

Dunes News

Published by Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society

P.O. Box 466

Zion, IL 60099

312 332-3377

June, 2003



Paul A. Kakuris, President

**Luncheon
Reservations**

**Saturday, June 28
12 PM**

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 June 24.

Dory Havens 847 945-2243

Karen Jump 847 498-5710

**Dunesland Makes
News!**

**Would you like to read
(also online) more about
the asbestos problems in
the Nature Preserve?**

**Chicago Sun Times,
June 9, page 1**

**Waukegan News Sun,
June 10, page 1**

**Chicago Tribune,
June 10, Metro, page 1**

**Chicago Sun Times,
June 10, page 18**

**Waukegan News Sun,
June 11, 2003, page 1**

**Zion-Benton News,
June 12, page 1**

Jeff Camplin Speaks the Straight Truth About Asbestos at Our Park Luncheon on June 28 at Noon Illinois Beach State Park Conference Center

Jeff Camplin is an environmental safety consultant who teaches asbestos classes, including USEPA accredited training classes. He trains the professionals in the field who are charged with analyzing and removing asbestos from sites.

He has a BS in Safety from Northern Illinois University and has been an Illinois licensed asbestos professional since 1986. He is currently serving a second term as the Assistant Administrator of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

He will be speaking on asbestos at Illinois Beach State Park and the health effects on the general public from the perspective of a safety engineer. The USEPA, the IEPA, and IDNR haven't

reviewed Illinois Beach State Park from a public risk perspective. The park needs to be examined from the perspective of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

He will discuss the risks that the public may be taking when they visit our park or any other area where asbestos has been found. Mr. Camplin will explain the short and long term risks of asbestos contamination, whether it is in the water, on the beach, or on the land.

Many of us have questions about asbestos that have never been answered. Now is your opportunity to ask a real expert, not a state public affairs official or a

government official with a personal agenda. You may want to know:

Is the public being exposed to airborne microscopic asbestos?

What happens when we breathe airborne asbestos?

Will it contaminate your clothing?

Does it travel with you in your car and into your home?

Where does asbestos come from and how did it get on our park's beaches?

Is it safe to walk on the beaches?

Are our families safe at the park?

Should we bring our pets to the park?

How can Dunesland trigger new investigations by state and federal authorities for our park?

Join us to learn the answers!

Dunesland Blows the Whistle on Asbestos Found in Nature Preserve Causing Public Officials to Run For Cover!

Hundreds of pieces of rotting asbestos – much of it in the “friable” condition that can cause cancer – have been found in our Nature Preserve which is located just north of the Johns-Manville Superfund site.

The asbestos was discovered by Dunesland's president Paul Kakuris and the park's superintendent Bob Grosso when they inspected the preserve after the recent fire which swept through acres of

the 500 acre preserve. Some of the materials found were as close as 20 feet from the Manville property and some were actually 400-500 feet into the Nature Preserve! Brad Bradley, the USEPA Superfund site manager, initially claimed the items must have been blown in by the wind. After an inspection, even he agreed that rolls of roofing couldn't be lifted by the winds! You're not in Kansas, Brad!

Some of the materials were partially buried. Paul later flagged about 65 spots within a small area where he spotted AMC (asbestos containing material). Some flags marked several items until he ran out of flags and time. So we know that there's a lot more out there. “But the wind gusts from that wildfire and the continuing lake breezes have

Dunesland Blows the Whistle (continued)

doubtless carried friable asbestos all over this area. And the stiff breezes that traditionally blow across the Nature Preserve will continue to do so," Paul predicted.

Paul said that after finding the asbestos, he filed two sets of complaints about the illegal asbestos dumping: with the Illinois and the US EPA's, asking for an investigation and a mandatory cleanup, and also with the Illinois Attorney General's office and the U.S. attorney, demanding an inquiry and a prosecution. The dumped material included heavy rolls of asbestos roofing material, a cement-like transite pipe, brake linings, and a variety of other materials that are just like the materials manufactured by Manville.

State officials were quick to listen to Manville's offer to clean up the asbestos. According to Paul, state and federal officials "have a strong incentive to cover up the nature of this illegal asbestos dump site. The USEPA, the IEPA, and other agencies are getting ready to file for the 'DELISTING' of Johns-Manville as an active Superfund Site. They claim it's all cleaned up and that there are no more problems. So when we come up with an obviously illegal asbestos dump, filled with with friable material, apparently dumped there by Manville in criminal activity, it's an embarrassment, and it should delay any delisting process."

Manville's Denver attorney, Bruce Ray, in a desperate move, pushed his front line people out of the way and tried to handle this one himself. "He may have to get a permanent apartment in Waukegan because of the time he's going to have to spend to unravel this one. It's unusual to have Manville's high powered attorney roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty in a sticky situation. Evidently, the Manville front line people failed to cover the truth that Dunesland has uncovered," speculated Paul.



Did you know that symptoms from breathing asbestos may take 20 years to develop? Kicking up the sand may not be so carefree after all.



Dunesland Requests Police Investigation

Dunesland has filed a formal complaint with the Conservation Police Director Thomas Wakolbinger and Director of Investigations, Chief Tim Sickmeyer to investigate possible criminal actions that may be involved in the ACM found in the Nature Preserve. In addition to asbestos products which were strewn about a large area, the Johns-Manville Superfund Site appears to be discharging its lagoon into the dedicated Nature Preserve and Federal Critical Habitat. This effluence is a violation and contains

microscopic asbestos and other possible chemical contaminants. These discharges are apparent violations of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act and appear to be a crime scene.

We are also concerned that public officials appear to be conspiring to remove the evidence without a law enforcement or police investigation. To identify the perpetrators and move forward with prosecution and enforcement and subsequent fines would be a worthy endeavor for the seriously cash-strapped departments. These

fines should be directed back to this Nature Preserve for mitigation and remediation. If the evidence were removed without investigation and prosecution, there would be little recourse.

Why are public officials so eager to allow Manville to remove the evidence? These are the very same public officials who are in charge of enforcing the environmental laws and regulations.

Now we wait for action and a response...

Dunesland Contacts Attorney General Lisa Madigan

In an attempt to avoid cover-ups from government officials on the Manville issues, Dunesland filed a complaint with Attorney General Lisa Madigan requesting that she direct her office to investigate whether the Nature Preserve had been used as an illegal waste dump, to consider if the asbestos dump is

a crime scene, and enforce any violations that are found. Since many public officials at the state and federal level have ignored and manipulated the process of meaningful enforcement in this area, we asked her to look into why public officials have refused to enforce known violations when they are

charged to do so. Since she is new in this position and doesn't carry the responsibility of predecessors' past actions, we hope that she will forge a new beginning in the Attorney General's office and correct the wrongs of the past. The environment needs a green Attorney General!

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 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 June 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
(on request)	

Donations are tax deductible!

"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

IDNR Director Brunsvold Suspends Dunesland's Nature Preserve Permits Stopping Volunteer Work

In an apparent bout with misguided judgment, the new IDNR Director Joel Brunsvold directed that the permits that allow volunteer to work in the Dedicated Nature Preserve and Federal Critical Habitat be suspended. This apparent retribution came immediately after Dunesland blew the whistle on the discovery of the dumping of asbestos waste at the Nature Preserve. The excuse was that it was too dangerous because of the waste material there. Ironically, the IEPA, USEPA, IDNR, and Manville agents have visited the Nature Preserve on several subsequent occasions. It's unfortunate that this new director has resorted to such tactics and has further diminished the services that this dedicated Nature Preserve requires.

Brunsvold has continued to leave in place Ryan administration holdovers in his department, such as the misguided public affairs employees. It seems like the tail is wagging the dog.

Park Budget Cuts Partially Restored

After the Waukegan *News Sun* wrote a story about the drastic budget cuts and loss of personnel at the park, local politicians began to receive hundreds of phone calls about the closures. The article was a direct result our last newsletter and we appreciate the paper's responsiveness to this issue. Money was found to restore about four part time positions; a total of nine full time positions remain unfilled due to budget cuts. The Nature Center's interpretive building has restricted hours and fewer school groups have the opportunity to take advantage of the educational program.

The park's administrative office has had to reduce the number hours it is open due to the lack of administrative personnel. With all these significant cuts, the crown jewel of the park system suffers. Where are the politicians who care enough to do something? With all these restricted hours and lack of employees, Director Brunsvold further injures the work force by taking away the permits of the volunteers in the Nature Preserve.

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).

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 SEPTEMBER 20.

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