

# Dunes News

Published by *Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society*

P.O. Box 466

Zion, IL 60099

312 332-3377

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Paul A. Kakuris, President

## Luncheon Reservations

Saturday, April 12 12PM

Park Resort

Please give your menu choice when you make your reservation:

1. Chicken Caesar Salad
2. Sesame Chicken Salad w/ fruit
3. Beach Burger
4. Club Sandwich

RSVP by April 9.

Dory Havens 847 945-2243

Gene Rawhoof 847 872-4917

### *Did You Know?*

- There are millions of dollars of uncollected fines just at Johns-Manville due to lack of enforcement by our state agencies. How many times is that problem multiplied throughout the state?
- State budget cuts may seriously impact the public's access to the park this summer.
- Financial support for Dunesland will enable us to be more effective. If you believe in our goals, please help our programs grow.

## At the April 12 Luncheon, Well-Known Local Ornithologists Will Speak on Birds of Our Park and the Surrounding Area!

You are in for a rare treat if you join us at our April meeting! We will have two guest speakers who are experts on the birds you can see at our park. Between them, they have many years of experience.

Paul Sweet has lived in Zion since 1985. He has been an avid recreational birder for twenty years.

He has a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and an MS in Zoology from Colorado State University, specializing in Chickadee vocalizations. Mr. Sweet teaches at College of Lake County. He has spent the last eleven summers working on various field projects with birds, culminating in a 2001 stay in

Ecuador for three months.

Al Stokie has spent many years doing plant surveys for state and local organizations, including Illinois Beach State Park. He has worked on the Lake County Breeding Bird Atlas Project and spent the last seventeen years doing a shorebird survey at various northeastern Illinois locations. For the last twenty years, he has spent his free time on various birding activities, particularly at the park, the Wadsworth Wetlands Project, and the Waukegan area. Al is on the committee which tracks bird sightings for the park checklist at IBSP.

*"For me, it's the first warbler I see. Hopefully, some time in April. That's the highlight. No more winter. Spring is here. The biggest warbler migration is in May. We get about 22 species of warblers. They're the colorful ones. Some of them are blue, some of them have red on them. They're small compared to the robin or any of the thrushes. They just flit. You'll find them down along the lakefront."*

Doris Johnson, birder, Des Plaines  
*Chicago Tribune*

*"When rosy plumelets tuft the larch,  
And rarely pipe the mounted thrush,  
Or underneath the barren bush,  
Flits by the sea-blue bird of March."*  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

## Volunteers Needed to Support Dunesland!

There are many opportunities to help support Dunesland's activities. We need program volunteers, fundraisers, an archivist for our old records, a lawyer, people with computer skills, and help with putting out our newsletter.

One thing that you can always do from the comfort of your own home is to write, email, and/or call your legislators about important environmental issues.

### T Shirts

Now that we have our great T shirts, we need volunteers to help sell them. Local parades or a day at the beach are good events that draw a lot of people. If you have marketing skills or ideas, please let us know.

Small T shirts are now available due to the requests of many of you. They will be ready go home with you at the April meeting!

### Dues are Due!

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 2003.

Regular, Individual	\$25
Regular, Family	\$40
Friend of Dunesland	\$100
Lifetime	\$1500
Full Time Student	\$15
Senior over 65	\$20
(upon request)	

Donations are tax deductible!

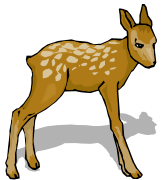
## Will New IDNR Director Be Appointed?



At press time, IDNR is without an official director. Governor Blagojevich has announced that he is recommending state representative Kurt Brunsvold to the state Senate's Executive Appointments Committee. Unfortunately, many of the appointments have been stalled in this committee because of the apparent political unrest and dissension within the Democratic ranks. The recent appointment of Renee Cipriano by this body has been controversial as reported by the press. The *Chicago Tribune* has warned the governor not to choose state legislators as directors because of favors they owe and the cronyism such practices promote. Brunsvold is known as being pro handgun and had even sponsored a concealed weapons bill. He is part of the sports and outdoor caucus.

State lands, their wildlife, and the precious and fragile environment are a gift and a blessing to the citizens of Illinois. IDNR deserves a more qualified director. Shouldn't the director be an experienced administrator who has worked with endangered species, the state nature preserves, and critical habitats of our state lands. Many sportswriters in newspapers throughout the state have been shamelessly promoting Representative Brunsvold for leadership at IDNR. They enjoyed the hunting events such as the celebrity turkey shoot promoted by the previous director while the state parks and the sensitive wildlife areas suffered. This state needs to realize that the days of the great hunters and pro handgun interests are over. Brunsvold's position on guns is clearly contrary to the Democratic platform, so why would our Democratic governor want to appoint him to such an important position? Apparently, the NRA and the sports and outdoor caucuses are promoting Brunsvold since their interests are in alignment. The environmental groups have given suggestions and been ignored. Has anyone asked the professionals in the department what they think the needs for leadership are?

Governor Blagojevich, please listen!



*Due to retirements and the state budget freeze on new hires, the park may be forced to close its gates except to campers and guests of the resort.*

## Budget Cuts Threaten Summer Use of Park

Community members may find that an afternoon at Illinois Beach State Park may be a thing of the past due to state budget cuts. The top-heavy IDNR headquarters in Springfield has eroded the needs of the state park system in the field which serves the public and the environment.

Over the last few years, while the IDNR home office became bloated with pinstripe patronage, the state park system throughout the state was shaved to skeleton staffs. This spread state park staff and the maintenance program so thin that maintenance in certain areas was nonexistent and services to the

communities that visit the parks have been severely curtailed. The state parks are for the public to enjoy and to maintain and preserve nature preserves, their endangered species, and the flora and fauna.

Never has the state park system been so jeopardized by patronage and mismanagement as it is today. The IDNR office in Springfield should be the place that is whittled down, not the field. Headquarters has burgeoned with personnel, while the field suffers from lack of staff. Illinois Beach State Park is the crown jewel of the park

system; headquarters needs to treat this park, as well as the other parks, with the reverence with which the Native Americans treated their lands.

Without full funding to hire new staff to replace the retirees and hire summer help, the park may be forced to close all operations except for the campground and the resort. What a shame for the community and the visitors to this eleventh most visited park in the country. That distinction will certainly disappear as the gates close.



## USEPA & IEPA Refuse to Test Nature Preserve

The agencies have refused to test our Nature Preserve where the Manville industrial canal leaks into it. Tom Skinner, regional administrator of the USEPA, and Renee Cipriano, director of IEPA, have refused to heed

Dunesland's requests to test. The industrial canal has been tested and chemical contaminants have been found that are indicators that there may be more contaminants. The agenda is to delist Manville and remain in denial that the Superfund site is

apparently leaking contaminants into the dedicated Nature Preserve and federal critical habitat. We must remain diligent in our fight. The future of the Nature Preserve is at risk. Ask them about the deformed animals found in the Preserve!

## Senator Durbin to Initiate a Further Investigation Into Dredging By the Corps of Engineers

As spring approaches, we know that it's time to dredge Waukegan Harbor again! Dunesland knows that industry needs to have Waukegan Harbor's approach channel dredged and we have no problem with that. What we do have a problem with is what they do with the sediment they dredge. It is financially easier for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dispose of this contaminated muck by putting it on a barge rather than a

truck. They should dispose of it at an approved landfill, but what do they prefer to do? Yes, they like to dump it at our beautiful park and help prevent shoreline erosion by adding it to our beach! Isn't that great? Wouldn't you want your children and grandchildren playing on the dredgings from the bottom of the channel? What do you think might have collected in that sediment? There are several toxic constituents in this muck that should not be dumped in a

recreational area and where wildlife drinks.

Senator Durbin has agreed to look into this matter again. As you may recall, last year the Corps, the IEPA director, and the USEPA ignored our complaints and Senator Durbin's request for a review. This may require that the parties be brought up in front of the Illinois Pollution Control Board as a complaint or federal court.

*"The shining water that moves in the streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans is not only water, but the blood of our people.*

*You must remember and teach your children to give the water the kindness that you would give your brother.*

*The white man treats his Mother, the Earth, as a thing to be bought and sold.*

*He will devour the Earth, leaving behind only a desert, Leading to the end of living and the beginning of survival.*

*The Earth is precious to God.*

*To harm the Earth is to harm its Creator.*

*We must keep the land sacred, a place to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers. All things are connected. Teach your children that the Earth is our Mother. Every part of this Earth is sacred to our people.*

**Know this...**

*This earth does not belong to Man, Man belongs to the Earth.*

**Know this...**

*All things are connected, like the book which unites one family.*

**Know this...**

*We do not weave the web of life. What we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are connected."*

**Chief Seattle, 1854**

## IEPA Director Cipriano Criticized By Dunesland

In a recent Chicago *SunTimes* article written by Springfield Bureau Chief David McKinney, Dunesland criticized the reappointment of the current director because of her dismal record of nonenforcement of pollution violations. The article discussed the apparent lack of enforcement of water pollution violations throughout the state and the involvement of the former Attorney General Jim Ryan. Additionally, Cipriano apparently tried to mislead the *SunTimes* by stating that the Johns-Manville industrial canal did not leak into the park's dedicated Nature Preserve and federal critical habitat. The *SunTimes* contradicted the statement by citing internal IEPA records which showed that the opposite is true. The director has denied several of our complaints with regard to Illinois Beach State Park and the apparent pollution from the Johns-Manville Superfund site. Several violations that IEPA has failed to enforce can be transposed into millions of dollars of revenue that were could be collected. These

funds could be used for environmental remediation for some of the damage done by polluters.

Why would a director put this agency in such a position and apparently jeopardize the environment and the health and safety of the public? Of the many people who use the park and its nearshore waters of Lake Michigan, how many are aware of the chemicals lurking nearby? It's unfortunate enough that the park sits adjacent to the Manville Superfund site, let alone be at the mercy of an agency which might may or may not write up or enforce violations that exist. The apparent environmental impact of Johns-Manville on Illinois Beach State Park due to the lack of enforcement is especially troublesome.

Cipriano responded to the critical article with a Letter to the Editor making personal attacks on Dunesland and Paul Kakuris, its president. Dunesland responded with a Letter to the Editor setting the record straight. This

performance of the Republican holdover is certainly not indicative of the leadership qualities that this agency and the environment deserve. Cipriano was not the first choice of the many environmental organizations that gave recommendations to the Governor and his staff. Why did the Governor ignore recommendations from environmental organizations? Politics and the environment don't mix. They never have and never will. Political connections do not insure the selection of the best person for the job.

The Governor said in his inauguration speech that it was a new day and it wouldn't be politics as usual. To us, it looks like cronyism and pinstriped politics as usual. The last administration had a questionable environmental record and appeared to favor big business. We certainly hope the first two months of this administration aren't following business as usual. We hope for a selection process embedded with integrity.

## 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 project or training sessions will be held at the Nature Center. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Don Wilson at 847 772-2910 (cell) or 847 937-2583 (work) or Bill Wengelewski at 847 662-4811 (IBSP).

04/12/03 Brush Cutting - Honeysuckle & Pull Garlic Mustard - Wadsworth Road Entrance  
05/10/03 Pull Garlic Mustard - Wadsworth Road entrance.  
06/14/03 Pull Garlic Mustard - Wadsworth Road Entrance  
\*\*\*\*Afternoon Walk in the wetlands restoration area and Bull Creek.  
Bring sack lunch and drink.

There are special opportunities such as adopting a section of the park for monitoring, wetland burns, monitoring 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.

Join us for one of these opportunities!



**THE NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 28.**



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