing this issue and bringing it fully to the attention of the commission members. The Army Corps knows that the IDNR marina is in violation of its construction permit which does not allow a structure which has received a Corps permit to cause adjacent damage.

The IDNR has not supplied sand to the feeder beach just to the north of this area for quite some time.

What they did supply was contaminated and they knew it! When IDNR built the marina north of the Nature Preserve, the marina designer and consultant told them the marina would erode the property at the park approximately 85 feet per year. They were told they had to supply sand every year to make up the shortfall of projected damage.

IDNR has continually ignored this advice. They have also knowingly taken asbestos-contaminated material because they could get it cheaply from the Waukegan Harbor channel and ComEd/Midwest Generation dredgings. IDNR then took the approximate \$500,000 allotted yearly for sand replenishment and spent it elsewhere.

Toxic Sludge Apparently Squeezed into Groundwater and Lake Michigan Adjacent to Illinois Beach State Park

The Johns-Manville settling basin lagoon which is adjacent to Illinois Beach State Park and Lake Michigan contains several feet of toxic sludge on the bottom which is composed of asbestos fibers and other toxic constituents. This jello-like substance is in the process of being covered over with a "liner," in reality it is a cap which is covering over the sludge. With the USEPA's and IEPA's blessings, Johns Manville will then cover the "liner" with a soil cap, adding tons of

additional weight onto the sludge. Neither a state nor federal ecological risk assessment has been done to measure the impact to the Dedicated Nature Preserve and its endangered species or Lake Michigan. There is no liner on the bottom of the lagoon, as is commonly done.

Apparently, it's obvious to everyone except both EPA's and Johns Manville that this additional weight on the cap will only squeeze the toxic asbestos sludge further into

the groundwater and Lake Michigan.

The Nature Preserve is adjacent to the Manville Superfund site and will apparently suffer from this toxic discharge which could move north-easterly into the Nature Preserve's groundwater area.

IDNR which owns the Nature Preserve for the people of Illinois, turns the other way and ignores this blatantly damaging activity. IAG Lisa Madigan also ignores her role as the legal custodian for the health and safety of the public and of the environment.

Dunesland Considers Filing Appeal to IL Supreme Court

Dunesland continues to fight to be heard with regard to the court action on the signing of the consent decree between the state of Illinois and Johns Manville. The IAG, representing the state, gave away the store to Johns Manville on its pollution of the environment and agreed to \$145,000 in fines instead of \$84 million. Dunesland attempted to intervene in this case in front of Judge

Hall in Waukegan, IL. Hall allowed Dunesland status as "friend of the court," in essence, a second class citizen allowed to file limited briefs. In that role, we lacked standing and did what we could to get the story of the pollution to the court.

In the end, Hall disregarded Dunesland's objections and gave JM and the IAG what

they wanted. He ordered incriminating documentation Dunesland had filed to be removed from the court file. That was a total sell-out of the environment and the public who is exposed to the contamination. Dunesland's Loop attorney Donald Metzger is considering filing an appeal that could pave the way for our issues to eventually be heard by the Illinois Supreme Court.

February, 2006

IG Madigan Backs Away From Asbestos Task Force Report

Since the interim report was released last June, the IAG's office stated that her Task Force team (which had met secretly) is no longer meeting. The IAG has now left the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health to mop up the \$250,000+ boondoggle. The IAG's office told Dunesland at the end of January that UIC was handling the peer review and final report. The IAG would merely take UIC's final report and release it. This change in protocols foists the ultimate responsibility of the IAG's Task Force onto the UIC's School of Public Health. When the IAG's Task Force actually met, they were working with the UIC School of Public Health. Now the IAG is using UIC to distance herself from this badly flawed report, apparently allowing them to operate at their own discretion without any checks and balances. Throughout this entire process, UIC has also been meeting in secrecy, contrary to the detailed policy stated on their website, thereby excluding the public from any input and oversight.

Many of the other Task Force members have been kept "out of the loop" by the IAG during the process. There have been questions raised about which government agencies/members actually approved the draft report before it was released. When Dunesland inquired at the IAG's office in late January about the peer review, Beth Wallace said that ATSDR had reviewed it. Dunesland obtained a copy of the "review" which is only a short letter from the Chicago office of ATSDR and not a scientific peer review. The ATSDR letter raised many questions about the quality and the validity of the IAG's interim Task Force draft report. Apparently, the report's conclusions are not supported by its data. Science and politics don't mix.

We are no further into solving the asbestos problem on the lakefront than the citizens of Illinois were before the IAG's Task Force spent over \$250,000 of the taxpayers' money to come out with a skewed, manipulated, and doctored draft report which the IAG now fobs off on UIC for

them to further downplay and attempt to cover up the seriousness of the trillions of asbestos fibers, including the virulent tremolite, that continue to be discharged and dumped into Lake Michigan and have washed up on the Illinois shoreline for decades.

The IAG has allowed millions of people to continue to visit Illinois beaches and be unwittingly exposed to asbestos fibers. The IAG report does confirm that these beaches contain tremolite which is one of the most deadly forms of asbestos. Tremolite asbestos has been found at Illinois Beach State Park, the Waukegan Harbor Approach Channel, Highland Park beach, and Chicago's Oak Street Beach; most beaches have not been tested. The lake's currents have carried the asbestos fibers southward from the apparent source (Johns-Manville Superfund site, a former asbestos product manufacturing site in Waukegan) to the beaches. The dredged asbestos-contaminated sand from offshore of the Commonwealth Edison/Midwest Generation plant (adjacent to Manville) has also been dumped at Illinois Beach State Park.

The IAG's office does not know when UIC will release the final document to them. Now that the Task Force is no longer meeting and the IAG is allowing UIC to operate on its own without checks and balances or oversights, they are operating outside of the original scope and protocols of the Task Force which called for the IAG's Task Force to approve the activities of UIC. Since the Task Force no longer meets, the other members are not approving (Did they ever?) the modifications that UIC has made and apparently is now making. The question remains: Are the IAG and UIC possibly meeting secretly to make changes to the review process and making modifications to protocols because they don't trust the process of transparency to the public that both their websites tout? Apparently, they have spurned scientific truth in order to cover up their own negligent environmental actions by "cooking" the report's protocols to guarantee its biased outcome.

Asbestos-Contaminated Beach Nourishment Sand Remains Uncovered

IG, USEPA, IEPA, Army Corps, and IDNR Flagrantly Ignore Exposure to Public

The feeder beach at the north end of the park and the beach sand dumped offshore of the sand pile, both known as beach nourishment, are contaminated with chunks of asbestos, asbestos fibers and asbestos waste products. Over the years, the state has collected, transported and dumped this regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM) knowing that it contained this contamination. In other words, government officials have knowingly moved this regulated or "special" waste from one contaminated site to a new site which has now become contaminated. They have allowed

nature to spread this special waste further into the navigable state and federal waters of Lake Michigan. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also involved because they dredged the contaminated Waukegan Harbor approach channel and dumped the dredgings just offshore of the park's beach area. State and federal officials continue to cover-up and deny their wrong-doing. Anyone who knowingly dumps asbestos-contaminated material is violating state and federal criminal statutes.

The material that was dumped on the beach was trucked from the Commonwealth Edison/

Midwest Generation power plant dredgings to the sand pile at the park beach. The power plant annually dredges offshore because of the shoaling. This area is adjacent to the JM Superfund site which appears to be the source of asbestos fibers and asbestos chunks. These chunks are fractured, weathered, and abraded manufactured asbestos-containing waste products. Some of the asbestos is friable and some of the asbestos, when picked up on the beach, easily releases the asbestos fibers.

If this were anywhere else, it would be covered, fenced off with proper signage, properly disposed of and the violated statutes enforced. In Illinois, the government enforcers seem to have also become polluters.



October, 2004

Erosion of contaminated sand pile (regulated waste) before 2004-2005 winter storms.

You should see how much more is now mixed into the sand or washed into the lake!!!

IDPS

PO Box 466

Zion, IL 60099

Protecting the Nation's First Dedicated Nature Preserve

If you are not already on Dunesland's email list, please sign up at:

ildunesland@aol.com

Please give your name.

Your address and phone number would be appreciated but are not necessary.

Membership information is listed below.

Thank you!



This 'n That You Need to Know!

Please Pay Your Dues!

Additional Donations Are Always Welcome to Enable Our Work.

We operate on a calendar year, so please plan to pay at the meeting or send in a check if you haven't paid in 2005. 2006 dues were due in January.

Regular, Individual \$25

Regular, Family \$40

Friend of Dunesland \$100

Lifetime \$1500

Full Time Student \$15

Senior over 65 \$20 (on request)

Donations are tax deductible.

Support Our Work Days!



Work Days are the second Saturday of each month from 9 AM until noon. Arrangements can be made if you want to work beyond noon or on another day. Meet at the Nature and Interpretive Center at the south end of the park unless otherwise specified. In the event of inclement weather, special projects or training sessions will be held at the Nature Center. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact 312 332-3377.

There are special opportunities such as wetland burns, adopting a section of the park for monitoring, such as local creeks, ravines, birds, park boundaries, bluebirds, butterflies, reed grass, purple loosestrife, and others. There is also training for identification of plants and animals and Dunesland topography.

**Mark Your Calendar for the Next Dunesland Meetings:
February 18, April 22 & June 17**

Dunesland Makes News!

Chicago Sun Times

September 13, 2004

September 15, 2004

September 17, 2004

October 25, 2004

December 13, 2004

January 28, 2005

February 8, 2005

Waukegan News Sun

September 10, 2004

September 22, 2004

October 12, 2004

January 8, 2005

January 15, 2005

Conscious Choice

December, 2004

Recent Websites:

asbestosbeach.com

irc.org

GreatLakesDirectory.org

angelfire.com

SouthernIllinois.com

freewillblog.com

Underreported.com

April 15, 2005

June 1, 2005