



# 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, June 18

12 PM

### Park Resort

Please give your menu choice when you make a reservation:

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

## RSVP by June 15:

Lorri London 773 271-4938

Karen Jump 847 498-5710

ildunesland@aol.com

## The public is invited!

### As a Matter of Fact,,

Officials from W.R. Grace in Libby, Montana were criminally indicted for covering up relevant information with regard to asbestos exposure and risk. Libby has had an epidemic of asbestos exposures to its residents. Many of them have died and others are very ill.

The type of asbestos found is tremolite which is one of the most virulent asbestos cancer-causing fibers. This same virulent asbestos has now been discovered to be at our park!

Paul A. Kakuris, President

June, 2005

## Tom Smith, Nature Artist and Photographer is Our June Luncheon Speaker

The public is invited to hear our June speaker is a man who has worn many hats! Tom Smith is the Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator for the Lake County Forest Preserves. He graduated from the American Academy of Art and Columbia College. His first job was as a newspaper photographer; then he began his art career.

He was an artist at the Adler Planetarium and produced artwork for the Sky Show, exhibits, and other special projects. He also painted dioramas and exhibits at the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

During this time period, he had a life changing experience while he was exploring an undeveloped Lake County Forest Preserve near his home. As he was standing in a marshy meadow, surrounded by three different species of Lady Slipper orchids, he developed an

even greater appreciation of the value and diversity of the local wildlife we have around us. Lake County has more Threatened and Endangered Species than any of the other 102 counties in Illinois due to the fact that Lake County has two very rare habitats, bogs and dunesland, which are biologically diverse.

This epiphany caused Tom to embark on a project to photograph Lake County's threatened and endangered species. He also began working at the Lake County Forest Preserves supervising volunteers twenty years ago. The volunteer program has grown from a few volunteers to 2700 volunteers who helped last year. They donated over 16,000 hours of their personal time to help preserve and monitor the local nature preserves. He feels like he has the best job in the world!

Love of his job and what he learned from it spurred him on to begin painting again twelve years ago. He has taught painting classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden and Harper College and was one of the featured artists in last winter's *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*.

Tom employs a technique called transparent watercolor in which light passes through the paint, reflects off the paper and back through the paint. The white areas of the painting are the white of the paper. He never uses black or white paint.

One of his favorite landscape subjects is the Illinois Dunesland. Come to our luncheon to hear Tom share his story and his art. You are sure to be delighted by this enjoyable presentation!

## Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan Loses Motion to Dismiss Dunesland's First Amendment Case

On April 5 in a Waukegan state court, Judge David M. Hall ruled against Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in their motion to dismiss Dunesland's First Amendment lawsuit. We had requested last summer that IDNR allow Dunesland to display our asbestos contamination and health and safety risks flyer in

the park's now-shuttered information areas.

Shortly after the initial asbestos series expose in 1998 by Chicago Sun Times investigative journalist Charles Nicodemus, IDNR, IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) developed a safety flyer for the public. That

flyer has not been available to the public for years, contrary to their agreement. Exhibits depicting asbestos for public identification have also disappeared. Obviously, the information in their flyer did not follow proper health and safety protocols and whitewashed the severity of the asbestos problems at the park

(continued on p. 2)



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!

### Our Beach

Asbestos is a toxic,  
 It’s a hazardous waste.  
 It’s a regulated material,  
 Usually removed with great haste.  
 Asbestos is not sand,  
 It is surely not a beach.  
 Why is it present for children to reach?  
 Children should not play in it,  
 It should not be disturbed.  
 It should not become airborne,  
 This is incredibly absurd!  
 It is not a fuzzy rock,  
 To be skipped into a lake,  
 Nor disturbed with a shovel, a pail, or a rake.  
 It should not be a castle,  
 Made out of sand.  
 It should be in an area,  
 Where people are banned.  
 Tons of chunks removed,  
 While sunbathers snored,  
 Microscopic dust should be removed,  
 Instead of ignored.  
 How can the State,  
 Claim that they care?  
 They say it is safe without testing the air!  
 Taxpayers should be protected,  
 Not footing the bill.  
 Polluters should be accountable  
 For the pollution that they spill.  
 Dunesland stands tall,  
 Pushes forth in defiance,  
 Sees the fraud in state reports,  
 Instead of pure science.  
 We want our beach back,  
 You must understand,  
 Get rid of the asbestos,  
 And put back clean sand!

Anonymous

## Dunesland’s First Amendment Case (continued from p.1)

and potential risks to the health and safety of the public and park employees.

Dunesland is represented by Loop attorney Donald L. F. Metzger. Judge Hall said that the Illinois Supreme Court case law does protect the right for the distribution of flyers. As the case progresses, he will hear arguments about the display cases where Dunesland would like the flyers placed. These cases already hold informational flyers for Great America, Gurnee Mills, hotels, etc. It also includes flyers from federal, state and county agencies with

regard to health and environment. The IAG’s office and IDNR have been arbitrary and capricious in excluding Dunesland from displaying those flyers in the display cases.

Jeffrey Camplin, a health and safety expert who specializes in asbestos, created a public health and safety flyer for Dunesland to fill the void that the state had created. The blocking of the distribution of the flyer keeps the public from knowing about the inherent dangers on the beach; inhaling cancer-causing asbestos is risky business. Denial of information is even riskier!

The public should not even be in an area that contains friable and microscopic asbestos (RACM). Unfortunately, asbestos isn’t very easy for the novice to identify. Many chunks have been rounded and abraded by wave action before they hit the beach. 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! When will the state and feds take action and enforce the violations that are so obvious?

## Excerpt from Dunesland’s Asbestos Health and Safety Flyer

### TIPS FOR AVOIDING

#### ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION

#### AT ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK

A safe level of asbestos exposure has yet to be established by the government. However, it is impossible to avoid breathing any asbestos fibers. The Illinois Department of Public Health made the following statement regarding visible asbestos found by the public at Illinois Beach State Park on August 1, 2003:

*“To reduce exposure to the public, warning signs about the possible presence of ACM (asbestos-containing material) should be clearly posted, children should be actively discouraged from collecting ACM from beaches, and removal of sand and other materials by the public should be prohibited.”*

As a precaution, we are recommending the commonsense approaches on the inside for minimizing exposure to you and your family from asbestos contamination while at the beaches of Illinois Beach State Park.

### STEPS TO MINIMIZE ASBESTOS

#### EXPOSURE AT THE BEACH

##### 1. Avoid Eating, Drinking and Smoking While on the Beach!

Asbestos fibers can contaminate your hands, food, and containers. Eat in picnic areas away from the beach. According to the USEPA, cigarette smoking greatly increases the likelihood of a person developing lung cancer as the result of asbestos exposure.

##### 2. Avoid Touching Rocks on the Beach!

Many pieces of asbestos have been tumbling along the shoreline for years. These worn asbestos pieces have the visual appearance of shoreline rocks but contain asbestos fibers. The Park has placed signs on the beach that warn the public to avoid handling asbestos and to contact the park office if asbestos is discovered. The USEPA has the following recommendation for homeowners who may have found similar asbestos materials at their homes: “Don’t touch it, but look for signs of wear or damage such as tears, abrasions, or water damage. Damaged material may release asbestos fibers. This is particularly true if you often disturb it by hitting, rubbing, or handling it, or if it is exposed to extreme vibration or air flow.”

##### 3. Avoid Disturbing the Sand!

Microscopic asbestos can be released from the sand when agitated. Disturbing the sand can cause asbestos to become airborne. According to the USEPA, “Sometimes the best way to deal with slightly damaged material is to limit access to the area and not touch or disturb it.” The Illinois Department of Public Health states “... removal of sand and other materials by the public should be prohibited.”

##### 4. Shower Off and Clean Belongings Prior to Leaving the Beach!

The asbestos fibers can be found wher-

ever beach sand can go. Wash your whole body including hair, ears, and under fingernails. Pets should also be washed down prior to leaving the beach.

##### 5. Carefully Clean or Isolate Clothing, Shoes, Blankets, Towels, Coolers and Other Items Used at the Beach!

“Don’t track material that could contain asbestos through the house.” (USEPA) Take care when shaking out towels and blankets that may have come into contact with sand. Remove all beach clothing prior to entering your car or home. Launder beach clothing, blankets, and towels separately. Store shoes and other hard to clean items outside of the home.

##### 6. Avoid Certain Cleaning Methods!

Do not dust, sweep, or vacuum debris that may contain asbestos. According to the USEPA, “These steps will disturb tiny asbestos fibers and may release them into the air.” The use of High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtered vacuums is recommended for cleaning up dust and fibers. Asbestos fibers can penetrate the filter of a regular vacuum cleaner causing the fibers to become airborne.

*This flyer was prepared as a public service by Dunesland, in essence, doing the job our government agencies SHOULD have done to protect the public. What reasons could they have to prevent the public from receiving this information? That is the question all responsible citizens should ask!*

June, 2005

## IGAG's Task Force and UIC, Chicago: A Failing Grade After Two Years, \$250,000?

### Seven Cardinal Rules of Performing a Human Health Risk Assessment according to the Attorney General's lead asbestos advisors at the University of Illinois, Chicago:

These main bullets are topics taught by the professors at the University of Illinois, Chicago to students learning about how to do proper human health risk assessments. The sub-bullets are what actions were actually followed by UIC and the Attorney General's Asbestos Task Force on the beach studies.

#### Accept and involve the public as partner.

The IAG's Asbestos Task Force remains closed which is opposed to the Open Meetings Act which the IAG is supposed to enforce for all government bodies in the state. Dunesland's president Paul Kakuris; its health and safety and asbestos consultant Jeffery Camplin; and Park Superintendent Grosso were denied access and participation with the group discussions and strategies.

#### Plan carefully and evaluate your efforts.

The IAG's Asbestos Task Force beach survey did not include a human health risk assessment. The study only evaluated whether asbestos-contaminated dredged sand could continue to be dumped on our beaches!

#### Listen to the public's specific concerns.

After Dunesland was denied participation on the Asbestos Task Force, UIC School of Public Health and the IAG offered to meet with us. We accepted their offer; they have yet to set up an appointment. Our concerns have been ignored.

#### Be honest, frank, and open.

The Attorney General's office and other state agencies have been caught in several misstatements to the media and the public. The worst act was the IDPH stating in 1999 that the beaches were safe when no valid, scientific human health risk assessment existed for the

public beaches. The public has had access to these asbestos-polluted beaches ever since.

#### Work with other credible sources.

The IAG's Asbestos Task Force is riddled with members who have conflicts of interest. Most, if not all of the task force members from state and federal agencies, have been involved with the past failed attempts to downplay the hazards of asbestos found on our beaches, attempting to cover up their past willful lack of enforcement through memos and apparently rigged reports. Some of the agencies themselves were responsible for doing the actual dumping of the asbestos-contaminated (as well as other chemicals) sand on the 6 1/2 miles of beach.

#### Meet the needs of the media.

The Asbestos Task Force has not released any statements in the last 2 years on any activities involved with asbestos continually found on our beaches. Several state agencies have been caught lying to the media. Last summer, the IDNR told the News Sun that no friable asbestos existed on the beaches. A week later, IDNR admitted friable (hazardous) asbestos was found by their consultant on the Park beaches.

#### Speak clearly and with compassion.

The silence is the only compassion illustrated by the IAG's Asbestos Task Force.

### What grade would you give UIC and the IAG's Asbestos Task Force if they were in your human health risk assessment class? This isn't Pass or Fail!

## Sand Pile is Really Regulated Waste; Public Access Would Not Be Allowed Anywhere Else!

It's a shame that public officials are allowing the contaminated sand pile and part of the north section of the park's famous Nature Preserve and Federal Critical Habitat (valuable, virgin topland) to erode into Lake Michigan.

Related erosion further south has already undermined and/or obliterated plants from two endangered or threatened species and their habitats, which is an apparent violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Nature Preserve Act. The area is also a Federal Critical Habitat. We hold the public officials who are charged with protecting these plants responsible for these apparent "takings." The Attorney General should investigate these apparent takings and enforce these laws.

It's shocking and disappointing that state and federal agencies are allowing a regulated material to erode into the navigable waters of the United States and the state of Illinois, maliciously allowing nature to do their dirty work. Easy way for state and federal officials to "dispose" of a problem they created! It should be properly disposed of as RACM (regulated asbestos-containing material). That is, it should be in a proper, hazardous waste landfill. All the park's beaches should be immediately sealed off from park employees and the public to reduce the potential for asbestos exposure.

Officials were instrumental in moving the dredged asbestos-contaminated sand to Illinois

Beach State Park, reportedly knowing full well it was contaminated, thereby making the pile an open RACM dumpsite. The public officials in charge (regulators) are now involved in trying to cover up the fact that they were responsible for dumping a pollution control / industrial waste on the park's beaches in the first place. Incidentally, the original source of most of this RACM in the tainted sand is the Johns Manville Superfund site.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has recently nailed citizens or smaller companies with small-time asbestos violations which are much less significant than these egregious violations. Will the IAG prosecute the public officials responsible for dumping the tainted sand at the park and put them in jail?



October, 2004  
Erosion of contaminated sand pile (regulated waste) before the winter storms. How much more is now mixed into the sand or washed into the lake?

**IDPS**

**PO Box 466**

**Zion, IL 60099**

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



## **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.

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.

**The next Dunesland Meeting  
is September 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:](#)

[irc.org](http://irc.org)

[GreatLakesDirectory.org](http://GreatLakesDirectory.org)

[angelfire.com](http://angelfire.com)

[freewillblog.com](http://freewillblog.com)

[SouthernIllinois.com](http://SouthernIllinois.com)

April 15, 2005

June 1, 2005